Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of **Ōpoho Presbyterian Church**

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



A version of the Poutama tukutuku pattern sourced from Te Ara http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/whakapapa-genealogy/media

November 2023

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

Editorial: Whanaungatanga, Whakapapa, and Taonga

It has been a real joy to become part of the Ōpoho Church community since our move to Dunedin at the end of 2016. I remember staying at Frank and Beth Nichol's place at the bottom of Signal Hill Road as a child when we would come across from Alexandra in the holidays.

I often think about these connections as part of my whanaungatanga¹ of faith which is intricately linked to my whakapapa² given my father's calling to become a minister in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. I am in awe of the concept that Māori trace their ancestry back to the beginning of the universe. Recently I have been thinking about the idea as a Christian of tracing my ancestry back to the beginning of the universe, to God.

This thinking about my identity and place in creation grows in resonance each time Dad comes down to Dunedin to help out with a service in this parish that he was ordained in nearly 50 years age. In the subsequent days since Dad took the service last month I have been reflecting on his Chat Time with his two grandsons.

The message of this conversation was around taonga³. I appreciated that Dad drew attention to the way we imbue physical objects with meaning often because they represent relationships that are significant to us. Dad demonstrated this by sharing three objects, two of which belonged to his father and grandfather respectively, and the third which was a photograph of his brother - all taonga of his whakapapa. These taonga are touchstones to memories and stories about these people that Dad loved and who loved him.

The ultimate message of the chat was that we are all treasures in the eyes of God. I appreciated the way Dad explained how when his Nanny said this to him as a child, that he was indeed a treasure of God, it sounded a little strange but also connected with him at a deeper level.

This moment of Dad chatting with Tom and Fergus (and all of us) is now a treasure for me, witnessing the transfer of a foundational message of our faith from grandparent to grandchildren felt like whakapapa in action. The context of where the message was delivered, amidst a congregation committed to journeying in the way of Christ, wove another rich thread to this treasured moment.

I wonder what treasures are precious to you? Perhaps some time next year we might gather to share some of our treasures and their significance to us.

Thank you all for creating such a vibrant and loving community where treasure can be discovered and often revealed.

Mark Ranby

- 1. whanaungatanga a relationship through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging https://maoridictionary.co.nz/search?idiom=&phrase=&proverb=&loan=&histLoanWords=&keywords=whanaungatanga
- 2. *whakapapa* genealogy https://teara.govt.nz/en/whakapapa-genealogy
- 3. *taonga* treasure <u>https://maoridictionary.co.nz/search?idiom=&phrase=&proverb=&loan=&histLoanWords=&keywords=taonga</u>

Parish Council News

At its meeting on 19 October the Parish Council noted that Clare had attended a Valley Project meeting about emergency management and had suggested that our buildings could possibly be used as a community centre in an emergency.

An updated Parish Directory has been printed and is available at the back of the church if you have not already collected one.

Legislative changes to how charities operate might have some implications for how churches deal with some governance and administrative matters – Judy Rodda is investigating what (if anything) we might need to do.

A breakfast for pastoral visitors was held before church on 1 October and was a useful time for sharing experiences and for fellowship – thanks to Hamish for hosting the breakfast.

The Council noted that the political meeting on 8 October had been a great success (see report elsewhere in this issue) – thank you Philip!

The work of the Our Place Task Group is proceeding and it continues to welcome ideas from the congregation.

The Parish Council will hold a Saturday morning retreat in late January to discuss plans for 2024.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Keeping in Touch at Opoho Church

Opoho Church has a website, <u>www.opohochurch.org</u>, 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.

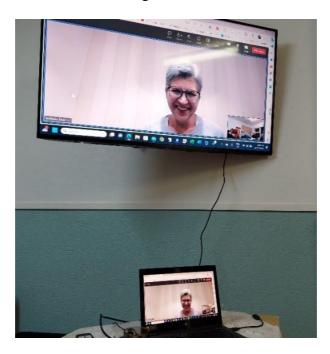
The church also has a Facebook page (you don't need to belong to Facebook to see the page) www.facebook.com/OpohoChurch

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

Property and Finance Committee Update

Another busy month with progress in many areas.

• Our wi-fi connection and installation of camera/TV screen is now in place and worked well for the candidates' meeting as well as beaming in Sanel for our P & F meeting.





- The new external door from the children's room is completed along with the painting of Morrison Lounge thanks to the team involved.
- The photocopier is now connected to wi-fi for enabling automatic readings.
- Roof repairs of loose tiles were completed. Long term roof replacement /repairs will be further discussed.
- Our grounds are looking spruce after Benjamin's efforts before the candidates' meeting and the working bee team on Saturday 14 October.

An invitation: We invite any of the congregation to join us on our annual P & F Maintenance walkabout and review on **Saturday 4 November 9 a.m.-12 noon**. This is where we review maintenance plans and brainstorm ideas for improvement for both short- and long-term periods.

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 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

Presbyterian Support Food Bank



Contributions for the Food Bank are always needed. You can bring goods (nothing frozen or perishable) to church on any Sunday or you can make a cash donation for the Food Bank via

their website www.psotago.org.nz Non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.

Christmas Craft Fair at Opoho, 2-3 December

Christmas is coming!

We plan a Christmas Craft Fair for early December, with handmade, homemade, special crafts and art.

If you or someone you know would like to sell their art/craft with us, please get in touch with Abby Smith



abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com or 027-606-3552.

We will be in touch later on to ask for help with other bits and pieces (wrapping, cups of tea, background music).

Albatross Bells

On Monday 25 September, Opoho Church and community members joined other churches in bell-ringing to celebrate the return of the albatross to the colony at Taiaroa Head. The first returning breeding adults for the new season arrived on 22 September.





Overflowing at the Opoho Church Political Forum

What a nice problem to have. By the time 7 p.m. rolled around on Sunday 8 October the church was full, and the Morrison Lounge was overflowing into the hall. Our always well-supported three-yearly general election political forum was more popular than ever. Because there was no more room in the inn, we began a few minutes early. About 20 to 30 latecomers had to be turned away.



People gathered from around Ōpoho and Dunedin to fill the church at the election political forum.

Photo: Scott Willis

Philip Fleming had helped set the scene from 6.20 p.m., with mellow music. He also led the communal singing of God of Nations on the saxophone. Terrible jokes from The Cat in the Hat were soon inflicted on the suspecting audience, and a relaxed, positive atmosphere conducive to listening and debating was established. Four Dunedin electorate candidates – Rachel Brooking (Labour), Ben Peters (TOP), Keegan Langeveld (NZ First) and Jim O'Malley (Independent) – were joined by two ring-ins, Marama Davidson (Greens coleader) and James Christmas (National).



The candidates interacted well and seemed to enjoy and appreciate our church's election forum; from left Jim O'Malley, Rachel Brooking, Marama Davidson, James Christmas, Ben Peters, Keegan Langeveld.

Photo: Scott Willis

A team from the church helped with promotion, setting up, welcoming, the PowerPoint, the koha collection, the ushering, the clean-up, the sound and the data projector.

We finished by 9.05 p.m., five minutes ahead of schedule amid enthusiasm from the candidates and the crowd.

The next morning. we featured in the Otago Daily Times. https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/church-echoes-sounds-laughter-politicalpoints, and on Channel 39 the next evening. Opoho resident Bert Holmes filmed the event, and the recording was played on Channel 39 on Tuesday evening. It was also posted by David M to YouTube under the newly set-up Ōpoho Church channel, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= bOzOf3M51Q. At last look, it had clocked up almost 140 views, hardly in the Kim Kardashian or Ronaldo

league but something, nevertheless. We now have a

record of one of our political evenings.

Thanks to all those helpers. Their contributions to the evening were vital. Thanks, too, to those who came along and donated two full boxes of food plus about \$650 in cash. This koha was given to Presbyterian Support Otago's foodbank.

Philip Somerville (a.k.a. The Cat in the Hat)



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 so available.



Donations of wool (*not acrylic*) are needed at the moment for knitters to take from the bag in the church to make more squares. Money to buy wool would also be welcomed. Any queries please contact me at 027 473 6026 or weavermariane@gmail.com

Marian Weaver

Morrison Lounge Painting

The Morrison Lounge was given a new paint job in time for last month's political meeting. Here are John Stenhouse and Benjamin Thew in action:



Working Bee

Some photos from the working bee in the grounds on 14 October:







Rostered Opportunities for Service: 2024

One of the things I like about Opoho Church is that so many people play a part in the ongoing work, which allows this small church to be so active, both within the church and within the community. Some of this work is upfront and easily visible (silly hats anyone?) while other work take places behind the scenes. Some involves committed, skilled individuals in specialised and leadership roles; and some involves working with others such as on a working bee or a committee.

But much of the ongoing work is done through eight separate rosters, currently involving around 32 people, many of whom volunteer for several rosters. Not all volunteers are formal church members, and we greatly value the help of any church associates, friends, and members of the community.

It is easy to just roll over rosters from year to year. But circumstances change, and what you volunteered for in the past may no longer be a good fit in the present, or for 2024. And while some like to faithfully carry out familiar roles, others like to have a go at something different. Furthermore, new people arrive, others go travelling, or leave. And the rostered duties change too, from time to time. So rather than just rolling over from 2023, we are now seeking volunteers for rostered duties in 2024.

The frequency of turns obviously depends on the numbers of people volunteering on the roster and the number of people needed in the role.

Our current rosters are:

- 1. Door duty: 2 people each week
- 2. Morning tea: 2 people each week
- 3. Church and hall cleaning: 1 person on church and 1 on hall. Cleaning once during a two- or three-week period.
- 4. Flowers: 1 person (or friends!) Summer only. Rostered for a two-week period.
- 5. Prayers: 1 person each week other than communion Sundays.
- 6. Data projector and sound equipment: 1 person each week
- 7. Readings: 1 person each week
- 8. Music: most months have one service with music group (instruments), one with lead singer(s) and guitars/violin, and two or three with piano/organ.

A sheet with more information about the rosters, together with a signup sheet, is available with this newsletter and from the back of the church or from me, Jenny Bunce [jenny.bunce@gmail.com; 473 8526; 022 658 1710].

Anyone interested in the prayers roster should see the Minister (the Rev. Clare Lind), while anyone who would like to contribute to the music would get a warm welcome from David Murray [david.murray@planetnz.com; 473 1314; 021 0240 3190].

Jenny Bunce (roster compiler)

Fellowship Group

The Fellowship Group did not meet in October but has a meeting set down for **2 p.m. on Thursday 9 November** in the Morrison Lounge. All welcome.

Miriam Vollweiler and Chris Young

Pumpkin Soup

Another recipe from the Fellowship Group's Soup Kitchen in August – contributed by Marion Rae.

25 grams butter	2½ cups water and 1 cup of milk	
2-3 cloves garlic	salt and freshly ground black pepper	
1 onion diced	100gm cheese grated	
3 cups diced pumpkin	chopped parsley	

Crush the garlic with salt.

Melt the butter in a medium saucepan. Sauté garlic and onion in the butter.

Add the diced pumpkin, water and pepper. Bring to the boil and simmer covered until pumpkin is tender

Mash or blend soup to purée pumpkin

Reheat with milk, but do not boil. Check seasonings. Add cheese and/or parsley for garnish.

This is our family favourite. I add 1 tsp of chicken stock (or you could use vegetable stock) to the water and vegetables and cut back the salt. I often add in a few chilli flakes as well. Again we have been enjoying this for nearly 40 years. It came from an evening when the Leith Valley APW were treated to a demonstration by Sue Guthrie from the University's School of Home Science Dept on *Food for Entertaining* held at the home of Daphne Lee.



Creation Poems

On the first Sunday of the Season of Creation, 3 September, we heard a composite poem structured around the seven days of Creation put together by members of Leith Valley Presbyterian Church. And on the final Sunday, 23 September, we heard another such composite poem, this time by members of our own congregation. On both occasions, David Murray improvised on the cello before each section of the poem. Here is the Ōpoho poem together with some photographs by members of the congregation.



Photo: John Roxborogh

God Created

Poem Zero: getting started

You know it:

That moment in the night when dreams have ended,

But thinking hasn't started yet.

Before the dawn chorus, after the moon sets.

A perfect moment of neither light nor dark,

neither awake nor asleep,

neither heaven nor earth.

No colour, no shadow, no sound, no smell or taste, no feeling -- Just you and God adrift.

In The Beginning there was the complete perfection of nothing.

Then it all started happening The earth rolled away darkly from the bright heaven
on its journey to becoming
Beautiful, Bountiful
Chaotic, Cacaphonic
Large, Loving, Living

Imperfection. Abby Smith

Day One

There is always a starting point But this started in pitch black darkness.

A void, alone, seeking the freshness That heals and gives life.

Looking, seeking, praying Then, Light beams through the darkness Its warmth heals, envelops and takes Away fear.

You, our God spoke, in loving tones...
"Let there be light!"
And slowly as beams spread forth
The Spirit as Ruah breathed a
Spectacular scene.

Light outshone the darkness and Hope filled creation.

Mary Somerville

Day Two

And this was Day Two:

The universe was still a big gob of water, the original chaos:

Waste and void, waste and void -

But the light was in the darkness on the face of the deep,

And God spoke and divided the waters -

Division became fission

Dimension became space

Chaos was put to flight

God takes deep space and corks it in a bottle Some boundaries need to be established.

Let there be Up and Down, and spin and current.

The sky is overhead, all things are possible.

That's not bad for a day's work!

Andrew Smith

Day Three

Here we are blessed with flat land, hills and sea, a harbour and beaches.

A multitude of trees and plants surround us.

Evidence of God's creation makes this a special place to be. Jenny Roxborogh

Day Four

swirling whirling spinning sparking

the celestial symphony celebrates across the expanse

Your mystery and energy creating sustaining emanating through and within us

here we look to Matariki to remember to acknowledge to connect to become

Mark Ranby

Day Five

On the fifth day, God created gorgeous creatures in great waters:

purple sea anemones manta rays flying wide wings white sharks grinning grimly dolphins jumping for joy eels slithering slimy

And God created birds flying high in the sky Albatross soaring silent Swallows swooping Kereru trundling off the kowhai like a 747 The magpies' quardle-wardle-ardle

All good, said God!

John Stenhouse



Photo: Abby Smith

Day Six

I Te Rā Ono

In that liminal, dawn space between night and the sixth day, Goad dawdled over cornflakes and coffee, creating the feathered ones who did not fill the sky but lingered on land – the moa, the takahē and the kiwi.

Then, as the sixth day dawned properly, God reached into the primordial swamp and pulled out the tarantulas, the turtles and the tyrannosaurus rex, the huhu, horses and helicobacter.

God pulled out millipedes and centipedes and four-legged furries. God pulled out sprinters and hoppers and bouncers, clamberers and crawlers and slitherers. God pulled out grass-nibblers, leaf-loppers, bean-crunchers, nutcrackers and, at last, the ones who eat avocado on toast. God pulled out neanderthals and sapiens.

God pulled out ones in God's own image: poets and dancers and drummers. God pulled out orators, singers, psalm-writers and the farmer in the dell. Blokes and sheilas and drag-queens; God made them all. To these ones, God said, "look after yourselves and all the others. There's enough food for everyone."

That was the sixth day. Tino pai!

Daniel Larsen

II

God giveth life and all the land creations and humans that are good. Can we imagine life without the creatures that once roamed the Earth and are now gone?

Can God imagine the extinction of creatures that have been created for us, and now lost forever because of us?

Innocent bystanders of life wondering what they might have done to make a difference.

In the end, we must live by our decisions and our descendants' decisions ...can we turn back the time?

Or can time be turned back?

Time will tell....love to all.

Kirk Hamilton



Photo: Kieran Somerville

Day Seven

On the seventh day. God rested from his work of creation. Our lives have cycles: of effort and relaxation, of day and night, of wakefulness and sleep, of activity and leisure, of careers and retirement. of work and holiday holiday or holy day, Jewish Sabbath or Christian Lord's Day, seventh day or a new first day, a day of rest, of recreation. of re-creation, of new beginnings, of remembrance. of celebration. God rested from his work of creation. May we find rest in him.

Gregor Macaulay

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* – Monday 20 November

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

Interfaith Matters

At the recent Dunedin Interfaith Council meeting we put our local support behind this statement released by New Zealand Interfaith groups and councils in response to the escalating violence in the Holy Land....

NZ Faith leaders call for peace, unity, and justice in the Middle East

As the conflict continues to grow in Gaza and Israel, and tensions continue to rise regionally, members of the regional interfaith councils and faith leaders throughout Aotearoa-New Zealand, unequivocally condemn the violence and call for peace and justice.

We pray for the current violence and fighting to stop, and we pray for lasting peace, unity, and justice in the Holy Land and the Middle East.

Inevitably when conflicts like this erupt in flashpoints around the world, tensions rise at home, and so we ask people from all faiths, to protect the sanctity of each other's places of worship and the ability of us all to practise in peace and safety.

We send our healing love to our Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and other faith brothers and sisters in the Middle East and to their families and friends here in New Zealand as they endure and try to come to terms with the huge loss, pain, and worry.

We ask all New Zealanders to reject all forms of hatred and violence through love, forgiveness, understanding the other, and compassion at this dark time and forever more.

Endorsed by the:

Auckland Interfaith Council Canterbury Interfaith Society Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group Dunedin Interfaith Council Hawkes Bay Interfaith Council Tauranga Moana Interfaith Council Waikato Interfaith Council Wellington Interfaith Council



Poems Prayers Psalms & Prose - Ōpoho Writers' Group

Wednesday 15 November, 7 p.m.

Marine Science tea room, first floor, **310 Castle Street**. Last meeting for 2023.

Please bring something to read to the group. It could be by you, or by someone else. It could be new or old. It could be finished or still in draft form. It could be poetry, psalm, prose, prayer, or something



else. You could bring one or two (or even three) items to share. We try to be flexible and kind, providing only the feedback you ask for.

We are an open group. Anyone can join us if what we do would be fun or useful or helpful. Though we are a bit churchy.

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 (legally!) 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. Margaret, Andrew and I often run a carpool from the northern end. We try to be finished by 8 p.m.

The tea room has cups, plates, a few spoons, tea, Milo, coffee-like powder, three kinds of milk, sugar, and hot water. Sometimes some of us bring a small plate of something to share, if we have extras around the house.

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

Abby Smith

Lectionary for November and December

Wednesday 1 November – All Saints				
Rev 7: 9-17	Ps 34: 1-10, 22	1 Jn 3: 1-3	Mt 5: 1-12	
Sunday 5 Novem	nber – 23rd Sunday	after Pentecost		
Josh 3: 7-17	Ps 107: 1-7, 33-37	1 Thes 2: 9-13	Mt 23: 1-12	
Sunday 12 November – 24th Sunday after Pentecost				
Josh 24: 1-3a, 14-25	Ps 78: 1-7	1 Thes 4: 13-18	Mt 25: 1-13	
Sunday 19 November – 25th Sunday after Pentecost				
Judg 4: 1-7	Ps 123	1 Thes 5: 1-11	Mt 25: 14-30	
Sunday 26 November – Reign of Christ				
Ez 34: 11-16, 20-24	Ps 100	Eph 1: 15-23	Mt 25: 31-46	
Advent and Christmas				
Sunday 3 December – 1st Sunday of Advent				
Is 64: 1-9	Ps 80: 1-7, 17-19	1 Cor 1: 3-9	Mk 13: 24-37	
Sunday 10 December – 2nd Sunday of Advent				
Is 40: 1-11	Ps 85: 1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3: 8-15a	Mk 1: 1-8	
Sunday 17 December – 3rd Sunday of Advent				
Is 61: 1-4, 8-11	Ps 126	1 Thess 5: 16-24	Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28	
Sunday 24 December – 4th Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve				
2 Sam 7:1-11,16	Ps 89: 1-4, 19-26	Rom 16: 25-27	Lk 1: 26-38	
Sunday 24 December – Christmas Eve				
Is 9: 2-7	Ps 96	Titus 2: 11-14	Lk 2: 1-14, (15-20)	
Monday 25 December – Christmas Dawn				
Is 62: 6-12	Ps 97	Titus 3: 4-7	Lk 2: (1-7), 8-20	
Monday 25 December – Christmas Day				
Is 52: 7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1: 1-4, (5-12)	Jn 1: 1-14	
Sunday 31 December – 1st Sunday after Christmas				
Is 61: 10 - 62: 3	Ps 148	Gal 4: 4-7	Lk 2: 22-40	

Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

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5 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind,
	Communion
	3-5 p.m.: The Great Garden Galumph
8 November ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee,
	Morrison Lounge
9 November ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
12 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Jane Bloore,
	Remembrance Sunday
15 November ~ Wednesday	7 p.m.: Writing Group, Marine Science tea
	room, first floor, 310 Castle Street
16 November ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
19 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 November ~ Monday	Material due for December-January Opoho
	Signal
26 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
2 December ~ Saturday	10 a.m12 noon: Christmas Craft Fair, in the
	hall
3 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind,
	Quarterly Communion
	After church-12 noon: Christmas Craft Fair,
	in the hall
7 December ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
10 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Julie Mander and Opoho
	children
13 December ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee,
	Morrison Lounge
17 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Nine
	Lessons and Carols
	2 p.m.: Community Carol Singing in church
21 December ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, venue TBA
24 December ~ Sunday	NO MORNING SERVICE
	11.30 p.m.: Christmas Eve service, the Rev.
	Clare Lind
25 December ~ Monday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind –
	Christmas Day
31 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith