

*Opoho Signal*

*October 2020*

*via email*

# Opoho Signal

**Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church**

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: [www.opohochurch.org](http://www.opohochurch.org)

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



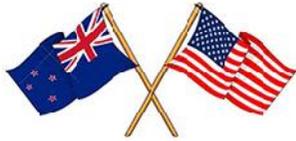
Opoho Presbyterian Church on a lovely Spring Day in Dunedin  
Photo credit: Abby Smith

**October 2020**

***Interim Moderator: The Rev. Ed Masters***  
***cell phone 027 637 9818***

**Acting Parish Clerk: Philip Somerville phone: 03 473 8862**  
**email: [psomer39@gmail.com](mailto:psomer39@gmail.com)**

*Editorial: Farewell Thoughts (written on 12 September)*



Dear Friends of Opoho Presbyterian Church

I am sitting here in the international terminal in Auckland, soon to board the final leg of my trip back to the USA. What had been a three-month commitment, to help out my daughter with her children when her husband could not be here, turned into close to a year of New Zealand living. What a pivotal time for this to occur! Experiencing the Covid-19 lockdown was indeed unique. Where chaos prevailed back home, calm and committed determination prevailed in New Zealand. With much reflection on the different circumstances I think we come back to what is a basic tenet of all healthy relationships, whether in a family or in a nation ... trust and accountability. From my perspective the differences were stark: in New Zealand mistakes were admitted and corrected without too much disruption; in the US just the opposite.

The “bubble” for New Zealand was not just during the lockdown but a sense of connectivity prior to that crisis. Coming to Opoho Church provided the “bubble” from the first day I walked into the church. A willingness to see how we are the same as seekers of the truth and healing through Jesus Christ, no matter where we come from.

We are so blessed to have this community of friends no matter what stage of life each is experiencing, weaving together a unique story, and keeping the doors open to whoever may wander in.

The model of Opoho’s welcoming acceptance and positive regard will help me as I reach out to yet another new community, you have set the standard!

I have taped to my laptop a verse from one of last week’s hymns:

*Teach us, O God, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them,  
or as they may become.*

(Fred Kaan, 1929-2009)

Thank you.

**Kristine Snell**

[ksnell65@hotmail.com](mailto:ksnell65@hotmail.com)

834 55th Street, Oakland, CA 94608, USA



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*Parish Council and Church News*

A new email address for use when communicating with Judy Rodda in her role as Treasurer has been set up: [OpohoPCbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:OpohoPCbusiness@gmail.com) It is a generic address that can also be used by future Treasurers.

The work of the Ministry Settlement Board is proceeding. Marian Weaver has been appointed by the Council to replace Tui Bevin as a member of the Board.

The Council has been giving consideration to finding two new members to bolster its numbers and is pleased to report that Julie Mander and Mark Ranby have agreed to be nominated at the forthcoming annual meeting to become members. Assuming they are elected, Mark would join the Council immediately, but Julie would delay joining until her work on the Ministry Settlement Board is finished.

Thank you to organiser Benjamin Thew and the team of other volunteers who took part in the working bee in the church grounds on Saturday 19 September – a skip in Farquharson Street filled with prunings and weeds was testament to their work.

***Philip Somerville (Acting Parish Clerk) and Gregor Macaulay***



*Covid-19 Lockdown Experience*



You will recall that on 26 July there was a display in the hall to celebrate achievements and creativity and other things that were important or significant to Opoho people during the Covid-19 lockdown. There were diary entries, handcrafts, baking, photography, and other evidence of the talents of parishioners. Tui Bevin has compiled the contributions into a book that may be seen in the Morrison Lounge or online at [www.opohochurch.org](http://www.opohochurch.org)



The Parish Council has asked the Christian Development Committee to consider what useful lessons for our church can be taken from the lockdown. What has it taught us about the strengths or weaknesses of our ways of doing things in the parish? If we are faced with another lockdown in the future, is there anything that we should do differently as a congregation? Are there any other questions that we should be asking?

If you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know in writing or by email [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)

***Gregor Macaulay***



It was good to gather, and share stories – so many stories. It's amazing how many different topics can be covered, and stories told, in the space of an hour!

We missed Phyllis Sinclair, and shared many happy memories.

Evelyn Brass has been in our thoughts after a fall and we took the opportunity to send her a get well card with messages from us all.

Our conversation then ranged far and wide – there were too many subjects to list all of them here. We thought a couple of hints and tips were worth sharing more widely.

Val Williams told us that she had been able to arrange for a postal vote in the General Election. The Electoral Commission advertise that anyone who may have difficulty getting to a polling place can ring 0800-36-76-56 to ask for assistance.

[vote.nz/voting/get-help-to-vote/cant-get-to-a-voting-place/](https://vote.nz/voting/get-help-to-vote/cant-get-to-a-voting-place/)

Marion Rae reminded us about *beamafilm*. With your Dunedin Library card, you can sign up for unlimited access to a wide range of

TV series and movies. Go to the Digital Library on the Dunedin Library home page, [www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/digital-library](http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/digital-library) and register from there.

And finally, a question. Do you know what sneakers-tossed-over-power-or-telephone-wires are sometimes said to signify? Possible hint – the question came up as we were talking about the cannabis referendum.

For answers to this, and the opportunity to share your own ‘who knew?’ topic, join us in the Morrison Lounge at 2pm on the second Thursday of the month – the next meeting is on Thursday 8 October.

**Andrea Johnston**

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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE Sustainability Week at Opoho Church

*How one small church focused on Sustainability during the season of Creation*

When it was decided that we were not holding a church fair this year, we saw an opportunity to do something different – a Sustainability Week. Eight experts came to speak to us (two each evening) during the week of 20-27 September – events that buzzed, even with only 20 to 25 people in the audience (affected as we were by Level 2 restrictions). In the same week we had dynamic guest ministers who focussed on their Wilderness Sunday and River Sunday themes.

All leading up to the Sustainability Circus (at Level 1, thank goodness) where 12 local organisations, ranging from the Community Garden to the City Council to Extinction Rebellion to City Sanctuary to a local student group, all set out their leaflets and plants and traps and information for the public to take away. The hall was open from 10 a.m. to 12 noon but the foot traffic never stopped. We reckon between 50 and 60 people came in to enjoy the friendly helpful vibe.

Huge thanks to Christine Cleugh and Shona Somerville who

provided cups of tea and coffee at all five events. With a box asking for a koha or donation we collected about \$200 which should cover the heating and power.

It’s a challenging time in a difficult world and every day more bad news comes in. In the face of climate, extinction, pests, pollution, flooding and fire, plastics, danger and damage, it is hard for a person to know what to do. Our theme was *Make a Difference* and each of our events helped people to find ways they could change, even if only a little, to make the world a better place, and to help care for God’s creation.

**Abby Smith**

*(about to become an Ace Rat-Trapper)*

Here’s the link to Opoho’s Sustainability Week story on the Eco Church NZ website:

[www.ecochurch.org.nz/stories/making-a-difference](http://www.ecochurch.org.nz/stories/making-a-difference)

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### *Environmental Issues*



This newsletter is appearing after the services and other activities (organised or coordinated by Abby Smith) for a Sustainability Week, 20-27 September (see previous story).

Environmental and sustainability issues are a continuing interest and concern for many members of our congregation and the Parish Council is interested in ways of maintaining momentum in this area. If you have any suggestions for doing that please let either Abby or me know.

**Gregor Macaulay**

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Above: Panoramic shot of the Church Hall all ready for the Sustainability Circus. Photo: Abby Smith

Below: Full house for the Dunedin Candidates' meeting. Photo: Shona Somerville



### *Opoho Candidates' Meeting*

Once again the General Election Candidates' Meeting was a highlight of our church year. The Candidates' Meeting has been a community initiative of our parish for over twenty years, the first organisers were Pete Strang and Dick Calvert. It remains a mainstay of our outreach, an unmissable event for politicians to show off their passion and their commitment to the Dunedin Electorate. The organisation for the event is now under Philip Somerville's steady hand and he has revolutionised the event with hats and jokes, quick-fire questions and firm management of people and time.

Delayed by level two restrictions in the electorate it still proved a popular event, with people arriving before half past six for a seven o'clock event. By seven o'clock the church was packed out, overflowing into the Morrison Lounge. Five candidates out of seven invited seated at the front of the church to convince us to give them our electorate vote and our list vote. Were you won over? Have you changed your decision? The candidates had their say from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and were then kept on their toes for nearly ¾ hour, responding as members of the audience called out their own questions.

For our efforts we were rewarded with reviews of the event: the report in the *Otago Daily Times*

[www.odt.co.nz/news/decision-2020/referendum-questions-first-forum](http://www.odt.co.nz/news/decision-2020/referendum-questions-first-forum) and a significant report on the national news website *The Spinoff* [www.thespinoff.co.nz/politics/28-09-2020/how-a-dunedin-election-debate-became-the-hottest-ticket-in-town](http://www.thespinoff.co.nz/politics/28-09-2020/how-a-dunedin-election-debate-became-the-hottest-ticket-in-town)

*The Spinoff* journalist, Alex Braae is touring the country going to political meetings. At Opoho he just happened to sit by Abby, which was very handy.

Suddenly we find ourselves recognised for putting on a great event, great drama, and an occasion that contributes to our society.

Let's do it again!

**Andrew Smith**

Writing on 29 September, Alex Braae summarised his piece like this: *And I've got another dispatch from the road: This one comes from the Opoho Presbyterian Church in Dunedin, where for more than two decades they've been hosting perhaps the best election forum in the country. The piece looks at why it works so well, and what other meetings could take note of.*

[www.thespinoff.co.nz/the-bulletin/29-09-2020/the-bulletin-the-poll-the-greens-wanted](http://www.thespinoff.co.nz/the-bulletin/29-09-2020/the-bulletin-the-poll-the-greens-wanted)

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### *Opoho Presbyterian Church*

#### *2020 Annual Meeting*

*Sunday 18 October*

*following morning worship*

*Approximately 11.15 a.m.*

*in the church*

Copies of the Annual Report will be available  
on Sunday 11 October

Please advise Gregor Macaulay,  
[gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)  
of any apologies for the meeting.

*Interfaith Matters*



I am looking forward to welcoming the Dunedin Interfaith group to “our” place, the Morrison Lounge, on Sunday 11 October at 2 p.m. It would be lovely to have some of you there too if you feel you would like to come – no commitment expected but just to welcome the visitors to Opoho. The spiritual reflection will be *World Peace* – we go around and say perhaps

what this means to you from your faith tradition or from your own experience, but you can also “pass” and this is common for new bodies. If you think of coming it would be good to let me know, so I have an idea of numbers when I prepare the room.

Sunday 11 October is actually the beginning of the Week of Prayer for World Peace so the pamphlets for this will be at the back of the church with meditations for each day. Wednesday 14 October, beginning at 7.30 p.m., will be the special evening for this, as in past years organised and chaired by Kristan Mouat and Greg Hughson, with reflections from many faith traditions being shared. Again, all are welcome and supper follows.

You may or may not have heard of an Interfaith Walking Group. This meets at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month. The venue is advertised on the Dunedin Interfaith Council’s Facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/1566890406855982](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1566890406855982) It is to bring people of different faiths together and to enable them to appreciate each other as they share the activity of walking. Sometimes it is to the beach, the Gardens, a reserve area, etc. – a lovely friendly time.

**Bronwen Strang**

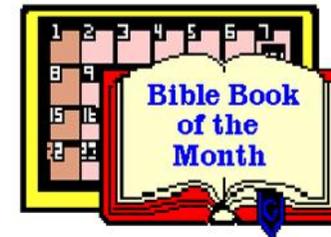


*Operation Cover Up*

It’s never too early to start knitting for next year’s blankets. There is a wool bag at the back of the church. Any donations of wool (double knit) gratefully accepted.

**Marian Weaver**

[weavermariane@gmail.com](mailto:weavermariane@gmail.com) or 027 473 6026



This month we will be looking at *Titus*, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 8 October (a week later than our usual meeting date) at 129 Signal Hill Road. 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**



<i>Don't Forget!</i>	
<i>October</i>	
11 - 18 October	Week of Prayer for World Peace
Sunday 11 October	2 p.m. Dunedin Interfaith monthly meeting, Morrison Lounge, theme for reflection <i>World Peace</i>
Sunday 18 October	Annual Meeting (following morning worship)

### *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)

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| <b>Lectionary readings, 4 October - 22 November 2020</b>                  |                    |                 |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>in Year A, the Year of Matthew</b>                                     |                    |                 |              |
| <b>Sunday 4 October - 18th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                     |                    |                 |              |
| Ex 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20                                                    | Ps 19              | Phil 3: 4b-14   | Mt 21: 33-46 |
| <b>Sunday 11 October - 19th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                    |                    |                 |              |
| Ex 32: 1-14                                                               | Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23 | Phil 4: 1-9     | Mt 22: 1-14  |
| <b>Sunday 18 October - 20th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                    |                    |                 |              |
| Ex 33: 12-23                                                              | Ps 99              | 1 Thes 1: 1-10  | Mt 22: 15-22 |
| <b>Sunday 25 October - 21st Sunday after Pentecost</b>                    |                    |                 |              |
| Deut 34: 1-12                                                             | Ps 90: 1-6, 13-17  | 1 Thes 2: 1-8   | Mt 22: 34-46 |
| <b>Sunday 1 November - All Saints</b>                                     |                    |                 |              |
| Rev 7: 9-17                                                               | Ps 34: 1-10, 22    | 1 Jn 3: 1-3     | Mt 5: 1-12   |
| <b>Sunday 8 November - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>                    |                    |                 |              |
| Josh 24: 1-3a, 14-25                                                      | Ps 78: 1-7         | 1 Thes 4: 13-18 | Mt 25: 1-13  |
| <b>Sunday 15 November - 24th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                   |                    |                 |              |
| Judg 4: 1-7                                                               | Ps 123             | 1 Thes 5: 1-11  | Mt 25: 14-30 |
| <b>Sunday 22 November - 25th Sunday after Pentecost - Reign of Christ</b> |                    |                 |              |
| Ez 34: 11-16, 20-24                                                       | Ps 100             | Eph 1: 15-23    | Mt 25: 31-46 |

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

**Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Tuesday 20 October**

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)

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**Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church in  
October and early November 2020**

<b>October 2020</b>	
4 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion, the Rev. Graeme Munro
8 October ~ Thursday	2 p.m. Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>Titus</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
11 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Paul Ranby 2 p.m.: Dunedin Interfaith monthly meeting, Morrison Lounge, theme for reflection <i>World Peace</i>
11 - 18 October	Week of Prayer for World Peace , with get-together at Quaker Meeting House, Park Street, on Wednesday 14 October at 7.30 p.m.
15 October ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Ed Masters followed by Annual Meeting
20 October ~ Tuesday	Deadline for November <i>Opoho Signal</i>
25 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
26 October ~ Monday	Labour Day
<b>November 2020</b>	
1 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion, the Rev. Graeme Munro
5 November ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>Philemon</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
8 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Peter Wishart
12 November ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith
19 November ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge

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## Opportunities for Service, October - November 2020

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

Sunday	Morning Tea	Door Duty	Readers	Prayers	Music	Flowers	Hall Cleaning	Church Cleaning
<b>October 2020</b>								
4 Oct	Bronwen Strang Meegan Cloughley	Mary & John Somerville	Daniel Larsen	—	David Murray	Fiona Stirling	Chris Young	Fiona Stirling
11 Oct	Marian Weaver Jane Bloore	John Stenhouse Michael Ovens	Jane Bloore	Daniel Larsen	Mark Bevin	Jenny Roxborough	Michael Ovens	Bronwen Strang
18 Oct	Smith / Spencer	Marian Weaver Jenny Bunce	Hamish Spencer	Andrew Smith	Gaynor Haig	Jenny Roxborough	Michael Ovens	Bronwen Strang
25 Oct	Jenny Roxborough Shona Somerville	Jane Bloore Benjamin Thew	Andrew Smith	Marian Weaver	Music Group	Jane Bloore	Shona & Philip Somerville	Jane Bloore
<b>November 2020</b>								
1 Nov	Bronwen Strang Marian Weaver	Shona & Philip Somerville	Benjamin Thew	—	David Murray	Jane Bloore	Shona & Philip Somerville	Jane Bloore
8 Nov	Rodda / Hamilton	Smith / Spencer	Gaynor Haig	John Roxborough	Mark Bevin	Judy Rodda	Benjamin Thew	Rodda / Hamilton
15 Nov	Shona & Philip Somerville	Gregor Macaulay Andrew Smith	Andrea Johnston	Benjamin Thew	Gaynor Haig	Judy Rodda	Benjamin Thew	Rodda / Hamilton

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. There are biscuits in a drawer in the kitchen. Home baking is welcome, too.

**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.