

# Opoho Signal

The newsletter of Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010



**November 2022**

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

## Editorial

Recently I was blessed to attend two New Zealand Symphony Orchestra concerts that featured as part of the Dunedin Arts Festival. The first was a collaboration with local musician Shayne Carter who grew up in Brockville and made his mark initially with the rock band Strait Jacket Fits. The first part of this concert featured classical pieces that Shayne had selected and then finished with Shayne singing some of his songs arranged for the NZSO.

The second matinee concert we went to as a family and was Tom and Ferg's first experience of the NZSO. The concert opened with Bach's well known Organ Toccata and Fugue which saw Joseph Nolan playing Norma the amazing pipe organ that resides in the Town Hall. This was followed by Philip Glass's *Lodger* Symphony which featured mezzo-soprano Anna Pierard. Norma can generate plenty of sound and towards the end of the opening piece Ferg had his hands over his ears! It was magic to observe the way the boys interacted with and observed the spectacle unfolding in front of them.

Sitting in concerts like these I experience moments of real resonance and awe at the gifts and talents that make up the performance. The composers and artists who conceive and create the works, the musicians who pour themselves into their performance, and the conductors who guide and shape the sound. For me, following on from Clare's talk with the children and sermon on Sunday 16 October, these actions are prayerful or acts of prayer. Certainly, as a member of the audience I feel moved to pray.

I give thanks for the people and places that encouraged music to be a part of my life – my mother, teachers at school, Sunday worship, the choirs and music groups I was a part of at school.

I give thanks for music, like other arts, being an attempt to express or make known the depth and breadth of our part and interaction with creation.

I give thanks for the music makers that are a part of our Opoho Church community whose contribution plays a wonderful part in shaping our worship. I give thanks for the way it helps me to connect with what's important and opens me up and out.

Re-reading Clare's sermon from 16 October the following section stood out for me whilst composing this reflection:

*[Our prayers] take us beyond ourselves, out into the world, but they are also roads that God travels on to meet with us. That means that there is a good chance that we too will be changed, healed, forgiven, rescued, blessed, given insight and growth.*

What acts or places inspire or invite you to pray?

***Mark Ranby***

## **Parish Council News**

The Parish Council met on 20 October and noted that the Minister would be away at various meetings and on leave 2-5 and 8-20 November.

The new Parish Directory is being prepared and should be available shortly.

The Council recorded its gratitude to Philip Somerville for his work in organising the pre-election candidates' meetings (see a fuller report elsewhere in the *Signal*).

The new Environment Committee is beginning its work and a bin is now available at the church for the recycling of Tetra Pak cartons.

The Council discussed arrangements at services in the light of comments from parishioners and a possible further wave of Covid infections and agreed to continue with using every second pew and to encourage the wearing of masks in the meantime, to ask for comments from parishioners, and to review the situation at the November meeting of the Council.

A suggestion for a Community Carols event was considered and it is hoped that it will be held in early December – a precise date and other arrangements have yet to be sorted out.

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

## Property and Finance Committee Update

Another busy meeting which had us focusing on an internal building inspection, listing items for maintenance as well as ideas for improvement. We will review both internal and external building items for prioritising and costing out for our 2023 plans.

Our inspection discovered some marvellous bits of building history...watch out for some creative updates next year as we highlight these. Achievements over the month include a successful working bee in the grounds, a classy bug motel, a freshly painted mail box, emergency assembly signage, a new mat in the Morrison Lounge along with feeling delighted with the performance of the sound system during the busy candidates' meetings.



*Miriam, John, Michael, Judy, Sanel, Brian, Benjamin*

## 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](mailto: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*

## **Abby's Jam Palace**



It's Spring! And in one household, that means it's time to start making jam. If you have extra fruit or produce, please bring it on Sunday or give me a call. I don't need extra jars at this stage (I appear to have a million or so). And don't forget that the Jam Palace will be open for business after church on the last Sunday of each month. Thanks for your support.

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

## Election Meetings

There was a brief mention in the last *Signal* of the sum raised (\$1,220.70) for the Dunedin Night Shelter Trust in donations at the Dunedin City Council candidate meetings held in the church on 18 and 19 September. In this issue, we include a few pictures taken by an *Otago Daily Times* photographer, showing the packed church – there was also an overflow in the Morrison Lounge. Many in the audience arrived early (some almost an hour before the start at 7 p.m.) to secure good seats and were entertained by Luke, the church’s next-door neighbour, on guitar. It was noted that on the second night some returning visitors took the same seats in the pews as on the first night. In view of the crush of people, it was pleasing that the audience was very accepting of the church’s request to wear masks, which were available at the door on entry.

And in view of the timing of the meetings, *God Save the King* was sung on both nights – Abby Smith led off the singing from her seat (Philip did not feel equal to that task).

A total of 33 candidates over the two nights began with a 90-second “opening salvo”. They then answered multi-choice questions on key issues, responded to quick-fire questions about themselves and their top rankings for Mayor and Council and spoke for up to 30 seconds in their “last words”.

The meetings began promptly and ended at 9.06 p.m., four minutes before the advertised finishing time, thanks to strict timekeeping enforced by our own Andrew Smith on the “stag caller”. Other key personnel included Daniel Larsen on PowerPoint (and John Roxborough in setting up the system),

Benjamin Thew on sound, and Miriam Vollweiler, Clare Lind, Bronwen Strang, Mark Ranby, Julie Mander, Michael Ovens, and John Stenhouse as meeters and greeters – or were they the bouncers? – and on various other tasks. Philip Somerville, acting as both the Cat in the Hat and Zorro (the mask), was the main organiser and compere. We hope he has recovered from his exertions and will be sufficiently rested to look after a meeting next year in the lead-up the General Election.





## The Bug Day Out

Despite damp weather, our Bug Day Out on 25 September was a great success.

The children have erected the newest Opoho Presbyterian Church building, a flash Bug Hotel made out of brick and wood. (Don't ask about Council planning permission.)

A bug hunt was held, which resulted in the relocation of a good number of slaters, earwigs, and centipedes to the new hotel. We hope they appreciated that. Some great bug models and haiku also came out of the day. The haiku have been going up on our noticeboard. The day finished with certificates and singing (a bug version of *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*) and a barbecue.

Thanks to all the adults who helped to make it work, and to the kids for getting on with it, with enthusiasm and imagination.

*Clare Lind*



*Bug Hotel building in progress*



*Parishioners waiting for their food at the barbecue on 2 October*

# Climate Change

Switzerland's glaciers are melting as never before. Snowfall was exceptionally light, leaving the glaciers with no protection from heat. The season that followed contained a series of heat waves and the unprotected glaciers melted. Matthias Huss, a glaciologist with the Federal Polytechnic Institute in Zurich who heads the glaciers monitoring programme, says there's "zero chance" the glaciers will return for decades – at best – given current projections for global temperatures.

People are not acting quickly enough to curb global warming, Huss thinks, the world is waking up to the threat and the need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. "The World's leaders have at least realised that something needs to be done to prevent the negative aspects of climate change" he said, "but not enough has been actually implemented of the many plans that there are."

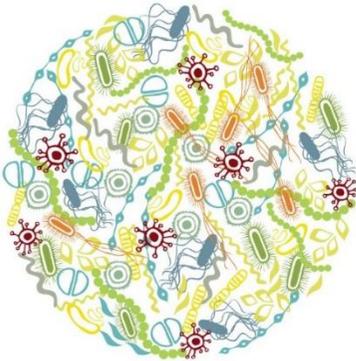
The icesheet, in the German Alps, on the South Schneeferner, melted so much this Northern Summer that it can no longer be considered a glacier.



This leaves Germany with just four glaciers. Is this the achievement of God or man?

*Jane Anderson*

## Earth's Biome



Microbial life represents the majority of Earth's biodiversity; that is to say that we are talking about animals and plants and fungi that can normally only be seen through a microscope. Across disparate disciplines from medicine to forestry, scientists continue to discover how the microbiome drives essential, macro-scale processes in plants, animals and entire ecosystems.

The wide variety of microbial life is under threat, however. The widespread use of nitrogen fertilisers has put some areas in a bad way. It is possible for conservation workers to reinitiate fungi in an area, and the rest would follow. There has to be a will to do this. Improved yields are the result of tending to the microbial life. Enormous potential also exists within managed landscapes, as agriculture and forestry are the dominant uses of land on Earth. Along with improving and stabilizing yields, enhancing microbial biodiversity in managed landscapes is a critical and underappreciated opportunity to build reservoirs, rather than deserts, of microbial life across our planet.

Small, smaller, or large, God sees it all.

*Jane Anderson*

## Operation Cover Up

So far four blankets have been completed since July which is great. Please keep knitting those squares. Donations of wool gratefully accepted too.

Contact me if you have any questions at 027 473 6026 or [weavermariane@gamil.com](mailto:weavermariane@gamil.com)

*Marian Weaver*



## Tetra Pak Recycling

It is wonderful that the new bin in the hall foyer is being used. It is important that the cartons are cleaned beforehand. To do that please fold out the corners, cut along one side then one end, then wash. The result should look like this:



*Marian Weaver*

## Bug Day Out Haiku

### Beaded Butterfly

Beaded Butterfly  
Lives in the magical clouds,  
Eats small birds of prey.

*Harriet*

### Bob the Bee

Busy Bob the bee,  
Nectar in his nectar bags,  
Loves flowering trees.

*Ferg*



*Bob the Bee on the Bug Hotel*

# Poems Prayers Psalms Prose – Opoho Writers’ Group

**Wednesday 7 December, 7 p.m.**

Trying out a new in-person venue:  
Marine Science tea room, first  
floor, **310 Castle Street.**



Directions:

310 Castle Street is a square brick building (the old nurses’ home) located almost on the corner of Frederick Street and the one-way south, between Cumberland and Hayward Colleges. You can park in the spots between Cumberland and Marine Science. There is an entry on the south side of the building, facing Cumberland’s front door. A large propellor is stuck to the wall next to it, so you can’t miss it!

I will meet you there at about 7 and let you in.

The tea room has cups, plates, tea, coffee-like powder, milk, sugar, and hot water. Maybe bring a small seasonal plate of something to share.

You can reach me on 027-606-3552 if there is any problem or question.

*Abby Smith*

## Keeping in Touch at Opoho Church

Opoho Church has a website, [www.opohochurch.org](http://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](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 the editor, Gregor Macaulay, at [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)

## Fellowship Group

We look forward to meeting at **2 p.m. on Thursday 10 November** in the Morrison Lounge. All are welcome. Please wear your mask.

At our meeting in September, one of the topics of conversation was favourite shoes. Marion Rae nominated her wedding shoes and her going away shoes – both pairs of which she brought along to show us, together with two lovely photos from her and Simon's wedding day (*right*).



Andrea told us her story, and it was fascinating to learn of her long connections to Ōpoho families past and present – Andrew, Geering, Morrison, Somerville, Spencer. Several people echoed Andrea's very positive experiences of learning through the Correspondence School.

*Val Williams keeps the Opoho Church scrapbook up to date.*

As always, a delicious afternoon tea was provided by Chris and Miriam.

An important part of Fellowship Group meetings is our participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin, as we give our least coins at each meeting.

***Andrea Johnston  
and Miriam Vollweiler***



## Lectionary for November and December

<b>Tuesday 1 November – All Saints</b>			
Dan 7: 1-3, 15-18	Ps 149	Eph 1: 11-23	Lk 6: 20-31
<b>Sunday 6 November – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Haggai 1: 15b-2: 9	Ps 145: 1-5, 17-21 <i>or Ps 98</i>	2 Thess 2: 1-5, 13-17	Lk 20: 27-38
<b>Sunday 13 November – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Is 65: 17-25	Is 12	2 Thess 3: 6-13	Lk 21: 5-19
<b>Sunday 20 November – Reign of Christ</b>			
Jer 23: 1-6	Lk 1: 68-79	Col 1: 11-20	Lk 23: 33-43
<b>Sunday 27 November – 1st Sunday of Advent</b>			
Is 2: 1-5	Ps 122	Rom 13: 11-14	Mt 24: 36-44
<b>Sunday 4 December – 2nd Sunday of Advent</b>			
Is 11: 1-10	Is 11: 1-10	Is 11: 1-10	Is 11: 1-10
<b>Sunday 11 December – 3rd Sunday of Advent</b>			
Is 35: 1-10	Is 35: 1-10	Is 35: 1-10	Is 35: 1-10
<b>Sunday 18 December – 4th Sunday of Advent</b>			
Is 7: 10-16	Is 7: 10-16	Is 7: 10-16	Is 7: 10-16
<b>Saturday 24 December – Christmas Eve</b>			
Is 9: 2-7	Is 9: 2-7	Is 9: 2-7	Is 9: 2-7
<b>Sunday 25 December – Christmas Dawn</b>			
Is 62: 6-12	Is 62: 6-12	Is 62: 6-12	Is 62: 6-12
<b>Sunday 25 December – Christmas Day</b>			
Is 52: 7-10	Is 52: 7-10	Is 52: 7-10	Is 52: 7-10

### Presbyterian Support Food Bank



There is usually greater use of the Food Bank over the Christmas-New Year period. You can bring donations of goods (nothing frozen or perishable) to church or you can make a cash donation for the Food Bank via their website [www.pspotago.org.nz](http://www.pspotago.org.nz)

## Coming Events at Opoho Presbyterian Church

6 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
9 November ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
10 November ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
13 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
20 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, John Roxborough and Gregor Macaulay Material due for December-January <i>Opoho Signal</i>
24 November ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
27 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind Abby's Jam Palace after church
4 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
7 December ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
8 December ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
11 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Children's service – Opoho Kids' parents and Mary Somerville
14 December ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
15 December ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, venue TBA
18 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Nine Lessons and Carols
24 December ~ Saturday	11.30 p.m.: Christmas Eve service, the Rev. Clare Lind
25 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Christmas Day

### Deadline for next Opoho Signal – Sunday 20 November

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)