

Opoho Signal

August 2020

Via Email

Opoho Signal

Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: www.opohochurch.org

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



August 2020

***Interim Moderator: The Rev. Ed Masters
cell phone 027 637 9818***

**Parish Clerk: Tui Bevin phone: 03 473 8677
email: mark.bevin@gmail.com**

Editorial: Have Faith

I can recall some moments when I have enjoyed a feeling of being settled, happy and grateful for where I am, and who I am with, one being when walking on a favourite beach with my husband Ross and two children on a warm balmy day. Another when I stepped into the church one Saturday afternoon and instantly felt at peace as memories of the happy times in there came flooding in. Stepping into my mother’s house in the country at Earnsclough also brought on feelings of grounding, stability, and happiness. And a large part of my life was centred around my work in an organisation I was devoted to, where I loved the work and my colleagues.

Having said that, life is not always like those moments and life comes with challenges and things we cannot predict or plan for. The Covid-19 virus is an example of this: who would have thought when we have such amazing technology and science that a tiny wee virus could affect all of the world?

I realised quite early on that I am not especially fond of change when I don’t create it. But life is full of changes brought on by life, events, and natural processes out of our control.

I could not have imagined that I would be living on my own, that I no longer have a family base in Earnsclough, or that I would be self-employed; changes that all happened in the space of 15 months.

Some friends or acquaintances would mention to me during that 15-month time that, if there was a God, these things would not happen. I notice the same comments about Covid-19: why would God let such an agent loose on the world?

It is God and the faith we have in God that gives us the comfort and strength to deal with the challenges of life. Sometimes we need to put aside the problems, or grief that we grapple with – and be still and receptive enough to hear the messages coming from God. Such messages come from all sorts of places and people; we just need to trust the Holy Spirit about what we take in.

Being a long-time singer, I find there is a song to describe or reflect on most situations in life. Songs, after all are poems set to music.

Horatio Spafford was a man who lost his wife and some of his children in the 1870s, when they were in a ship that sank at sea. When he was in another ship crossing the location of the sunk ship sometime later, he was moved to write some verses; the following is the first verse:

“When peace like a river attendeth my way;
when sorrow like sea billows roll
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.”

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The rest of his verses in his song praise God and look forward to God descending from heaven.

In the foreseeable future we are going into a period of uncertainty with the ministry in our church. We will have a change – in our minister, the style of ministry; and it will take time to form relationships with the new person.

In the not so foreseeable future we might be looking at part time or team ministry – maybe a different venue and organisation – maybe we are heading for a North End Parish?

Worship is often associated with particular buildings. Another song springs to mind.: “In this familiar place – I know the mystery of your grace”. Though it is great to worship in a familiar place, it is the worshipping with others that brings the feeling of “church”, not the buildings.

By working through whatever issues are before us, with our God-listening-ears on, we will always find and have a place and time where we can meet to worship.

It is well with our souls. It will be well with our souls, if we have faith in the future.

Marian Weaver



Parish Council and Church News

Opoho People News

We offer our sympathies to Mary, John, and Kieran Somerville on the recent death in the United States of Mary’s brother Bill.

Marion Strang, a much loved former Opoho parishioner, died on 22 July in Dunedin Hospital. When Marion and Pete lived in Opoho before they moved across town, Marion was on our Deacons’ Court and was our treasurer. She was responsible for many improvements including the upgraded kitchen area, the gardens and the wall mural in our garden. She also ran a mothers’ group.

Her packed funeral at St Margaret’s Church in Green Island was a moving tribute to her life lived well. She will be much missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Peter, sister-in-law Bron, and their families.

Thank you to David Murray and Mark Bevin who played for Mornington Presbyterian Church services during July while their usual pianist was unable to.

Opoho Church News

We are delighted that OK Time/Sunday School started again on 26 July. It will be held during school terms on the second, third, and fourth Sundays of the month. Thank you to Julie, Kirsten, Mary, and Judy for helping teach our young children.

The Ministry Settlement Board is making good progress. It is working towards a congregational meeting at 11.15 a.m. following worship on Sunday 30 August to approve the parish profile and the terms of call. We hope as many parishioners as possible will be able to attend.

The parish potluck lunch following worship on 5 July was very pleasant, however only 17 stayed for it. We typically hold about three potluck lunches a year and noticed last year that numbers attending had declined. Parish Council would be interested in your thoughts about potluck lunches. It is interested to hear from those who attend and those who don’t. Please let me or other Parish Councillors know about what you like or dislike about these and why you do or do not go and any other relevant information. Thank you.

The Covid-19 Celebration and Display following worship on 26 July was a delight with a real diversity of displays about what people did and valued during lockdown. A big thank you to Shona for coming up with the idea and pulling it together and to all who contributed and appreciated the displays. I thought it could be worth capturing our Covid-19 celebration by gathering our writings and photos into a document that we could put on our church website and give to the Presbyterian Research Centre Archives. I would be happy to collate this, so if you would like your contribution to be included, could you please send me your words, any photos of your displays, etc and I

will put it all together. Could you please get the material to me, Tui, before the end of August.

Wider Church News

Presbyterian Support seeks kind reliable volunteers to help with Club Enliven Dunedin for about 2 hours a week. They need drivers and kitchen and activities assistants. For more information contact Mary Phillips at 477 7115 or enliven@psotago.org.nz

www.psotago.org.nz/assets/Winter-People-Magazine-FA-LOW-res.pdf

The Presbyterian Research Centre is still interested in documenting the response of New Zealand Presbyterians during the Covid-19 pandemic so if you have anything to contribute, please email them pkanzarchives@prcknox.org.nz or you can upload photos or documents onto Google Drive. This can be personal reflections, photos of working from home, artwork, worship resources or anything else that relates to experiences or response during the pandemic.

Tui Bevin

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*Property and Finance Update*

On the finances side I am happy to report that offerings have returned to the pre-lockdown level and we are close to our budget.

There have been positive comments following the editorial last month, suggestions, and a small increase in giving as well as a spontaneous generous donation from a neighbour. A few people have commented on the burden of having buildings that are not really fit for purpose anymore, suggesting that we need to have discussion around alternative options.

On the sobering side, the treasurer was asked to come up with a budget for a full-time minister at the five to ten year level of seniority (Margaret had just reached that level) and upon reviewing the requirements we have had to factor in the higher cost of rent in Opoho these days. So rather than a deficit of \$12,000 mentioned in the July editorial, more realistically it is about \$30,000. Bluntly put, at

the current level of income we will be up to \$30,000 short of affording full-time ministry every year without using the reserves. The Ministry Settlement Board will have that information at their next meeting.

We have also been reviewing our building insurance, recognising that if we were to rebuild, our new buildings would no doubt look very different and presumably cost substantially less than replacement value for the current complex. If, in reducing the insured value to 75% of replacement valuation there are significant savings over the current premium, then the proposal will come to a congregational meeting for further discussion and approval.

We are grappling with difficult financial considerations and I am happy to discuss them further with anyone who would like to.

**Mark Bevin**

*Property and Finance Committee*

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Covid-19

Thank you to Shona Somerville for organising the display of responses to Covid-19 on Sunday 26 July.

The Parish Council has asked the Christian Development Committee to consider what useful lessons for our church can be taken from the lockdown. What has it taught us about the strengths or weaknesses of our ways of doing things in the parish? If we are faced with another lockdown in the future, is there anything that we should do differently as a congregation? Are there any other questions that we should be asking?

If you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know in writing or by email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

Gregor Macaulay

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### *Memorial Minute - Allan James Cloughley (1945-2019)*

At its meeting in March, the Parish Council agreed to record the following minute in memory of Allan Cloughley.



Allan James Cloughley was born the youngest of four children to Mavis and Stan Cloughley of Invercargill on 3 November 1945. He left school at the end of his fourth form year (Year 10) to begin an apprenticeship as a cabinet maker and a joiner. He was drafted into the army where he was a driver and cook.

Pam and Allan married in March 1969. Their first house was a cottage in Kennington, Southland. A year later they moved to Alexandra

where their children were adopted: Matthew, Hunter, and Meegan. During this time Allan was setting up his own joinery business, he was involved in the Round Table service club, including the office of president, coaching rugby for his sons, and helping his wife Pam and his older sister Mai with the Lions' float for the annual Blossom Festival parade.

In the late 1970s the family moved to Cromwell where Allan was managing a joinery factory for Naylor Love. The family were in Britain for three months in 1980. When they came back, Allan started his own business again. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s the family moved several times around Cromwell as they bought houses, renovated and sold them, sometimes the first signal that the house was for sale being when the real estate agent arrived with customers to show around.

The family moved to Dunedin in 1994. Allan and Pam became involved with Opoho Presbyterian Church about 1996. At Opoho Allan was on the Property and Finance Committee. Having a handyman in the congregation was a breath of fresh air for a membership of academics, musicians, retired clergy, and

theologians. The practical jobs were always done and Allan was there to volunteer. There was not a part of the church that Allan has not worked on.

As well, Allan and Pam were part of the hospitality of the church: in the kitchen, picking up people for APW, Fellowship Group, and church services, and other roles.

In recent years Allan and Pam moved out of a two-bedroom house into a caravan that allowed them to travel around New Zealand in the summer months and house-sit at Macandrew Bay during the winter months.

On seventh December his soul took flight  
his body finally at rest,  
he leaves a hole that'll be hard to fill  
he really was one of God's blest.

We give thanks for the life of Allan Cloughley, and pray for Pam, Matthew, Hunter, and Meegan, and his wider family.

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fellowship
GROUP

Our monthly gathering in July, the first since the Covid shutdown, was an opportunity to catch up and it turned out to be fortunate that we didn't have a speaker. The 10 of us talked and shared very comfortably about our lockdown experiences: banking, shopping, loneliness, community, walking, memories of previous infectious disease events, history, and more. Our experiences were in some ways similar, and in some ways very different.

Chris and I have asked people not to bring food as we want to do the baking. We go walking most evenings and swap recipe ideas. It's an opportunity for us to try them out!

At our August meeting, Gregor Macaulay will speak on his research and book about young men from Opoho who went to the First World War, many of whom died. We welcome you to join us in the Morrison Lounge on Thursday 13 August, 2.00-3.30 p.m.

Miriam Vollweiler and Chris Young

I am a comparative newbie, as it is only this year that I have been able to attend Fellowship Group meetings.

I agree totally with Miriam and Chris that the meeting in July was a wonderful opportunity to catch up post-lockdown. The time flew by, and the rattle of the tea/coffee trolley heralded a mere pause in the conversation. We are very grateful to Miriam and Chris for taking on the organisation of the meetings.

Fellowship Group meets on the second Thursday of the month, in the Morrison Lounge. Each month in the *Signal*, the calendar (on the back page) shows the speaker for the month. If you are able to come along, please do. I can attest that newbies are most welcome.

Andrea Johnston

Our Big Political Meeting

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Sunday 13 September

Come one, come all. This is a heads up for the best, in every way, political meeting in the Dunedin (formerly Dunedin North) electorate.

It will be at our Church from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday 13 September. Polling day is Saturday 19 September.

Old foes David Clark and Michael Woodhouse will be trying to woo your votes, as will the Greens, NZ First, Act, and TOP hopefuls.

As usual, I'll be in charge, making sure we learn plenty, have fun and finish on time. Woe betide any prospective politician who dares step out of line!

We'll have a little time at the start to hear candidates' views on the End of Live Choice Bill and marijuana legalisation.

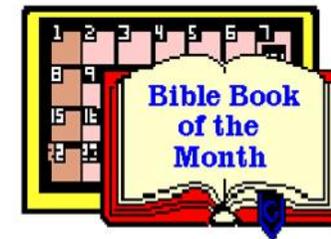
Philip Somerville

Environmental Issues

We look forward to the services and other activities (being organised or coordinated by Abby Smith) for a Sustainability Week in late September.

Environmental and sustainability issues are a continuing interest and concern for many members of our congregation and the Parish Council is interested in ways of maintaining momentum in this area. If you have any suggestions for doing that please let either Abby or me know.

Gregor Macaulay



This month we will be looking at 1 Timothy, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 6 August at 129 Signal Hill Road. Ideally people should have read the book beforehand, but it isn't essential. For more information please contact John Stenhouse at john.stenhouse@otago.ac.nz or Tui Bevin at 473 8677 or email mark.bevin@gmail.com

Tui Bevin

Operation Cover Up

This is the 20th year of Operation Cover Up. This year Opoho Church is donating 6 woollen blankets and some cash to the project. There are also enough squares received in the last couple of weeks for another blanket, and this will be part of

next year's crop. Please keep knitting the squares - there is a wool bag at the back of the church. Any donations of wool (double knit) gratefully accepted.

Marian Weaver

weavermariane@gmail.com or 027 473 6026

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*From Presbyterian Support:*

*Praying for Children 2-8 August 2020*

Please join us in praying for children during the week 2 - 8 August. This is a Presbyterian Support NZ and Kids Friendly (now called Children and Families Ministry) initiative.

Our theme is *Plant the seed of love in our children and they will blossom, grow and journey towards the greatest pathway of life*, believing that children's lives can be transformed through the power of prayer and action. We ask you to join us and pray each day. You may wish to follow along with a blog written by the Rev. Roxy Gahagen

[www.prayingforchildren2020.wordpress.com/blog-2/](http://www.prayingforchildren2020.wordpress.com/blog-2/)

If you need any further resources or have any questions, please feel free to contact Carolyn Sims at PSO, 477 7115 or [carolyns@psotago.org.nz](mailto:carolyns@psotago.org.nz)

*PSO Magazine, People*

If you would like to be on the mailing list for Presbyterian Support Otago's magazine, *People*, ring 477 7115 or email [fundraising@psotago.org.nz](mailto:fundraising@psotago.org.nz) to be added to their mailing list.

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Waiatanui (Big-sing)

2 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. Sunday 16 August

Flagstaff Community Church, Centennial Ave, Wakarī

Flagstaff Community Church invites you to our first ever **Waiatanui** (Big-sing), an afternoon of music and creativity.

Come and enjoy the chance to sing with others from all over our city and region as we share a selection of ancient hymns of faith and brand new congregational songs.

Flagstaff Community Church is pleased to host songwriters from The Seedling Church (South Dunedin) and a Christian dance group from Kiwi Church (Crookston), alongside our own songwriting group, featuring new songs by Sue Mephram, Hannah Thompson-Holloway and Malcolm Gordon.

A talented music team built from a cross section of Dunedin churches will lead the singing, with new compositions based on St Francis's famous prayer, *Make me a channel of your peace* and the magisterial prologue to John's Gospel. Lead sheets will be available to the new congregational songs, so once you've sung them you can take them home to your congregation.

Instruments and activities will be available for children. All welcome.

Malcolm Gordon

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|                                              |                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Don't Forget!</i></b>                  |                                                                                            |
| <b><i>August</i></b>                         |                                                                                            |
| Sunday 30 August                             | 11.15 a.m.: Congregational Meeting in the church.<br>See <i>Opoho Church News</i> on P. 5. |
| <b><i>September</i></b>                      |                                                                                            |
| Sunday 13 September                          | 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.: General Election candidates' meeting, Dunedin electorate                  |
| Late September (exact dates to be confirmed) | Sustainability Week services and activities                                                |

***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)

Copies of the Parish Directory, with contact details of parishioners, are available on the back pew in the church.

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)

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Lectionary readings, 2 August - 13 September 2020 in Year A, the Year of Matthew			
Sunday 2 August - 9th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 32: 22-31	Ps 17: 1-7, 15	Rom 9: 1-5	Mt 14: 13-21
Sunday 9 August - 10th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 37: 1-4, 12-28	Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	Rom 10: 5-15	Mt 14: 22-33
Sunday 16 August - 11th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 45: 1-15	Ps 133	Rom 11: 1-2a, 29-32	Mt 15: (10-20), 21-28
Sunday 23 August - 12th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 1: 8-2: 10	Ps 124	Rom 12: 1-8	Mt 16: 13-20
Sunday 30 August - 13th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 3: 1-15	Ps 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45b	Rom 12: 9-21	Mt 16: 21-28
Season of Creation 1 September - 1 October			
Sunday 6 September - 14th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 37: 1-4, 12-28	Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	Rom 10: 5-15	Mt 14: 22-33
Sunday 13 September - 15th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 14: 19-31	Ps 114 <i>or</i> Ex 15: 1b-11, 20-21	Rom 14: 1-12	Mt 18: 21-35

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

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Thursday 20 August

Please send all material for the *Opoho Signal* to:

Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011

Email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

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**Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church in  
August and early September 2020**

| <b>August 2020</b>          |                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 August ~ Sunday           | 10 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion, the Rev. Graeme Munro                                                              |
| 5 August ~ Wednesday        | 7.30 p.m.: Ministry Settlement Board, 129 Signal Hill Road<br>8 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, 64 Cannington Road |
| 6 August ~ Thursday         | 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>1 Timothy</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road                                              |
| 9 August ~ Sunday           | 8.30 a.m.: Pastoral Carers' breakfast, Morrison Lounge<br>10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Hilary Smith                        |
| 13 August ~ Thursday        | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge, Speaker: Gregor Macaulay on <i>the Opoho First World War Roll of Honour</i>   |
| 16 August ~ Sunday          | 10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith                                                                                             |
| 20 August ~ Thursday        | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge<br>Deadline for September <i>Opoho Signal</i>                                 |
| 23 August ~ Sunday          | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson                                                                                  |
| 30 August ~ Sunday          | 10 a.m.: Worship with Music Group, Mary Somerville<br>followed by ...<br>11.15 a.m.: Congregational meeting              |
| <b>Early September 2020</b> |                                                                                                                          |
| 2 September ~ Wednesday     | 7.30 p.m.: Ministry Settlement Board, 129 Signal Hill Road                                                               |
| 3 September ~ Thursday      | 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>2 Timothy</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road                                              |
| 6 September ~ Sunday        | 10 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion, the Rev. Graeme Munro                                                              |
| 9 September ~ Wednesday     | 6.30 p.m.: Psalm Writing with BYO takeaways, 129 Signal Hill Road                                                        |
| 10 September ~ Thursday     | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge                                                                                |
| 13 September ~ Sunday       | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew<br>7 p.m.: General election candidates' meeting                                  |

*Opoho Signal*

*August 2020*

*Via Email*

## Opportunities for Service, August - September 2020

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

| Sunday             | Morning Tea                          | Door Duty                        | Readers                         | Prayers         | Music        | Hall Cleaning    | Church Cleaning           |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>August 2020</b> |                                      |                                  |                                 |                 |              |                  |                           |
| 2 Aug              | Rodda / Hamilton                     | Mary & John Somerville           | Gaynor Haig<br>Brian Cunningham | —               | David Murray | Jane Bloore      | Shona & Philip Somerville |
| 9 Aug              | Smith / Spencer                      | Jane Bloore<br>Jenny Bunce       | Marian Weaver                   | John Roxborough | Mark Bevin   | Jane Bloore      | Shona & Philip Somerville |
| 16 Aug             | Shona & Philip Somerville            | Andrew Smith<br>Gregor Macaulay  | Jenny Roxborough                | Marian Weaver   | Gaynor Haig  | Fiona Stirling   | Benjamin Thew             |
| 23 Aug             | Bronwen Strang<br>Jane Bloore        | Michael Ovens<br>John Stenhouse  | Andrea Johnston                 | Daniel Larsen   | David Murray | Fiona Stirling   | Benjamin Thew             |
| 30 Aug             | Meegan & Pam Cloughley               | Marian Weaver<br>John Somerville | Gregor Macaulay                 | Abby Smith      | Music Group  | Andrew Smith     | Mulders                   |
|                    |                                      |                                  |                                 |                 |              |                  |                           |
| 6 Sep              | Jenny Roxborough<br>Shona Somerville | Smith / Spencer                  | Maurice Andrew                  | —               | David Murray | Andrew Smith     | Mulders                   |
| 13 Sep             | Marian Weaver<br>Bronwen Strang      | Shona & Philip Somerville        | Jenny Bunce                     | Andrew Smith    | Mark Bevin   | Meegan Cloughley | Rodda / Hamilton          |
| 20 Sep             | Rodda / Hamilton                     | Benjamin Thew<br>Jane Bloore     | Abby Smith                      | John Roxborough | Gaynor Haig  | Meegan Cloughley | Rodda / Hamilton          |

**Please check the August schedule above, as there have been some changes since it was published at the beginning of July.**

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.

**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.