

Opoho Signal

September 2020

via email

Opoho Signal

Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: www.opohochurch.org

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



Statue of Julian of Norwich (2014) on the West Front of Norwich Cathedral, by sculptor David Holgate (1939-2014)

September 2020

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Ed Masters

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Editorial (written on 19 August)

These words of Julian of Norwich below have been in my mind the last few days as we grapple with loss and fear – loss of a cherished member of the Opoho Church family, and fear for the wellbeing of the nation over the next few weeks.

If there is anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again we are always kept in that same precious love.”

Revelations of Divine Love

It was good to be able to sit quietly with Opoho parishioners today to celebrate the long life of Phyllis Sinclair, to be reminded of the enduring bonds of family and community, and to know that Phyllis was and is ‘kept in [God’s] precious love’.

The fact that we could meet together to remember Phyllis and celebrate her was a blessing under the current circumstances. Just two weeks ago my twin sister and I were sitting in the Octagon enjoying the autumn sunshine and reflecting on the fortunate position that New Zealand was in with respect to Covid-19. We discussed the possibility of another outbreak and hoped that if that happened it could be contained without too much disruption to New Zealander’s daily lives.

Well, the worst has happened, we are back to watching daily briefings with a nervous fluttering in the stomach, the election has been delayed for a month, and conspiracy theories about Covid-19 abound on social media. But fear and anxiety need not rule, as Julian shows.

And in this he showed me a little thing, the quantity of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, ‘What may this be?’ And it was answered generally thus, ‘It is all that is made.’ I marvelled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God.

In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it.

*Julian of Norwich
Revelations of Divine Love*

Jane Bloore

Mother Julian of Norwich (1342-c.1416) was an English anchoress (a sort of hermit; she lived for much of her life in seclusion in a cell attached to St Julian’s Church, Norwich) who is regarded as an

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important Christian mystic. Written around 1395, her work, *Revelations of Divine Love*, is the first book in the English language known to have been written by a woman. The Wikipedia article about her says that in March 2020, during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, Julian’s relevance to people around the world who are self-isolating was highlighted. Janina Ramirez was quoted by BBC News, saying that *Julian was living in the wake of the Black Death, and around her repeated plagues were re-decimating an already depleted population. I think she was self-isolating. The other anchorites would have understood that by removing themselves from life this would not only give them a chance of preserving their own life but also of finding calm and quiet and focus in a chaotic world.*



Parish Council and Church News

Tui and Mark Bevin

It is with deep regret that the Parish Council has received the resignation of Tui from her position as our Parish Clerk and from the Parish Council, effective immediately.

It is also with deep regret we received notice from Mark that he will not be standing again for the Parish Council (he was due to come up for re-election at the annual meeting in October), that he will be stepping down from his finance and property roles, and that he will be stepping back from his leading position with music at the church.

It is impossible to overstate the massive contributions Tui and Mark have made to Opoho Church continuously over the past more than 30 years. If we attempted to outline these, this would be a very, very long message. They have worked tirelessly and capably as they have enriched the church and our community.

They are standing down for personal reasons. We share love and thankfulness for all they have done and for who they are. God’s blessings.

Other Council and Church News

We offer our sympathies to David, Hannah, and Eve Murray on the recent death of David’s father.

The Parish Council has decided that potluck lunches should continue to be held from time to time. Those who stay for them find them enjoyable and worthwhile. In view of Covid restrictions, it is not clear when the next one will be held, but give thought to taking part if you haven’t done so for a while.

Abby Smith’s jam making has raised \$660 for the church so far. She plans to continue for another couple of months, as fruit supplies warrant. Thank you to Abby and to everyone who has bought jam.

And congratulations to Abby on her recent appointment as a Quinquennial Fellow of Knox College.

After worship on 30 August, the long and dedicated service of Brian Cunningham as Parish Treasurer was publicly recognised. In reply, Brian acknowledge the assistance of his wife Kate – especially with banking – and expressed amazement that Judy Rodda had volunteered (without needing to be pressured) to be his replacement. Thank you Brian!

A congregational meeting then took place to discuss matters concerning the process of calling of a new minister. The Parish Profile and summary of Ministry Expectations, produced by the Ministry Settlement Board and endorsed by the Parish Council, were approved for use. And, after considerable discussion, the meeting agreed that the parish should seek a Nationally Ordained Minister, at at least 80% of standard terms of call. The decision both recognises the parish’s financial position and provides for flexibility in negotiations with a potential minister.

Philip Somerville (Acting Parish Clerk) and Gregor Macaulay



Phyllis Sinclair



There was a good turnout of Opoho folk at the memorial service for Phyllis at Hope and Sons' Chapel on 19 August. The service was taken by Margaret Garland and, after the family's tributes, Philip Somerville spoke on behalf of the church. The following is edited and expanded from Philip's address.

Last Sunday [16 August], Opoho Church's morning service was via Zoom. Phyllis was remembered in our prayers, and then afterwards there we all were on our computer screens

and, spontaneously, we began to share a few thoughts about Phyllis. I had written to Rodger (her son), Pam (Rodger's wife) and family that Phyllis was much-loved at the church, and our response was a reflection of that. John Roxborough, in the discussion, called her a gem. I really like that description.

When Phyllis joined us from Andersons Bay Church, she fitted in immediately. She related easily and naturally to others in her understated way. One person reckoned, and I think this makes a lot of sense, that that was because when you spoke with Phyllis, she listened carefully and from the inside of her being.

Phyllis was indeed a lovely lady but there was much, much more as we know. There was determination, pluck and a real spine. Underestimate such people at your peril.

She was up for a good laugh and loved seeing everyone. The fellowship, faith and fun at Opoho was integral to her week, and, even as she became noticeably more frail post-lockdown she made every

effort to join us at church and for morning tea afterwards (tea not coffee mind you).

In fact, she was at church, albeit rather wobbly and a little pale, that Sunday before she died. As we shared the peace, my wife, Shona, tells me Phyllis grasped her hand and held it for longer than usual. When Christine Cleugh dropped her home, Phyllis especially turned to give her a hug and kiss. Others might have had similar experiences last Sunday week.

Phyllis seemed ageless until the setbacks of recent years. She must have thought her time might be running out, and she had mentioned to one congregation member a few months back that she had had a pretty good life. But we all didn't want it to end.

She always downplayed the knocks to her health, epitomising staunchness and stoicism in the face of the challenges.

Phyll, as some called her, loved taking part in the monthly afternoon Fellowship Group meetings and, while described as gentle, she knew how to speak up if required. She contributed delicious baking to church functions and generously gave away cuttings and plants.

We were favoured when this floral magician arrived and brightened our door. Her arrangements displayed both an artist's flair and an artisan's craft. What a combination. Little wonder we used her skills, on top of her regular turn on the flower roster, for weddings, funerals and the church's centenary.

We were blessed to have Phyllis in our midst, and she will live in our memories and in our lives. We won't forget her, or that twinkle in her eye.

What's more, she even managed over the last while to get Rodger to church a few times – even if that was just to pick her up.

Thank you to the family for sharing Phyllis. Farewell to our gem: our gracious, our talented and our much-loved Phyllis. God's blessings go with you.

Some other information about Phyllis might be of interest.

She was born in 1927 to John and Mary Butler, and had one older and one younger brother. She lived her early years on a farm at Moneymore, just south of Milton. The family walked off the farm in the

Great Depression and came to Dunedin (where her parents had lived) to start again. The family took over a shop at 41 Signal Hill Road (later replaced by the house occupied by David Clark until recently), converted it to a dairy, and extended the living quarters. Her father later moved into real estate and the family owned the land opposite Grandview Crescent where Phyllis's son Rodger has built a house. The Butlers built a home further up Signal Hill Road and Phyllis returned there in the last couple of decades.

Phyllis went to Otago Girls' High School and worked at the DIC and Arthur Barnett's. She married Murray Sinclair when she was 21 and they lived in Andersons Bay where Rodger and sister Jude were brought up. Phyllis was highly involved in the community and the church there. Murray, who had worked at the *Otago Daily Times* and was a photo engraver when he retired, died in 1998.

Phyllis was both a floral art judge and teacher. She was described as an expert sewer and, going by images on the service sheet, a beautiful embroiderer. You can add to that expert gardener.

Tony Parry recorded Philip's eulogy and sent it to him. Contact Philip if you would like a recorded copy: psomer39@gmail.com

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The Parish Council has asked the Christian Development Committee to consider what useful lessons for our church can be taken from the lockdown. What has it taught us about the strengths or weaknesses of our ways of doing things in the parish? If we

are faced with another lockdown in the future, is there anything that we should do differently as a congregation? Are there any other questions that we should be asking?

If you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know in writing or by email [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)

**Gregor Macaulay**

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Come one, come all!!

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Sunday 27 September

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Opoho Church

Labour, National, Greens, NZ First, Act, TOP
Dunedin electorate candidates seek your votes and
answer questions.



Moderated by Philip Somerville,
as usual, in his Dr Seuss hat

Note: Re-scheduled from Sunday 13 September.

It's a difficult world full of complex issues, but we can still

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Sustainability Week at Opoho

20 - 27 September 2020

Evening talks followed by a chat and a cup of tea 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. in the church		
Sunday 20 September	Kei hea ng k k , where are the k k ?	Scott Forrest & Taylor Davies-Colley
	Planting for native birds	Kate Caldwell
Monday 21 September	Predators in our midst: detection, biodiversity impacts, control	Yolanda van Heezik
	Cohousing: changing the way we live	Catherine Spencer
Wednesday 23 September	Electric vehicles: good for people, the planet and your purse?	Henrik Moller
	No PhD needed – how to become a Citizen Scientist!	Sally Carson
Friday 25 September	Freshwater microplastic pollution in New Zealand	Aidan Mora-Teddy
	Our city, our climate, our choice	Scott Willis
Sustainability Circus! 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Hall		
Saturday 26 September	Displays and demonstrations from local groups and organisations that are working to make a difference	
Services celebrating the wonder of the natural world 10 a.m. in the church		
Sunday 20 September	Wilderness Sunday service	The Rev. Olivia Dawson
Sunday 27 September	River Sunday service	The Rev. Jordan Redding



Join us as we explore ways we can make a difference



Environmental Issues

We look forward to the services and other activities (being organised or coordinated by Abby Smith) for a Sustainability Week, 20 - 27 September.

Environmental and sustainability issues are a continuing interest and concern for many members of our congregation and the Parish Council is interested in ways of maintaining momentum in this area. If you have any suggestions for doing that please let either Abby or me know.

Gregor Macaulay



**Reuseable materials please
cardboard, bottle tops, egg cartons, newspaper etc.**

My busy class of 6 year olds is highly creative, and would love to repurpose some of your items destined for the recycling bin.

Our project next term is to make a mosaic from bottle tops (no longer accepted in the yellow bins, so we can recycle for you). All sizes and colours.

To give you an idea:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBxzqyfsZQ0

I am happy to collect, or will put some containers on the stage in the Hall for any donations.

Hannah Murray



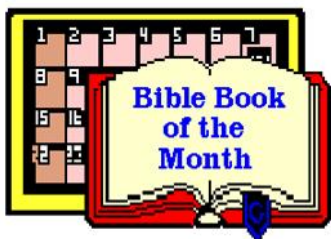
Interfaith Matters



The next Dunedin Interfaith meeting, at 2 p.m. on Sunday 13 September, will be at the Quaker Meeting House, 15 Park Street. The theme of the spiritual reflection will be *Truth and Integrity*. All are welcome.

The following meeting, on Sunday 11 October, will be at “our” place, the Morrison Lounge. The theme will be *World Peace* because that Sunday begins the Week of Prayer for World Peace. The annual celebration time for the Week of Prayer for World Peace will be on the evening of Wednesday 14 October at the Quakers, with different faith traditions sharing for 3 - 5 minutes each – in the past there have been up to 12 different groups involved. More of this in the next *Signal*.

Bronwen Strang



Next month we will be looking at *Titus*, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 8 October at 129 Signal Hill Road. This is a week later than our usual meeting date. 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 or Tui Bevin at 473 8677 or email mark.bevin@gmail.com

Tui Bevin

Knox Church Sunday Evening Series

Sundays 6, 13 and 20 September

Knox is running an evening series called *A Political Faith?*

Each session begins with an interview at 5.30 p.m., followed by supper at 6 p.m. and short worship at 6.30 p.m.

The programme for the first three Sundays of September is:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 6 September | Metiria Turei, on housing and poverty |
| 13 September | Aaron Hawkins, on Dunedin's future in a COVID world |
| 20 September | Philip Somerville, on politics and the election |

The Promise of Spring *Saturday 19 September*

A day retreat with the Rev. Dr Hilary Oxford Smith and harpist and singer Julie Dee at Seacliff on Saturday 19 September.



More details at:

www.southernpresbyterians.nz/event/The-Promise-of-Spring-19-Sep-2020

<i>Don't Forget!</i>	
<i>September</i>	
20 - 27 September	Sustainability Week services and activities (See Page 10)
Sunday 27 September (re-scheduled from Sunday 13 September)	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.: General Election candidates' meeting, Dunedin electorate
<i>October</i>	
11 - 18 October	Week of Prayer for World Peace
Sunday 18 October	Annual Meeting (following morning worship)

Keeping in Touch

Do you know...

Opoho Church has a website, 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

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



Lectionary readings, 6 September - 18 October 2020 in Year A, the Year of Matthew			
Season of Creation 1 September - 1 October			
Sunday 6 September - 14th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 37: 1-4, 12-28	Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	Rom 10: 5-15	Mt 14: 22-33
Sunday 13 September - 15th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 14: 19-31	Ps 114 <i>or</i> Ex 15: 1b-11, 20- 21	Rom 14: 1-12	Mt 18: 21-35
Sunday 20 September - 16th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 16: 2-15	Ps 105: 1-6, 37-45	Phil 1: 21-30	Mt 20: 1-16
Sunday 27 September - 17th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 17: 1-7	Ps 78: 1-4, 12-16	Phil 2: 1-13	Mt 21: 23-32
Sunday 4 October - 18th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Ps 19	Phil 3: 4b-14	Mt 21: 33-46
Sunday 11 October - 19th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 32: 1-14	Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23	Phil 4: 1-9	Mt 22: 1-14
Sunday 18 October - 20th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 33: 12-23	Ps 99	1 Thes 1: 1-10	Mt 22: 15-22

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

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Sunday 20 September

Please send all material for the *Opoho Signal* to:

Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011

Email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com



**Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church in
September and early October 2020**

September 2020	
2 September ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Ministry Settlement Board, Morrison Lounge 8.00 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, 64 Cannington Road
3 September ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>2 Timothy</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
6 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion, the Rev. Graeme Munro
10 September ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
13 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew
17 September ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge Deadline for September <i>Opoho Signal</i>
20 - 27 September	Sustainability Week at Opoho (see notice on Page 10)
20 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Olivia Dawson Deadline for October <i>Opoho Signal</i>
22 September ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
27 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Jordan Redding 7 p.m.: General election candidates' meeting (re-scheduled from 13 September)
Early October 2020	
4 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion, the Rev. Graeme Munro
8 October ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>Titus</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
11 - 18 October	Week of Prayer for World Peace
11 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Paul Ranby 2 p.m.: Dunedin Interfaith monthly meeting, Morrison Lounge, theme for reflection <i>World Peace</i>
15 October ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Ed Masters followed by Annual Meeting

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Opportunities for Service, September - October 2020

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

Sunday	Morning Tea	Door Duty	Readers	Prayers	Music	Flowers	Hall Cleaning	Church Cleaning
September 2020								
6 Sep	—	Smith / Spencer	Maurice Andrew	—	David Murray	—	Andrew Smith	Benjamin Thew
13 Sep	—	Shona & Philip Somerville	Jenny Bunce	Andrew Smith	Mark Bevin	Judy Rodda	Meegan Cloughley	Rodda / Hamilton
20 Sep	Rodda / Hamilton	Benjamin Thew Jane Bloore	Abby Smith	John Roxborough	Gaynor Haig	Judy Rodda	Meegan Cloughley	Rodda / Hamilton
27 Sep	Jenny Roxborough Shona Somerville	Gregor Macaulay Andrew Smith	Jane Anderson	Benjamin Thew	Music Group	Fiona Stirling	Chris Young	Fiona Stirling
October 2020								
4 Oct	Jane Bloore Meegan Cloughley	Mary & John Somerville	Daniel Larsen	—	David Murray	Fiona Stirling	Chris Young	Fiona Stirling
11 Oct	Marian Weaver Bronwen Strang	John Stenhouse Michael Ovens	Jane Bloore	Daniel Larsen	Mark Bevin	Jenny Roxborough	Michael Ovens	Bronwen Strang
18 Oct	Smith / Spencer	Marian Weaver Jenny Bunce	Hamish Spencer	Andrew Smith	Gaynor Haig	Jenny Roxborough	Michael Ovens	Bronwen Strang

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.