

Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



August 2024

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

Editorial: Treasuring our Taonga

A recent church activity where people shared precious things had me thinking about living in Opoho and the treasures that surround me. I always enjoy Hamish at community time, exclaiming about the delights he has seen on his way to church

There are many things I love: the book bus and Jo the librarian, the Opoho bus route, the Lilliput libraries in our neighbourhood. The Blacks Road grocery where you can meet friends for coffee. There is peaceful Tannock Glen gardens, the church garden and buildings, the cemetery and Alhambra Park and Botanic Garden for walks. The dog owners' informal meet-ups. There is the plant stall on Signal Hill Road (just up from the church garage), the bird and plant mural on a garage wall in Warden Street.

If that's not enough, then there is the Opoho tennis courts and the person who has arranged for a dog bowl by the Alhambra water tap.

Then there are the people – the sense that you can say hello, talk and offer and ask for help if required. Feed each other's pets, take in the mail, borrow an item and share a lift or drive. Increasingly people in the neighbourhood are leaving surplus stuff outside their gate saying, "free to take". The Opoho Facebook page where information is shared is increasingly becoming a great connector.

I could go on as there are many things that every day make life worth living. I wonder what you would have on your list. It's important to take time to notice, value, participate and support these taonga.

It feels so good to see people in our community valuing our church hall and Morrison Lounge, as every week a steady stream of people come for Yoga, Steady as You Go, Pilates and Weaving. People meeting up and making connections.

The refurbishment of our stained-glass windows – these special taonga of Opoho Church – says to me and others that Opoho Church has a place in our community that is important and long-lasting.



Miriam Vollweiler

Parish Council News

The Council met on 18 July, just three days before the café service on 21 July which was an opportunity for considering Our Place discussion questions. There will be more on this topic as the Our Place team continues its deliberations. Otherwise, the business of the meeting was largely routine, but noting that the church did not qualify for a red-lidded rubbish bin (rubbish will need to be taken home from time to time by parishioners who live nearby, and hall users might be asked to remove their own rubbish); that the *Finding New Favourites* hymn-singing sessions had been enjoyable and productive; that the City Council's waste minimisation officer would be visiting the church on 19 July to discuss holding a hui in our buildings; and that continued vigilance was needed concerning Covid-19 and other viruses.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Property and Finance Committee Update

Another busy meeting on 10 July and your team worked through the agenda at a cracking pace. We have begun preparatory work for the 2025 budget with the draft going to Parish Council for further review. Over the last month we have met with Heritage New Zealand and the Synod to understand the timelines and application process for funding applications as we prepare to get quotes for reroofing the building. We are gathering painting quotes for the church (inside and out) and plan to proceed with this maintenance before the end of the year. Due to the increase in hall and facility bookings, we are looking at developing a supplies inventory and an information sheet that people can use to indicate what needs replenishing. Another task under way is preparing task sheets for kitchen/catering activities and church event activities – all with the goal of ensuring we have robust systems and clarity about who does what and when.

Hall Bookings

Our regular groups using the facility (Yoga, Pilates, Steady as You Go and Weaving) are enjoying the space and reporting strong class numbers. Opoho School borrowed cups for a staff member farewell, an Opoho community member held a ceilidh gathering, and a folk club member celebrated their birthday with a dance. The North East Valley Coordinator came up for a visit to view the church and facilities (photo on next page) and we have the DCC Planning Advisor coming to look at our space for the option of hosting a North End waste minimisation hui.



Marian and Clare with the North East Valley Coordinator

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 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

Reporting on an Opoho Treasure: the tennis courts by Alhambra Park

On Sunday 7 July, the Lovelock Environment Society Incorporated held its annual general meeting in the Morrison Lounge. The Society holds the lease to the tennis courts to ensure these facilities are available to the community free of charge and that they are maintained in a sound condition. The society's purpose is worth highlighting: "to encourage and provide amenities in the Opoho/North Dunedin area, including but not limited to the operation of the tennis courts and do anything reasonably necessary or helpful for the above purpose." Our society can respond to wider community environment issues should they arise.

The Morrison Lounge was filled to capacity and had people from both Opoho and the wider area actively discussing what was important to them about the courts. The lease is currently being renewed with the society, and plans are being explored for resurfacing of the courts. The DCC Signal Hill Management Plan is out for consultation and people were encouraged to put in a submission on their views. Opoho Church members hold the three committee positions – John Stenhouse (Chair), Fiona Striling (Secretary), Miriam Vollweiler (Treasurer).

Have you played tennis on the courts, taught your children or grandchildren to bike ride there, shot some basketball hoops, trained your puppy or given your dog a run on a wet day? – then you will know how special the tennis courts are.



Above: Tim and Charlotte Molteno with Lucy the dog at the courts

Miriam Vollweiler

New Zealand Garden Bird Count

Thanks to the Ranby family for looking after the New Zealand Garden Bird Count on our behalf this year.

Sunday morning on 7 July was very windy and cold, and it is surprising that there were any birds out at all, but here is what they spotted in the church garden: 1 black billed gull, 1 tui, 2 chaffinches, 1 fantail, 4 house sparrows, 1 dunnock/hedge sparrow (Ferg has written an excellent haiku about that one – see below) and 1 kererū.



Quietly sitting.
There! On the ground, a dunnock.
It is brown and grey.

Ferg

Photo Tom Ranby

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

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
Marian Weaver

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, 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

Interfaith Matters

Recently, with Abby and David encouraging us to sing on Sunday evenings, I have been thinking more carefully about the words of these songs. It is ten years ago now that I went to my first National Interfaith Forum with the theme of *Unity in Diversity*. Dear Colin Gibson, who died in December of 2022, wrote our Forum song with this theme. I would like to share the words he prepared.

Seeking Unity in Diversity

Hold hands, people of faith, sister and brother,
hands of the world, reaching out, one to another,
all of us seeking, in our own way, the One to whom we pray.

Chorus:

*Lotus, Light and Wind and Flame, spoken Word, unspoken Name,
Life and Way, O sacred Sound, purest Love, our being's Ground,
Alpha, Omega, our end, ever present, loving Friend.*

Share minds, people of faith, seek to discover.
Minds of the world reaching out, let us uncover,
all of us seeking in our own way, the Truth for which we pray.

Speak souls, people of faith, one to the other;
Soul of the world binding us all each to the other,
all of us seeking in our own way your unity this day.

Thank you for reading these special words; maybe one day we will sing them.

Bronwen Strang

Finding New Favourites

Six weeks of singing and we came to the end of *Faith Forever Singing*, having found some old favourites and developed some new ones! Below is the list of the top 24 songs, ranked by averaging the scores from the singers who voted. Thanks very much to David who uncomplainingly played all the hymns, good and bad; to Ben who set up each night; and to those who made soup and bread for the rest of us: Miriam, Judy, Marian, Christine, Abby, and Clare.

Rank	Number in book	Title
1	57	Song of faith that sings forever
2	15	Fancy Noah sailing in the ark
3	50	Nothing is lost on the breath of God
4	67	We are many, we are one
5	39	It all depends on where I'm going
6	36	I'm a fishbowl Christian
7	75	Where are the voices for the Earth?
8	63	These hills
9	77	Whispering gently
10	4(i)	Be still my heart
11	6	Blow through the valleys
12	10(i)	Come and find the quiet centre
13	68	We are the singers
14	65	This thread I weave
15	29	God speed you on your way
16	56	Sing no sad songs today
17	25	God of the Bible
18	71	Whatever is true
19	18	For the crowd another busy day
20	64	This table is the Lord's
21	51	O Spring in the desert
22	69(i)	Welcome the child
23	73	When I was a child
24	49	May the God of new beginnings

Fellowship Group Report – Winter Soup Kitchen

On 11 July the sun was shining, the tables were set out and the people came – it was a pleasure to have some members of the Steady as You Go exercise class join us as well as Jill, staying with her Opoho family. No one went home hungry! Our soup quiz generated some ideas for next year's menu. Thank you to our church neighbour Michael who was commandeered to work in the kitchen. This year we extended our kitchen into the community with soup and sourdough bread delivery to Maurice and Gisela Andrew and also to Stuart Anderson. Stuart had just had dental surgery and the only thing he could eat was soup so our timing was on the button.



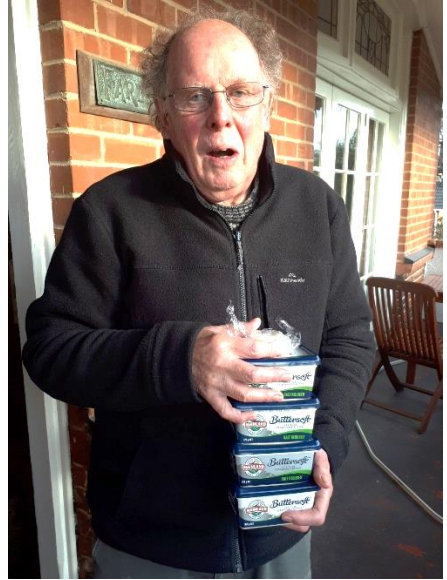
Soup Kitchen table service

Cooks this year were Allison Mulder (carrot and ginger soup and bread), Meegan Cloughley (vegetable soup), Miriam Vollweiler (roast pumpkin soup and leek and potato soup, sourdough bread and lemon slice), Chris Young (fruit salad, strudel, apple crumble).

Soup Kitchen take home packs

We are planning for next year already and hope you will join us.





Maurice and Gisela Andrew and Stuart Anderson sharing in the Soup Kitchen home delivery



Gisela enjoying the sourdough bread

Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler

Carrot and Orange Soup

Recipe passed on by Allison Mulder – a nourishing soup that freezes well.

Makes 8 servings

Preparation time 5 minutes

Cooking time 1 hour

Ingredients

2 onions, chopped

4 cloves garlic, chopped

1 kg carrots, trimmed and roughly chopped

1.5 litres (6 cups) vegetable or chicken stock or broth

400g tin chopped tomatoes

2 bay leaves

1 sprig thyme

finely grated zest of 1 orange

juice from 1 orange (about ⅓ cup)

crème fraîche or unsweetened Greek-style yoghurt, finely-chopped parsley, and finely-grated nutmeg, to serve

Method

Heat a large heavy-based pot over medium-high heat. Add 2 tablespoons of olive oil and the onion and cook for about 5 minutes until softened. Add the garlic and cook for 2 further minutes.

Add the carrots, stock, tomatoes, bay leaves, thyme, orange zest and juice. Cover with a lid and bring to a simmer. Adjust the heat and continue simmering for 45 minutes until the carrots are very soft.

Remove the bay leaf and thyme sprig and discard.

Use a stick blender to blend the soup until smooth – alternatively, mash it very well with a potato masher or process it through a blender. Season to taste with salt and freshly-ground black pepper.

Gently reheat if required, then ladle into bowls. Top with crème fraîche or yoghurt, parsley and nutmeg.

2024 Fellowship Soup Kitchen Quiz

How well do you know your Soups?

1. Pho is a traditional soup made from noodles and thinly sliced meats. From which Asian country does pho originate?
2. Which country has cock-a-leekie soup as a signature dish on menu?
3. Gazpacho is a cold soup primarily made from what ingredient?
4. Which type of fish stew typically has onions, tomatoes and herbs and is served over French bread?
5. Mulligatawny soup is a delicious and refreshing creamy chicken concoction that comes to us from which country?
6. Which clear, strong soup of French origin is commonly served as the first course?
7. Is it true that chicken soup can cure a cold?
8. Which artist painted Campbell's Soup Cans?
9. Name three New Zealand soup cookbook authors.
10. What is your favourite soup?

Answers

1. Vietnam
2. Scotland
3. Pured tomatoes
4. Bouillabaisse
5. India
6. Consommé
7. Yes
8. Andy Warhol
9. Alison Holst, Aunt Daisy, Digby Law – there will be others.
10. All four soups at the Soup Kitchen were rated as excellent and favourites

Poems Prayers Psalms & Prose – Ōpoho Writers' Group

Our next writer's group is Thursday 1 August at 7:30 pm by Zoom.

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

Meeting ID: 966 4000 7348

Password: 307099

We will go back to in-person when the weather brightens up a bit.



Lectionary for August and September

Sunday 4 August – Pentecost 11			
2 Sam 11: 26-12: 13a	Ps 51: 1-12	Eph 4: 1-16	Jn 6: 24-35
Sunday 11 August – Pentecost 12			
2 Sam 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33	Ps 130	Eph 4: 25-5: 2	Jn 6: 35, 41-51
Sunday 18 August – Pentecost 13			
1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-14	Ps 111	Eph 5: 15-20	Jn 6: 51-58
Sunday 25 August – Pentecost 14			
1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43	Ps 84	Eph 6: 10-20	Jn 6: 56-69
Creation 1-29 September			
Sunday 1 September – Pentecost 15			
Song Sol 2: 8-13	Ps 45: 1-2, 6-9	James 1: 17-27	Mk 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sunday 8 September – Pentecost 16			
Prov 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23	Ps 125	James 2: 1-10 (11-13), 14-17	Mk 7: 24-37
Sunday 15 September – Pentecost 17			
Prov 1: 20-33	Ps 19	James 3: 1-12	Mk 8: 27-38
Sunday 22 September – Pentecost 18			
Prov 31: 10-31	Ps 1	James 3: 13-4: 3, 7-8a	Mk 9: 30-37
Sunday 29 September – Pentecost 19			
Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10, 9: 20-22	Ps 124	James 5: 13-20	Mk 9: 38-50

Save the Date – Church Fair

The Ōpoho Church's legendary Church Fair is back!

- Put the date in your diary: **Saturday 19 October**
- Start saving up stuff to donate (good stuff)
- Think about ways you can help.

Serious planning will start in September. Send any great ideas to Abby.



Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church August and September 2024

1 August ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Writers' group, via Zoom
4 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
6 August ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
7 August ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
8 August ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
11 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Jane Bloore
15 August ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 August ~ Tuesday	Material due for September <i>Opoho Signal</i>
25 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
1 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
8 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
11 September ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
12 September ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
19 September ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 September ~ Friday	Material due for October <i>Opoho Signal</i>
22 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
29 September ~ Sunday	Daylight saving begins – clocks go <i>forward</i> one hour 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Greg Hughson

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Tuesday 20 August

Please send all material for the next *Ōpoho Signal* to
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email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com