

Opoho Signal

June 2020

via email

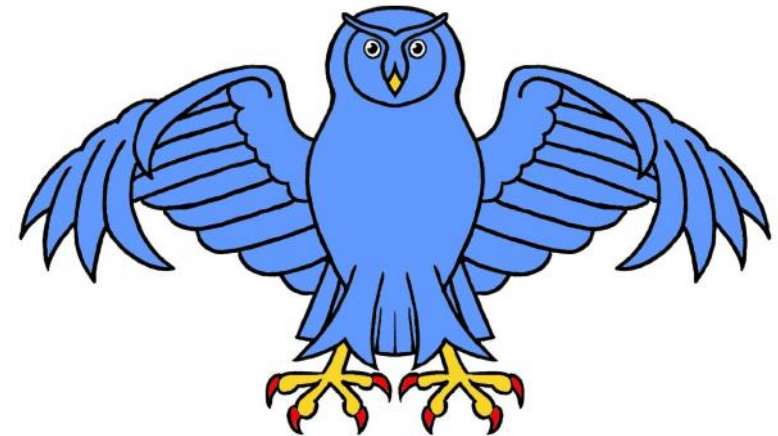
Opoho Signal

Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: www.opohochurch.org

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



DARE TO BE WISE

June 2020

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cell phone 027 637 9818***

**Parish Clerk: Tui Bevin phone: 03 473 8677
email: mark.bevin@gmail.com**

Editorial

Sometimes the worlds I work in intersect with a nudge to ‘wake up and join the dots’. Late last year while reflecting on our university’s celebration of 150 years of ‘Daring to be Wise’ I read an Indonesian social philosophy text examining why the Enlightenment, with its maxim *Sapere Aude* (Dare to Be Wise), failed to achieve its goal of developing a rational humanity. The book, *Dilema Usaha Manusia Rasional...*, by an Indonesian scholar-priest Dr G. P. Sindhunata SJ, also hones in on Kant’s Enlightenment maxim, *Sapere Aude*, which he paraphrased in the 1982 version of his book as ‘Have the courage to think for yourself’. In the 2019 expanded version he is much more abrupt, ‘Become an adult, wake up out of your lazy way of thinking...’

Evidence of the way ‘irrationality emerged out of rationality’ is drawn in the 1982 book from the terrible events of the twentieth century manifested in some of the most advanced societies of the time. In 2019 he identifies features of our own time, lies, false news, identity politics, hate speech and President Trump’s *membisniskan* (commercialisation) of words, which for him are not an embodiment of reality or truth but an investment to advance his political power.

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But *sapere aude* goes much further back, at least to the Roman poet Horace who died 8 BCE. Here a familiar saying and a comic-tragic image still have the power to stir our imagination. The saying, in *Epist.* I.ii.40, embodies *sapere aude*, ‘The one who has made a beginning has already half completed, dare to be wise, press on with it’. In contrast, two lines on, he compares a person who puts off doing the right thing to a rustic (this was BPC as well as BCE) who stood waiting for the river to flow by.

If we begin to think what this could mean for us we note that Kant’s vision for Enlightenment was to see humankind liberated from a self-incurred immaturity that finds security in unquestioned submission to some outside authority, for fear of making decisions of our own, or subjecting our views to critical review. Like the family pet, he argued, we are safe so long as we stay within our secure enclosure. Enlightenment would set us free from this infantile status. But it did not happen like that. People found new ‘authorities’ and found submission, or going along with the compliant majority, easier than thinking for themselves and grappling critically with reality. The rustic idiot is a vivid image for politicians and others who think climate change and environmental degradation will ‘go away’ or be ‘fixed’ by some yet-to-be-seen triumph of technology.

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For Sindhunata it is basically mental laziness that in the 20th century allowed fascism to flourish in advanced civilisations and in our time allows whole communities to opt into ideologies and allegiances that are destructive of human life and values. Whatever comes out after the Covid-19 pandemic passes will need to be different from what we have known. In a 'post-truth' society we will have to give up complacent childish acceptance of lies and evasions, or avoidance of issues that seem too hard. We may yet get another chance to grow up intellectually and face the new future with new tools of critical thought, courageous truth-telling and an embracing solidarity that has a place for all. We have made a start already in our response to the Christchurch mosque murders. We need now to press on with courage and wisdom to grow up and take critical responsibility together for our shared future.

Dare to be wise, indeed.

Simon Rae

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### ***Parish Council and Church News***

#### ***Opoho People News***

We are coming out of our bubbles - some of us got to cuddle grandchildren again.

Congratulations to David Spencer on graduating as a Bachelor of Science majoring in Mathematics – good luck with your future research.

Did you hear Hamish Spencer on Radio New Zealand with Jesse Mulligan, talking about scientific zombies!

#### ***Opoho Church News during Lockdown***

Andrew Smith has been commissioned as Presbytery Elder for another year.

Parish Council considered and discussed parish life under the Covid-19 Lockdown.

- ❖ Parish visitors have covered pastoral care well during the lockdown. We always realise there is something or someone who has fallen through a gap we do not see. Talk to a parish councillor and tell us what or who we missed seeing. .
- ❖ Tui Bevin kept up our weekly communication with Church News emails. Under Lockdown Level 3 the Church News email was printed and distributed to members who are not on the internet, covering those extra people. We like sermons and reflections. So far, Graeme Munro, Simon Rae, Rachel Judge, Ed Masters, Jane Bloore, and Abby Smith have provided us with things to read and reflect on. It is a challenge to provide diversity while we are still in our bubbles. If you have something or see something to share, then pass it on to Tui. Thank you for what you have put together in a vacuum.
- ❖ Worshipping together for our spiritual nourishment is on pause at the moment. Instead we are called on to collaborate with Knox Church, providing music and readers – the latest was Hamish Spencer on Sunday 17 May – and even bird calls! Keep watching to see who will be next in Knox Church's worship.
- ❖ Our offerings are holding up – thank you all.
- ❖ The Parish Council has agreed that we will not meet for Sunday worship for at least a month unless the Government moves New Zealand to Level 1 in the meantime. If we are still in Level 2 in the middle of June, Parish Council will review the situation again. In the meantime, Miriam Vollweiler, Marian Weaver, and Mark Bevin are making a Covid-19 plan for Parish Council to adopt and put in place. A more general Health and Safety Plan for the parish is also being developed and, once finalised, will be followed up with monthly reports to the Council to ensure that all activities comply with the plan.

Receipts for giving for the 2019-2020 tax year have been distributed. If you were expecting one and haven't received it, please contact the Treasurer, Brian Cunningham, at 473 7204 or email [brian.cunningham@xtra.co.nz](mailto:brian.cunningham@xtra.co.nz).

*Wider Church News*

The May 2020 Newsletter *Southern Presbyterians* had the following notices of interest:

The emphasis on kindness has been a stand-out feature of New Zealand's approach to the pandemic. Kindness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and a mark of Christian community. So we encourage all congregations in all the conversations taking place and decisions being made to keep kindness as a Christian virtue displayed among yourselves. Alongside this let us be a prayerful people keeping in our prayers those worst affected by the Pandemic and economic recession. Pray for yourselves, pray for other churches of all denominations and styles, pray for your community, pray for our Government, hospitals, community leaders and the Ministry of Health. Pray for countries around the world impacted by the crises of our time. Let us pray for the mission of God, through us and beyond us, in the months ahead.

Pleasant Point Writer Karalyn Reid (Joyce) is seeking submissions of spirit-filled poetry and testimonies of hope and purpose for people in this time of COVID-19 and as we move into a new way of living with significant changes socially, economically around here in New Zealand and around the world. She feels called to produce a fourth anthology of faith-based writing, following *Fuel for the Soul*, *I Saw Love Today* and *The Journey*. This new anthology will be based on Isaiah 6:8 – about the Church rising up and offering peace and love, meaning, and purpose. Her vision is to have these books ultimately free at various places like hospices, hospitals and doctors' waiting rooms. Contact Karalyn Reid - karalynjoyce@xtra.co.nz. The deadline for submissions is 31 May 2020.

***Andrew Smith***

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*Presbyterian Support Otago Update*

During the COVID-19 lockdown most of our services, including our Enliven homes, continued on with their work, as they were classified as essential. At Alert Levels 3 and 4, our homes were in strict lockdown, with visitors allowed only in exceptional circumstances. Our deepest thanks go out to our staff for their dedication during this challenging and uncertain time, and also to our residents and their families whose cooperation and goodwill has helped to keep all our homes free of the virus. Now that we are at Alert Level 2, we're delighted that visits to Enliven are again allowed, although we are asking people to phone ahead and make an appointment.

During the lockdown, demand for our Family Works foodbank grew steeply, with food parcels providing a real lifeline for many in our communities. We are tremendously grateful to all those who have supported our "Filling our Foodbank" campaign, which has raised over \$90,000 so far, enabling us to purchase essential food and household groceries to make up parcels for people in need. We expect that there will be ongoing need for food parcels as those who have lost jobs or hours adjust to their changed circumstances.

Alongside providing food parcels, our Family Works teams are offering social work and budgeting support. And, in partnership with Good Shepherd, we are able to provide fair and affordable credit via no interest and low interest loans. These loans can be accessed by those in general need or those affected by the economic fallout of COVID-19.

If you know of anyone in your Parish or community who may need support at this time, please encourage them to reach out to us. For many people this will be the first time they have needed to

access social services, but we want them to know that we are here to help anyone in need, especially in these extraordinary times.

Thank you again for your support and prayers

Carolyn Sims

Mission Liaison Family Works | Presbyterian Support Otago
P: 03 477 7115 | F: 03 479 2020 | E: carolyns@psotago.org.nz
W: www.psotago.org.nz
407 Moray Place, Dunedin 9016 | PO Box 374, Dunedin 9054

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***Food Bank and Night Shelter***

If you wish to continue supporting the Presbyterian Support Food Bank and the Dunedin Night Shelter while our Sunday services are suspended, you can do so as follows:

***Food Bank***



It is easy to make monetary donations online using the following details:

**Account Name:** Presbyterian Support Otago

**Account Number:** 06 0901 0005597 00.

**Particulars:** Your Last Name and Initials

**Code:** FBDONATION

**Reference:** Opoho Church

Most supermarkets have donation bins at their exits for donations to various food banks in the city.

***Night Shelter***



The following is copied from the website of the Dunedin Night Shelter Trust.

You can make a one-off donation to the operation of the shelter via bank transfer, cheque – please see details below.

Visit the Friends of the Night Shelter page [www.dunedinnightshelter.co.nz/friends-of-the-night-shelter](http://www.dunedinnightshelter.co.nz/friends-of-the-night-shelter) to find out how you can support the shelter on an ongoing basis through a regular donation. Any contribution you can make is very much appreciated.

Dunedin Night Shelter bank account details:

Westpac, Moray Place

For operational funding: 03 0905 0279202 00

Please send us a short email with your deposit details and please include your name, address and phone number

[info@dunedinnightshelter.co.nz](mailto:info@dunedinnightshelter.co.nz)

or cheques can be sent to:

Dunedin Night Shelter Trust, PO Box 5906, Dunedin 9054.

Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

or use your credit card on our givealittle page:

[www.givealittle.co.nz/org/dnshelter](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/dnshelter)

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Morning Tea Fellowship by Zoom

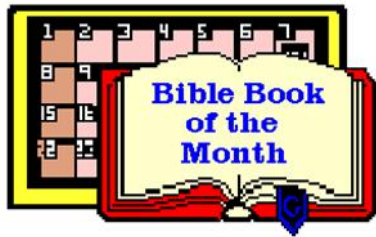
Anyone who is interested is invited to join a fortnightly Sunday Morning Tea Fellowship for parishioners on Zoom from 11.15 am to 12.05 pm. The next two meetings are planned for Sunday 31 May and Sunday 14 June.

It is a good idea to download Zoom to your device (PC, tablet, or smartphone) before the gathering time.

Details for joining the Zoom meeting are included in the parish Sunday email, or you can contact Meegan at 027 815 4827 or meegs.c@gmail.com

Meegan Cloughley

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This month we will be looking at Paul's letter to the Thessalonians at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 4 June. This will either be via Zoom or meeting in person - the group will decide which closer to the time. Therefore if you would like to join us, please get in touch with Tui beforehand and she will let you know either where they are meeting or send you the Zoom link for the meeting. 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**

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Operation Cover Up

I am pleased to say that during the lockdown times enough squares were made so that I have sewn up three blankets in the last 2 months. Unfortunately I am out of wool to give out, so if anyone has a stash please consider donating it. Also, if anyone has hand-knitted garments no longer needed or worn out, we can unravel those and use the wool.

Please contact me if you have squares for collection or wool or need information about this project: weavermariane@gmail.com or 027 473 6026

Marian Weaver

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*What to do when there's no church*

Our pattern of Sunday church attendance is being disrupted for an indeterminate time, but you needn't abandon all spiritual practices. The lectionary readings detailed elsewhere in this newsletter are a systematic selection of Bible passages that you can read for yourself.

Even if you haven't been involved with the Bible Book of the Month discussions, you can read your own way through the successive books of the Bible.

Missing the music at church? Try turning on *Praise Be* on TV1 each Sunday morning at (or soon after) 8 a.m. (or 9 a.m. on TV1+1) for a selection of hymns sung by New Zealand congregations and choirs. And on radio, RNZ Concert has *Hymns on Sunday* at 7.30 a.m. each Sunday. If you have internet access, you can search for sermons, Bible commentaries, and Christian music, ranging from mediaeval chants to oratorios, familiar hymns, and modern worship songs.

Ed Masters, our Interim Moderator, will be recording weekly podcasts and devotions. These are available on the First Church website at [www.firstchurchotago.org](http://www.firstchurchotago.org)

Please pray for all adversely affected by the COVID-19 crisis and the lockdown, and remember that if you have any concerns, suggestions or good news stories to share, please get in touch with Tui Bevin or your parish visitor.

2 Corinthians 1: 3-4: *What a wonderful God we have – he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, and the one who so wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them this same help and comfort God has given us.*

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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 (or will be when we reopen!)

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

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*The Roster and Coming Up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church*

With no services or other meetings or group activities in the next few weeks our duty roster and diary of coming events are also suspended.

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

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Saturday 20 June

Please send all material for the *Opoho Signal* to:
Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011
Email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

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*We Are The Church*

The work of the church is essential.

The work of caring for the lonely, the marginalized, and the oppressed is essential.

The work of speaking truth to power and seeking justice is essential.

The work of being a loving, liberating, and life giving presence in the world is essential.

The work of welcoming the stranger, the refugee and the undocumented is essential.

The work of reconciliation and healing and caring is essential.

The church does not need to "open" because the church never "closed".

We who make up the Body of Christ, the church, love God and our neighbors and ourselves so much that we will stay away from our buildings until it is safe.

We are the church.



***Bishop-elect Deon Johnson***

in a public Facebook post from the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

[www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseofMissouri](http://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseofMissouri)

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Lectionary readings, 31 May - 26 July 2020 in Year A, the Year of Matthew			
The Season of Pentecost			
Sunday 31 May - Pentecost			
Acts 2: 1-21 or Num 11: 24-30	Ps 104: 24-34, 35b	1 Cor 12: 3b- 13 or Acts 2: 1-21	Jn 20: 19-23 or Jn 7: 37-39
Sunday 7 June - Trinity Sunday			
Gen 1: 1-2:4a	Ps 8	2 Cor 13: 11-13	Mt 28: 16-20
Sunday 14 June - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 18: 1-15 (21: 1-7)	Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19	Rom 5: 1-8	Mt 9: 35-10:8 (9-23)
Sunday 21 June - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 21: 8-21	Ps 86: 1-10, 16-17	Rom 6: 1b-11	Mt 10: 24-39
Sunday 28 June - 4th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 22: 1-14	Ps 13	Rom 6: 12-23	Mt 10: 40-42
Sunday 5 July - 5th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Ps 45: 10-17 or Song Sol 2: 8-13	Rom 7: 15- 25a	Mt 11: 16-19, 25 -30
Sunday 12 July - 6th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 25: 19-34	Ps 119: 105-112	Rom 8: 1-11	Mt 13: 1-9, 18-23
Sunday 19 July - 7th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 28: 10-19a	Ps 139: 1-12, 23-24	Rom 8: 12-25	Mt 13: 24-30, 36-43
Sunday 26 July - 8th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 29: 15-28	Ps 105: 1-11, 45b or Ps 128	Rom 8: 26-39	Mt 13: 31-33, 44-52

STOP PRESS

As this newsletter was being finalised, it was becoming apparent that we might be resuming services of worship earlier than expected. Some information in this issue might therefore be almost immediately out of date. Parishioners will be emailed or rung with updates.

If anyone needs to know anything more specific, please contact Tui Bevin.

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via email