

Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



Barbecue after church on 18 February

March 2024

Minister: The Rev. Clare Lind

cellphone: 021 0276 1962 email: opohominister@gmail.com

Parish Clerk: Hamish Spencer

cellphone: 021 279 7986 email: opohoclerk@gmail.com

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

Editorial

“You *have* to forgive me.”

Those were the last words my grandfather said to me, five words that had a large impact on my perception of what forgiveness is.

A wee bit of background to it all: the grandfather I knew as a child, through to adulthood, was not a nice person; he chose to hurt me in several different ways. He was not the same man that other people described him to be. He made a conscious choice to do some evil things. That being said, no one else really got to see this side of him; I never saw any other side of him.

The demand for forgiveness really warped my understanding of what forgiveness is for many years, and it is sometimes still something that I struggle with. When speaking the Lord’s Prayer I would stay silent for the lines “Forgive me my sins, as I have forgiven those who have sinned against me.” I would quirk an eyebrow and think why should I give him anything? He doesn’t deserve it, and because I wasn’t prepared to forgive him I couldn’t ask for forgiveness either, I never said my reasoning was logical, it just was what it was.

Over the last decade I have had many conversations with many people asking them what their understanding of forgiveness does and what it is. I guess that was the hardest thing for me to understand, what forgiveness is, and honestly I still don’t really know the answer. Is it emotion or lack thereof? Is it a grudge? Is it a power to hold over someone? Is it still the same thing today that was written about in the Bible? I would be interested in hearing people’s thoughts on this, even if it is just telling me I am wrong (hey it means you have at least read this far!) – other people’s interpretations are a good thing.

I don’t know what changed for me, or when, only that it did. I was standing in church and sang the whole Lord’s Prayer with the rest of the congregation and didn’t feel like a hypocrite, I think I stunned myself so much I stood there thinking “Oh, well that was new.” I realised that in the regard to the grandfather, I wasn’t giving him anything, that actually forgiveness had nothing to do with him, but to do with me. That it wasn’t my shame to hold on to, that wasn’t my choices that fractured the whanau, that I could still feel hurt by his choices and actions, but God was still standing beside me. I learnt forgiveness was something I could choose to do at whatever speed I wanted, and it would help me heal, it was a gift to me, from God, there was no deadline, no timeline at all, and each time I reflected on it, I would gain some freedom, some sense of peace, and find looking in the mirror a little easier each time.

So what do I think forgiveness is? I still don't have an answer that I could write in one page, but I do know it is an ever-evolving understanding. Forgiveness, a single word that has huge connotations, that has several interpretations and I feel, unfortunately has been trivialised over time.

Meegan

Parish Council News

The Parish Council's retreat on the morning of Saturday 27 January was a cheerful and productive time. We looked back at what had (and had not) been achieved in 2023 and discussed ideas for events and activities in 2024, including singing our way through a New Zealand hymn book (with a view to expanding our repertoire), more social activities, a children's holiday programme, a fair – and more. Keep an eye out for details as and when definite arrangements are made.

The first formal meeting of the Council for the year was held on 15 February.

- Andrew Smith was appointed as our representative elder for the annual meeting of the Synod of Otago and Southland to be held in Cromwell in April.
- The Property and Finance Committee was authorised to proceed with several suggestions for refreshing the hall foyer to make it more functional and welcoming – some ideas for improving the toilets are longer-term (and more expensive).
- The Council noted that the recycling education officer from the Dunedin City Council would be speaking at a meeting of the Fellowship Group on the forthcoming changes to kerbside recycling in Dunedin, and agreed that a session on recycling and waste minimisation could be a key part of a series on environmental matters later in the year.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

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.pshotago.org.nz

Non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.

Property and Finance Committee Update

Our first meeting of the year (on 7 February) was by Zoom and it's a great way to work when getting together in one space is too complicated. We are finishing off with a number of items from last year – clearing the decks so to speak. Plans are under way to review and improve the kitchen taps and sort out the hot water Zip. Our next working bee will be an inside one focusing on sorting out tables, chairs and forms – watch out for more information re the date. This will be followed by a working bee looking at refreshing the hall foyer area. Soon we will be installing a new garden seat, followed by the Seed Exchange Library on the Signal Hill Road wall.



Julie, Harriet, and Clare painting the Seed Exchange Library box.

Our garden space is developing – thank you to contributions from Neville McLay who removed dead wood from behind the compost bins, Brian Cunningham for hedge trimming, and Brett Ransome, our Warden Street arborist

(<https://www.absolutetreecare.co.nz/>) who donated his time and came and assessed the safety and pruning needs of two conifers and a copper beech tree in our back garden.

Miriam Vollweiler (Committee convener)

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

It is with sadness that we note the death of **Jane Anderson** on 18 February. We remember Jane's quiet determination. She was passionate about the environment and was responsible for getting us moving on becoming an Eco Church. She was also a catalyst for us to host a Steady as You Go group. Unfortunately, her own ill health stopped her from being able to take part in the two groups once they were up and running. Our thoughts are with her husband Stuart and her two children. Jane's funeral was held in the church on 23 February.

Gannet

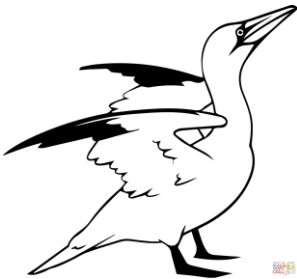


Gannet, dare-devil diver
swoops through splattered
twilight light :
For Gannet is as Gannet dives.

A thunderbolt so fast
so secret,
a submarine:
For Gannet is as Gannet fishes.

Nuclear explosion,
Fish panic,
Gannet triumphs:
For Gannet is as Gannet strikes.

Nano splash, Gannet
takes to the skies,
Evaporates from water:
For Gannet is as Gannet lifts off.



Evening comes,
fishing day over,
tired wings rest:
For Gannet is as Gannet roosts.

Today's a new day,
more fishing to come,
light blinks open Gannet's eyes:
For Gannet is as Gannet awakes.

by Tom Ranby
inspired by *Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris.

Operation Cover Up

Knitting continues for Mission Without Borders to provide woollen blankets and clothing to cold parts of the world where such goods are not readily available.



As usual we need knitters to make squares – there's lots of wool available.

A new area coordinator is required for this project. The task includes liaising with the national coordinator, communicating with local parishes, and setting up a date and venue in winter to gather all the knitting in the wider Dunedin area, sort and bundle it, and arrange shipment to the North Island.

Any queries please contact me at 027 473 6026 or weavermariane@gmail.com
Marian Weaver

The Drowning Man

A man was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help.

Soon a man in a rowboat came by and shouted to the man on the roof, “Jump in, I can save you!” The stranded man shouted back, “No, it’s OK, I’m praying to God. He’ll save me!” So the rowboat went on.

Then a motorboat came by. A man in the motorboat shouted, “Jump in, I can save you!” The stranded man said, “No thanks, I’m praying to God and He’s going to save me. I have faith!” So the motorboat went on.

Then a helicopter came by and the pilot shouted down, “Grab this rope and I’ll lift you to safety!” To this the stranded man again replied, “No thanks, I’m praying to God and He’s going to save me --- I have faith!” So the helicopter reluctantly flew away.

Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to heaven and exclaimed to God, “I had faith in you, but you didn’t save me, you let me drown! I don’t understand why!” And God replied, “I sent you a rowboat, a motorboat, and a helicopter; what more did you expect?”

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 wish to be added to (or deleted from) the email list, or **if you receive an emailed copy and don't need a physical copy as well**, please send an email to the editor, Gregor Macaulay, at gregor.macaulay@outlook.com



Another shot of the Seed Exchange Library box being painted

Fellowship Group

The Fellowship Group didn't meet in February because of Covid. The March meeting will be a week earlier than usual, on 7 March. All welcome.

Miriam Vollweiler

Lectionary for March and April

Sunday 3 March – 3rd Sunday in Lent			
Ex 20: 1-17	Ps 19	1 Cor 1: 18-25	Jn 2: 13-22
Sunday 10 March – 4th Sunday in Lent			
Num 21: 4-9	Ps 107: 1-3, 17-22	Eph 2: 1-10	Jn 3: 14-21
Sunday 17 March – 5th Sunday in Lent			
Jer 31: 31-34	Ps 51: 1-12 <i>or</i> Ps 119: 9-16	Heb 5: 5-10	Jn 12: 20-33
Sunday 24 March – 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	Palm Mk 11: 1-11 <i>or</i> Jn 12: 12-16 Passion Mk 14: 1- 15: 47 <i>or</i> Mk 15: 1- 39 (40-47)
Easter			
Sunday 31 March – Easter Dawn			
Ex 14: 10-31, 15: 20-21	Ps 114	Rom 6: 3-11	Mk 16: 1-8
Sunday 31 March – Easter Day			
Acts 10: 34-43 <i>or</i> Is 25: 6-9	Ps 118: 1-2, 14- 24	1 Cor 15: 1-11 <i>or</i> Acts 10: 34-43	Jn 20: 1-18 <i>or</i> Mk 16: 1-8
Sunday 7 April – Easter 2			
Acts 4: 32-35	Ps 133	1 Jn 1: 1- 2:2	Jn 20: 19-31
Sunday 14 April – Easter 3			
Acts 3: 12-19	Ps 4	1 Jn 3: 1-7	Lk 24: 36b-48
Sunday 21 April – Easter 4			
Acts 4: 5-12	Ps 23	1 Jn 3: 16-24	Jn 10: 11-18
Sunday 28 April – Easter 5			
Acts 8: 26-40	Ps 22: 25-31	1 Jn 4: 7-21	Jn 15: 1-8

Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church March and April 2024

3 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
7 March ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
10 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Professor Murray Rae
13 March ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
17 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 March ~ Wednesday	Material due for March <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
21 March ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
24 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind (Palm Sunday) After church: Abby's Jam Palace in hall
25 March ~ Monday	Otago Anniversary Day
29 March ~ Friday	Good Friday – public holiday
31 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind (Easter Day)
1 April ~ Monday	Easter Monday – public holiday
7 April ~ Sunday	Daylight saving ends – clocks go <i>back</i> one hour 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Paul Ranby, Communion
10 April ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
11 April ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
14 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
18 April ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 April ~ Saturday	Material due for May <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
21 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
25 April ~ Thursday	ANZAC Day – public holiday
28 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Wednesday 20 March

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