

Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



May 2026

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

Editorial

Interfaith activity goes around the world. One group that I follow at the moment is Interfaith Alignment, based in Philadelphia in America. I think I first discovered their Calendar of Light in December a couple of years ago. Like an Advent Calendar going from the start of December to Christmas Eve, it went through December to New Year – a period of activity for many religious traditions. One window opened each day to a prayer, poetry, an image, a meditation on a short video.

The first long video I watched was a Maronite Catholic musician from Lebanon, a good introduction: contemplative church music sung in Aramaic and Arabic. His most recent session from Lebanon assured his audience that he was still here, as hostile attacks fell on his country again.

Other favourites have been the British Zoroastrian woman and her mother teaching prayers from their tradition; I find them charming; and the prayers and songs that connect into the popular countercultural tradition shared by a Quaker and a Jewish worship leader from a Philadelphia centre. The sessions are recorded live on Zoom; I follow them when they are posted up on YouTube.

Do we become disconnected and relativised from our own Christian practice in this interfaith activity? I don't think so. We are encouraged to be confident and established in our practice, of any religion, or none. Some bits I have centring on breath practice, and oneness, and just 'a bit too woo', as one leader put it. At the same time there are leaders in established traditions and knowledges, and the audience becomes a community of common practice and participation.

Take as much as refreshes you, and there is wisdom to be found: I am thinking about a discussion between an Imam, a Christian Minister and a Rabbi, where the Rabbi placed the Jewish Seder and the Christian Communion service deriving from the pre-Judaic story of the priest-king Melchizedek offering bread and wine to Abraham in Genesis. What changes when a peculiar ceremony is established in a universal act of hospitality?

I have shared the videos I have enjoyed from Interfaith Alignment with Bronwen Strang, and she has suggested that I share the link with you. Their homepage is at interfaithalignment.org and you can receive their free newsletter from their membership page.

Andrew Smith

Parish Council News

The Council met on 23 April.

News from the Property and Finance Committee is detailed below and their recommendation that the church fair be held on Saturday 19 September was approved. It was also agreed to confirm Sunday 1 November as the date for the political forum in the lead-up to this year's general election.

And the acquisition of pew cushions from Kaikorai Church was noted. They will provide a degree of comfort while options for brand-new cushions are investigated.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Property and Finance Committee Update

Our April meeting discussed the drainage issue that is regularly flooding the hall basement. We have plumbers investigating and are awaiting information about solutions. In the meantime, John, Benjamin, and others are mopping up water on a weekly basis. We are awaiting the date for the technician to carry out borer treatment. Now that we are back in the church, we are starting the process of obtaining quotes and options for carpet and seating cushions. We are getting locks repaired on the vestry and church entry doors and arranging to finish the door painting. A wasp nest in the garden has been destroyed.

Regular groups are using the hall and lounge over the week and information about what's on and when is on the church's Signal Hill noticeboard and in the hall foyer.

We look forward to getting through these projects and refocusing on the roof replacement project. Please let anyone on the committee know if you have any health and safety, security issues or ideas.

Miriam, John, Benjamin, Meegan, Judy



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

University of Otago Inaugural Professorial Lecture



Professor John Stenhouse
Science, Religion and History: Some Reflections
Thursday 21 May, 5.30-7 p.m.
Burns 2 Lecture Theatre

Go to <https://www.otago.ac.nz/news/events/inaugural-professorial-lecture-professor-john-stenhouse> for further details and link to livestream.

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



Jane Millichamp making a delivery of goods from Opoho to the Foodbank

ROSTERS

There have been several changes made to the rosters for May published in April's *Signal*. Please check to make sure your turn has not come around faster than you thought!

Jam Palace

The Jam Palace is open every day in the Hall Lobby – it will be operating as normal this winter, even though Abby is away. Just spread it on your toast and send the money to her!



Gone to Seed



Our Opoho Church seed exchange is working well. John Roxborough sourced pumpkin seeds from our seed library. These seeds were gifted to the library by Malcolm Arthur from Evans street. Malcom mentioned these grew large pumpkins and John's garden and pumpkin crop is testament to this.



Operation Cover Up

Knitted woollen squares (20cmx20cm) are still needed to make blankets for to cold parts of the world where such goods are not readily available.

The Mission Without Borders coordinator has suggested using darker wool colours, as some of the blankets are used by homeless people, and light colours can get discoloured easily. Knitted wool garments for children older than five, teenagers, and adults also welcome (scarves, gloves, hats, jumpers). No baby or toddler garments thanks.



Marian Weaver

Church Fair



A Church Fair is a community-building event that gets things out of some people's houses and into other people's houses, while helping the keep the church financially afloat. And we're all set to have one!

**Saturday 19 September,
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

As normal we'll be setting up Thursday/Friday and having a mini-fair mop-up on Sunday after church, with tidying up done by midday on Monday. If you are interested in helping out at the fair, please email Abby with what you'd like to do. abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com

Fellowship Report

Our April meeting celebrated John Roxborough and Evelyn's birthday (with Miriam and Chris planning to celebrate with Evelyn on the following Monday).

Kirk Hamilton talked with us about his life. We learnt that he has a twin brother and they started life in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. His family moved around many states of America with his father being a successful salesman working for different companies. Kirk described his career as "never having left school" as he has studied and taught at many universities. The barn owls (right) were part of his PhD study into the biogenesis of barn owls in the wild. Kirk believes he inherited his musical ear from his mother who was self-taught. Kirk loves drums, trumpet, piano, and violin and guitar. He still has the classical guitar he was given at aged twelve. Kirk belongs to two local bands: Kaptain Kirk and Klingons and The Bluffers. He wondered if the congregation notices all the different guitars he brings to church.



Kirk with his special guitar made by Peter Madill



Judy and Kirk on their wedding day

As usual, we finished with our sumptuous afternoon tea.

Chris and Miriam

Lectionary for May and June 2026

Sunday 3 May – 5th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 7: 55-60	Ps 31: 1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2: 2-10	Jn 14: 1-14
Sunday 10 May – 6th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 17: 22-31	Ps 66: 8-20	1 Peter 3: 13-22	Jn 14: 15-21
Thursday 14 May – Ascension			
Acts 1: 1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1: 15-23	Lk 24: 44-53
Sunday 17 May – 7th Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday			
Acts 1: 6-14	Ps 68: 1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11	Jn 17: 1-11
Sunday 24 May – Pentecost			
Acts 2: 1-21 or Num 11:24-30	Ps 104: 24-34, 35b	1 Cor 12: 3b-13 <i>or</i> Acts 2: 1-21	Jn 20: 19-23 <i>or</i> Jn 7: 37-39
Sunday 31 May - Trinity Sunday			
Gen 1: 1-2:4a	Ps 8	2 Cor 13: 11-13	Mt 28: 16-20
Sunday 7 June – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 12: 1-9	Ps 33: 1-12	Rom 4: 13-25	Mt 9: 9-13, 18-26
Sunday 14 June – 3rd 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 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 21: 8-21	Ps 86: 1-10, 16-17	Rom 6: 1b-11	Mt 10: 24-39
Sunday 28 June – 5th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 22: 1-14	Ps 13	Rom 6: 12-23	Mt 10: 40-42

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Wednesday 20 May

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

Coming Events: May and June 2026

3 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion*
5 May ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
10 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Benjamin Thew*
13 May ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Minister's Office
14 May ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
17 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Mary Somerville*
20 May ~ Wednesday	Material due for June <i>Opoho Signal</i>
24 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind*
28 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
31 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew*
1 June ~ Monday	King's Birthday – public holiday
5 June ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
7 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
10 June ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Minister's Office
11 June ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
14 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Benjamin Thew
20 June ~ Saturday	Material due for June <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
25 June ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
28 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind

* *Listening to the Word* – on the Sundays in May, after church and morning tea, Mark Ranby and Clare Lind will be leading another lectio divina, using passages from Paul's letter to the Philippian church.

