

Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



July 2024

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Opinions expressed in the *Ōpoho Signal* are those of individual authors,
unless stated otherwise.

Editorial – Conversations

“You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me.” C.S. Lewis

I’m sure that C.S. Lewis’ comment will resonate with many. Add a warm crackling fire to sit by on a cold Dunedin winter’s day, and all can seem well with the world.

I’ve been inspired to re-read C.S. Lewis’ books this winter after recently seeing the film ‘Freud’s Last Session’. I first read the Narnia Chronicles in my early teens, which sparked a lifelong interest in C.S. Lewis’ life and works. So, I was keen to see what ‘Freud’s Last Session’ had to say. Set on the eve of WWII and towards the end of his life, ‘Freud's Last Session’ sees Freud (Anthony Hopkins) invite iconic author C.S. Lewis (Matthew Goode) for a debate over the existence of God.

Though I enjoyed the film I felt that its interweaving of scenes of Lewis and Freud in debate with flashbacks to incidents in their pasts destroyed the tension of seeing two world views clash. I wanted more talk! I found out that the film is based on the stage play of the same name by Mark St. Germain, which itself is based upon the book ‘The Question of God’, by Armand Nicholi. Which led me to a fascinating article on Professor Nicholi in an online edition of The Harvard Gazette (see link below). The article is dated September 19, 2002.

Extract:

In 1967, when Armand Nicholi, associate clinical professor of psychiatry, began teaching a seminar on Freud at Leverett House, he found that many of his students were disturbed by Freud’s rigidly materialist perspective.

“When I added Lewis as a counterpoint, the discussion in class ignited,” said Nicholi. “It’s been a fun course to teach because everyone’s interested in these issues.”

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2002/09/harvard-gazette-the-question-of-god/>

An address by Professor Nicholi on his insights on Freud and Lewis is available on You Tube at the link below. He is a clear and compelling speaker as one would expect.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ub4-3GYIHTw>

178,087 views Nov 7, 2008

Armand Nicholi, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, gives an address based upon his recent book, "The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud debate God, Love, Sex, and the Meaning of Life" based on a popular seminar he has taught at Harvard for the past 35 years. [2/2005] [Show ID: 9]

I find it inspiring that the ‘conversation’ which Professor Nicholi created between C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud so long ago in order to help his students balance differing world views has now been dramatized in ‘Freud’s Last Session’. Imperfect though the film may be, who knows what conversations will be held, and journeys undertaken as a result by those who see it and wonder. As for me, the sofa, fire, and my resumed conversation with C.S. Lewis awaits.

Jane Bloore

Parish Council News

The Council met on 20 June. The Council reviewed social events planned and noted a number of upcoming indoor events this winter.

The Ōpoho Church was approached by Diverse Church New Zealand who had heard that the Ōpoho Church was an “inclusive church”. Those present expressed the importance of welcoming all people to the worship. It is also great that people have been discussing the Ōpoho Church in a positive way.

The Ōpoho Church will now be listed on the website for Diverse Church New Zealand affirming that Ōpoho Church is inclusive and welcomes the rainbow community. You can learn more about diverse churches using the following web address:

https://diversechurch.co.nz/find_a_church/

The Council considered the situation unfolding in Palestine and Israel and, in particular, whether there is an appropriate way to acknowledge the human tragedy and how people might offer practical support.

The Council also discussed recent collaboration with the Property and Finance Committee, insurance requirements, the desirability of strong insurance if the work might begin on the roof, and funding options for the roof including possible grant applications.

Julie Mander on behalf of the Parish Council

Property and Finance Committee Update

It has been said that we are an awesome team who gathered for our monthly meeting on an arctic night dressed in our puffer jackets and hats. We cracked on with discussion and business finishing by 9.05pm.

Members of the Our Place planning group joined us and the first part of the meeting explored the interrelationship between church vision and direction and buildings and finances. We are looking at funding options and quotes for roof replacement and various members of the group are meeting with the historical places trust and Synod. Painting quotes for external and internal windows and a borer treatment plan are being explored. Hall bookings remain steady with inquiries from other groups.

The pea straw is sprouting in the garden, the soil is starting to come alive and the compost bins are flourishing. On Ōpoho resident stopped to express their appreciation of the parsley which they pick for their omelettes!

Miriam Vollweiler (Committee convener)

Donations to Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

Thank you to all those who participate in the life of our church and help make it possible to support its work. If you are not already an electronic donor through online banking and would like to donate in this way, the details are:

ANZ bank, Opoho Presbyterian Deacons' Court;
Account Number: 06 0909 0010868 000.

Please put your name and the word Donation in the data fields. It would be helpful if you could let our Treasurer, Judy Rodda, know, so that receipts for charitable donations can be sent to you. Her email is Judith L Rodda opoho pcbusiness@gmail.com

As well as regular outgoings there are maintenance items on the building and grounds which we will be seeking to raise funds for over the next few years. If you are interested in supporting these, please be in touch.

We acknowledge that people's circumstances are personal, and that they vary over time and with things that happen in our lives. It is important to know that there will be times when it is appropriate to reduce your giving to the church, and you do not need to apologise for doing that.

The income and expenditure of the church is examined each month by the Property and Finance Committee and reported to the Parish Council. The church's financial year runs to the end of June and an annual budget is presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Thank you.

Property and Finance Committee

Peggy Squares

It was during the Great Depression in 1930 that Adair Eady's mother, Peggy Huse, then 4, learned to knit. She started to make six-inch squares that her mother would sew together as a blanket for her doll's bed.

Muriel Lewis, a radio host on 2YA, visited the family home and saw Peggy knitting. Thinking of the number of families who could do with a bit of extra warmth, she suggested to her colleague, Aunt Molly, who presented a children's programme, that her listeners could be encouraged to knit squares with any leftover wool that was lying around at home. They could then be used to make blankets.

Peggy was asked to work out the number of stitches needed for a six-inch "Peggy square" and Aunt Molly described to her listeners how they could be made.

The idea took off and thousands of squares arrived at the radio station. They were sewn into blankets that were distributed to needy families suffering through the Depression.

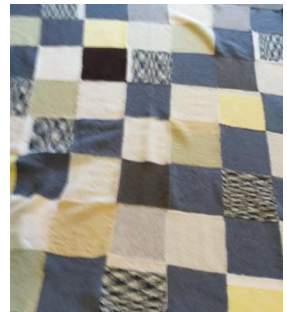
In 1932, the DIC department store in Wellington had a window display featuring some of the blankets that had been made and a photograph of Peggy.

Miriam Vollweiler

Dedication

This year eight completed blankets, incorporating 480 Peggy Squares in multifarious colours, were dedicated before being sent to Eastern Europe.

The dedication service also included a more general celebration of knitting and the ways in which the people knit together.



Fellowship Group

We were delighted to have Fiona Knudson, DCC Librarian join us and share insights into her library career. Currently Fiona manages the Library collections and has a role in purchasing, assessment and processing. New Zealand Library week is planned for August and we are thinking how we might celebrate this as part of Fellowship group. We had 4 birthdays to celebrate- Sue, Miriam and Gaynor in May and Marion in June.



Fellowship group members are great knitters and contributors to Operation Cover Up. With Abby joining us knitting, Evelyn bringing along 13 Peggy squares, we decided we would like to celebrate World Knitting day (8th June) as part of the dedication of the Opoho rugs and bring our needles and wool to church as part of the service.

INVITATION to join us for our Fellowship Winter Soup Kitchen Lunch- 12.30 Thursday 11 July at Ōpoho Church.

Our July meeting celebrates food and fellowship. We extend an invitation to you to join us for a winter lunch gathering that this year not only has soup on the menu but also a winter dessert. Let Miriam or Chris know if you are joining us.

Chris Young & Miriam Vollweiler



Operation Cover Up

Knitting continues for Mission Without Borders to provide woollen blankets and clothing to cold parts of the world where such goods are not readily available.

As usual we need knitters to make squares –we would also welcome more wool!



Any queries please contact me at 027 473 6026 or weavermariane@gmail.com
Marian Weaver

Poems Prayers Psalms & Prose – Ōpoho Writers' Group Writers group

Please bring something to read to the group. It could be by you, or by someone else. It could be new or old. It could be finished or still in draft form. It could be poetry, psalm, prose, prayer, or something else. You could bring one or two (or even three) items to share. We try to be flexible and kind, providing only the feedback you ask for. We are an open group. Anyone can join us if what we do would be fun or useful or helpful. Though we are a bit churchy.

Our next writer's group is **Thursday 1 August at 7:30 pm by zoom.**

The zoom link is as follows:

<https://otago.zoom.us/j/96640007348?pwd=OGHkT5JuDnbXUOZbJckmQ8ECqgZZ6q.1>

Meeting ID: 966 4000 7348

Password: 307099



We will go back to in-person when the weather brightens up a bit.

Presbyterian Support Foodbank



You can bring goods (nothing frozen or perishable) to church on any Sunday or you can make a cash donation for the Foodbank via their website www.pshotago.org.nz

Non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.

Finding New Favourites: a hymn-book sing-along

Ōpoho Church owns numerous hymn-books full of good music that we just don't know and we never sing. To find new favourites, we propose to sing our way through the Aotearoa New Zealand hymnbook "Faith Forever Singing" in a series of evening singalongs this winter.

All ages and all voices, all levels of musical ability, church members and non-church people are all very welcome.

We will have some experienced singers among the crowd, to help keep us on track. We will provide the hymn-books you need; we'll even feed you!

Sunday 30 June and 7, 14, 21 July 2024:

- Gather at 6pm to start singing at 6:15p.m.
- Break for soup and bread together at 7p.m.
- Sing some more from 7:45p.m. to 8:15p.m.
- Discuss our favourites from this session.
- Finish about 8:30p.m.

Keeping in Touch at Ōpoho Church

Ōpoho Church has a website, www.opohochurch.org, where you will find (among other things) links to recent sermons, downloadable copies of the Orders of Service for the two most recent Sundays, downloadable versions of the newsletter, and an on-line version of the Church Calendar.

The church also has a Facebook page (you don't need to belong to Facebook to see the page) www.facebook.com/OpohoChurch

This newsletter is emailed to all who have requested to receive it this way. If you wish to be added to (or deleted from) the email list, or **if you receive an emailed copy and don't need a physical copy as well**, please send an email to the editor, Gregor Macaulay, at gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

Advance Notice

The Ōpoho Church Fair will be held in October 2024. It will be fun, fabulous, and fruitful! Put it in your diary now: Saturday 19 October. Got a great idea for making it even better? Please contact Abby.



Lectionary for July and August

Sunday 7 July – Pentecost 7			
2 Sam 5: 1-5, 9-10	Ps 48	2 Cor 12: 2-10	Mk 6: 1-13
Sunday 14 July – Pentecost 8			
2 Sam 6: 1-5, 12b-19	Ps 24	Eph 1: 3-14	Mk 6: 14-29
Sunday 21 July – Pentecost 9			
2 Sam 7: 1-14a	Ps 89: 2-37	Eph 2: 11-22	Mk 6: 30-34, 53-56
Sunday 28 July – Pentecost 10			
2 Sam 11: 1-15	Ps 14	Eph 3: 14-21	Jn 6: 1-21
Sunday 4 August – Pentecost 11			
2 Sam 11: 26-12: 13a	Ps 51: 1-12	Eph 4: 1-16	Jn 6: 24-35
Sunday 11 August – Pentecost 12			
2 Sam 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33	Ps 130	Eph 4: 25-5: 2	Jn 6: 35, 41-51
Sunday 18 August – Pentecost 13			
1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-14	Ps 111	Eph 5: 15-20	Jn 6: 51-58
Sunday 25 August – Pentecost 14			
1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43	Ps 84	Eph 6: 10-20	Jn 6: 56-69



Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church July and August 2024

7 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
10 July ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
11 July ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
14 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
18 July ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 July ~ Saturday	Material due for August <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
27 July ~ Saturday	6.30p.m.: Quiz night in hall, with bring-your-favourite-dessert potluck during half-time.
28 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind After church: Abby's Jam Palace in hall.
1 August ~ Thursday	7.30p.m.: writer's Group to meet via zoom.
4 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
7 August ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
8 August ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
11 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Jane Bloore
15 August ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 August ~ Tuesday	Material due for September <i>Opoho Signal</i>
25 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Saturday 20 July

Please send all material for the next *Ōpoho Signal* to
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email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com