

Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



May 2024

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

Editorial

When you read this, we are still a couple of weeks before the end of the count of weeks to the end of Easter and we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. It's a season of days that takes us from the autumn equinox to the beginning of winter, riot of coloured leaves in the trees, cool and darkening days, and early evenings, our last burst of energy before the cold of the world begins.

In the Old Testament, the commandment was given to keep the count of fifty days between the Passover and the next festival in the calendar, an observance that I have discovered some religious Jews take actively, an opportunity to say blessing, something like, "Thank you, Lord, that you have given us this commandment to count these days". So the keeping of the count becomes intentional, a period for self-examination, like Lent before Easter.

It is not an empty time for Christians either, because Jesus is revealed to his disciples after he rose from death during the period. We read the resurrection encounters. Jesus turns up among his disciples, who are still in the crisis of his death, and says "Peace be with you". I read the passages and sometimes wish he turned up among them and said "Boo!", or "Surprise!" Maybe it was like that if he startled the disciples and came and went almost like a ghost or a spirit.

The apostle Paul writes down what I suspect was an oral tradition in the first generation of the Church, a list of the appearances of Jesus: first to one, Peter; then to the Apostles; then to the community. It sounds as if Jesus kept up a busy schedule in the first month after his resurrection.

The Gospel writers, which are later, added the detail that the first witnesses to the resurrection were the women at the tomb who announced the news to the disciples, a reversal of roles. An announcement that he is not dead, and we all share in the Jesus-life. All part of the generations of the first believers becoming the early Church.

Then, at the end of the Easter count, Jesus jumps up high, gone to heaven, and we celebrate the memory of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, a turn-around for a defeated people. The Spirit empowers us to live with presence, even as we pass through autumn into winter. We can wear a splash of red, the changing colour of the season, and the colour of fire and warmth before the crisp colours change to wet grey days. We can cross time from Easter to Pentecost. We can be confident.

Andrew Smith

Parish Council News

The Council met on 18 April and set a date for a church fair: Saturday 19 October. Abby Smith will be the chief organiser. Some other parish activities are also being considered and will be publicised as plans firm up.

We are awaiting final confirmation, but it is likely that the induction service for the Rev. Richard McLean as Southern Presbytery Executive Officer will be held in the church on the evening of Thursday 9 May.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Property and Finance Committee Update

March has been a busy month for our committee. Our garden seat to commemorate John Allen is in place and mulch donated by local Brett Ransome is on the garden. Jeremy Shanks, a local Opoho resident, was a star helping us unload mulch along with Chris Young. The kitchen zip and taps have been fixed. A working bee held under the stage was epic – damaged chairs and tables and obsolete seats were removed. We outline a special report on the windows. Hall bookings continue to increase and a summary of regular bookings will be on the Morrison Lounge wall: Monday Yoga, Tuesday Steady as You Go, Wednesday a weaving group, Wednesday evening Pilates. Several groups are planning to look at additional bookings. Members of these groups are welcoming the opportunity to recycle bottle tops and cartons in the foyer collection boxes.



Jeremy and Miriam



Mulch

Stained Glass Windows update – main church and vestry

A little bit of history:

In February 1938, as part of the Opoho Church rebuild, leadlight windows were installed. These were funded by the Young Women's Society at a price of 32 pounds and 10 shillings. The windows were designed by Mr J. Brock of Anderson's Bay and were one of the last commissions undertaken by him. Reference: *Light on the Hill. A History of The Opoho Presbyterian Parish 1909-2002*. Compiled by Norman Sheat, page 30.

Mr John Brock was one of the most prolific stained glass window designers in New Zealand whose work is in many churches and buildings. Brian Miller's book, *Capturing Light; Roy Miller, New Zealand Stained Glass Artist* devotes a section to the work of John Brock, pages 39-45. Miller comments in the section "Conservation and Restoration", pages 252-253, "that over time stained glass windows need some re-leading and restoration as well as protection."

.... Churches should carry out an inventory of their windows, collect information on the donor, designer, executing studio. Location of the original cartoons and have windows photographed at high resolution. This information should be deposited in the church archives and at a local historical library," *Capturing Light* is a fascinating book and is available from the Public Library.

Action Plan

In November 2023, on our maintenance walkabout, we noticed the stained glass church window was looking bowed. Peter Mackenzie, a stained glass specialist, was contacted and made a visit on 11 March to complete a visual inspection. His initial assessment was the main window was so seriously damaged that it was at risk of shattering. He recommended and carried out a temporary fix with a bar placed across main church window. Given the level of risk for further damage, Property and Finance asked Peter Mackenzie to complete a full assessment and recommended remediation report and quote for repair of windows.

Peter Mackenzie undertaking temporary repair of window



Here is detail from the report, page 18.

CONSERVATION GOALS AND PROCEDURES GOALS Opoho Presbyterian Church officials are guardians of church heritage architecture that forms a cultural artefact reflecting the lives of Otago families from this area. The feature windows are nearly 86 years old so rebuilding the damaged panels and armouring the window set now will protect the windows and prevent any loss of original material. The intention is to preserve the church's windows, given they represent a tangible record of the lives of the community that built them. These windows are an illuminating time capsule of the culture of the day and deserve a high standard of care. Conservation of this set of windows demands arresting their deterioration, stabilising or rebuilding those panels requiring conservation of their physical fabric, replacing what is missing with best-possible matches, and thoroughly cleaning all surfaces. The effective protection of all windows is an essential part of the glazing stewardship because the stresses and attacks of wind, sun, rain and chemical reactions are unrelenting. Polycarbonate screens are the strongest barrier to malicious or accidental damage too.

We are overwhelmed and delighted to have had a donation to cover the cost of repair which will commence in the next few months – you will notice scaffolding being erected outside the church and plywood will cover the space when the windows are removed for repair. If you wish to receive an electronic copy of the full window damage report, please contact Miriam. A copy will be in the bookshelf available for review in the Morrison lounge.

Peter Mackenzie taking part
of the window away for repair



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

Church “Active Listening” Workshop

Daniel Larsen, an experienced psychotherapist, will be leading pastoral visitors and anyone else in the church who might be interested in an “Active Listening” Workshop in the Morrison Lounge on **Saturday 18 May**.

Parish member Daniel led a similar workshop more than 10 years ago. The insights were enlightening, and the workshop was most appreciated.

We'll meet for tea and coffee from about 1.30 p.m. ready to start at 2 p.m. The workshop will last about three hours.

Because we will want a good indication of numbers let me know if you are planning to come as soon as you can, and at latest by *Sunday 12 May*. You are most welcome.

Philip Somerville

Congratulations

Mark Ranby was presented with the Outstanding Contribution of the Year 2023-24 award at the Dunedin Cricket Awards night on 26 March for his work with the Kaikorai Junior Cricket Club. Here he is receiving the cup from the previous year's winner, Jarrad Waldron (Taieri College).



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.

ALLELUIA (an acrostic poem)

All over the world
Let us pray together;
Let us be as one.
Earth united, singing together,
Letting love loose across the continents.
Understanding and enjoying diversity,
Intertwined in celebration, together we sing:
Alleluia!

Abby Smith

A Prayer for Palm Sunday

Rejoice! And ride into town,

Where everybody loves you!

The man of the moment, the hero everyone is talking about –

And you know you deserve every bit of it!

You are confident that God made you and God sent you!

Stand tall!

Good morning Lord

This Sunday brings us an image of success

Of how it could be if we reached the top.

The very top! Applause, acclaim, power –

Everybody listening to every story (even the boring ones);

Everybody handing you riches, and glory and power, all the good stuff;

Imagine being Number One!

But we know Lord, as everyone finds out:

The birthday gift of gold comes with a jar of funeral spices.

You can't be Number One for long;

Jealousy eats at your enemies; someone catches you out;

You say the wrong thing, your donkey stumbles –

And down you go.

If you are lucky you can melt back into the anonymous crowd,

Back to the hard work, the dirt and mess, the wishing for more.

But for some the fall is spectacular:

From Parliament to jail,

From prosperous Patriarch to the rash-covered beggar at the gates,

From Palm Sunday to Good Friday.

And now we see the hollowness of success, the transparency of power,

The transience of prestige, the flimsiness of popularity.

They turn out to be things not worth praying for.

What shall we pray for instead?

We can pray for clean air and water and soil;

We can pray for food for the hungry, shelter for the poor,

Comfort for the miserable, care for the sick, and rest for the exhausted.

Shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand

We are not the crowd, we are not the hero, we are not the donkey

We are not special, but we are your people

And so we pray, as you taught us to do,

Our Father.

Abby Smith

A Prayer for Easter Day

Out of the dark deeps, we call to you O Lord

And you reply.

Low grey clouds clear away; sleet gives way to sunshine;
at night the stars shine again

Hope comes.

The despair of that awful Friday lifts, expands, unfolds, becomes
Something different, something more.

A stone moves to reveal that we are all redeemed.

What must it have been like?

That day in the garden, or in the upstairs room, or on the road

When your promise was fulfilled, and they saw him again!

Such joy! Such hope! Such love!

Today is the day we sing Alleluia – the day of joy and hope and love
All over the world, in springtime, in autumn, in caves and churches,
in heat and cold

People are praising you, rejoicing.

Let us join with them in prayers of joyful, hopeful, loving praise.

Today, of all days, shows us that your promises come true.

That you are the way, that our prayers for others are not futile;

That love works.

So today we pray for everyone:

Everyone knows sorrow, but today we celebrate joy.

Everyone feels despair, but today! Today is for hope.

Everyone knows anger and fear and greed and hate and revenge and loneliness
– but NOT TODAY! Today is for Love.

Rejoice! For he is risen.

Our Lord gave his son to us out of love;

Our Brother gave all he had for us, with hope

Their Spirit surrounds us with joy!

Rejoice! And pray for others, for ourselves, for people who need prayers

Rejoice! And pray together:

Our Father.

Abby Smith

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

Study Series: Talking with Taonga



A study series, Talking with Taonga, will kick off after church at around 11.30 a.m. on Sunday 12 May and for the following two Sundays, 19 and 26 May. We will have a break over King's Birthday weekend and then continue on Sunday 9

June and 16 June, depending on the number of participants.

Participants will be asked to share a taonga – an object of significance to them – and talk about what it means to them.

Interfaith Matters



As I think most of you know, I volunteer on Saturday in a vibrant team at the Hospice Shop. I work often with a particularly lovely young Muslim woman whom I talked with during Ramadan about how this very special Muslim festival was for her – expecting she would talk

about hunger. She spoke so positively I asked if she would prepare a comment for the *Signal* about what Ramadan meant and how it affected her and her Muslim community. Here it is....

Ramadan is the most holy month in Islam, commemorating when the Quran was sent to Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. Worldwide in that month Muslims are expected to fast from dawn until dusk. Before sunrise, Muslims wake up to eat a meal called 'Suhoor,' which prepares them well for the day of fasting. They break their fast with family and friends at a meal called Iftar, eating and praying afterward. Ramadan is a month of discipline during which people work on their relationship with God and get closer to Him.

As well as this, they feel the spirituality and closeness within the community, deepening their faith and personal connections. So Muslims feel not alone, myself included, but rather we sense the positives and closer bonds with the community and with God. Ramadan is known for boosting the spirit of giving and thankfulness.

Fasting in Ramadan is not just about food and water but rather about working to become better people by acquiring patience and giving charity to those who are less fortunate. In addition to the five daily prayers, which are part of the core of Islam, Muslims go to the mosque and spend a couple of hours praying the Tarawih, a unique nightly prayer that is done specifically during Ramadan. On the last 10 days of Ramadan, people focus on performing many prayers and acts of worship, especially on the evening of the 27th day, known as Laylat al-Qadr, or the Night of Power. It is believed that God revealed the first chapter of the Quran to the messenger Muhammad, peace be upon him, on this night.

At the end of Ramadan, and after Ramadan finishes, all Muslims around the world celebrate Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the Month of Ramadan where families and friends gather for festive meals in the morning and spend the day together. It is all a very blessed time.

Bronwen Strang

Fellowship Group

Our 11 April meeting had Rowan Cooke (right), Enviro NZ's Waste Minimisation and Education Advisor, providing us with information about the new DCC green and red-lidded kerbside bins. Rowan brought along the bins for us to see and shared information about the new service as well as answering



all our recycling and waste related questions. Rowan's "show and discuss" method (he brought along a range of household items) clarified our understanding of what should and should not go into the different waste stream. All of us came away with an increased understanding.

<https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling/kerbside-faq> is a useful link to build on your knowledge.

Evelyn (right, with Marion) brought along 50 Peggy squares for Operation Cover Up – a new record. Planning is under way for our winter soup kitchen lunch and we welcome Fiona Stirling to a meeting where she will share her recent travel experiences in Samoa and Bolivia.



Miriam Vollweiler

Lectionary for May and June

Sunday 5 May – Easter 6			
Acts 10: 44-48	Ps 98	1 Jn 5: 1-6	Jn 15: 9-17
Thursday 9 May – Ascension			
Acts 1: 1-11	Ps 47 <i>or</i> Ps 93	Eph 1: 15-23	Lk 24: 44-53
Sunday 12 May – Easter 7			
Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26	Ps 1	1 Jn 5: 9-13	Jn 17: 6-19
Pentecost			
Sunday 19 May – Pentecost			
Acts 2: 1-21 <i>or</i> Ezek 37: 1-14	Ps 104: 24-34, 35b	Rom 8: 22-27 <i>or</i> Acts 2: 1-21	Jn 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15
Sunday 26 May – Trinity			
Is 6: 1-8	Ps 29	Rom 8: 12-17	Jn 3: 1-17
Sunday 2 June – Pentecost 2			
1 Sam 3: 1-10, (11-20)	Ps 139: 1-6, 13- 18	2 Cor 4: 5-12	Mk 2: 23-3:6
Sunday 9 June – Pentecost 3			
1 Sam 8: 4-11 (12-15), 16-20 (11: 14-15)	Ps 138	2 Cor 4: 13-5:1	Mk 3: 20-35
Sunday 16 June – Pentecost 4			
1 Sam 15:34- 16:13	Ps 20	2 Cor 5: 6-10 (11- 13), 14-17	Mk 4: 26-34
Sunday 23 June – Pentecost 5			
1 Sam 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32- 49	Ps 9: 9-20	2 Cor 6: 1-13	Mk 4: 35-41
Sunday 30 June – Pentecost 6			
2 Sam 1:1, 17- 27	Ps 130	2 Cor 8: 7-15	Mk 5: 21-43

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Monday 20 May

Gregor Macaulay will be away from mid-May until early July,
so please send all material for the next *Opoho Signal* to

Julie Mander at juliemander@outlook.com

Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church May and June 2024

5 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
7 May ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
8 May ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
9 May ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge 7 p.m.: Induction service for Presbytery Executive Officer, the Rev. Richard McLean (TBC)
12 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew After church: Talking with Taonga study series
16 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 May ~ Saturday	1.30-5 p.m.: 'Active Listening' workshop for parish visitors and other interested parishioners, Morrison Lounge; RSVP by 12 May to Philip Somerville if you plan to attend
19 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind After church: Talking with Taonga study series
20 May ~ Monday	Material due for June <i>Opoho Signal</i>
26 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind After church: Talking with Taonga study series
2 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
3 June ~ Monday	King's Birthday – public holiday
9 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Marian Weaver After church: Talking with Taonga study series
12 June ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
13 June ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
16 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind After church: Talking with Taonga study series
20 June ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge Material due for July <i>Opoho Signal</i>
23 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
28 June ~ Friday	Matariki – public holiday
30 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson