

Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



Ōturehua Presbyterian Church

October 2026

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

Editorial – Foundations

I have been pondering again what it is that makes churches special. This is a topic that seems to arise more frequently in the activities and life of the wider Church as society changes and churches hold a different role in the communities they serve.

A few weeks ago, I enjoyed making a “time capsule” on the floor of the church sanctuary with some of the children at Ōpoho. It was wonderful to hear the children talking about the things that make the Ōpoho Church a special place. When the carpet is next lifted and this work is uncovered, I hope it makes people smile all over again.

Perhaps people will look back at the history of Ōpoho Church when they see the time capsule. Some of the ways we worship may be different as people bring fresh ideas and talents to the community. Some things will be more constant.

Last year I arranged a small gathering and spoke briefly on the 100th anniversary of the date the marker stone was laid for the Ōturehua Presbyterian Church. The marker stone includes a reference to Psalm 127. Naturally, at a 100-year occasion one is tempted to look to the past. On that occasion I made the following remarks.

The 127th Psalm is a powerful reminder of what we need to do to build. From its foundations, an endeavour should be grounded in a bedrock of faith. From inception, plans should be led by the guidance of God.

The enduring strength of this Church speaks to human endeavours in support of our God.

The enduring refuge of this space is a blessing from God.

The sanctity of this space is by grace alone.

This psalm is part of a group of psalms sung by people making a new religious home and the construction of this church is a sign of settlement and suggests people putting down roots.

The psalm chosen for this church speaks of both physical houses and households. At heart, this is a song about heritage and legacy. In the chosen psalm, the stones laid in the construction of this church reflect the living stones, familial ties, friendships, and resilience in this community.

When people gather in the name of God to worship, this building reaches its potential and is blessed with fellowship.

Thinking about God’s Church in Ōpoho, I think that many of these observations are relevant.

We are blessed with a supportive community and regular worship. Miriam wrote recently about the various ways in which the wider community is using our buildings and this is a good example of a new chapter in the life of the Ōpoho Church.

The exciting question now is how we carry our faith traditions into the future. On reflection, a house of worship is never fully built.

Psalm 127, New International Version

1 Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

*2 In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—
for he grants sleep to those he loves.*

3 Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.

4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.

5 Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

Julie Mander

Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on 24 September. The Council reviewed the draft budget for submission to the Annual Meeting. Discussion continued on how the Treasurer's role should be configured or split and how to proceed with outreach activities (feedback from café church on 20 September is being collated). The parish's membership of Eco Church is being renewed and an application is being made to the Synod for help with the costs of dealing with the removal of asbestos from the church and for new carpeting.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council



Property and Finance Committee Update

We have a busy couple of months coming up with the carpet being installed, drainage pipework in the section to be completed and the Morrison Lounge re-roofing commencing. It has proved challenging in the wet weather, minimising the flooding in the Lounge. With the leakage near ceiling lights and the rain impacting on user activities, we are proceeding with the re-roof of this section of the building. Further discussion on the roof replacement project scope and costs is on the agenda as we seek further quotes. We have prepared a draft budget for Parish Council to review for presentation at the Annual Meeting. The different groups using the hall and lounge continue to support the recycle centre and use our noticeboards to share information. The seed exchange is showing the signs of spring activity and the church lawns have had their first mow.

Miriam Vollweiler (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

Fair Report

It was a fair day, everyone got a fair deal, and many fair people helped out!

Thank you to all the folks who donated, who helped to set up and clean up, who worked on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to make our Church Fair a success!

It was great to have so many neighbours call in and find a bargain – and also to have a table from the Valley Project alongside. Our unsold books went to the Regent, while leftover clothing was taken to various op shops, so thanks for that too.

Everyone is a star, but especial mention must go to Benjamin, who really did a huge amount of behind-the-scenes work. And also to Sanel, who was the fill-in financial expert.

Speaking of finances, here is the preliminary result, immediately after the fair. There will be more income and a few outgoings before a final figure is reached, but this is well over the budgeted amount of \$4000.

Plants	\$273	Baking	\$843
BBQ	\$369	White Elephants	\$972
Jams	\$548	Books	\$1274
Clothes	\$843	Total	\$5153 so far

I think that's a terrific result in these difficult times. Well done all.

Abby Smith

Interfaith Matters

Dunedin Abrahamic and Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy
23rd Annual Peace Lecture 2026

“Love, Courage and Hope in an Era of Global Turbulence: Responding to Power Politics and Force from the Bottom up” (Kevin P. Clements)

A large multicultural audience gathered to hear Professor Clements speak on 14 September, four days before his 80th birthday.

He began his lecture with his basic thesis, that when times are bleak and we feel overwhelmed and paralysed, this is the moment when we need to build



and rebuild peaceful relationships and peaceful communities as an antidote to power politics. All our relationships need to be made harmonious so that the communities in which we live are just, peaceful and sustainable. This is the moment for building peace from the bottom up.

The son of a Methodist minister who was a conscientious objector to the Second World War and who spent four years in detention, Kevin was shaped by his father's determination to earn the trust of the people who had been hostile to his views. His central belief was that love, courage, and hope are critical to a good life. Kevin became a Christian Pacifist. He recalled the feeling of dread in 1962 as he witnessed the sky changing colour during a high-altitude US nuclear test. He was part of large-scale demonstrations against New Zealand's participation in the Vietnam War. Later, being an active member of Amnesty International and opposing the 1981 Springbok Tour brought threats of physical violence to him and his family. It takes courage to persevere.

Working with his wife Valerie at the Quaker United Nations office in Geneva, Switzerland, gave him a new perspective: he had to "unlearn" his protest politics and instead develop relationships using diplomatic networks. The goal was to analyse them quietly and come up with evidence-based solutions.

There followed work at the Australian National University's Peace Research Centre and then at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University in Washington D.C. This involved both theory and practice: teaching students on the one hand and tough negotiating in war situations on the other. Peace-making in situations which involve the perpetrators of violence is particularly challenging.

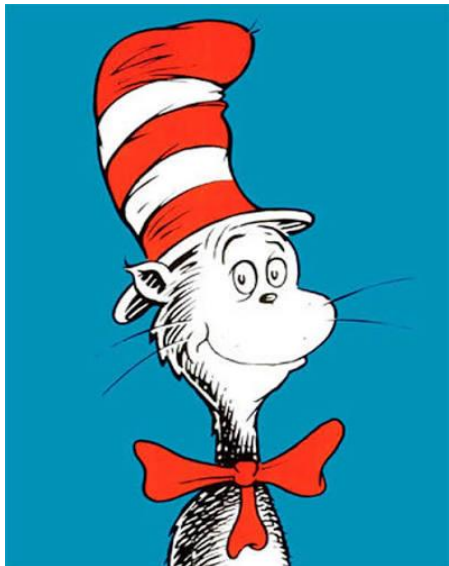
Kevin Clements has left a legacy of significant centres for Peace and Conflict Studies, in Queensland and later in Japan, but it is the Centre at Otago for which he is best known here. He is rightly proud of the peacemakers who now work across the world doing important work. Back here in Dunedin the Centre now focuses on the bicultural partnership and the learnings from Moriori, Parihaka, and other Māori peace traditions.

Returning to the influence of his father and what has sustained him Kevin reminded his audience: Love generates the compassion that makes good politics and a thriving community possible. Courage turns moral conviction into action, and hope gives you resilience and power to persist.

Helen Thew

Political Forum

It's time again for one of our biggest community occasions – our political meeting in the church. Dunedin electorate candidates will meet the public on Sunday 1 November from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.



As always, I'll be moderating in my Dr Seuss hat, with others helping in various ways.

At recent election meetings, we've had to turn people away once the church and Morrison Lounge filled, so we're considering the hall as a possible overflow space.

There will be a low-key opportunity for donations in cash or goods for the Presbyterian Support Foodbank.

I'm asking as many as possible to come as hosts. Our tradition is hats (the sillier the better) and name tags, and we're

there to answer questions and help usher, among other tasks.

Please also pass along details of, and enthusiasm about, the meeting to friends, neighbours and work colleagues. Like our fair, this is a wonderful opportunity for wide community participation.

We have been blessed at recent meetings to have Philip Fleming providing music beforehand (people start coming not long after 6 p.m.). We are again fortunate to have a top-class musician who lives locally in John Dodd to entertain us. The talents of John, a former long-time music teacher at Logan Park High School, will be well known to many of you.

Candidates qualify to take part only if their party has reached at least 1% in recent national polls. They will be seeking your party vote.

Philip Somerville (a.k.a. The Cat in the Hat)

Fellowship Spring Fling

Remembering our past members (Pam, Jenny, Jane and Juene), as we used their gorgeous china cups, sharing in a sumptuous afternoon tea is a wonderful tradition to celebrate spring. It was Brian's birthday on this day and Val's later in the month so perfect timing for this gathering. We were delighted that Sue Gow's sister Jane from England joined us – she is over until December (Sue and Jane below).



Our “in the bag” activity where each of us randomly pulled out a question led to some interesting discussion.

- What advice would I give to my 16-year-old self
- A favourite book from childhood
- The last time I caught a train and I went to ...
- A nickname that I have been given was ...
- Am I most like my mum or dad or someone else?
- One of my favourite pieces of clothing is / was ...
- What year did our family first get a television, what was it like, a favourite programme was ...
- My earliest memory of milk delivery was ...
- Have I received my enrolment details information for the forthcoming election?
- School lunch memories
- Brussels sprouts – like, love or loath (Miriam, Marian, and Russell are planning a love brussels lunch)
- Heaviest snowfall memory
- My earliest memory of our telephone, telephone number
- A favourite beach or river for swimming

Mary brought along a little china cup and saucer (right). This was part of a shared set in the Somerville family. Made in Paris by Theodore Haviland sometime in the late 1800s to early 1900s; “We believe either John’s grandmother or great-grandmother purchased the china. All that remained when Jack passed away were three cup, saucer and plate sets. Two were given to Philip’s girls and I kept this one set. As the Somervilles have a long connection with Opoho Church, and John and I enjoy Fellowship a great deal, we thought it would be a great donation to the Fellowship china.”



Jane Anderson’s set



Pam Cloughley’s set



Juene Vollweiler’s set



Cups from John and Jenny Roxborough

Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler

Jam Palace

The Jam Palace is open every day in the Hall Lobby – you'll find jams, jellies, preserves, and chutneys. Just help yourself and follow the instructions for paying.



Operation Cover Up

Knitted squares continue to be required to make the blankets we send each year. Jumpers, scarves, hats and gloves for ages five and up are also sent. Wool yarn only please. Donations of wool are always appreciated.



Marian Weaver

027 473 6026

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.psotago.org.nz

Jane Millichamp delivers the goods:



Treasurer

After six years, our hardworking Treasurer Judy Rodda is stepping away from that role in October. The financial information is in Xero. At present options to reduce the activities in the role by sharing them with a wee team are being looked at (such as banking, data entry, Charities Commission reporting). A discussion about the role does not commit you to taking it on, if you just want more information. If you are interested in or want to discuss this important role, please let the Parish Clerk or Minister know.

Environment Matters

T Shirts for Creation Month

A Rocha has T shirts for sale with artwork that reflects Creation Month by artists Clare Sparrow and Rachel Doragh. Sizes from children through to adults.



Go to either of the links below for information and to order.

<https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/the-living-water-art-project>

<https://arochanz.digitees.co.nz/shop/category/Living-Water-CS?c=6252151>

Recycling

Our recycle area in the Church Foyer has the following bins; Plastic milk bottle tops, aluminium wine bottle tops, steel jar tops, wool (not synthetic), and tetrapaks. A box on top of the bins is for egg cartons.

All material must be clean and dry. The tetrapacks must be cut along two sides and cleaned. Caps can be left on. This is necessary for the machine that processes them.

Adopt a Stormwater Drain

The ocean has a lot of plastic in it, and some of it is delivered to the ocean via streams, rivers, and stormwater drains. This includes the stormwater gratings that are on our streets. The flow from these does not go through the sewage system and flows directly into streams or the ocean. Therefore it is important that they “ONLY DRAIN RAIN”.

If you have a stormwater grating in your area, have a look at it regularly and remove any plastics or other unnatural materials in it. You may be doing a favour for a bird or sea fauna.



Marian Weaver

First Church Quiz Night Invitation

The First Church of Otago is holding a Quiz Night on Saturday, 17 October, 7 - 9 p.m. in Burns Hall, 415 Moray Place (next to the church).

Come along and make up a table of four or just come along and they will make up sets on the night. Entry fee of \$5 per person.



Lectionary for October and November 2026

Sunday 4 October – 19th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Ps 19	Phil 3: 4b-14	Mt 21: 33-46
Sunday 11 October – 20th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 32: 1-14	Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23	Phil 4: 1-9	Mt 22: 1-14
Sunday 18 October – 21st Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 33: 12-23	Ps 99	1 Thes 1: 1-10	Mt 22: 15-22
Sunday 25 October – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost			
Deut 34: 1-12	Ps 90: 1-6, 13-17	1 Thes 2: 1-8	Mt 22: 34-46
Sunday 1 November – All Saints			
Rev 7: 9-17	Ps 34: 1-10, 22	1 Jn 3: 1-3	Mt 5: 1-12
Sunday 1 November – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost			
Josh 3: 7-17	Ps 107: 1-7, 33-37	1 Thes 2: 9-13	Mt 23: 1-12
Sunday 8 November – 24th Sunday after Pentecost			
Josh 24: 1-3a, 14-25	Ps 78: 1-7	1 Thes 4: 13-18	Mt 25: 1-13
Sunday 15 November – 25th Sunday after Pentecost			
Judg 4: 1-7	Ps 123	1 Thes 5: 1-11	Mt 25: 14-30
Sunday 22 November – Reign of Christ			
Ez 34: 11-16, 20-24	Ps 100	Eph 1: 15-23	Mt 25: 31-46

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Tuesday 20 October

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

Coming Events: October and November 2026

4 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, World Communion Sunday
8 October ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
11 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Jay Robinson
14 October ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Minister's Office
18 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind followed by Annual Meeting
20 October ~ Tuesday	Material due for November <i>Opoho Signal</i>
22 October ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
25 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
26 October ~ Monday	Labour Day – public holiday
1 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion 7 p.m.: Political forum in church
8 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith, Remembrance Sunday
10 November ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
11 November ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Minister's Office
12 November ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 November ~ Friday	Material due for December-January <i>Opoho Signal</i>
22 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
26 November ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
29 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson

