

*Opoho Signal*

*February 2022*

*via email*

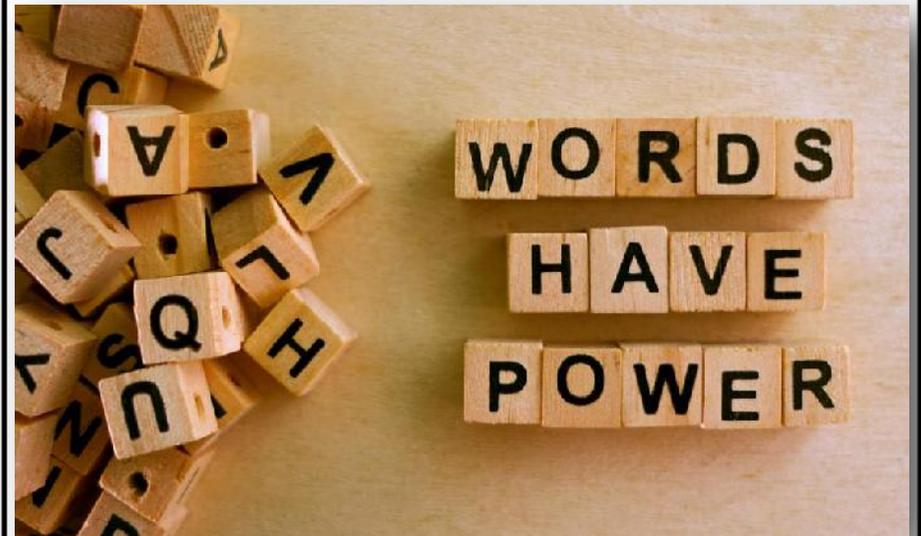
# Opoho Signal

**Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church**

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: [www.opohochurch.org](http://www.opohochurch.org)

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



**February 2022**

**Minister: The Rev. Clare Lind**

**cell phone 021 0276 1962**

**email: [opohominister@gmail.com](mailto:opohominister@gmail.com)**

**Parish Clerk: Philip Somerville phone: 03 473 8862**

**email: [psomer39@gmail.com](mailto:psomer39@gmail.com)**

*Editorial*

I have set myself the goal this year of taking the time to stop and say thank you to God for at least one thing in my life every day. So far I have kept to that goal; let's hope I can say that later in the year.

This morning I thanked God for the gift of words and language. I got thinking about how one word can convey so much. I was asked how my day was going a couple of days ago; the only way I could describe it was "interesting" as it was one of those days where I believe that the Lord's wayward Angel Murphy was interfering with every action I was making, and his laws were dictating the results much to my bemused annoyance. That one word described the day perfectly.

<b>In this issue .....</b>	<b>Page</b>
Editorial .....	2
Parish Council and Church News .....	4
Ellen Stuart .....	4
Happy Birthday Maurice Andrew .....	5
Gifts .....	6
Ellen Stuart's Lumpy Custard Recipe .....	7
At Home in Times of Omicron .....	8
Working Bees at Opoho Church.....	10
Opportunities for Service.....	Separate insert
Calling All Fruits! .....	11
Operation Cover Up .....	11
Fellowship Group .....	12
Poems Prayers Psalms Prose - an open friendly writing group ..	13
Presbyterian Support Food Bank .....	14
Keeping in Touch .....	14
Opoho Signal contact details.....	14
Lectionary, 6 February to 27 March 2022.....	15
Calendar for February and March 2022.....	16

There are also the numerous times when the right words evade us, where there seems to be an inability to convey the emotions that we are feeling, to show the support and care we are wanting to show. Those are the times when I feel completely inept, and am pretty sure that I also look it. Saying to someone "sorry for your loss" feels inadequate, yet it is really all that can be said isn't it?

I looked up Google for some verses about language and words and there were three that really struck me:

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

*Ephesians 4:29*

But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

*Colossians 3:8*

Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

*Colossians 4:6*

Is it possible to achieve this? Not to allow emotion to dictate the words that would or could flow? Asking that question has now brought me to another: how often do we allow emotion to prompt the direction of conversation?

Yes, I want to reiterate my thanks to God for the gift of words. Words can open doors, can give solace, joy, hope, wisdom, and laughter. They can be used as a weapon if chosen, and lack of words can also be used as a weapon if chosen. God's gifts of words was given to us to use for good, in good faith or to show our faith in God. Next time I see you (any who actually read this) I plan to use the gift that was given to me, preferably to make you laugh or at least smile. What do you plan to do with this gift?

***Meegan Cloughley***



### *Parish Council and Church News*

The Parish Council had a brief meeting in December at which it reappointed Andrew Smith as Opoho's Presbytery elder for 2022. Andrew has been our representative at Presbytery and Synod for many years and we are grateful for his commitment to this task.

We were pleased to be able to resume using all pews from 19 December – in time for the service of lessons and carols on 19 December, featuring a memorable production of a Christmas play, *This is the Star*, starring our children. Thank you to all who helped to make that and the other Advent and Christmas services happen.

Thank you too to Abby Smith for organising a successful Christmas Craft Fair on 4 and 5 December, to everyone who contributed items for sale or who helped in various ways on either day, and to everyone who contributed to the purchase of the rug donated by Gisela Andrew. There are ideas about marking the hanging of the rug in the church.

January was, as usual, a quiet time for the parish, with respite from formal business meetings – although on 20 January the Fellowship Group met and the Parish Council met informally for a potluck meal and to discuss ideas and plans for the year.

### **Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council**

#### *Ellen Stuart*



There was a good attendance of Opoho folk at Ellen Stuart's funeral at Hope and Sons' chapel on 24 January. Ellen had died on 19 January, just 18 days after her 90th birthday on 1 January (when the photograph at left was taken). Clare led the service and there were also contributions by Ellen's pastoral visitor, Hamish Spencer (reading – Psalm 121) and our former minister,

Margaret Garland (prayer), as well as tributes from Ellen's children and their spouses. It was a service filled with joy and thanksgiving for a life well lived. We learnt of Ellen's talents in sewing, art, and budgeting – and of her lack of talent in making lump-free custard – but above all of the depth of her love and care for her family and of her faith which underpinned all she did. The two hymns that were sung – *Lord of the dance* and *This little light of mine* – reminded us of Ellen's vivacious spirit.

### *Happy Birthday Maurice Andrew*



Maurice was not at church on 30 January to collect his birthday chocolate but the following from the blog of the Rt Rev Hamish Galloway, Moderator of the General Assembly, was read out.

*The Rev. Professor Maurice Andrew turned 90 on 28 January. What a great life of scholarship and faith.*

*I remember so fondly his lectures when I was at the Theological Hall,*

*Knox College. I remember the depth of his knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures, and then the segment at the end of each lecture when he asked questions about how what we had studied was relevant to today's context. That has had a lasting impact on me. And I love the way he has maintained an interest in his past students, always in such a loving and encouraging way.*

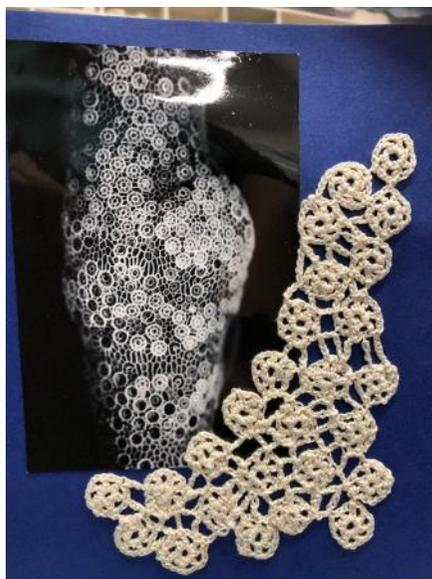
*You are an inspiration, Maurice. Happy birthday and thank you so much!*

And so say all of us!

*Gifts*

On 16 January, Clare's sermon was about gifts – the reading for the day, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, is headed *Concerning Spiritual Gifts* in some versions. She showed us a gift she had received – a home communion set made for her by members of the Tawa Men's Shed group – and we took a break during the sermon to talk to our neighbours about the best gifts each of us had received. Abby Smith reported on her favourite (and unique) gift and has since supplied some explanatory information ...

In the category of Wonderful Gifts, here is a photo of the best birthday card I ever got:



My colleague and friend Caroline, a museum curator in Wales, took a photo of a fossil bryozoan called *Hallopora* (probably about 400 million years old), and I have always loved it. So for my 60th birthday she crocheted it! And sent it as part of the card.

Wikipedia helpfully explains that bryozoa are a category of simple, aquatic invertebrate animals, nearly all living in sedentary colonies. They are tiny – typically about 0.5 mm (1/64 inch) long.



*Mother's Lumpy Custard*

*(read out by Ellen Stuart's daughter Linda at Ellen's funeral)*

My dear Linda,

I feel I cannot let this opportunity [Linda's wedding] pass to let you have the recipe of the custard you have enjoyed over your nineteen years with us.

Firstly I empty practically the whole of a pint of milk into a saucepan. Put the saucepan on to heat. The remainder of the milk I put into a shaker together with two heaped soup-spoonfuls of custard powder and a heaped soup-spoonful of sugar.

Now you can wait until the milk on the stove is boiling over onto the elements or not as you desire, but the way to get it really lumpy is as follows:-

Heat up the milk, shake up the shaker and tip into the hot milk. Now the milk is not quite ready to thicken up so you put in your wooden spoon.

The next step is to go away and do something interesting. I often sit on the back step and read and knit through this process.

The next smell you smell is the caramelising of the bottom of the pot. Rush in and stir like mad. Some of the thickening custard will thicken all right and some will not. Depending if you want the browning on the bottom to come through the mixture, you can stir from the bottom of the pot, or you can stir from half-way up, which I usually do.

Pour into dessert plates and serve.

Love Mum



### *At Home in Times of Omicron*

On 28 January, Philip's church email included a piece from Clare about preparing for Omicron. Here are some further thoughts about getting ready, and then - should you need to, or wish to, self-isolate for two or more weeks - occupying yourself.

#### **Getting our groceries in Covid times**

We started ordering our groceries online from Countdown during lockdown last year and kept it going even when it became relatively easy to shop in person again. Delivery is contactless. There are three time slots a day. If you have a subscription, there is no extra charge for delivery for orders over \$80.

Allowance is made for priority customers (age, or health). Text messages indicate when deliveries are on the way. Ours are left on the front porch. Mistakes are refunded without fuss. Sometimes we get a call from the person packing the order if they are not sure of an item. Substitutions can produce some unexpected discounts.

New World does not yet have a full-service online system for Dunedin, although home deliveries can be arranged from Gardens New World. It is worth visiting the websites for both (or other) supermarkets, as specials cycle between them.

**John and Jenny Roxborough**

#### **Health consultations via Telehealth**

A number of General Practices around Dunedin are already set up for Telehealth consultations, which can be either telephone calls, or video calls – the choice is often made by the patient. We found a video call with our GP very helpful, two or three times during Covid Level 4 in 2020 – though admittedly getting the camera to point where we wanted it to was a bit of a challenge initially!

Just prior to Covid Level 4 in early 2020, the Southern DHB had begun a project to set up Telehealth (phone or video) consultations for outpatient clinics. Although Telehealth in the south picked up

during Covid Level 4, numbers dropped off again as we moved down through the Levels.

The SDHB is now two years further on in setting up the technology needed for Telehealth, and many hospital services now actively offer Telehealth consultations, whenever appropriate. This will increase further as we all live and work in an Omicron environment. If you are wondering just what that will mean for you, have a look at [www.southernhealth.nz/telehealth](http://www.southernhealth.nz/telehealth) on the SDHB website.

**Andrea Johnston**

I have been a community representative on the SDHB Telehealth Steering Group since the middle of 2020.

#### **Looking for something to read?**

If you are looking for something to read amongst the Dunedin Public Library's collection of books you should also check out their Digital Library at [www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz](http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz) There is a large collection of digital resources that can be accessed on-line.

As well as eBooks, eAudios and eMagazines there are a host of other digital resources available. You can check out hundreds of movies on Beamafilm, read international newspapers and magazines, work on your genealogy, learn Te Reo, and there is a special section that has stories for kids. The Niche Academy found in the digital catalogue gives online tutorials if you are unsure of how to use these resources. Maybe you are not a Library member but don't worry you can have digital membership only and do it all from home.

Have fun searching the Library from home but remember the Library bus is outside our church every Thursday afternoon should you just want a book.

**Marion Rae**

#### **Puzzles**

During 2020, a number of us became somewhat addicted to on-line jigsaw puzzles. (Some of us still are!) Two sites where puzzles are available at no charge are [www.tepapa.nz/jigsaws](http://www.tepapa.nz/jigsaws) and

[www.jigsawexplorer.com](http://www.jigsawexplorer.com). The Te Papa site has a small set of jigsaw puzzles showing taonga from their collections. On JigsawExplorer, two new puzzles are uploaded every week. There are currently over 8000 puzzles available. On both sites, you can select the difficulty level for each puzzle – ie the number of pieces.

Remember too, the collection of puzzles available to borrow, in the Morrison Lounge.

**Andrea Johnston**



### *WORKING BEES*

*Opoho Church Garden*

*Saturday 12 February and Saturday 19 February*

*9 a.m. - 12 noon*

You are invited to be part of a working bee to do a tidy-up of the garden.

The more people we have the better it will look.

Come for part or all of one or both.

Bring gardening tools and gloves.

Morning tea will be provided.

Any queries contact Benjamin Thew 021 049 4264

[benthew3@gmail.com](mailto:benthew3@gmail.com)

### *Calling All Fruits!*



In November I made 65 jars of rhubarb-based jams (they all sold at the Christmas Fair). I have recently been inundated with plums, and there are several dozen jars of plum sauce, plum jam, and plum syrup in the garage. But I'm not done yet! If fruit is falling unloved at your house, let me know. I will come and get it and turn it into something yummy – and you will get a jar or two. (Also, I am looking for a handful of fresh juniper berries, if you happen to have some). If you are saving jars for me, I will be happy to acquire small-to-medium sizes with lids, and also Really Nice Jars of any size.

**Abby Smith** 027 606 3552, [abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com](mailto:abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com)



### *Operation Cover Up*

Please keep making peggy squares out of wool or a warm wool mix, 20cmx20cm, and drop them off at the church. We send the blankets off in July so we have a few months left to get a good number ready. Three blankets have been completed so far.

Wool and instructions are in the bag on the back pew. Contact me if you need help at 027 473 6026 or [weavermariane@gmail.com](mailto:weavermariane@gmail.com)

**Marian Weaver**

## *Fellowship Group*

**2 p.m. on Thursday 10 February in Morrison Lounge**

Fellowship Group has resumed meetings in its usual venue, the Morrison Lounge. You are all very welcome to come along. Please wear your mask and sign in – we will have a sign-in sheet available.

Chris Young hosted our December meeting at her new home. Thank you Chris, for your hospitality, including the delicious afternoon tea treats.

Thank you Miriam, for providing transport, and for compiling the quiz questions. Several of the questions referred to stories we had heard from Fellowship Group members – Miriam had definitely been paying attention! We left with smiles on our faces, and laughter ringing in our ears.



*A gathering of people, sharing food! Images from the December Fellowship Group gathering.*

On 20 January, we met in the Morrison Lounge. As we heard the sad news of Ellen Stuart's death, the memories flowed.

Miriam and Chris talked about the things people can do to prepare themselves for the arrival of Omicron in the community. Having each other's contact details was something we were able to attend to!

Jenny Roxborough then shared stories from her life. After having moved around the North Island in her early years, as both her parents were teachers, she met a certain engineer who was then studying at Ardmore College, in Auckland. With John, Jenny has led a busy life, and issues with her health have barely slowed her down - although she reminded us that it is now John who gathers the flowers for the beautiful arrangements Jenny creates in the church.

An important part of Fellowship Group meetings is our participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin, as we bring along our least coins each month.

After a time of conversation, we have a cup of tea or coffee, accompanied by delicious baking (thank you Chris and Miriam), at around 3 p.m., and we finish by 4 p.m.

***Andrea Johnston***

~~~~~  
*Poems Prayers Psalms Prose - a friendly writing group*



For writers of all kinds from Opoho and beyond  
 Tuesday 15 February at 7 p.m.

Our best way to ensure we can meet safely is to do it on ZOOM. To join from computer or smart phone (PC, Mac, iOS or Android) CLICK HERE:

[www.otago.zoom.us/j/92624601460?pwd=VTJMRE9QUm85Zk5ScjVLWTYvZnRtQT09](https://www.otago.zoom.us/j/92624601460?pwd=VTJMRE9QUm85Zk5ScjVLWTYvZnRtQT09)  
 then ENTER Password: 201026

We will help newbies with their Zooming.

For more information, please contact

Abby Smith: 027 606 3552, [abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com](mailto:abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com)

~~~~~



### *Presbyterian Support Food Bank*

To make a cash donation for the Food Bank, visit [www.psotago.org.nz](http://www.psotago.org.nz)

### *Keeping in Touch*

*Do you know...*

Opoho Church has a website, [www.opohochurch.org](http://www.opohochurch.org)

On the website 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](http://www.facebook.com/OpohoChurch)

This newsletter is emailed to all who have requested to receive it this way. If you are not already on the email list, and would like to be, please send an email to Andrea [andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz](mailto:andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz)

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

### **Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Sunday 20 February 2022**

Please send all material for the next *Opoho Signal* to:  
Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011  
Email [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)

### Lectionary readings, 6 February to 27 March 2022 in Year C, the Year of Luke

#### Sunday 6 February - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Is 6: 1-8 (9-13)	Ps 138	1 Cor 15: 1-11	Lk 5: 1-11
------------------	--------	----------------	------------

#### Sunday 13 February - 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jer 17: 5-10	Ps 1	1 Cor 15: 12-	Lk 6: 17-26
--------------	------	---------------	-------------

#### Sunday 20 February - 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Gen 45: 3-11, 15	Ps 37: 1-11, 39-40	1 Cor 15: 35- 38, 42-50	Lk 6: 27-38
------------------	-----------------------	----------------------------	-------------

#### Sunday 27 February - Transfiguration

Ex 34: 29-35	Ps 99	2 Cor 3: 12-4: 2	Lk 9: 8-36, (37-43a)
--------------	-------	---------------------	-------------------------

#### Lent

#### Wednesday 2 March - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 or Is 58: 1-12	Ps 51: 1-17	2 Cor 5: 20b-6: 10	Mt 6: 1-6, 16-21
---	-------------	-----------------------	---------------------

#### Sunday 6 March - 1st Sunday in Lent

Deut 26: 1-11	Ps 91: 1-2, 9-16	Rom 10: 8b-13	Lk 4: 1-13
---------------	---------------------	---------------	------------

#### Sunday 13 March - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen 15: 1-12, 17-18	Ps 27	Phil 3: 17-4:1	Lk 13: 31-35 or Lk 9: 28-36
------------------------	-------	----------------	-----------------------------------

#### Sunday 20 March - 3rd Sunday in Lent

Is 55: 1-9	Ps 63: 1-8	1 Cor 10: 1-13	Lk 13: 1-9
------------	------------	----------------	------------

#### Sunday 27 March - 4th Sunday in Lent

Josh 5: 9-12	Ps 32	2 Cor 5: 16-21	Lk 15: 1-3, 11b-32
--------------	-------	----------------	-----------------------

## Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

*Physical gatherings may be subject to Covid alert level restrictions.*

<b>February</b>	
6 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
7 February ~ Monday	Public holiday
9 February ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
10 February ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
12 February ~ Saturday	9 a.m.-12 noon: Working Bee in church grounds
13 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith
15 February ~ Tuesday	7 p.m.: Poems Prayers Psalms Prose – a friendly writing group, via Zoom (see elsewhere in this issue of <i>Signal</i> for link)
17 February ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
19 February ~ Saturday	9 a.m.-12 noon: Working Bee in church grounds
20 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, followed by church picnic/barbecue in garden and/or hall Material due for March <i>Opoho Signal</i>
27 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Harvest Thanksgiving
<b>March</b>	
6 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
9 March ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
10 March ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
13 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew
17 March ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind Material due for April <i>Opoho Signal</i>
27 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind

*Opoho Signal*

*February 2022*

*via email*

## Opportunities for Service 6 February to 27 March 2022

For the week leading up to, and including, Sunday:

	Morning Tea	Door Duty	Readers	Prayers	Sound and Data Projector	Music	Flowers	Hall Cleaning	Church Cleaning
<b>February</b>									
6 February	Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson	Shona Somerville Michael Ovens	Maurice Andrew	--	John Roxborough	David Murray	Shona Somerville	Benjamin Thew	Shona and Philip Somerville
13 February	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton	Gregor Macaulay Rudie Tomlinson	Daniel Larsen	Mark Ranby	Benjamin Thew	Singers and Guitarists (M)	Shona Somerville	Benjamin Thew	Shona and Philip Somerville
20 February	Bronwen Strang Marian Weaver	John and Mary Somerville	Bronwen Strang	Andrew Smith	Daniel Larsen	Gaynor Haig	Fiona Stirling	Bronwen Strang	Fiona Stirling
27 February	Jane Bloore Christine Cleugh	Daniel Larsen Mark Ranby	Marian Weaver	Mary Somerville	Kieran Somerville	Music Group	Fiona Stirling	Bronwen Strang	Fiona Stirling
<b>March</b>									
6 March	Daniel Larsen Shona Somerville	Jenny Bunce Marian Weaver	Rudie Tomlinson	--	Sanel Tomlinson	David Murray	Allison Mulder	Michael Ovens	Mulders
13 March	Meegan and Pam Cloughley	Hamish Spencer Abby Smith	Mark Ranby	Abby Smith	Benjamin Thew	Gaynor Haig	Allison Mulder	Michael Ovens	Mulders
20 March	Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson	Jane Bloore Benjamin Thew	Gaynor Haig	Meegan Cloughley	Hamish Spencer	Singers and Guitarists (A)	Jane Bloore	Chris Young	Jane Bloore
27 March	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton	Shona Somerville Andrew Smith	Hamish Spencer	Benjamin Thew	Kieran Somerville	Music Group	Jane Bloore	Chris Young	Jane Bloore

**Thank you** so much to all who contribute now, and have contributed in the past, to these activities.

If you find you are unable to do your rostered duty, please arrange for someone else to take your place. Let Gregor know of the change, so that he can update the Order of Service and contact the right people for readings and prayers.

**Morning Tea:** Please arrange for one person to bring milk, and to take it home again afterwards. There are biscuits in a drawer in the kitchen. Home baking is welcome, too.

**Door duty:** Before you leave, please make sure all the doors are locked; all the lights are turned off; and any candles have been put out.