

*Opoho Signal*

*June 2021*

*via email*

# Opoho Signal

**Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church**

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: [www.opohochurch.org](http://www.opohochurch.org)

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



**June 2021**

***Interim Moderator: The Rev. Ed Masters***

***cell phone 027 637 9818***

**Parish Clerk: Philip Somerville phone: 03 473 8862**

**email: [psomer39@gmail.com](mailto:psomer39@gmail.com)**

***Worship Services at Opoho:***

**Every Sunday at 10 am**

**Other services are listed in the Calendar on the back cover.**

*Editorial*

Ever had one of those dreams that when you wake up the concept of the dream stays with you for the rest of the day? I had one a couple of nights ago and would like to share it with you, and if possible, hear your thoughts on it.

The church hall was empty, save for a large sheet of material which had words written all over it with different handwriting. In the centre of the cloth was the word *Christian*, and surrounding it were words like *love, hope, care, joy* and such. I had been thinking the last few days what it means to be a Christian, and how there is often judgment that is shown towards people who say they are Christian. It used to be that you would be scared of saying you were gay, yet that is more fashionable to admit to today than admitting you are a Christian.

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Often when the word Christian or Christianity comes up in the mainstream media there are negative connotations, albeit often about a particular church and its leader, but those types of connotations have wider ramifications, which also have an effect on us, the general populace of Christians. How do we counter this? Do we point out that that Christianity is not about owning a Tesla, or ensuring the congregation donates enough, or – spare us – promoting division and hate? Do we shake our heads and quietly say that is not right, do we loudly proclaim innocence of these vile comparisons? Personally I smile and point out that not all denominations are the same, that the congregation that I belong to promotes inclusiveness, kindness, humour and good will. I point out that Christianity and being a Christian is more than words: it is actions and behaviour. Many people look at me as if I have two heads when I say there is a difference, and maybe they are justified to do so; however, I have been on the receiving end of those who say they are good Christians, yet their actions speak otherwise. This is not something that is seen in Opoho Presbyterian Church though.

Maybe this is why I had the dream of the cloth with the writing on it: I could imagine what the members of Opoho Presbyterian Church would write, I could see the colour, the care and the love that went into the words, could feel the truth of the words.

So what does being a Christian mean to you? Is it a way to describe who you are, or is it a way to describe the way you act?

*1 Peter 4:16 (KJV)*

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed;  
but let him glorify God on this behalf.

***Meegan Cloughley***



### *Parish Council and Church News*

The meeting of the Parish Council on 20 May was the second last meeting with the Interim Moderator, the Rev. Ed Masters, before the start of a new ministry at Opoho Church. The Moderator referred to two publications that should be coming to the Parish Council in the near future – the publication of the interim Regulations of the Synod of Otago and Southland into a single book, and the Theological Education and Leadership Training (TELT) Report affecting the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership and the Presbyterian Research Centre. Parish Council will be expecting these and considering their consequences affecting the Parish and the national church.

Plate offerings and direct credit giving are still down and Parish Council will keep an eye on our projections as we begin a new ministry. Our electricity use is low, and Parish Council is expecting Aotea Electric to install improved heating in the church in the next month.

The Fair was a fantastic success. There is still jam available from Abby Smith's Jam Palace. Parish Council's thanks go to Fiona Stirling and the Fair Team. The involvement of the community proved to be a great idea. Maybe more sausages next year? – they ran out at the barbecue at the Fair.

The Rev. Clare Lind has indicated a starting date for the new ministry in July. Parish Council has noted from Christian Development Committee the idea of a social function to welcome the new minister in July. Presbytery usually holds induction services on Thursday nights; it is a formal procedure and Thursdays are when most members are free of other responsibilities (the date will be advised as soon as possible).

Parish Council has given approval for a Craft Fair to be held in late November or early December similar to one held two years ago.

Parish Councillors will be looking for feedback on how the monthly singers and guitar service is working, and working on a list of guitar-based songs that work with our musicians.

The departure of the Rev. Graeme Munro to Lower Hutt was mentioned. His last monthly service for Opoho Parish is expected to be the communion service in July and we hope it will be a special occasion.

The Parish Council meets again on Thursday 17 June.

**Andrew Smith**

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### *From the Fair Convener*

Thank you to the whole team who made the day with the fair – all the sellers, musicians, money collectors/counters and refreshment providers that sustained the buyers and workers.

An especially big thank you for the small team who were there all week before sorting and arranging:

- **Bronwen Strang** was there several weeks in advance sorting clothes.
- **Shona Somerville** was an inspiration – she took great delight in discovering treasures and recyclables.
- **Jenny Bunce** put long hours into sorting the books – it was literally heavy work!
- **Christine Cleugh** kept our spirits up as she does but also with coffee runs. Her Jeff helped a lot with the setting up.
- **Miriam Vollweiler** recruited wonderful workers and gave us all a hot soup and fresh bread luncheon on the Friday – she took annual leave to do fair work. She also kept a good supply of banana boxes coming in – essential to the sorting process.
- **Tony Parry** put in two long evening straight from work till about 9.30 p.m. – identifying the valuables/collectables – many put aside for Trade Me later. He is amazing at pricing – knowing what obscure things were let alone their likely price. It was also great to have him there helping at the fair.

Many more helped during the week but these people put in extra long hours.

Then of course there was the clean up – that was a few days' worth.

Big thanks again to Christine and Jeff, and Shona.

**Abby Smith** also merits a special mention for her weeks if not months of jam making.

The takings from the various stalls were as follows:

| Stall                                    | Total             |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Baking                                   | 177.00            |
| Plants                                   | 175.50            |
| Crafts/Puzzles                           | 151.50            |
| Jams/Preserves                           | 941.00            |
| Barbecue                                 | 193.00            |
| White Elephant                           | 2,116.00          |
| Toys/Games                               | 259.40            |
| Books                                    | 1,111.10          |
| Morning Tea                              | 89.00             |
| Soup                                     | 180.40            |
| Donations (music koha \$63.00 and other) | 403.70            |
| Coffee                                   | 180.70            |
| Clothes                                  | 1,501.30          |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                       | <b>\$7,479.60</b> |

***Fiona Stirling***

Some photos at the Fair are on Pages 10 and 11



*Fiona has, of course, not mentioned one person who was essential to the success of the Fair – herself (above). The Parish Council and all the congregation are very grateful to her for her enthusiasm, efficiency, and hard work.*

*Gisela's fun at the fair*

I went to the clothing first and bought my daughter's pyjamas (!) and also red possum gloves. The walls were finely decorated with colourful clothes. Maurice bought his old coat back.

I went to the Morrison Lounge and found two friends chomping sausages and listening to beautiful music. It was hard to get into the hall – so many people! We bought two fat books and three detective novels as we always do. I got my yearly hug from Alison Thornton, and an aloe vera pot.

I had never seen so much jam as Abby had displayed on the table. There was also soup in takeaway cups that was very tasty. There were many helping hands, and I was impressed that many of them were friends of church members.

And thousands of dollars!

***Gisela Andrew***

*A Prayer*

The following prayer by **Andrew Smith** was used in the service on 16 May.

Ah, dear Lord, we come to prayer, and we cry out what audacity you claim!

Jesus in the Father, and the Father in Jesus, and we belong to the Father and his testimony is in our hearts, and we have the promise of eternal life through Jesus the Son.

How outrageous! Lord, your mathematics, your accounting bothers us.

Because you include us into this relationship, this whanaungatanga, and make us one, the people of God called through Jesus the Son.

What audacity! We outweigh the world. You have us in the attention of your love.

You are not false, your word and your testimony are true. They come from you.

You give us time – time and eternity.

That is a relief because we feel that we have been busy at the moment.

In one moment we are counting the coins and the dollars, the accounts from another successful fair, the rush of people looking after a bargain, the offerings of a wider community of which we are a part, our relations with others.

We celebrate what we have accomplished.

In another moment we will be counting votes in anticipation of a call to our parish.

You are speaking to us and we are listening for your voice.

Be part of us in our words and in our thoughts and in our silences.

We pray a blessing for the Muslim community in our city, those who live among us and those whom we live among;

We pray a blessing on the breaking of the Ramadan fast, its purification and its self-discipline on the soul, the sharing of food and of gifts, the celebration of a pivotal observance.

We mourn with them as we observe the desolation of Gaza, that city which you love.

We pray with your grieving heart for an end of conflict between the children of Israel and the children of Islam, and for a just peace between two peoples;

and we fear that we will not see it!

Save us from witnessing the slaughter of children, a new holocaust, the vision of an engineered apocalypse.

We pray for your return into this world as the God of Eternal Life, and not as the god of the dead hand of our own oppression.

We pray for this world, and we pray for a world renewed and held in your hand.

We pray for the recognition of each other human being – young and old, men and women, and diverse identity.

We pray for the renewal of the earth, the provision of land and ecology and clean water for every living creature.

We pray for sustenance, for shelter, for refuge, and for the hope that every other human being will know the freedoms in speech, and movement, and opportunity, that we can take for granted.

We pray for the end of pestilence and pandemics, for the opportunity to be free from the veiling of faces to save others, and a distribution of vaccines to all.

Send us out to be witnesses and proclaimers of the eternal life you offer to all the world.

Amen

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*Some photos at the Fair*



For the week leading up  
to, and including, Sunday:

## Opportunities for Service 6 June - 25 July 2021

	Morning Tea	Door Duty	Readers		Prayers	Music	Hall Cleaning	Church Cleaning
<b>June</b>								
6 June	Bronwen Strang Jane Bloore	John and Mary Somerville	Lena Henderson		—	David Murray	Jane Bloore	Andrew Smith
13 June	Meegan and Pam Cloughley	Andrew Smith Benjamin Thew	Daniel Larsen		Mark Ranby	Guitarists and Singers	Meegan Cloughley	Michael Ovens
20 June	Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson	Daniel Larsen Mark Ranby	Abby Smith		Benjamin Thew	Gaynor Haig	Meegan Cloughley	Michael Ovens
27 June	Daniel Larsen Shona Somerville	Jane Bloore Gregor Macaulay	Mark Ranby		Abby Smith	Music Group	Shona and Philip Somerville	Chris Young
<b>July</b>								
4 July	Marian Weaver Jane Bloore	Michael Ovens Shona Somerville	Maurice Andrew		—	David Murray	Shona and Philip Somerville	Chris Young
11 July	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton	Andrew Smith Benjamin Thew	Jane Anderson		Daniel Larsen	Guitarists and Singers	Benjamin Thew	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton
18 July	Daniel Larsen Bronwen Strang	John and Mary Somerville	Hamish Spencer		Marian Weaver	Gaynor Haig	Benjamin Thew	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton
25 July	Abby Smith Hamish Spencer	Marian Weaver Daniel Larsen	Andrea Johnston		Andrew Smith	Music Group	Bronwen Strang	Mulders

**Thank you** so much to all who contribute now, and have contributed in the past, to these activities.

If you find you are unable to do your rostered duty, please arrange for someone else to take your place. Let Gregor know of the change, so that he can update the Order of Service and contact the right people for readings and prayers

**Morning Tea:** Please arrange for one person to bring milk, and to take it home again afterwards. There are biscuits in a drawer in the kitchen. Home baking is welcome, too.

**Door duty:** Before you leave, please make sure all the doors are locked; all the lights are turned off; and any candles have been put out.

*Fellowship Group*

**2 p.m. on Thursday 10 June in the Morrison Lounge.**

Fellowship Group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Morrison Lounge (10 June this month). You are all very welcome to come along.

At our meeting in May we were fascinated to hear from Evelyn Brass about her life, and her life-long, uninterrupted, connection to Opoho Church. Some people will also remember Evelyn's sister, Margaret McGuire.



*Evelyn*

An important part of Fellowship Group meetings is our participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin, as we bring along our least coins each month.

After a time of conversation, at about 3 p.m. we have a cup of tea or coffee, accompanied by delicious baking (thank you Chris and Miriam!) We finish by 4 p.m.

***Andrea Johnston***



*Operation Cover Up*

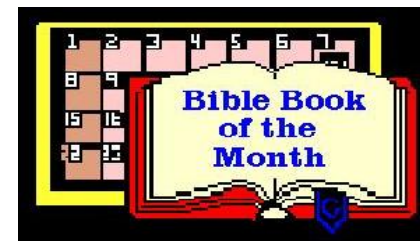
Any time of the year is the right time to knit squares and/or sew them into blankets. Please use wool, not synthetic, as wool has more warmth.

Cast on 40 stitches in double knitting, knit 40 rows (or 20cm) in garter stitch and cast off. For other wool weights adjust to make 20 x 20cm squares.

A bag at the back of the church is topped up with wool if you need some. Money for shipping costs also gratefully accepted.

Contact Marian: [weavermariane@gmail.com](mailto:weavermariane@gmail.com) 027 473 6026

***Marian Weaver***



This month we will be looking at *2 and 3 John*, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 10 June at 129 Signal Hill Road. Ideally people should have read the book beforehand, but it isn't essential.

For more information please contact John Stenhouse at [john.stenhouse@otago.ac.nz](mailto:john.stenhouse@otago.ac.nz) or Tui Bevin at 473 8677 or email [mark.bevin@gmail.com](mailto:mark.bevin@gmail.com)

***Tui Bevin***





*The Rubbish Challenge:  
10 Steps to Less Waste in 10 Months*

A resource for churches and whanau by the Rev. Silvia Purdie

More material and videos at

[www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge.html](http://www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge.html)

**Step 5) June:** Food

**Bible verse:** John 6:12

*When they had all had enough to eat, Jesus said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over so that nothing is wasted."*

**'Big Idea'**

God created wonderful processes for all things to break down and be remade into new things, 'so that nothing is wasted'. Rot and decay get a 'bad rep' in the Bible, in fact Paul describes all of creation as "in bondage to decay" (Romans 8:21). But in our day we have a new appreciation for the importance of decomposition, as God's 'circle' way of sustaining life through returning nutrients to the soil.

**Question – for reflection and discussion**

How do you feel about composting and decomposing food?

Can you see God at work in rot and decay?

How can ensure that your food scraps get composted, and able to feed new life?

**Action Step for June**

Set up a system so that all food waste goes into organic collection or the compost.

If you have a City Council organic waste collection, this is the green bin, and every home, church or office should be using this as much as possible.

You need a food scraps container on (or under) your kitchen bench (e.g. a metal pot with lid). It needs to be:

- > easy to use and easy to clean
- > with no plastic bag liner
- > clearly labelled

Who will empty it and clean it?

If you can, set up a composting system or worm farm. You can even hire one!

Have less land-fill rubbish bins; not every room needs a bin! .

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, as you gathered the scraps after feeding the people inspire us to gather our left-overs to feed the soil that death may transform into new life and nothing may go to waste.

Amen.



### *Keeping in Touch*

*Do you know...*

Opoho Church has a website, [www.opohochurch.org](http://www.opohochurch.org)

On the website 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)

Copies of the Parish Directory, with contact details of parishioners, are available on the back pew in the church.

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 Andrea [andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz](mailto:andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz)

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

#### **Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Sunday 20 June 2021**

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)

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Lectionary readings, 6 June to 25 July 2021 in Year B, the Year of Mark			
<b>Sunday 6 June - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
1 Sam 8: 4-11 (12-15), 16-20 (11: 14-15)	Ps 138	2 Cor 4: 13-5:1	Mk 3: 20-35
<b>Sunday 13 June - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
1 Sam 15: 34-16: 13	Ps 20	2 Cor 5: 6-10, 14-17	Mk 4: 26-34
<b>Sunday 20 June - 4th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
1 Sam 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49	Ps 9: 9-20	2 Cor 6: 1-13	Mk 4: 35-41
<b>Sunday 27 June - 5th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
2 Sam 1: 1, 17-27	Ps 130	2 Cor 8: 7-15	Mk 5: 21-43
<b>Sunday 4 July - 6th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
2 Sam 5: 1-5, 9-10	Ps 48	2 Cor 12: 2-10	Mk 6: 1-13
<b>Sunday 11 July 7th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
2 Sam 6: 1-5, 12b-19	Ps 24	Eph 1: 3-14	Mk 6: 14-29
<b>Sunday 18 July - 8th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
2 Sam 7: 1-14a	Ps 89: 20-37	Eph 2: 11-22	Mk 6: 30-34, 53-56
<b>Sunday 25 July - 9th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
2 Sam 11: 1-15	Ps 14	Eph 3: 14-21	Jn 6: 1-21

## Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

June	
6 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro, Communion
7 June ~ Monday	Public holiday - Queen's Birthday
10 June ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month: <i>2 and 3 John</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
13 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Olivia Dawson
17 June ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Marian Weaver Material due for July <i>Opoho Signal</i>
27 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
July	
4 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro, Communion
8 July ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month: <i>Jude</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
11 July ~ Sunday	9.45 a.m.: People-moving for chapel service at Dunedin Hospital (about four volunteers needed – contact Philip Somerville) 10 a.m.: Worship at <i>Opoho</i> , Support Sunday, with Tim Mepham from Presbyterian Support
15 July ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith (TBC)
20 July ~ Tuesday	Material due for August <i>Opoho Signal</i>
25 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson (TBC)

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