

## **Opoho Signal**

### **Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church**

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho  
[opohochurch.org/](http://opohochurch.org/)  
Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



Artist Jean Sader *Pentecost 1993*

**May 2016**

**Minister: The Rev. Margaret Garland**  
**Phone 03 395 6129 - cell phone 0277572367**  
**[marg.garland@gmail.com](mailto:marg.garland@gmail.com)**

**Parish Clerk: Philip Somerville 03 473 8862**  
**[psomer@es.co.nz](mailto:psomer@es.co.nz)**

## **May Editorial: The Stewardship of Creation**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> was Earth Day. Our Earth is God's gift of creation for all its inhabitants. Are we keeping it safe for future generations?

Since the first Earth Day upon a different earth back in 1970, we've been encouraged to "Reduce, reuse, recycle". We wonder though, if the concept of recycling has partly been counterproductive for things like plastic as it has lulled us into a false sense of plastic being an okay product to produce and use in ever increasing quantities.

Today our earth is struggling. Our seas are struggling. "*The world's oceans will contain more plastics than fish by 2050 as plastic, mostly packaging, enters the seas at a rate of a rubbish truckload a minute*" we read in the ODT on 8.2.2016. The idea that recycling might solve our plastic and rubbish problems now seems simply naïve. A coup for the plastics industry has become a crisis for our world.

The three "R"s didn't turn out to be enough to protect the earth over the succeeding 45 years since that first Earth Day, and it definitely won't be enough to do so in the next 45.

Back in 1970 we were aged 15 and in the fifth form. The first people had landed on the moon the previous year, and the Vietnam War raged. The world population was 3.7 billion in 1970 and now is it almost doubled at 7.2 billion and the United Nations predicts 11.2 billion by 2100. Scary.

Back in 1970 there were around 0.33 billion air travellers, now there were 3.5 billion in 2015. Scary.

Back in 1970 our vocabulary didn't include affluenza, hyperconsumerism, hyperglobalization, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, e-waste, dairy pollution, peak oil, carbon credits, the ozone hole, corporate colonialism, TPPA, or the global water crisis. Nor did the world have to deal with the production and disposal of billions of single use plastic water bottles every year, let alone all the billions of other single use plastic bottles. Scary.

Yet the impending ecological crisis was well understood in 1970. The New Zealand Official Yearbook for that year said:

*"Pesticide applications in New Zealand are doubling about every 3 years, and primary production relies increasingly on their continued use in a way that smacks of drug addiction. Thus agriculture becomes simultaneously more sophisticated and biologically more problematical. Sooner or later the world's economy must be run on strict ecological principles. Man can play strip-poker with the natural resources of this planet, he may dream of stars and engage in casual flirtations with other worlds, but he remains wedded to this earth - his only substance..."*

*"If our civilisation is to survive, our environment must be not merely habitable but aesthetically satisfying too. To achieve this we must urgently study the ecology of man, and must not leave this to people ignorant of animal behaviour, ecology, and evolution."*

And looking at ourselves, Kevin Little of the United Church of Canada suggests that:

*"Most of us are pretty good at recycling and reusing but really struggle with the reducing. Sometimes what it takes to reduce what you use is to fill the void of "having" with the peace of being – being one part of a larger whole. Maybe it takes a change in vision to see the beauty of creation as capable of filling our hungry souls."*

Bill McKibben is renowned for being one of the first to bring the concept of global warming into the public arena. (He is also a Sunday School teacher). His inspiring book, *Eaarth*, (no typo) is based on the premise that the earth we grew up on and that humankind developed ways of living upon, no longer exists. He argues that our way of living has altered the fundamentals of our planet to such an extent that we need to develop new ways of living on this new "eaarth", ways not predicated on growth, greed or globalization. He proposes that we have the ability to address "eaarth's" precarious predicament ~ if we live lightly, carefully and gracefully.

Luke 12:24-27 talks about the ravens and how little they need or have, the beauty of the lilies, and how even "Solomon in all

his glory was not clothed like one of these". So what can we do to move beyond our own wants, wants that are pushing our planet home to the brink?

With this in mind, we have expanded on the old three "R"s of "reduce, reuse, recycle". Can you think of more of your own?

- ✓ **React** ~ the worst that could happen is that we feel paralyzed into complacency and do nothing. So **revolt**, take a stand against wasteful practices, and act **responsibly**.
- ✓ **Restrain** our wants so the world can meet everyone's needs.
- ✓ **Refrain** from buying stuff we don't need and eating more than we need.
- ✓ **Remember** to plan ahead ~ take along a reusable water bottle or takeaway container.
- ✓ **Refine** our diet, and become **reducitarian** ie reduce consumption of animal foods.
- ✓ **Refuse** to continue unsustainable practices and **replace** plastics with other products.
- ✓ **Re-source** by buying or trading fair trade, organic and/or locally made products.
- ✓ **Repair** instead of throwing away; **repurpose** goods to a new use or **resell** them.
- ✓ **Reject** ideas focusing solely on growth, greed and globalization.
- ✓ **Reinvest** money and energy into local and/or sustainable projects.
- ✓ **Reach out** to neighbours, live locally and rebuild our communities.
- ✓ **Respect** the earth and future generations by considering them in our decisions.
- ✓ **Replant** and **regrow** trees and help develop protected marine and land areas.

- ✓ **Rot** what we can in the compost heap or the green waste section of the dump.
- ✓ **Replenish** ourselves by sharing with like-minded people and reading stories of hope eg Yes! magazine: [www.yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org)
- ✓ **Rejoice** and celebrate successful life enhancing ventures which lets others know change is possible and encourages further action.

We wish you a happy Earth Day, and every day, of living lightly, carefully and gracefully.

### **References:**

Bill McKibben, *Eaarth*, 2010; available in the Dunedin Public Library.

Kevin Little, *The Eleventh Commandment: Thou Shalt Compost*, 2008; United Church of Canada.

**Mark & Tui Bevin**

## **Parish Council news**

### **Generous offering**

It was most gratifying at the April parish council meeting to hear we are at present reaching our ambitious budget, albeit we are still running a deficit. As some of you might remember, we felt we needed to make inroads into the deficit; it can only be sustained so long before limited reserves run dry.

So we budgeted for increased giving to reduce the about \$20,000 annual deficit by a third. Thanks to some new and some increased giving, this first step is being achieved. We look forward to reducing the deficit again in the next financial year.

### **Hosting visitors**

The word is going out here for someone to co-ordinate our response when we need to put on catering for visitors to the

church. This occurs occasionally, like when a funeral is at Opoho and we put on the cup of tea etc.

The need, however, did also arise on Sunday Easter morning when it was our turn to host the folk from North end churches after the Mt Cargill dawn service. Many of the usual helpers were away and Margaret was left scrambling to find helpers late in the piece. As it happened, an excellent team came to the rescue.

However, arranging this should not be the minister's job. Is there anyone from the church who could act as a co-ordinator for this? If something comes up Margaret could contact this person and know the catering will be taken care of. This person does not have to do the work itself; just make sure there are people there to do so. Don't wait to be tapped on the shoulder.

### **New members**

How pleased we all are to see new members join Opoho, or others coming to share in our services and activities. Last month we specifically welcomed Tertius Jacobs (from Porirua) and Christine Cleugh (from Ranfurly) as official transfers from other parishes.

### **New brochures**

Tui Bevin, David Murray and Margaret have been on the ball and produced our 2016 membership/information brochure. This will be a handy guide to Opoho to give to any visitors/newcomers at services and to have displayed for anyone who is curious at events like the fair, art show, political meetings.

### **Noticeboard**

The finance and property community is to look into the possibility of a small noticeboard on Signal Hill Rd, so passers-by can see what is coming up at the church. This is in addition to the main signs, which, inevitably, lack much detail.

## **Front Garden**

Thanks to Jenny Bunce for coming forward to put some energy and skill into looking after the front garden area at the church near the main signs.

## **Easter**

Easter and Lent are always busy. This year lots of people were away, and Margaret has raised the possibility of looking at the timing of pivotal message of Easter for us. The Maundy Thursday service was well attended, but the evening service on Good Friday drew fewer people than our usual Good Friday morning service.

## **Synod**

The Synod of Otago and Southland celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the middle of April (Explaining what the Synod will have to wait for another time). As well as our two official delegates, Margaret and Andrew Smith, John Stenhouse was one of the main speakers (and was top-notch, no surprise there) and - with an open invitation - about seven others from our congregation went along. The Moderator of the national church, Andrew Norton, was present and preached here at Opoho on the Sunday morning after the service.

## **Hospital people moving**

Thanks to the crew who helped with the "people moving" one Sunday morning so patients at the hospital could attend the chapel service. That was the morning Gregor Macaulay led the service at Opoho.

## **Coastal Unity Interim Moderator**

We noted that parish member, the Rev Graeme Munro, has been appointed interim moderator for the Coastal Unity (St Clair, Caversham and Green Island) parish. The interim moderator helps look after a parish without a minister.

## **Reminder**

I take the chance to remind people of all the regular parish activities; opportunities to get together in small groups for fellowship and nourishment Soulspace, Bible book a month, Fellowship Group, study nights.

## **Hall bookings**

Miriam Vollweiler, the finance and property committee and Margaret are putting together an impressive new hall booking form. It is good to see the hall used by groups in the community and also good to receive some income in donations for hall use.

## **Philip Somerville**

### **GENERAL NEWS**

A son, James, has been born to Kirsten and Florian Beyer on Friday, 15th April 2016. Rosalie has a brother and he was at worship on Sunday, 17th April. Congratulations to the family.

We officially welcomed Christine Cleugh into the parish as a member from the Maniototo parish on Sunday 17th April. She has been worshipping with us for some time but is now living full time in Dunedin.

We officially welcomed Tertius Jacobs to our membership. Tertius is from South Africa originally and is studying theology.

And on 17th April the parish had a visit from the Moderator of the General Assembly of PCANZ, Rt Rev Andrew Norton. He preached on the 23rd Psalm and brought it alive. Thank You, Andrew.

The Synod of Otago and Southland held its 150th meeting at John McGlashan College on 15 and 16 April. The guest speaker was Professor Alan Torrance of St Andrew's University, Scotland. He delivered 3 lectures over the two days. Associate Professor John Stenhouse was the other excellent key speaker.

Members were able to attend a variety of seminars.



Our thoughts and prayers are with Roberta Irgens-Muller who returned to Denmark to be with her son who has since passed away.

In the local newspaper, we have read about the Spencer family. David, the younger son, is shown in the ODT as the captain of the cricket First 11 at Logan Park High School. He scored 200 not out in the last game for the season. According to the report, his mother, Abby, taught him how to play. Quote "Someone made a passing remark about Americans not being able to understand cricket and that got her going". The results speak for themselves.

And Father, Hamish Spencer had an article in the ODT on parasites. He was also interviewed by TV Dunedin 39 News. And such is his fame that he was reviewed in the New York Times.

The Otago Community Hospice issues newsletters on how it is doing. One of its major and continuing tasks is to raise money to keep the group going during the year. In its latest news there is a photo of members of the Dunedin North Rotary including Gaynor Haig. Their part in the organisation is finding \$29,500 from the annual Rotary Christmas raffle to help with the running costs of the hospice.

In the 15th April copy of the Property Press; we noted that 77 Evans Street is for sale. It's the home that was owned by Margaret Robertson. It was sold in May 2015, has been renovated and sold again a year later.

And great news that David Vaughan and Andrea Johnston are moving into their renovated home in May, about one year after buying the house at 6 Abbeyhill Road. Our best wishes for their new home.

Did you notice that the young folk on the front page of the 2016/17 annual plan consultation document of our city council were photographed at the Signal Hill monument? They are members of the Dunedin Youth Council.

The Spanz magazine has an excellent article on the new director of the Presbyterian Research Centre. She is Jane

Thomsen who moved to Dunedin when her husband was appointed as Professor in the Chair of Earthquake Science at Otago University. There will be a focus on publicising the centre and moving into the digital space to make many of the centre's resources available online. In their family there are two sons, Lewis [15] and Toby [11].

Bruce Aitken, as a past Master of Knox College, has had his portrait painted. It will be put up in the common room alongside all the other oil paintings of past masters, each of whom had a painting completed when they retired or resigned from this full time position. The current Master is the Very Rev Graeme Redding who moved from being the Principal of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership to this task.

It is with sadness that we note that the parish of Columba, Oamaru closed on 23rd April. It was formed in 1882 and about 1940 had 380 members. During the 1914 war one member, Sergeant D.F. Brown, earned the Victoria Cross for gallantry in the Somme. This was a strong congregation whose ministers included Les Rothwell, later of Roslyn, Ernest Brown for 25 years, Murray Allan and Russell Thew. Fifteen years ago they raised enough money to build a modern hall attached to the back of the church because the old hall next door was worn out. They built six pensioner units which are now run by Presbyterian Support. You will see Columba on the hill on the way into Oamaru from the south.

Also there is a closing and thanksgiving service at Oteramika in Southland. There are typically well designed buildings out in the midst of a large farming district. Services were being held once a month and there were three local members. The church is vulnerable to earthquakes being 20% safe, hence the decision to close.

We note that Dunedin South parish, [Musselburgh and St James] has changed from a service in each centre every week to one where services are held alternate months in each church.

**L.E.Williams.**

## **Joy Cowley is coming to Opoho**

If you are at all interested in coming to hear the wonderful Joy Cowley speak, keep the weekend of the 25th and 26th June free. On the Saturday there will be two workshops, one in the morning and another in the afternoon with lunch between. And for the Sunday, Joy has agreed to speak at the morning service which will be an absolute treat. Registrations for the Saturday workshop will open soon so keep an eye on our website for details.

**Movie group:** The Dark Horse. This an inspiring NZ drama based on the true life story of a brilliant, eccentric but little known NZ hero Genesis Potini. Once a local chess champion, Genesis has spent time in and out of mental institutions. On the condition he must be monitored by a family member, Gen is released from his latest stint on the ward into the home of his estranged gang member brother, Ariki; and Ariki's son who is soon to be initiated into the gang. Seeking purpose Gen approaches a local youth club and manically announces he will lead them to the National chess championships in Auckland. Through the challenges of gang conflict, impending homelessness Gen must face unavoidable truth and be willing to sacrifice his own safety to keep hope for himself and the kids alive. "Beautifully told, bravely executed and truly inspiring" Join us at the home of Marion and Simon Rae 49 Signal Hill Rd on Thursday 12th May, 2016 at 7pm. Ring Shona for any enquiries ph 4738862

**Soulspace:** Come and experience the church in a way you may never have before. Join us in a warm candle lit church for some quiet contemplation on Sunday 15th May, 2016 at 7pm. All welcome. Enquiries ring Shona 4738862 or email

**'[shonahsomerville@gmail.com](mailto:shonahsomerville@gmail.com)'**

## **An Iona link**

The talk in church during a service from Joan Jones from the Iona Community reminded me of the link between a former member of Opoho Church, my father Jack (1964-1977), and Iona. This was not just through his close involvement with the

St Martin Island Community (Quarantine Island) which was in part modelled on Iona. I looked up his autobiography, *Jack in the Pulpit*, and found that during the period before the Second World War when he studied at Westminster College, Cambridge, and St Andrew's, Scotland, he and two other New Zealanders went to the Isle of Iona in May 1938 to hear George MacLeod launch the scheme which was to be the Iona Community. "George took us with him," Jack wrote. "And by the sheer coincidence of having ten shillings in my pocket at the time and of being stirred by the hopes he expressed, I became what I hold as a rare distinction, the first Friend of the Iona Community. George MacLeod, bless him, has never forgotten this, though it's so long ago."

**Philip Somerville**

### Lectionary Readings

<b>1 May Easter 6 36C</b>			
Acts 16: 9-15	Ps 67	Rev 21: 10, 22-22:5	Jn 14: 23-29 or 5: 1-9
<b>5 May Ascension 37C</b>			
Acts 1: 1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph1: 15-23	Lk 24: 44-53
<b>8 May Easter 7 38C</b>			
Acts 16: 16-34	Ps 97	Rev 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21	Jn 17: 20-26
<b>15 May Pentecost 39C</b>			
Gen11: 1-9	Ps104: 24-34, 35b	Acts 2: 1-21	Jn 14: 8-17, (25 27)
<b>22 May Trinity 40C</b>			
Prov 8:1-4, 22-31	Ps 8	Rom 5: 1-5	Jn 16: 12-15
<b>29 May Pentecost 2 41C</b>			
1Kgs 18:20-21 (22-29), 30-39	Ps96	Gal 1: 1-12	Lk 7: 1-10
<b>5 June Pentecost 3 42C</b>			
1Kgs 17: 1-10 (11-14), 15-21a	Ps 5: 1-8	Gal 2: 15-21	Lk 7: 36-8:3

## Coming Up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

1 May ~ Sunday	10 am: worship with Holy Communion Rev Margaret Garland
5 May ~ Thursday	7.30 pm: Bible Book a Month discussion <i>Second Samuel</i> at 129 Signal Hill Road
7 May ~ Saturday	11 am: Church Fair and Art Exhibition
8 May ~ Sunday	10 am: worship. Rev Margaret Garland
12 May ~ Thursday	7 pm: Movie Night at 49 Signal Hill Road <i>The Dark Horse</i>
15 May ~ Sunday	10 am: worship Rev Margaret Garland
	7 pm: Soulspace
19 May ~ Thursday	7.30 pm: Parish Council <i>Discussion meeting</i>
20 May ~ Friday	Deadline for the June "Opoho Signal"
22 May ~ Sunday	10 am: worship. Rev Margaret Garland
25 May ~ Wednesday	2 pm: Fellowship Group in the Morrison Lounge Speaker: Judy Knox
	7.30 pm: Study Group. Morrison Lounge
29 May ~ Sunday	10 am worship: Rev Margaret Garland and Music Group
	11.30 pm: Parish shared lunch in the Hall
2 June ~ Thursday	7.30 pm: Bible Book a Month discussion <i>First Kings</i> at 129 Signal Hill Road
5 June ~ Sunday	10 am: worship.
	11.30 am: Pastoral Care and Community meeting
9 June ~ Thursday	7 pm: Movie night TBC
12 June ~ Sunday	10 am: worship with Quarterly Communion Rev Margaret Garland
15 June ~ Wednesday	6.00 pm: Light meal
	6.30 pm: Wednesday Worship
19 June ~ Sunday	8.30 am: Pastoral Carer's Breakfast meeting: Morrison Lounge
	10 am worship: Rev Margaret Garland

25 June ~ Saturday	10.00 am – 3.00 pm: Joy Cowley Workshop at Opoho Church
26 June ~ Sunday	10 am: worship. Rev Margaret Garland, Joy Cowley and Music Group

### ***Being Good by Joy Cowley***

The voice of the heart reminded me,  
 “You don’t have to be good to be holy,”  
 and I looked back on the hungry days  
 when my search for goodness took me  
 into the city of fear and the streets of division.

How often my notion of goodness  
 was connected to my own comfort.  
 How often it created an opposite image  
 for those on the other side of town.  
 Good, evil, right, wrong, us, them.  
 ‘Come,” said the voice of the heart.  
 “Don’t burden yourself with judgement.  
 Take from the streets of division,  
 the knowledge that you must leave them  
 to go out to the country of kindness.  
 Let wholeness replace your hunger.  
 Let the truth of Christ set you free.”

The voice of the heart reminded me,  
 “You don’t have to be good to be holy.  
 All that is needed, is love.”  
 From *Psalms for the Road*

## Opportunities For Service

Sunday	1-May	8-May	15-May	22-May	29-May	5-Jun	12-Jun
Morning Tea	Graeme Munro	Somer-villes	Jane Bloore Abby Smith	Rodda & Hamilton	Tui Bevin Jenny Bunce	Cunning-hams	Murrays
Door Duty	Cunning-hams	Matthew Ogle John Sten-house	Hamish Spencer Tui Bevin	Tui Bevin Jane Bloore	Mike Garland Marian Weaver	Somer-villes	Gregor Macaulay Matthew Ogle
Readers	Ned Spencer	Abby Smith	Somer-villes	Marian Weaver	Emma Hamilton	John Sten-house	Andrews
Prayers		Abby Smith		Tui Bevin	Gregor Macaulay	Andrew Smith	
Music	David Murray	Mark Bevin	Gaynor Haig	Mark Bevin	Music Group	David Murray	Mark Bevin
Flowers	W	I	N	T	E	R	
Hall Cleaning	Cunning-hams	Cunning-hams	Jane Bloore	Jane Bloore	Mulders	Mulders	Fiona Stirling
Church Cleaning	Gregor Macaulay	Gregor Macaulay	Daniel Larsen	Daniel Larsen	Somer-villes	Somer-villes	Andrew Smith
Lawns	Miriam Voll-weiler	Miriam Voll-weiler	Miriam Voll-weiler	Miriam Voll-weiler	Miriam Voll-weiler	Miriam Voll-weiler	Miriam Voll-weiler

## Operation Cover-up

Still time to knit those squares for making up our blankets. See the blanket on the back pew if you were wondering what happens to the squares.

Squares should be 20cm x 20cm which is approx. 40 stitches and 40 rows of double knitting in garter stitch. Add more or fewer stitches depending on wool thickness and your tension.

Blankets have to be finished by end of June so get clacking! Give squares (or leave them on the back pew), and get help from Abby or Marian W.

# **Church Fair   Church Fair   Church Fair Art Show   Art Show   Art Show**

**Saturday 7 May !!!!!**

Bring your donations to the hall before Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Help to set up that evening if you can.



**Come along on 7 May for wonderful clothing,  
plants, books, recycled goods, toys, food, fun!!**

Please have material for the June newsletter to the Editor by  
24 May : [marian.weaver@clear.net.nz](mailto:marian.weaver@clear.net.nz)