

Opoho Signal

July 2022

via email

Ōpoho Signal

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho , Dunedin 9010

website: www.opohochurch.org

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church

Newsletter of the Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

THE DIDACHE



THE TEACHING OF
THE TWELVE APOSTLES

July 2022

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Editorial

Imagine

*“Imagine no possessions
I wonder if we can
No need for greed or hunger
A brother/sisterhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world ...”*
John Lennon

Men and women have imagined down the centuries what it would be like to live in communities where there was ‘no need for greed or hunger’ and ‘the world was shared’. In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke writes of the sharing of possessions among the believers, and how possessions and goods were sold so that anyone who had need could be looked after. It’s a snapshot of church life, illustrating

In this issue.....	Page
Editorial	2
Parish Council News	4
Congratulations... ..	4
Property and Finance Update	5
Operation Cover Up	7
Opportunities for Service	8 - 9
Predator Free Dunedin	10
Interfaith Matters.. ..	11
Fellowship Group	11
Poems Prayers Psalms Prose - a friendly writing group	12
Jam Jam Jam!	12
Satellite Swarms	13
Presbyterian Support Food Bank	14
Keeping in Touch	14
<i>Ōpoho Signal</i> contact details.....	14
Lectionary, 3 July to 28 August 2022.....	15
Calendar for July and August 2022	16

how those who followed the Way in Jerusalem cared for each other.

There is another document in early church history, known as *The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, commonly called the Didache*, which also provides a snapshot of an early Christian community (possibly a non-Pauline church, perhaps located in the semi-desert zones of Syria and Palestine). Since I was first introduced to the Didache [pronounced dee-dah-kay] as a religious studies student in the 1980s, I have been intrigued by the portrait it paints of a transitional period in the life of the new ‘Jesus movement’, and how much knowledge it can give us of the diversity within early Christianity as it emerged from Judaism and interacted with the Gentile world. It is well worth studying as an adjunct to the Acts of the Apostles.

Briefly, the Didache may contain some of the oldest known non-canonical Christian writing, earlier even than some of the New Testament letters, and it is thought to be a compilation of early and later materials which reached its present form in about mid-second century. The only known manuscript (written in 1056) was discovered by P. Bryennius at the Jerusalem monastery of the Holy Sepulchre at Constantinople in 1875 and published by him in 1883.

(It has been pointed out by scholars that in its attitude to property the Didache includes the earliest reference outside of the New Testament to the commonality of goods of which Acts speaks).

The Didache is essentially a Christian manual on morals and church practice, and its main principle is its distinction between ‘two ways, one of life and one of death’, and the manual gives the new convert a list of ‘dos’ and ‘don’ts’ to help the new convert to follow the right way.

To summarise, the regulations are designed to help the new believer carry out his or her new duties of loving God and loving one’s neighbour. The believer should be upright, humble, patient, merciful, harmless, quiet and good. A tall order perhaps, but the community rites of baptism and eucharist, together with the leadership of bishops and deacons meant that guidance was always at hand. For the interested reader the Didache provides, in a concentrated way, the essential features of a new form of religious expression which pays tribute to its past, but looks forward to a transformed society.

The text of the Didache is available on the internet, along with commentaries and studies.

[See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Didache> and www.earlychristianwritings.com/didache.html]

Jane Bloore

Parish Council News

Covid and cold weather meant that it made sense to hold the Parish Council meeting on 16 June via Zoom – Philip Somerville was able to join discussions from Palmerston North.

The Council has approved a parish Health and Safety Manual and has recorded its gratitude to John Roxborough and other members of the Property and Finance Committee in putting it together. The manual sets out many of our current procedures and also provides processes and guidance for various situations that might arise.

It has been decided to err on the side of caution and to continue with not having morning tea after our services. The position will be reviewed at the July meeting of the Council.

Marian Weaver has been asked to bring together an informal working group to develop a way of proceeding with an EcoChurch survey tool intended to enable congregations to live more kindly in relation to the environment. Marian has also taken on responsibility for developing ways of reporting on the environmental impact (especially carbon emissions) of parish operations in our annual reports.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Congratulations...

... to Kirsten and Florian Beyer (and Kirsten's parents, Tui and Mark Bevin) on the safe arrival of Michael John Peter Beyer on 3 May, weighing 3.81kg – a little brother for Rosalie and James.

Property and Finance Update

Lots of activity has been under way over the last months and we (the Property and Finance Committee) thought it would be good to share our progress:

- Church bell repair – thanks to Michael and Brett Ransome.
- Upgrade of the sound system and installation of a monitor so the minister can see what's on the screen – thanks to John and Blair Mason (Miriam's son) from Strawberry Sound and Kirk for donating a stand.
- Replacement of the kitchen taps under the Zip.
- Replacement and installation of new fire alarms – thanks to the Willowbank Fire Service who donated and installed the alarms and to Michael for organising this.
- Clearing of garden by fence line with our Farquharson Street neighbours and shrub planting – thanks to Michael and Jason our church neighbours (who also are happy to receive our cabbage tree leaves for fire starters).
- Mould cleaning in toilets – under way and Michael is on a mission here.
- Gardens clean up – Benjamin has been tidying up paths and gardens. Thank you to those other church members who come and do a tidy up in their own time.
- Updated key register.
- Opoho Church Health and Safety Policy - thanks to John for his work on this

Plans under way

- We are looking at quotes for drainage repair – we have spring water seepage in the front garden by the hall and also in the back garden.
- We are thinking big and getting an assessment of costs for roof repair.
- Planning for a spring fling inside and outside working bee.
- We are on a mission to get garden seats and furniture and a new rug for the Morrison Lounge.

Thank you for letting us know what needs repaired or improved and please contact anyone on the Committee to pass on your thoughts. We want to be the very best custodians of our lovely grounds and building and thoughtfully manage and monitor church finances. Miriam facilitates a 'crisp' monthly meeting in the Morrison Lounge on a Wednesday night – the challenge she sets is to keep it to one hour. We enjoy each other's company. If you want to know more – talk with us.



From your P&F team – John Roxborough, Michael Ovens, Benjamin Thew, Miriam Vollweiler (convener), Brian Cunningham, and Judy Rodda

Donations to Opoho 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 opohopcbusiness@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



Operation Cover Up



In this last year we created nine blankets which will be on their way to their final destination in Eastern Europe as you read this. That is a remarkable effort and thanks to all who provided wool, knitted, and contributed to shipping costs. All the blankets were in church on 19 June and Mary Somerville spoke a lovely prayer to bless them, and those who will use them.

This means another year for Operation Cover Up has begun and there is new wool in the bag that has been tidied up. Any queries please contact me at 027 473 6026 or weavermariane@gmail.com

Marian Weaver



Opportunities for Service 3 July - 28 August 2022

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

	Morning Tea	Door Duty	Readers	Prayers	Sound and Data Projector	Music	Hall Cleaning	Church Cleaning
July								
3 July	—	Michael Ovens Mark Ranby	Meegan Cloughley	--	John Roxborough	David Murray	Bronwen Strang	Fiona Stirling
10 July	—	Rudie Tomlinson Daniel Larsen	Bronwen Strang	Daniel Larsen	Benjamin Thew	David Murray	Benjamin Thew	Jane Bloore
17 July	—	Shona and Philip Somerville	Hamish Spencer	Mary Somerville	Sanel Tomlinson	Singers and Guitarists	Benjamin Thew	Jane Bloore
24 July	—	Gregor Macaulay Andrew Smith	Marian Weaver	Joh Roxborough	Abby Smith	David Murray	Shona and Philip Somerville	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton
31 July	—	Mary and John Somerville	Mark Ranby	Benjamin Thew	Kieran Somerville	Music Group	Shona and Philip Somerville	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton
August								
7 August	Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson	Jenny Bunce Jane Bloore	Abby Smith	--	Daniel Larsen	David Murray	Chris Young	Michael Ovens
14 August	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton	Marian Weaver Andrew Smith	Jane Anderson	Abby Smith	Benjamin Thew	David Murray	Chris Young	Michael Ovens
21 August	Meegan and Pam Cloughley	Benjamin Thew Mark Ranby	Rudie Tomlinson	Mark Ranby	Sanel Tomlinson	Singers and Guitarists	Andrew Smith	Bronwen Strang
28 August	Marian Weaver Jane Bloore	Michael Ovens Daniel Larsen	Gregor Macaulay	Marian Weaver	John Roxborough	Music Group	Andrew Smith	Bronwen Strang

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.



This is an initiative by the Dunedin City Council to rid areas of predators that affect native bush and birds. Their website states:

“Our vision is to create a vibrant sanctuary across Dunedin City through community-led predator control in backyards and reserves.

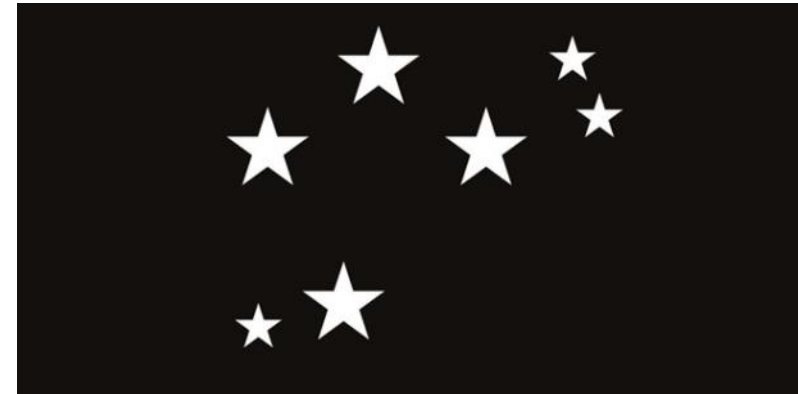
Spanning over 8,000 hectares, we are supporting the movement for a [Predator Free Dunedin](#) by connecting large-scale predator control efforts already underway on the [Peninsula](#) and to the North of Dunedin.”

The website www.citysanctuary.nz/ invites residents to sign up, where we can become a volunteer, or hire a trap, or use other resources to identify what is in your backyard.

Marian Weaver



Interfaith Matters



At our last meeting, in early June, because of Matariki coming, the theme chosen for discussion was “the Heavens”.

For me this took me back to my own dad – he said he was an agnostic, but get him out camping under a clear sky at night and a serious reverence for something bigger than ourselves was very evident. From all faiths (and perhaps in Dad’s case none) came the wonderful quality of the numinous* in relation to the heavens.

Bronwen Strang

* having a strong religious or spiritual quality; indicating or suggesting the presence of a divinity. Ed.



Fellowship Group

Meetings of the Fellowship Group are suspended at present but are planned to resume in September.

Andrea Johnston



Poems Prayers Psalms Prose - a friendly writing group



For writers of all kinds from Ōpoho and beyond
 Wednesday 10 August at 7 p.m.
 Zoom link 92395184583
 Password 403627

For more information, please contact
 Abby Smith: 027 606 3552, abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com

Jam Jam Jam



Jam Stall last Sunday of the month (31 July) after church in the hall.
 If you have spare fruit or spare jars, ring Abby or send her an email.

Abby Smith 027 606 3552, abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com

Satellite Swarms



SpaceX have launched into space around Earth 2,300 satellites, comprising half of all the satellites currently in orbit. They plan to put up as many again. These are providing internet connections. Unfortunately, these satellites reflect the sun and move in the sky faster than stars do. This means that they can interfere with the observations of astronomers around the world who need a dark sky. The International Astronomers' Union has a website that allows tracking of where the satellites are so that telescopes can be pointed in another direction. The Vera C. Rubin Observatory, funded by the USA and being built in Chile, will photograph the entire night sky every three days and will be particularly vulnerable to satellite streaks trailing through its images. Astronomers are working on an algorithm that will remove satellite streaks from the data, but this takes time and effort.

The growing number of satellites can interfere with radio astronomy too and many contribute to space debris in time. They can be part of a background glow to the night sky that will disorientate animals and birds that rely on celestial navigation. They can also interfere with human knowledge, where stars are relied upon to determine special dates, for example Matariki. Representatives of many nations were due to meet under the auspices of the United Nations on 1 June to discuss the protection of the night sky.

Jane Anderson



To make a cash donation for the Food Bank, visit www.psotago.org.nz



Keeping in Touch

Do you know...

Ōpoho Church has a website, 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

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



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

Deadline for next Ōpoho Signal - Wednesday 20 July 2022

Please send all material for the next *Ōpoho Signal* to:
 Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011
 Email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com



Lectionary readings, 3 July to 28 August 2022 in Year C, the Year of Luke			
Sunday 3 July - 4th Sunday after Pentecost			
2 Kgs 5: 1-14	Ps 30	Gal 6: (1-6), 7-16	Lk 10: 1-11, 16-20
Sunday 10 July - 5th Sunday after Pentecost			
Amos 7: 7-17	Ps 82	Col 1: 1-14	Lk 10: 25-37
Sunday 17 July - 6th Sunday after Pentecost			
Amos 8: 1-12	Ps 52	Col 1: 15-28	Lk 10: 38-42
Sunday 24 July - 7th Sunday after Pentecost			
Hos 1: 2-10	Ps 85	Col 2: 6-15, (16-19)	Lk 11: 1-13
Sunday 31 July - 8th Sunday after Pentecost			
Hos 11: 1-11	Ps 107: 1-9, 43	Col 3: 1-11	Lk 12: 13- 21
Sunday 7 August - 9th Sunday after Pentecost			
Is 1: 1, 10-20	Ps 33: 12- 22	Heb 11: 1-3, 8-16	Lk 12: 32- 40
Sunday 14 August - 10th Sunday after Pentecost			
Is 5: 1-11	Ps 82	Heb 11: 29- 12: 2	Lk 12: 49- 56
Sunday 21 August - 11th Sunday after Pentecost			
Jer 1: 4-10	Ps 103: 1-8	Heb 12: 18- 29	Lk 13: 10- 17
Sunday 28 August - 12th Sunday after Pentecost			
Jer 2: 4-13	Ps 112	Heb 13: 1-8, 15-16	Lk 14: 1, 7-14

Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

Physical gatherings may be subject to Covid alert level restrictions.

July	
3 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
10 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Marian Weaver
13 July ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
17 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 July ~ Wednesday	Material due for August <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 July ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
24 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
31 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith After church: Jam Stall in hall
August	
4 August ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge (or via Zoom)
7 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, preacher TBA, Communion
10 August ~ Wednesday	7 p.m.: Poems Prayers Psalms Prose – a friendly writing group, via Zoom (see elsewhere in this issue of <i>Signal</i> for link) 7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
14 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
18 August ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 August ~ Saturday	Material due for September <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
28 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind

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