

# Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



**October 2024**

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

## Editorial – Of Flocks and Dissimulations

Birds have some inspired collective nouns. Some particularly excellent examples include: a wisdom of owls, a convocation of eagles, a watch of nightingales, a lamentation of swans, or (my personal favourite) an exultation of larks. Evident in these descriptions are human feelings evoked by the birds in question. In some cases, birds are associated with human traits and characteristics.

A while back we were challenged to consider the kind of bird which most represents God in our lives. The challenge was meant as fun but also to get us thinking about the ways in which God is with us. This seems apt during the season of creation when we might thank God for all the creatures that fly in the sky.

Typically, we might think of a dove which is directly associated with the Holy Spirit in Scripture and is a long-standing symbol of peace and of the covenant between God and humanity.

I think of Christ as being more like common pigeons. Pigeons are birds of the street and are ever present in our city. They seem unpretentious and live alongside humans. They are simultaneously loved whilst being derided as pests. There are many collective nouns for pigeons which may reflect the proliferation of pigeons around the world. Many cultures have stories of pigeons saving people or creatures.

Pigeons seldom stray or get lost. They are able navigators and will find their way home.

Pigeons were historically used to carry important messages. Pigeons have been considered heroes of multiple conflicts in many parts of the world. This illustrates how a symbol of peace can be used to spark a whole lot of trouble.

Today many people believe pigeons to be associated with being calm, steadfast, or rooted. They are also seen to carry spiritual messages of significance. The humble pigeon forms long-lasting relationships and can mate for life. As far as animals go, the pigeon is a great parent. Unsurprisingly, the pigeon is also a symbol of love.

These incredible birds have great vision and can recognise themselves in a mirror. Unfortunately, they are unable to detect the presence of glass while flying.

There will be ways in which pigeons cause problems. This will be true of many animals and particularly true of introduced species. There will also be delightful features of other birds which are redolent of some aspect of our God.

You do not have to be a pigeon to find a spiritual home or to share important messages.

To celebrate Harriet's seventh birthday, we took a small group of children on the *Monarch* to see the albatrosses. We were lucky enough to see an albatross

take off from the water. This is a remarkable sight. The way in which albatrosses glide does seem to celebrate creation itself. There are three collective terms for albatrosses being “a flight”, “a rookery”, or “a weight”. The last one of these seems odd because I have never seen a bird appear quite so weightless as an albatross. Surely it ought to be an exaltation of albatrosses, but I suppose “a flight” will do. *Julie Mander*

## Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on 19 September.

Daniel Larsen was formally appointed as a member of the Pastoral Care and Community Committee.

The Council noted that a draft handbook, *Identity and Mission in Practice*, had been circulated with the Parish Clerk’s weekly emails and would be considered by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on 6 October.

Julie Mander was nominated to be a member of the Southern Presbytery Council, subject to her ordination and induction as an elder (that needs the approval of the congregation at the Annual Meeting).

The Council would welcome advice from any member of the congregation about any maintenance or health and safety issues that need attention and that might have been overlooked.

The Council also noted that John Roxborough had donated Jenny’s wheelchair for use in or around the church buildings. Thank you John.

*Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council*

## Rosters for December to early February

I am away overseas until late October, so will be unable to have the rosters for December, January, and early February ready for the November newsletter.

Our plan is therefore to circulate the summer rosters by e-mail as soon as they are ready. This should be in the first couple of weeks of November. They will also, of course, be included as usual in the December/January *Signal*.

There will also be some hard copies available at church for anyone who has difficulty in accessing the e-mail.

Some rosters traditionally operate a little differently over the Christmas/holiday period, and lots of us have different commitments at this time. So please let me know, by the end of October, if you know of dates you would be unavailable. I would also love to hear from anyone who is expecting to be around and would be happy to help out over this time.



*Jenny Bunce* [jenny.bunce@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.bunce@gmail.com)

## **Property and Finance Committee Update**

Our September meeting once again highlighted the value of using technology to ensure participation – Miriam was able to join online virtually, keeping the team on track and on time. This was an important meeting as we are pulling together quotes and costs for a roof replacement project so as to share our vision at the Annual Meeting. We are locking in an ongoing borer treatment plan and have window painting planned for November/December. Volunteers have come forward to assist with lawnmowing (Jane and Sue), the back hedge has been trimmed and a large toi toi removed (Brian) before the replanting of the area by the compost bins. Our waste bins have arrived and are in use which is appreciated by all the hall users.

*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, Ōpoho 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](mailto: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*

## **Steady as You Go Update**

In April 2022 Jane Anderson approached Opoho Church asking if they would support hosting the Age Concern strength and balance exercise class in the hall. Her vision has resulted in a weekly Tuesday afternoon class from 1.30 to 2.30 which on 10 September had 13 participants. There are many more people coming overall but each week there are people away and new faces turning up. The feedback is positive on the value of this class and the way community social connections are created. Chris Young and Isla have trained up as leaders and run the class, attending trainers' updates with Age Concern. Once a month Chris bakes a cake and puts on afternoon tea – this is a special touch and is appreciated. It has become a ritual to invite Steady as You Go participants to join the Fellowship soup kitchen and end of year Christmas dinner.

## **Yoga and Pilates Update from a Newbie**

I have always been wary of these activities and am ashamed to say I thought they were a bit of a fad. Not now and I only wish I had been going years ago – I'd be a different woman! Yoga on a Monday morning 10-11 has an almost full hall with people from around the areas. Fiona, our teacher, lives in Opoho and is nurturing us through a range of movements that I never knew I could do. To my surprise, it is so relaxing and I come away feeling I can move in in more fluid way.

I don't have a different outfit for Pilates on Wednesday – the beginners' class at 4 p.m. Carli is the tutor and if you were watching (God forbid) you would think I was hardly doing anything. I didn't even know I had muscles and bits of my body that were there and could move independently – I'm cheered on by the grunts and grimaces of other fellow newbies. This class is a revelation in terms of movement and flexibility and quite different from the yoga class. I think I am a convert and it should be compulsory. Just want to say how fortunate I feel to have these classes on my doorstep and this is what I am also hearing from the other participants.

## **Lovelock Environment Society Update**

The lease for the tennis courts has been signed with the DCC for 7 years – special thanks to Fiona Stirling for her work in preparing the documentation. We are bringing to the attention of the DCC the need to maintain and enhance the playground equipment which is well-used by people in our community.



## 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.pshotago.org.nz](http://www.pshotago.org.nz)

Non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.

## 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.



As usual we need knitters to make squares – there's lots of wool available.

Any queries please contact me at 027 473 6026 or [weavermariane@gmail.com](mailto:weavermariane@gmail.com)  
*Marian Weaver*

## Keeping in Touch at Ōpoho 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 wish to be added to (or deleted from) the email list, or **if you receive an emailed copy and don't need a physical copy as well**, please send an email to the editor, Gregor Macaulay, at [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)

## Poems Prayers Psalms & Prose – Ōpoho Writers' Group

Our next writer's group is Thursday 24 October at 7:30 pm by Zoom.

<https://otago.zoom.us/j/96640007348?pwd=OGHkT5JuDnbXUQZbJckmQ8ECqgZZ6q.1>

Meeting ID: 966 4000 7348

Password: 307099



## Interfaith Matters

*Week of Prayer for World Peace 13-20 October*

- Our Interfaith Annual Peace evening with sharing of prayer will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 15 October at the Quaker Meeting House, 15 Park Street – with contributions from each faith participating
- A new venture will occur on Sunday 20 October (yes, the day after our Fair!) to introduce anyone who would like to be involved to the home areas and faiths of the groups who are part of the Interfaith movement in Dunedin. This is planned to take the afternoon and the three communities visited this year will probably be the Dhargyey Buddhist Centre at 22 Royal Terrace, then the Anglican cathedral in the Octagon, and lastly the Jewish synagogue on the corner of George and Dundas Streets. Afternoon tea will be had at the latter.

Everyone and anyone is invited and most will walk between these venues as they are close, although car rides will also be available for those needing transport. Finer details, e.g. timings, will be worked out in early October. I will keep you posted, but I would like to say that similar visiting has taken place in other parts of the country and found to be a great opportunity to meet and talk with people not met before and of different faiths. Much learning has taken place from the talks and explanations at each centre and pleasure received from peaceful times in other houses of worship.

***Bronwen Strang***

## Dedication of John Allen Seat

On Sunday 15 September we rededicated our beautifully restored stained glass windows and dedicated the macrocarpa seat that we purchased with some of the John Allen bequest money. It is a seat that is already being well used and appreciated. Here is the dedication prayer for the seat:

*Living God, we pray for the seat that we have installed with some of the legacy that John Allen left us. We thank you for John's broader legacy here of friendship, grace, and wisdom. And we pray that the seat will be a place where people can pause, think, pray or simply enjoy the garden. In the name of Jesus, your Son and our friend. Amen*





## Fellowship Group

Yet again we celebrated our spring meeting (on 12 September) in arctic weather and welcomed some new faces. Lots of discussion around our reading habits and where books and libraries fitted in in our lives. Thank you to Clare for leading discussion and to Chris and Miriam for afternoon tea. Next meeting Thursday 10 October in the Morrison Lounge – all welcome.

*Miriam Vollweiler*

## Lectionary for October and November

<b>Sunday 6 October – Pentecost 20</b>			
Job 1: 1, 2: 1-10	Ps 26	Heb 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12	Mk 10: 2-16
<b>Sunday 13 October – Pentecost 21</b>			
Job 23: 1-9, 16-17	Ps 22: 1-15	Heb 4: 12-16	Mk 10: 17-31
<b>Sunday 20 October – Pentecost 22</b>			
Job 38: 1-7, (34-41)	Ps 104: 1-9, 24, 35c	Heb 5: 1-10	Mk 10: 35-45
<b>Sunday 27 October – Pentecost 23</b>			
Job 42: 1-6, 10-17	Ps 34: 1-8, (19-22)	Heb 7: 23-28	Mk 10: 46-52
<b>Friday 1 November – All Saints</b>			
Wis Sol 3: 1-9 <i>or</i> Is 25: 8-9	Ps 24	Rev 21: 1-6a	Jn 11: 32-44
<b>Sunday 3 November – Pentecost 24</b>			
Ruth 1: 1-18	Ps 146	Heb 9: 11-14	Mk 12: 28-34
<b>Sunday 10 November – Pentecost 25</b>			
Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17	Ps 127	Heb 9: 24-28	Mk 12: 38-44
<b>Sunday 17 November – Pentecost 26</b>			
1 Sam 1: 4-20	1 Sam 2: 1-10 <i>or</i> Ps 16	Heb 10: 11-14, (15-18), 19-25	Mk 13: 1-8
<b>Sunday 24 November – Reign of Christ</b>			
2 Sam 23: 1-7	Ps 132: 1-12, (13-18) <i>or</i> Ps 93	Rev 1 4b-8	Jn 18: 33-37

## Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church October and November 2024

2 October ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
6 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, World Communion Sunday, followed by Annual Meeting
10 October ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
13 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith
17 October ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
19 October ~ Saturday	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Church Fair
20 October ~ Sunday	Material due for November <i>Opoho Signal</i> 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, followed by 'last chance pickings' from the Fair in the hall
24 October ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Writers' group, via Zoom
27 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Karl Lamb
28 October ~ Monday	Labour Day – public holiday
29 October ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
3 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
10 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith, Remembrance Sunday
13 November ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
14 November ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
17 November ~ Sunday	8 a.m.: Pastoral visitors' breakfast, Morrison Lounge 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 November ~ Wednesday	Material due for December-January <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 November ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
24 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, John Roxborough and Gregor Macaulay

### Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Sunday 20 October

Please send all material for the next *Ōpoho Signal* to  
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email [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)