

Opoho Signal

The newsletter of Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010



March 2023

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

Editorial

It feels like it has been easy to get lost in the distressing images being constantly thrown at us at the moment: the earthquakes, the cyclone, the flooding, the war, the human-directed hatred. It is everywhere we look in the media, and once seen cannot be unseen, unheard, or unfelt.

The media do not promote the kindness or the openness that has also been shown, the individuals who have given up their time to help others, to find new and different ways to offer support. I have recently heard about a few of those which I would like to share with you.

I am not sure how many know of the online platform called Twitch; it is where people go to stream different things they do – gaming, art, chatting to name but a few. It is not a platform for everyone, and there have been times I have clicked on the wrong stream and sat there aghast, with the question “why, just why?” when I see some of the weirder but PG things that are being streamed. There is a real community feel in there though, an international community of streamers. The reason I mention this community is that there is a group of 15 of them who have banded together and are going to be doing a huge charity stream event over a week where the funds raised will go to a charity to help animals affected by the cyclone, HUHA (Helping you help animals - <https://huha.org.nz/>).



Picture from the HUHA website

This action will not be seen in the media, it won't show any of them giving up their time or their profits to raise money and awareness of the wider ramifications of Cyclone Gabrielle, yet I feel their actions are to be admired and supported, as most of the people are not even in New Zealand who are doing this.

I have heard of a woman in Rotorua who gathered enough nappies, formula and toiletries to fill a shipping container, it has been shipped to the small towns most affected by the cyclone.

Another woman who only recently opened a café sent food and drinks to a volunteer area to help support those doing the support.

Can you add more stories to this list? I would love to hear them. I would like to create a montage of the unsung kindness to counter the nastiness that is so prominently shown to us. If I can get enough stories together, I will contact some reporters or something along those lines.

Galatians 6:2 – Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.

I know I need to learn to accept the horridness without turning away as well as looking for the kindness and the love of what others are doing.

Meegan Cloughley

Parish Council News

The first meeting of the Parish Council for 2023 was held on 16 February.

Members were saddened to hear that our former Minister, Susan Jones, has suffered a serious stroke and is likely to be in hospital for many months. She is not yet able to have visitors.

Andrew Smith was commissioned to represent the parish at the annual meeting of the Synod of Otago and Southland in April.

The Council noted that a feasibility group is being established to look into long-term property and financial planning.

A pre-election meeting is planned for 8 October, shortly before this year’s general election.

The new Environment Committee is getting to grips with its brief and is beginning to develop environmental plans and policies for the parish.

The Council noted that, after several years of very efficient service, Andrea Johnston wished to hand over the task of compiling the parish rosters (for Sunday morning duties, cleaning, flowers, etc.). Andrea uses an Excel spreadsheet to keep track of who is available for which duties, and who has done what in recent months, and maintains details of the week-by-week rosters in Word. She will be happy to pass these files on to whoever is able to take over. If you think this is a job you could do, please contact Parish Clerk Hamish Spencer.

The Council also met for a retreat two days later (it didn't retreat very far – just to the church and the Morrison Lounge) to discuss plans for the parish for this year. Although it was not a formal meeting of the Council, the members present agreed to recommend that two or three smaller 'specialised' fairs be held this year rather than just one big fair. Suggestions for the types of fairs would be welcomed (e.g. books and toys; clothing; cakes, sweets, jams and chutneys; other combinations?). Organisers will also be needed.

Other suggestions and proposals for events and activities and improvements to facilities were also discussed but will need further development. Watch this space!

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Property and Finance Committee Update

Our scheduled February meeting had a number of the group away so we are following up on plans over the month.

Maintenance

We are seeking quotes for repair of the external door in the children's room, pricing for installing additional electrical plugs in the Minister's office and pricing for installing a tap in the back garden. We will evaluate these costs against our budget and keep you posted.

Grounds Working Bee

We have a grounds working bee planned for **Saturday 4 March 9 a.m.-12 noon** inclusive of morning tea – bring a garden trowel, spade, secateurs, loppers etc. for tidying up and planting of some shrubs. Morning tea with time for a chat is a key part of the event.

Under Stage Working Bee

Seeking four able-bodied people for one hour to help us review and remove chairs/forms with borer from under the stage. Please give your names to Benjamin and Miriam – we will then sort out a meeting time to make this happen.

Hall Bookings

We have a weaving group meeting in the Morrison Lounge on Wednesdays, Steady as You Go exercise class starting on Tuesday afternoons, and Opoho School sorting out gym dates.

Please let us know of any health and safety or security issues or any other ideas for development

Miriam Vollweiler (Committee convener)

Donations to Opoho 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 opohopcbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:Judith.L.Rodda@opohopcbusiness@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

Poems Prayers Psalms & Prose – Opoho Writers’ Group

Wednesday 15 March, 7 p.m.

Marine Science tea room,
first floor, **310 Castle Street.**



Directions:

310 Castle Street is a square brick building (the old nurses’ home) located almost on the corner of Frederick Street and the one-way south, between Cumberland and Hayward Colleges. You can park in the spots between Cumberland and Marine Science. There is an entry on the south side of the building, facing Cumberland’s front door. A large propellor is stuck to the wall next to it, so you can’t miss it!

I will meet you there at 7 and let you in.

The tea room has cups, plates, tea, coffee-like powder, milk, sugar, and hot water. Maybe bring a small plate of something to share.

You can reach me on 027-606-3552 if there is any problem or question.

Abby Smith

Eco Church

Since Opoho Church became a member of Eco Church we have been looking at developing an environmental plan for the church, which is a work in progress.



Meanwhile you can go to the Eco Church website, and in there, lots of useful information about minimising waste, recycling and other things we can do as individuals and collectively. Have a look on <https://www.ecochurch.org.nz>.

Please keep bringing your clean and split tetrapaks to the bin in the hall foyer for recycling into wall boards.

Marian Weaver

Fellowship Group

Our first meeting for the year (on 9 February) was a time for catching up on news and introducing ourselves with our connections to Opoho. This led to the discovery of some interesting facts – did you know there was once a hairdresser working from the corner of Signal Hill Road and Windsor Street?



Evelyn Brass and Chris Young

Following on from Jane Anderson's suggestion, Margaret Dando came to tell us about the *Steady as You Go* exercise course, a falls prevention programme for older adults. *Steady as You Go* is going to begin in the Morrison Lounge mid-

March each Tuesday afternoon from 1.30 to 2.30 p.m. (\$3.00 per session). What's going to be special about this course is that two University researchers will be seeking volunteers for some strength and flexibility monitoring. Margaret is going to come to our March Fellowship meeting to give us a taster of the exercises. This course will be open to both men and women in our community. Watch out for the flyer.



Marion Rae with Margaret Dando and *Steady as You Go* research team

All are welcome to Fellowship meetings.

Miriam Vollweiler

Operation Cover Up

Thanks to those who keep knitting squares and donating wool. So far seven blankets have been completed since July which is great. Please keep knitting those squares. Donations of wool gratefully accepted too. Contact me if you have any questions at 027 473 6026 or weavermariane@gmail.com



Marian Weaver

Grounds Working Bee



We have a grounds working bee planned for **Saturday 4 March 9 a.m.-12 noon** inclusive of morning tea – bring garden trowel, spade, secateurs, loppers etc. for tidying up and planting of some shrubs. Morning tea and time for a chat a key part of the event.



No Junk Mail?

The following clipping from the February issue of *The Valley Voice* might be of interest if and when you deliver pamphlets or circulars on behalf of the church or any other organisation.

Here's what the *Code of Practice for the Distribution of Unaddressed Mail* says about the signage you display on your letterbox. Note the Valley Voice is an 'unaddressed circular'.

- Signs requesting non-delivery must be honoured (e.g., *No Unaddressed Mail, Addressed Mail Only, No Junk Mail, No Circulars, Addressed Mail and Newspapers Only*).
- Exceptions to 'Addressed Mail Only' signs: local public notices from government or local bodies and election material are permitted.
- Exceptions to 'Addressed Mail and Newspapers Only' signs: free print media, public notices, and election material are permitted.
- Exceptions to 'No Junk Mail' and 'No Circulars' signs: local community newspapers/magazines, charitable media, public notices, and election material are permitted.

Rosters Volunteer Needed

In case you didn't see the paragraph in the *Parish Council News* section ...

Andrea Johnston wishes to step down from organising the rosters of parish duties. If you think this is a job you could do, please contact Hamish Spencer. Andrea will be happy to talk to anyone who would like more information about what is involved.

Lectionary for March and April

Sunday 5 March - 2nd Sunday in Lent			
Gen 12: 1-4a	Ps 121	Rom 4: 1-5, 13-17	Jn 3: 1-17 <i>or</i> Mt 17: 1-9
Sunday 12 March - 3rd Sunday in Lent			
Ex 17: 1-7	Ps 95	Rom 5:1-11	Jn 4: 5-42
Sunday 19 March - 4th Sunday in Lent			
1 Sam 16: 1-13	Ps 23	Eph 5: 8-14	Jn 9: 1-41
Sunday 26 March - 5th Sunday in Lent			
Ezek 37: 1-14	Ps 130	Rom 8: 6-11	Jn 11: 1-45
Sunday 2 April - 6th Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday <i>or</i> Passion Sunday			
None <i>or</i> Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29 <i>or</i> Ps 31: 9-16	None <i>or</i> Phil 2: 5-11	<i>Palm</i> Mr 21: 1-11 <i>Passion</i> Mt 26: 14-27:66 <i>or</i> Mt 27: 11-54
Monday 3 April			
Is 42: 1-9	Ps 36: 5-11	Heb 9: 11-15	Jn 12: 1-11
Tuesday 4 April			
Is 49: 1-7	Ps 71: 1-14	1 Cor 1: 18-31	Jn 12: 20-36
Wednesday 5 April			
Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12: 1-3	Jn 13: 21-32
Thursday 6 April - Maundy Thursday			
Ex 12: 1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11: 23-26	Jn 13: 1-17, 31b-35
Friday 7 April - Good Friday			
Is 52: 13- 53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10: 16-25 <i>or</i> Heb 4: 14-16; 5:7- 9	Jn 18: 1-19:42

Saturday 8 April - Holy Saturday			
Job 14: 1-14 <i>or</i> Lam 3: 1-9, 19-24	Ps 31: 1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4: 1-8	Mt 27: 57-66 <i>or</i> Jn 19: 38-42
Sunday 9 April - Easter Dawn Sunday			
Ex 14: 10-31; 15:20-21	Ps 114	Rom 6: 3-11	Mt 28: 1-10
Sunday 9 April - Easter Day			
Acts 10: 34-43 <i>or</i> Jer 31: 1-6	Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24	Col 3: 1-4 <i>or</i> Acts 10: 34-43	Jn 20: 1-18 <i>or</i> Mt 28: 1-10
Sunday 16 April - 2nd Sunday of Easter			
Acts 2: 14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Peter 1: 3-9	Jn 20: 19-31
Sunday 23 April - 3rd Sunday of Easter			
Acts 2: 14a, 36-41	Ps 116: 1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1: 17-23	Lk 24: 13-35
Sunday 30 April - 4th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 2: 42-47	Ps 23	1 Peter 2: 19-25	Jn 10: 1-10

Abby's Jam Palace



The Jam Palace will be open for business after church on 26 March.

Abby Smith abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com 027 606 3552



Steady As You Go[®]



Starting Tuesday, March 14 @ 1:30 PM

Opoho Presbyterian Church,

Signal Hill Road \$3 per class

Join us to improve your strength and balance. Falls are not a natural part of ageing. Falls ARE preventable!

Steady As You Go[®] has been shown to provide continuous improvements in strength, balance, mobility, flexibility and coordination.

Class to be run in association with the University of Otago for a small research project.



**AGE
CONCERN
OTAGO**
He Manaakitanga
Kaumātua Aotearoa

For more information

Margaret Dando

03 479 3052

E: margaret@ageconcernotago.co.nz

ageconcernotago.com

Coming Events at Opoho Presbyterian Church

4 March ~ Saturday	9 a.m.-12 noon: Working Bee in church grounds, including morning tea
5 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
8 March ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
9 March ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
12 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith
15 March ~ Wednesday	7 p.m.: Poems Prayers Psalms and Prose – a friendly writing group, 310 Castle Street
16 March ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
19 March ~ Sunday	8 a.m.: Pastoral Carers' breakfast, Morrison Lounge 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 March ~ Monday	Otago Anniversary Day Material due for March <i>Opoho Signal</i>
26 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind After church: Abby's Jam Palace
2 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion – Palm Sunday
7 April ~ Friday	Good Friday – public holiday
9 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Easter Day
10 April ~ Monday	Easter Monday – public holiday
12 April ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
13 April ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
16 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 April ~ Thursday	Material due for March <i>Opoho Signal</i> 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
23 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Olivia Dawson
25 April ~ Tuesday	ANZAC Day – public holiday
30 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Jane Bloore

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* – Monday 20 March

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

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 are not already on the email list, and would like to be, please send an email to the editor, Gregor Macaulay, at gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

