

Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



December 2023 – January 2024

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

Editorial

The first decorations went up in our street two weeks ago – two large cubes draped as presents, and a blow-up Santa, at least my height. They come with solar batteries and light sensors to light them up at night. We are not great fans, but we were neighbourly enough to return one of the cubes to the property, when the northwest wind blew it onto the footpath.

The Christmas chocolates have appeared in large quantities at the supermarkets. It is not quite Advent. (It's the season of pre-Advent, someone quipped at church the other day.) Yet these appearances are less wide of the mark than the hot-cross buns I spotted at the supermarket bakery a fortnight ago. Even with foods special to a particular festival, it seems that eating seasonally is not a priority.

Those buns are an illustration of the way that a strongly commercial culture disconnects a thing from its context and in doing so empties it of meaning. So, the only meaning that matters is that this is something that people like and we can produce it and make money out of it.

I found it very interesting and encouraging that one of the strong messages coming from Māori leaders about Matariki, our new national holiday, was that it should not be commercialised. That it is about whanau, pause, remembrance, and refreshment. It is not often that we hear a rebuff of consumer culture on television.

The push to create a sense of need around all sorts of things that are not very necessary at all is no more in keeping with the Christmas story than it is with Matariki. At its core, this story of world-changing significance turns on one very small thing, the birth of a little, vulnerable baby. The commercial take on Christmas is that more and more *is* more. But less is more in the Christmas story of the gospels. It is the gospel story that holds the lasting wonder and heralds the deep hope for all who live on earth.

Grace and peace to you and your whanau at this joyful time.

Clare Lind



Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on 16 November. There was discussion about preparations and arrangements for various Advent and Christmas events and services detailed elsewhere in articles and notices in this newsletter, and in the diary of events. A schedule of services and preachers for December 2023 to November 2024 inclusive was received; since the meeting, arrangements have been finalised for every Sunday in the coming year.

It was noted that the Southern Presbytery was looking for a new Executive Officer and that the Presbytery's Moderator-Elect was the the Rev. Andrew Harrex from Lawrence/Waitahuna.

The Council will meet again on 21 December and will hold a Saturday morning retreat on 27 January (date TBC) to discuss plans for 2024.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Keeping in Touch at Opoho Church

Opoho 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, please send an email to the editor, Gregor Macaulay, at gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

Property and Finance Committee Update

Our recent Saturday building inspection (4 November) and "munch" (cross between morning tea and lunch) was useful and enjoyable in helping us identify areas for maintenance and development. Having members of the congregation join us gave fresh eyes and perspectives. We are currently getting in quotes for painting external windows, door seals, gutter cleaning and additional signage showing hall entry. Scheduled piano tuning is being organised along with an assessment of maintenance requirements for our beautiful stained glass windows.



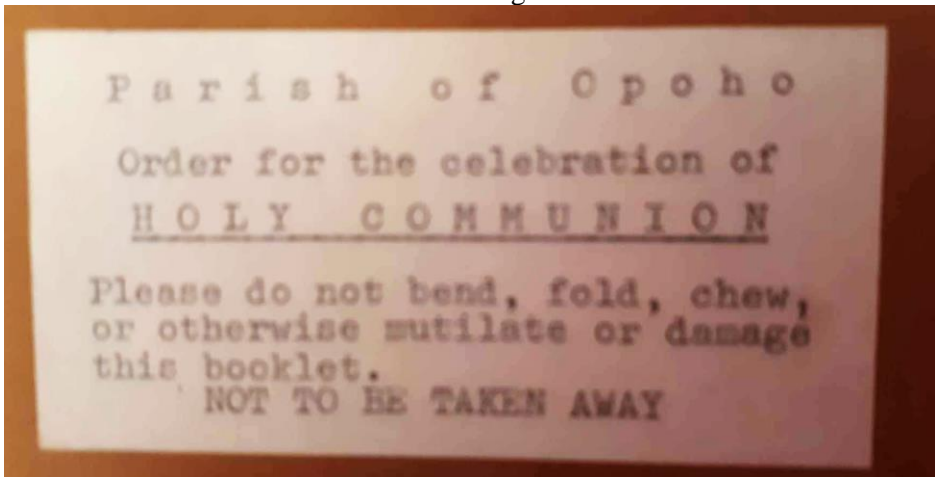
On the maintenance walkabout



Munch time



An interesting find



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 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

Christmas Craft Fair at Opoho, 2-3 December

Saturday 2 December

10 a.m.-12 noon and

Sunday 3 December

11 a.m.-12 noon

in the Hall.

Bring your friends.

Handmade, homemade
crafts and goods, especially
jam.

Cuppa for a koha.



Abby would welcome more fruit for making jam for the fair.

The Garden Galumph

Our Garden Galumph children's afternoon went ahead on the first Sunday in November. The weather threatened to derail the painting of a garden seat and the garden afternoon tea that we had planned. However, in the end, it turned into a pretty decent afternoon.

One of our tasks was to dismantle the Bug Hotel that we had built a year ago, and to reassemble it with fresh leaves and twigs. We took a tally of the occupants while we were at it: - six slaters, five centipedes, one earthworm, two spiders, and eight snails. Unfortunately, one of the snails lost its life in the refurbishment.



We had great fun painting the garden seat. It is a seat that people often sit on when they come to the book bus. We are



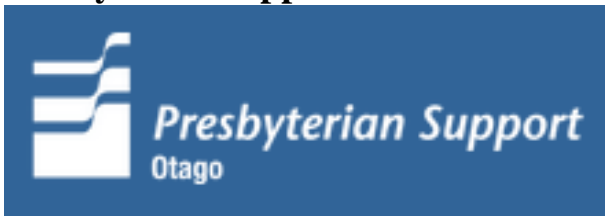
taking suggestions for a suitable quotation about books/words/reading to paint on the white area on the back of the seat. It will need to be pithy; there is not a lot of room.

Thanks to all the Garden Galumph participants (and their staff).

Congratulations to Ted Mander, who has just received a special award from us for learning the Lord's Prayer off by heart. Great effort Ted!



Presbyterian Support Food Bank



There is usually greater use of the Food Bank over the Christmas-New Year period. You can bring goods (nothing frozen or perishable) to church on any Sunday or you can

make a cash donation for the Food Bank via their website www.psotago.org.nz
Non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.



*Want to sing your favourite
carols and get into the
spirit of Christmas?*

*Families, neighbours, friends, children,
everyone everywhere welcome*



Opoho Presbyterian Church

invites you to a

**“Community carols
sing your heart out”**

at the church 50 Signal Hill Road

Sunday 17 December from 2pm to 3pm

- followed by afternoon tea and nibbles
- Christmas gift ideas sales table

*We invite you to bring a koha for
the Otago Community Hospice & a can for the Foodbank*

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.



Donations of wool (*not acrylic*) are needed at the moment for knitters to take from the bag in the church to make more squares.

Money to buy wool would also be welcomed.

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

Marian Weaver

Tetra Pak Recycling

Blacks Road Café is now receiving the cartons for recycling, as are the cafés in town.

Cartons must be cut along three sides, as shown in the photo (right), and washed. This is important as the machine that processes them must have clean cartons that are cut open.



Fellowship Group

The topic of our meeting on 9 November was music, with Gaynor sharing the musical history of her life journey. She has a grand piano in her apartment at Sommerset and continues to teach students and play every Tuesday. Most of our Fellowship group learnt the piano and swapped stories of lessons, the type of piano they had in their home and how many of their family members could play by ear – music not required. As usual, we enjoyed Chris's sumptuous afternoon tea.

Note: Our December meeting is a Christmas lunch at 12.20 p.m. on 14 December.

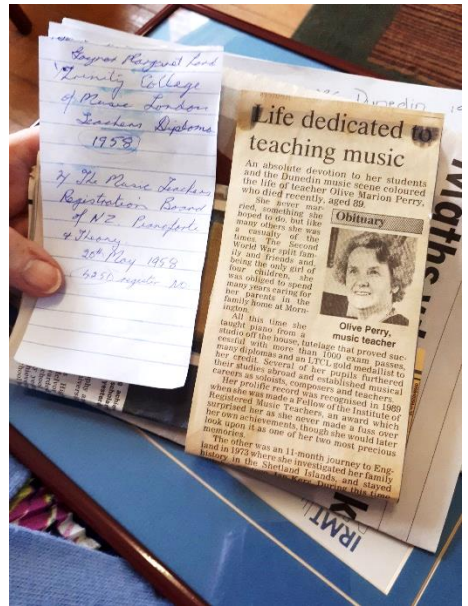
Miriam Vollweiler



Evelyn Brass with her 29 peggy squares



Gaynor Haig



Musical history



Christian
World Service



Share
food this
Christmas

DONATE TODAY
christmasappeal.org.nz

Christian World Service Christmas appeal pamphlets (including envelopes) are enclosed with physical copies of this newsletter and are also available at the back of the church.

Lectionary for December, January, and February

Advent and Christmas			
Sunday 3 December – 1st Sunday of Advent			
Is 64: 1-9	Ps 80: 1-7, 17-19	1 Cor 1: 3-9	Mk 13: 24-37
Sunday 10 December – 2nd Sunday of Advent			
Is 40: 1-11	Ps 85: 1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3: 8-15a	Mk 1: 1-8
Sunday 17 December – 3rd Sunday of Advent			
Is 61: 1-4, 8-11	Ps 126	1 Thess 5: 16-24	Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28
Sunday 24 December – 4th Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve			
2 Sam 7:1-11,16	Ps 89: 1-4, 19-26	Rom 16: 25-27	Lk 1: 26-38
Sunday 24 December – Christmas Eve			
Is 9: 2-7	Ps 96	Titus 2: 11-14	Lk 2: 1-14, (15-20)
Monday 25 December – Christmas Dawn			
Is 62: 6-12	Ps 97	Titus 3: 4-7	Lk 2: (1-7), 8-20
Monday 25 December – Christmas Day			
Is 52: 7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1: 1-4, (5-12)	Jn 1: 1-14
Sunday 31 December – 1st Sunday after Christmas			
Is 61: 10 - 62: 3	Ps 148	Gal 4: 4-7	Lk 2: 22-40
Epiphany			
Monday 6 January – Epiphany			
Is 60: 1-6	Ps 72: 1-7, 10-14	Eph 3: 1-12	Mt 2: 1-12
Sunday 7 January – 1st Sunday after the Epiphany			
Gen 1: 1-5	Ps 29	Acts 19: 1-7	Mk 1: 4-11
Sunday 14 January – 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany			
1 Sam 3: 1-10, (11-20)	Ps 139: 1-6, 13- 18	1 Cor 6: 12-20	Jn 1: 43-51
Sunday 21 January – 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany			
Jonah 3: 1-5, 10	Ps 62: 5-12	1 Cor 7: 29-31	Mk 1: 14-20
Sunday 28 January – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany			
Deut 18: 15-20	Ps 111	I Cor 8: 1-13	Mk 1: 21-28
Sunday 4 February – 5th Sunday after the Epiphany			
Is 40: 21-31	Ps 147: 1-11, 20c	1 Cor 9: 16-23	Mk 1: 29-39

Sunday 11 February – Transfiguration			
2 Kings 2: 1-12	Ps 50: 1-6	2 Cor 4: 3-6	Mk 9: 2-9
Lent			
Wednesday 14 February – Ash Wednesday			
Joel 2:1-2,12-17 <i>or</i> Is 58: 1-12	Ps 51: 1-17	2 Cor 5: 20b - 6: 10	Mt 6: 1-6, 16-21
Sunday 18 February – 1st Sunday in Lent			
Gen 9: 8-17	Ps 25: 1-10	1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mk 1: 9-15
Sunday 25 February – 2nd Sunday in Lent			
Gen 17: 1-7, 15-16	Ps 22: 23-31	Rom 4: 13-25	Mk 8: 31-38 <i>or</i> Mk 9: 2-9

Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church December 2023

2 December ~ Saturday	10 a.m.-12 noon: Christmas Craft Fair, in hall
3 December ~ Sunday	9.30 a.m.: Advent Choir practice in church 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion After church-12 noon: Christmas Craft Fair, in hall
10 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Julie Mander and Ōpoho children, followed by Advent Choir practice
13 December ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
14 December ~ Thursday	12.20 p.m.: Fellowship Group Christmas lunch, Morrison Lounge
17 December ~ Sunday	9.30 a.m.: Advent Choir practice in church 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Nine Lessons and Carols 2 p.m.: Community Carol Singing in church
21 December ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, venue TBA
24 December ~ Sunday	NO MORNING SERVICE 11.30 p.m.: Christmas Eve service, the Rev. Clare Lind
25 December ~ Monday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Christmas Day
31 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith

Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church January and February 2024

7 January ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Communion, the Rev. Russell Thew
14 January ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
20 January ~ Saturday	Material due for February <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
21 January ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Mary Somerville
27 January ~ Saturday	9.30 a.m.-12 noon: Parish Council retreat, Morrison Lounge
28 January ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
4 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
6 February ~ Tuesday	Waitangi Day – public holiday
7 February ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
8 February ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge 7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
11 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Gregor Macaulay
15 February ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 February ~ Tuesday	Material due for March <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
25 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Harvest Thanksgiving

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Saturday 20 January

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

