

Opoho Signal

February 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



February 2020

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Ed Masters

cell phone 027 637 9818

Parish Clerk: Tui Bevin phone: 03 473 8677

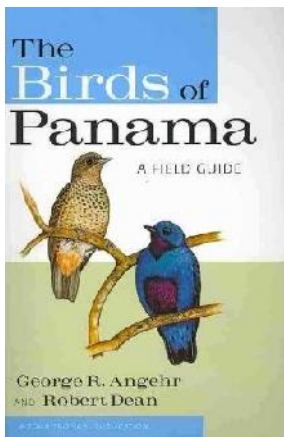
email: mark.bevin@gmail.com

Worship Services at Opoho:

Every Sunday at 10 am

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

Editorial



As many of you know, the Spencer-Smith family often spends the Christmas/New Year holidays somewhere exciting. To start the new decade in style, Hamish, Abby, and David decided on a birdwatching adventure in Panama! We'd never been there, so of course we needed to prepare – each in our different ways. Hamish, who is the keen birdwatcher, bought a copy of *The Birds of Panama* and read it every night for weeks, making notes and wish-lists. Abby, who is a field scientist and a mum, made a list of

everything we could possibly need and carefully packed a first-aid kit, a sewing kit, torch, spare glasses, copies of passports, laundry soap. David, who is a free spirit, threw some clothes into a bag and found his passport with whole hours to spare. And so we were ready.

Getting ready is something people do all the time. Ready for school, ready for work, ready for a new year, ready for a new decade. Both

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Advent and Lent are times when we as a church explicitly get ready. At least part of our spiritual life is a kind of getting ready – for whatever God has in mind for us.

As with our family travels, there are different ways of being prepared. We can be keen, hoping for great things, aiming high, making a wish-list. We can imagine everything that could go wrong, organise a disaster kit. We can stride out into the future, open to whatever comes. Different people have different styles; that's what makes us, as a group, strong and flexible.

A new decade at Opoho has started with us getting ready for change. We have thanked Margaret and Mike for their time with us; we have selected a team to help us move forward; we have plans to keep afloat as we move on. We have prayed and discerned and worried. Now we start to travel onward, knowing that the place we are going won't be like the place we have left. Like travellers, we will encounter new ideas, new questions, new people, new challenges, and new opportunities.

Opoho, we are ready. Bring it on.

Abby Smith



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Parish Council News

Opoho People News

We were very saddened by the untimely death of Alan Cloughley in December. His memorial service at Opoho was full of colourful stories, laughter and tears. He had been a willing and tireless worker around the church and he and his friendly manner will be much missed. Please hold Pam and Meegan Cloughley and their family in your prayers.

It was a pleasure to welcome Julie-Ann and Philip Fleming into membership of Opoho Church in December.

We received a card from the Rev. Dr Susan Jones in December. Susan was minister of Opoho Church from 2005 to 2009, and had just retired from active ministry. She was writing to parishes in which she had served to thank them for all she had learned and received while there. She wrote "Opoho was the most suburban church I worked in and that close-knit community feel was one of the good characteristics of the church that we enjoyed. Music and creativity were never far from the surface and worship was a joy. I learned heaps from each person ... all good people and all doing their part to keep the community strong." We wish Susan and Roger well in their next phase of life.

Opoho Church News

While none of us wanted to have to say goodbye to Margaret and Mike after their eight years with us, we farewelled them with a feast of riches of food, music, friendship, speeches, singing, and laughter and tears in the last weekend of January. The hall was full with about 70 attending the Saturday evening pot luck dinner; the tables were decorated with flowers, the food was stunning, there was a diversity of speeches, there was a presentation of gifts and flowers to Margaret and Mike (to which parishioners had generously contributed), along with a surprise guest in the form of their daughter Isobel who flew down from Christchurch for the occasion. It was special that Sarah and Rod Mitchell attended the dinner as Sarah has been minister at Knox Church when Margaret was an

intern there, and she had been convener of the Ministry Settlement Board that put Margaret's name forward to the congregation.

In Margaret's final service, she described her journey with us through her choice of songs and spoke to many of them about how they illustrated aspects of her and our journey together. The Music Group was in fine form and it was a real feast of music with room for laughter and the odd tear. There were 68 at this service with several visitors who came to support Margaret. The singing was stunning.

The words of Margaret's psalm *A Retiring Offering* from her final service are printed later in this *Signal*, along with the words of Gregor Macaulay's poem and the farewell song we sang so lustily to Margaret on Saturday evening.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make Margaret's final weekend with us such a lovely tribute to her ministry. We will miss Margaret and Mike, and wish them every blessing as they begin Margaret's retirement.

We hope you can join us for the parish picnic at Fiona and Henrik's place at Tumai on Saturday 14 March, starting from 11 a.m., with a shared pot luck lunch. There is something for everyone there – petanque, kayaks, kite flying, walks, or simply sitting back and enjoying the stunning view in great company. Further details with the directions and about sharing rides will be circulated closer to the time.

Arrangements for 2020 @ Opoho Church

The Southern Presbytery has appointed the Rev. Ed Masters of First Church to be our Interim Moderator while we are without a settled ministry. His role is to ensure that the ministry continues at Opoho through moderating Parish Council meetings, and ensuring that "together with the church council, that the life and work of the parish is maintained and [being] responsible for the oversight of the parish. This includes ensuring the continuation of worship [and] sacraments, Christian education and pastoral care."

The Ministry Settlement Board (MSB) is "a joint committee [of Presbytery and Opoho Church], with membership from the presbytery and the parish. Its function is to do all the work related to making a

new ministry appointment.”

A congregational meeting after worship on 19 January elected Gaynor Haig, Julie Mander, Andrew Smith, and Shona Somerville as members of the Ministry Settlement Board that has the task of selecting a new Minister for Opoho. They join the Rev. Rachel Judge (convener), the Rev. Ed Masters (Interim Moderator), Shona McDonald (Presbytery nominee), and two Opoho Parish Council nominees, David Murray and me.

We are fortunate at Opoho to have many people who are willing to help with taking services and the extra tasks that we will be picking up now. Please uphold these people and their processes, Parish Council and our various committees in your prayers.

Wider Church News

The Southern Presbytery Council News of their meeting of 4 December notes that “the number of MSBs has risen recently and currently stands at 19. There are several more parishes navigating longer term vacancies without an MSB, but with the support of Interim Moderators. This places a significant workload on the Ministry Work Group who form and oversee the MSBs and Interim Moderators. There are 42 parishes with ministry settlements (7 of which are local ministry teams). Not counting the 3 parishes in the act of dissolving we currently have 66 parishes in Southern Presbytery.”

The Moderator of the PCANZ has sent parishes an email about the devastating bush fires in Australia, noting that “... there is a special relationship between the PCANZ and UCA (Uniting Church of Australia), more than any other of our partner Churches. Apart from Uniting Church ministers and congregations working in the local communities, they are also providing disaster relief chaplaincy which is being coordinated nationally. Their community service agencies are also working locally in effected communities.

The Uniting Church has a National Disaster Relief Fund that donations can be sent to, and which donations will be put through for this disaster.

You can make donations through the Assembly website:
www.assembly.uca.org.au/

Also, if you wish to make a transfer of funds, please use the following:

National Disaster Relief bank account

Bank name: Westpac

BSB: 032003

Account number: 269941

Account name: ASM National Disaster

Tui Bevin

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#### *Farewell*

Saturday evening and Sunday morning were filled with laughter and some tears, and many and varied conversations. Everyone had stories to share about one or more of the groups, events, activities and special services that were part of Margaret’s ministry at Opoho.

Gregor Macaulay read the following poem, with musical accompaniment by Mark Bevin:

O little church of Opoho,  
How still we see thee lie,  
As on the streets of Signal Hill  
The passersby pass by.  
Yet here within the building  
We heave a heavy sigh  
And wave our sodden handkerchiefs  
As we all say goodbye.

The flowers in our gardens grow,  
We see them every day,  
At times we weave them into wreaths  
Or make a fragrant lei;  
And we have had two Garlands  
To help us in our need:  
We hope that in retirement  
They will not go to seed.

*Gregor Macaulay*

Saturday evening came to a close with music, as all joined in singing *Song for Margaret Garland*.

Oh Margaret dear, retirement is calling,  
your time has flown, now we must let you go,  
and so we sing this last time to our minister,  
goodbye from all, your friends at Opoho.

We have been blessed to know you and be led by you,  
through words and music, prayer and friendship too.  
eight years we've walked together on our journey,  
your work is done, the time has come to say goodbye.

Oh Margaret dear, please take with you our blessings,  
we thank you for the many memories,  
the bread we shared, the coffee, even whisky,  
and how you danced your way from pew to pew.

We wish you well wherever God may lead you,  
with grateful hearts for all you've given us,  
and so well done, you good and faithful servant,  
your work is done, the time has come to say good bye.

*Tui Bevin, Kirsten Beyer and Mark Bevin*

Tune: *Danny Boy*

On Sunday morning, during a very musical service, Margaret read her psalm *A Retiring Offering*.

There is nothing new under the sun, say I.  
It is just retirement, people do it all the time.  
Why dwell on it, say I.  
*You are unique in my eyes, says God.*  
*It is a moment on our journey together.*  
*Shall we honour it together?*

It is good to give thanks, say I:  
thank you for opportunity and trust  
thank you for commitment and passion

thank you for learning and growing  
thank you for the opening of heart and mind  
thank you for giftings and grace to endure  
thank you for encounters and encouragers.

*You are welcome, says God, for each moment of thanksgiving  
is a blessing to be shared.*

It is good to lament, say I:  
for doubt that has paralysed  
for opportunities lost  
for shallowness of insight  
for lack of courage  
for failing to trust your promises  
for moments lost to memory.

*You are well loved, says God, for each moment of lament binds  
us more closely together.*

It is good to celebrate, say I:  
the friendships and the companions  
the achievements and the failures that were steps  
on the way  
the laughter and tears of relationship  
the shaping and refining  
the ah-ha moments  
the family alongside on the journey.

*You are the celebration, says God, for each moment of love,  
grace and truth is a light to the world.*

*Shall we continue on our way, says God?*  
I am looking forward to the journey yet to come, say I.  
*I hope you are as excited as I am, says God. I pray so, for  
there is much yet to do...*

*Margaret Garland*

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Our Graduates

At the service on 15 December the following members of our congregation were congratulated on the award of tertiary qualifications:

Daniel Larsen – Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences, endorsed in Addiction and Co-existing Disorders, with Distinction, University of Otago

Keiran Somerville – Bachelor of Design (Communication), with Merit, Otago Polytechnic

Mary Somerville – Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy, University of Otago

Franzi Schreiner – Bachelor of Design (Communication), with Distinction, Otago Polytechnic

And on the following Sunday we farewelled Franzi, who has left Dunedin, initially for Auckland.

Another recent graduate is Maria Larsen – Bachelor of Science, University of Otago. Well done!

Fellowship

Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler are organising Fellowship group, with oversight and support from Val Williams, and they welcome any members of the church and wider community to join them. They meet monthly in the Morrison Lounge at 2 p.m.: a chance to share and talk and often with an interesting speaker, afternoon tea and a chance to catch up in a relaxed gathering.

The first meeting for the year is on Thursday 13 February at 2 p.m., with Philip Somerville speaking on his *Adventures in Journalism*.

Interfaith Matters

As mentioned in the December Signal: the Interfaith yearly Harmony Dinner is to take place on Tuesday 4 February, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. It is a time to meet people from other faiths, to eat delicious vegetarian food (pot luck), to be entertained, and to listen to interesting speeches. Dr Mai Tamimi, originally from Palestine, who is the Middle Eastern Integration Coordinator at Arai Te Uru Where Hauora, University of Otago, will be one of the speakers.

This is always an excellent social occasion, rather than a formal meeting of the Interfaith Council.

Bronwen Strang

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 **WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK**  
The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February

**CELEBRATION OF HARMONY  
2020 DINNER**

**6:30pm Tue 4 February**

The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day Saints,  
14 Fenton Crescent, St Clair, Dunedin

**Vegetarian Potluck:**  
Bring a vegetarian meal  
or dessert to share.

**Whānau Friendly:**  
Face painting and other  
activities will be provided.

**Featuring:**  
Musical items, guest speakers,  
readings and more!

**EVERYONE WELCOME**  
Organised by the Dunedin Interfaith Council

**Garage Sale in Church Hall  
Saturday 22 February 2020  
9 a.m. - 12 noon**



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**On Sunday mornings please make sure  
the hall door (by the kitchen) is closed (not locked).**



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**We want to keep our young children safe  
from running out an open door.**



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*Shirley Murray*

During her final service, on 26 January, Margaret mentioned that Shirley Murray, a University of Otago graduate and a prolific writer of hymns, many of which we sing at Opoho, had died the previous day.

*Tui Motu* has published a tribute on their website, which can be found at [www.tuimotu.org/a/bW1TzQV](http://www.tuimotu.org/a/bW1TzQV)

*Bible Book a Month Discussions*

The February Bible discussion will be on the Epistle to the Galatians (postponed from December). We meet at the Bevins' home, 129 Signal Hill Road at 7.30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month.

It is helpful, but not essential, to have read the month's book first. Everyone is welcome. If you have any queries about this please ask Tui Bevin or John Stenhouse.

13 February ~ Galatians

6 March ~ Ephesians

*Tui Bevin*

*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*

*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)



| <b>Calendar for the latter part of March 2020</b>              |                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The calendar for February and early March is on the back page. |                                                                                 |
| 12 March ~ Thursday                                            | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge                                       |
| 14 March ~ Saturday                                            | 11 a.m.: Parish Picnic at Tumahai – details to be circulated closer to the time |
| 15 March ~ Sunday                                              | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Peter Wishart                                        |
| 19 March ~ Thursday                                            | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge                                      |
| 22 March ~ Sunday                                              | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro                                         |
| 25 March ~ Wednesday                                           | 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Psalm writing with BYO takeaways, 129 Signal Hill Road     |

| <b>Lectionary readings, 2 February - 8 March 2020<br/>in Year A, the Year of Matthew</b> |                         |                          |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 2 February - 4th Sunday after the Epiphany</b>                                 |                         |                          |                                    |
| Micah 6: 1-8                                                                             | Ps 15                   | 1 Cor 1: 18-31           | Mt 5: 1-12                         |
| <b>Sunday 9 February - 5th Sunday after the Epiphany</b>                                 |                         |                          |                                    |
| Is 58: 1-9a<br>(9b-12)                                                                   | Ps 112: 1-9 (10)        | 1 Cor 2: 1-12<br>(13-16) | Mt 5: 13-20                        |
| <b>Sunday 16 February - 6th Sunday after the Epiphany</b>                                |                         |                          |                                    |
| Deut 30:15-20 <i>or</i><br>Sirach 15: 15-20                                              | Ps 119: 1-8             | 1 Cor 3: 1-9             | Mt 5: 21-37                        |
| <b>Sunday 23 February - Transfiguration</b>                                              |                         |                          |                                    |
| Ex 24: 12-18                                                                             | Ps 2 <i>or</i><br>Ps 99 | 2 Peter 1: 16-21         | Mt 17: 1-9                         |
| <b>Wednesday 26 February - Ash Wednesday</b>                                             |                         |                          |                                    |
| Joel 2: 1-2<br>12-17 <i>or</i><br>Is 58: 1-12                                            | Ps 51: 1-17             | 2 Cor 5: 20b-6: 10       | Mt 6: 1-6,<br>16-21                |
| <b>Sunday 1 March - 1st Sunday in Lent</b>                                               |                         |                          |                                    |
| Gen 2: 15-17<br>3: 1-7                                                                   | Ps 32                   | Rom 5: 12-19             | Mt 4: 1-11                         |
| <b>Sunday 8 March - 2nd Sunday in Lent</b>                                               |                         |                          |                                    |
| Gen 12: 1-4a                                                                             | Ps 121                  | Rom 4: 1-5, 13-17        | Jn 3: 1-17 <i>or</i><br>Mt 17: 1-9 |

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

**Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Thursday 20 February 2019**

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

Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011

Email [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)



**Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church in  
February and early March 2020**

|                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 February ~ Sunday                                        | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro, Holy Communion<br>11.30 am: Pastoral Care and Community Committee, Minister's Study                                                                    |
| 5 February ~ Wednesday                                     | 8 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, 26 Dalmeny Street                                                                                                                                       |
| 9 February ~ Sunday                                        | 10 a.m.: Worship, Marian Weaver, with John Roxborough preaching                                                                                                                                 |
| 11 February ~ Tuesday                                      | 7.30 pm: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge                                                                                                                                       |
| 12 February ~ Wednesday                                    | 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Psalm writing with BYO takeaways, 129 Signal Hill Road                                                                                                                     |
| 13 February ~ Thursday                                     | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge; Philip Somerville will talk about his <i>Adventures in Journalism</i><br>7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>Galatians</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road |
| 16 February ~ Sunday                                       | 10 a. m: Worship, the Rev. Ed Masters, Interim Moderator                                                                                                                                        |
| 20 February ~ Thursday                                     | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge                                                                                                                                                      |
| 22 February ~ Saturday                                     | 9 a.m. to 12 noon: Garage Sale in the church hall<br>3.30 p.m.: Music Group jam session with pot luck meal, 129 Signal Hill Road.                                                               |
| 23 February ~ Sunday                                       | 10 a.m.: Worship with Music Group, the Rev. Anne Thomson                                                                                                                                        |
| 26 February ~ Wednesday                                    | Ash Wednesday (beginning of Lent)                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1 March ~ Sunday                                           | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev Graeme Munro, Quarterly Communion                                                                                                                                     |
| 5 March ~ Thursday                                         | 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>Ephesians</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road                                                                                                                     |
| 6 March ~ Friday                                           | World Day of Prayer                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 8 March ~ Sunday                                           | 10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith                                                                                                                                                                    |
| The calendar for the latter part of March 2020 is on P. 14 |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

*Opoho Signal*

*February 2020*

*via email*

## Opportunities for Service, February - March 2020

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

| Sunday          | Morning Tea                       | Door Duty                        | Readers           | Prayers         | Music        | Children                           | Flowers          | Hall Cleaning    | Church Cleaning  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Feb 2020</b> |                                   |                                  |                   |                 |              |                                    |                  |                  |                  |
| 2-Feb           | Rodda / Hamilton                  | Mary & John Somerville           | Abby Smith        | —               | David Murray | —                                  | Fiona Stirling   | Michael Ovens    | Fiona Stirling   |
| 9-Feb           | Tony Parry<br>Jenny Roxborough    | Jane Bloore<br>John Stenhouse    | Gaynor Haig       | Daniel Larsen   | Mark Bevin   | Julie-Ann Fleming<br>Julie Mander  | Fiona Stirling   | Michael Ovens    | Fiona Stirling   |
| 16-Feb          | Bronwen Strang<br>Jane Bloore     | Gregor Macaulay<br>Benjamin Thew | Jenny Roxborough  | Andrew Smith    | Gaynor Haig  | Judy Rodda<br>Kirsten Beyer        | Allison Mulder   | Meegan Cloughley | Mulders          |
| 23-Feb          | Marian Weaver<br>Meegan Cloughley | Shona & Philip Somerville        | Julie-Ann Fleming | John Roxborough | Music Group  | Julie Mander<br>Andrea Johnston    | Allison Mulder   | Meegan Cloughley | Mulders          |
| <b>Mar 2020</b> |                                   |                                  |                   |                 |              |                                    |                  |                  |                  |
| 1 Mar           | Smith / Spencer                   | Jenny Bunce<br>Marian Weaver     | Christine Cleugh  | —               | David Murray | —                                  | Jenny Roxborough | Bronwen Strang   | Christine Cleugh |
| 8 Mar           | Shona & Philip Somerville         | Mary & John Somerville           | Maurice Andrew    | Marian Weaver   | Mark Bevin   | Julie-Ann Fleming<br>Kirsten Beyer | Jenny Roxborough | Bronwen Strang   | Christine Cleugh |
| 15 Mar          | Rodda / Hamilton                  | Michael Ovens<br>Andrew Smith    | Jenny Bunce       | Benjamin Thew   | Gaynor Haig  | Mary Somerville<br>Andrea Johnston | Jane Bloore      | Andrew Smith     | Jane Bloore      |
| 22 Mar          | Jane Bloore<br>Tony Parry         | Smith / Spencer                  | Marian Weaver     | Abby Smith      | Mark Bevin   | Judy Rodda<br>Julie Mander         | Jane Bloore      | Andrew Smith     | Jane Bloore      |

### **Thank you! for all you do, and please:**

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.

**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.