

Opoho Signal

March 2021

via email

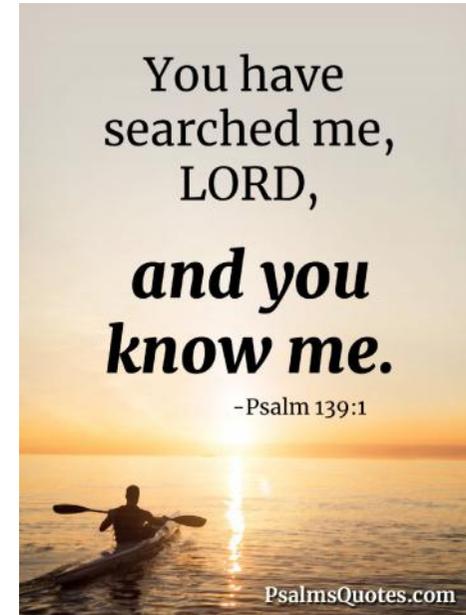
Opoho Signal

Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: www.opohochurch.org

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



March 2021

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Ed Masters

cell phone 027 637 9818

Acting Parish Clerk: Philip Somerville phone: 03 473 8862

email: psomer39@gmail.com

Worship Services at Opoho:

Every Sunday at 10 am

Other services are listed in the Calendar on the back cover.

Editorial

Lately Psalm 139 has been speaking to me: “O Lord you have searched me and you know me... you are familiar with all my ways.” How many times have we sat in the pews and listened to someone preach on this psalm, talking about how much people want to be known, need to be known? And it’s quite true: people need their community. They love to be known, familiar, remembered. It feels great when someone refers to something they know about you, or replies to a remark you made some weeks before, or remembers your name. Contact, connection, continuity, community – all essential to the functioning of the human animal.

I grew up near Boston, home of the legendary Bull & Finch Pub that provided the basis for the TV show *Cheers* – a friendly neighbourhood bar “where everybody knows your name.” We at

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Opoho aspire to be like that, to know each other. That’s why the passing of the peace is a lengthy, lively and loud part of our services. And, in general, nametags are worn mostly as reminders to those of us whose memories are showing some signs of wear – though they do help newcomers to feel welcomed and part of us (ahem).

How lucky we are to be able to worship together. After many decades of church-going as regular as clockwork, my 86-year-old Aunt Jane (located in Annapolis Maryland) hasn’t been to real church for 10 months. She is careful to keep in touch using Zoom and Facebook, bless her, but the contact is missing, and she misses it greatly. Her faith is a great comfort to her: God knows her and all her ways.

We too can find comfort in Psalm 139, reminding us of God’s limitless support and presence: “If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.” I am someone who did settle on the far side of the sea, farther than the psalmist could have imagined: 15,107 kilometres from my birthplace. Opoho and its community have been a great comfort and support to me, as I have established a life, created a family, developed and aged alongside you. Opoho gives me a place to worship, a place to sing, a place to write, a place to think, a place to wonder, and, most importantly: a place to be known, a place to be me.

One of the things a church community offers is contact and connection, right across the generations, and with neither judgment nor demand. A new year has started, a new minister will arrive sometime, there may be a new post-COVID age dawning. There are decisions to be reached, changes to be made. Let us remember this important part of who we are: a community where people are known. Let us be a light on the hill, “where even the darkness is as light to you.”

Abby Smith

60-year old female Kiwi-American knitter, jam-maker, cricket fan, mum, and marine geochemist.



Parish and Parish Council News

The Parish Council had its first meeting for the year on 18 February.

The Council has been invited to submit nominations for the Moderators-Designate of the General Assembly and the Synod of Otago and Southland; there are differences in the methods for seeking nominations for the gatherings of the two bodies.

The schedule for Sunday worship is set for the first part of the year, and Parish Council is inviting a speaker from Presbyterian Support to address the congregation for Support Sunday in the later part of the year. Our interim moderator, the Rev. Ed Masters, thanks our team for taking the responsibility of filling our worship roster with a variety of preachers. We thank Gregor Macaulay for keeping us on track, and we are developing our worship and music.

Andrew Smith has been commissioned as Presbytery and Synod Elder for another year, with acclamation (there were no other volunteers!).

Parish Council has submitted a statement in support of Mary and John Somerville's volunteer work at the Otago Corrections Facility (they have to be reaccredited every two years or so).

Our sympathies are with Christine and Geoff Cleugh on the death of their aunt.

The Property and Finance Committee is looking at an overhead heating option for the church building.

Jenny Bunce and Mark Ranby (new members) and Abby Smith (returning after a break of a few years) have been appointed as members of the Christian Development Committee.

Watch out for a second hospital chapel service after Easter. Philip Somerville will look for a few volunteers for 'people moving' (our normal calendar of Sunday services at Opoho will not be interrupted).

A Pastoral Carers' Breakfast planned for February has been postponed until a later date.

The Ministry Settlement Board will meet again in March.

Parish Council has reconfirmed our Media Policy and it will be due for review again in November 2022. And Retention/Disposal Guidelines for Parish Records have been approved. Copies are available on request, but the general practice will be that most parish records more than five years old will be transferred to the Presbyterian Research Centre (Archives) at Knox College for permanent safekeeping.

Andrew Smith



World Day of Prayer

A World Day of Prayer service for North End churches will be held in Opoho Church on Friday 5 March, beginning at 7 p.m.

This year's service will be adapted from material prepared by women in Vanuatu. The service will be an opportunity to show support for the women of Vanuatu, whose country has, in the last year, experienced cyclones as well as the Covid-19 impact on the economy.

At Level 2, we plan to go ahead with the World Day of Prayer service.

The church has several QR code posters so people can scan in for contact tracing, a sign-in register will be available, and there will be plenty of hand sanitiser. We cannot serve supper, and any singing will be very subdued.

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**WORKING BEE**

*Opoho Church Garden*

*Saturday 6 March 9 a.m.-noonish*

*(if wet, postponed to Saturday 13 March)*



To ensure the grounds look good for the fair, you are invited to be part of a working bee to do a tidy-up of the garden. The more people we have the better it will look. Bring buckets, gardening and pruning tools and gadgets, and gloves. Any queries contact Benjamin Thew 021 049 4264 [benthew3@gmail.com](mailto:benthew3@gmail.com)



*Church Fair*

*Saturday 15 May*

Now is the time to begin sorting and saving all the saleable things – especially clothes and books – that you no longer need.

If you need them ‘gone’ sooner put them under the hall stage. If you need help to get them there contact Fiona Stirling (027 483 2028). Thank you!

**Fiona Stirling**



***Interfaith Matters***

Recently I felt very pleased to be associated with Opoho’s own Simon Rae as he spoke at the Interfaith Harmony Dinner (for the United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week). He talked of the importance of moving past tolerance where other faiths are concerned, and experience enjoyment in and appreciation of time spent with the other. Looking around the room at those of many different faiths, this was a very appropriate and positive message. Thank you, Simon.

I also realised as I introduced Simon, my brother Peter, and friend Andrew Smith to my Interfaith friends, how pleased I felt to be associated with the latter and this was a real joy in the light of what Simon had said – enjoyment and appreciation – yes!

**Bronwen Strang**



***Harvest Thanksgiving***



We will celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving at Opoho on Sunday 28 March (also Palm Sunday!).

Please bring food items (nothing perishable or frozen) that will be given to Presbyterian Support.



## Opportunities for Service March - April 2021

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

|          | Morning Tea                        | Door Duty                        | Readers             | Prayers            | Music                     | Flowers          | Hall Cleaning    | Church Cleaning                |
|----------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| March    |                                    |                                  |                     |                    |                           |                  |                  |                                |
| 7 March  | Bronwen Strang<br>Marian Weaver    | Abby Smith<br>Hamish Spencer     | Jane Anderson       | —                  | David Murray              | Judy Rodda       | Meegan Cloughley | Bronwen Strang                 |
| 14 March | Abby Smith<br>Hamish Spencer       | Mark Ranby<br>Daniel Larsen      | Lena Henderson      | John<br>Roxborough | Singers and<br>Guitarists | Judy Rodda       | Meegan Cloughley | Bronwen Strang                 |
| 21 March | Judy Rodda<br>Kirk Hamilton        | John Stenhouse<br>Jane Bloore    | Maurice Andrew      | Daniel Larsen      | Gaynor Haig               | Jenny Roxborough | Benjamin Thew    | Chris Young                    |
| 28 March | Daniel Larsen<br>Jane Bloore       | Jenny Bunce<br>Shona Somerville  | Marian Weaver       | Abby Smith         | Music Group               | Jenny Roxborough | Benjamin Thew    | Chris Young                    |
| April    |                                    |                                  |                     |                    |                           |                  |                  |                                |
| 4 April  | Shona Somerville<br>Bronwen Strang | Julie-Ann and<br>Philip Fleming  | Jane Bloore         | —                  | David Murray              | Jane Bloore      | Andrew Smith     | Jane Bloore                    |
| 11 April | Meegan and Pam<br>Cloughley        | Mary and John<br>Somerville      | Gaynor Haig         | Mark Ranby         | Singers and<br>Guitarists | Jane Bloore      | Andrew Smith     | Jane Bloore                    |
| 18 April | Judy Rodda<br>Kirk Hamilton        | Gregor Macaulay<br>Marian Weaver | Shona<br>Somerville | Benjamin<br>Thew   | Gaynor Haig               | Shona Somerville | Michael Ovens    | Shona and Philip<br>Somerville |
| 25 April | Abby Smith<br>Hamish Spencer       | Michael Ovens<br>Benjamin Thew   | Andrea Johnston     | Marian Weaver      | Music Group               | Shona Somerville | Michael Ovens    | Shona and Philip<br>Somerville |

**Thank you** so much to all who contribute now, and have contributed in the past, to these activities.

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.

*Fellowship Group  
Thursday 11 March  
2 p.m., Morrison Lounge*

Every month at Fellowship Group, Evelyn Brass delivers a batch of completed peggy squares, and collects more wool for the next batch. Here are the enormous bundles Evelyn delivered at our February meeting. As well as the peggy squares, Evelyn brought jars of her delicious chow chow pickle. Thank you Evelyn!



An important part of Fellowship Group meetings is our participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The lotus image, formed of praying hands from around the world, is a symbol of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. At the beginning of each meeting we join in this prayer:



*O loving Creator, we present ourselves in your divine presence to thank you for all the bountiful gifts of life.*

*We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe.*

*Free us from all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind that we may know the joy of giving and receiving.*

*Dear God, accept the least coin "token of love". Make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honour your creation with love, as shown through the life and resurrection of your son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.*

You are all very welcome to come along. We have a cup of tea or coffee at around 3 p.m., and finish by 4 p.m.

**Andrea Johnston**

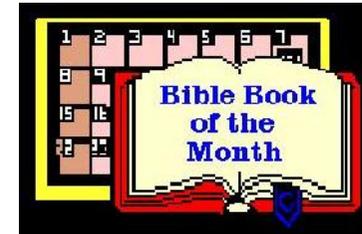


*Abby's Jam Palace*

Abby's Jam Palace will next be convened at the Opoho Presbyterian Church Fair on 15 May. If you have excess fruit of any kind, do let me know.

I don't need jars unless they are extra-pretty, clean, and have lids. Thanks for your support!

**Abby Smith**



This month we will be looking at *1 Peter*, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 11 March 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**





Would you be able to support Chaplaincy at the University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic? The Otago Tertiary Chaplains offer pastoral care, spiritual support and educational resourcing to approximately 30,000 students and 4,800 staff at the University and Polytechnic.

The Friends of the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy support the chaplains at the University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic through interest in their work, prayer, attendance at various events, and/or by giving financial support. If you would like to become a "Friend", please go to

[www.otago-tertiary-chaplaincy.nz/friends-newsletter](http://www.otago-tertiary-chaplaincy.nz/friends-newsletter).

The Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board, which employs the chaplains, is an independent Charitable Trust. While it receives some generous funding from the University and Polytech, the majority of our funding comes from donations from trusts, churches and individuals. Would you consider either making a one-off gift or setting up a monthly donation (e.g. \$20 or \$30 a month)? For most banks, this will only take a couple of minutes. The bank account details are: Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board: BNZ University of Otago 02 0929 0132985 00

Once you have set up an automatic payment, please email [otagochaplaincy@gmail.com](mailto:otagochaplaincy@gmail.com) saying that you have done so. This will ensure you receive an annual receipt, in April each year, so that you can claim back one-third of your donation as a tax rebate.

For further details contact Paul Trebilco, Chair of the Board, [paul.trebilco@otago.ac.nz](mailto:paul.trebilco@otago.ac.nz)

**Paul Trebilco**



### *A Rocha and Eco Church NZ*

At church on 21 February, Jane Anderson drew the congregation's attention to information about Eco-Church NZ produced by A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand, which has initiated the *Rich Living* project in partnership with Tearfund New Zealand to assist faith communities to reflect on how they live and offers practical steps to make sustainability integral to lives of faith. The Rich Living series of booklets – *Climate Change, Water, Food, and Waste* – is one of the key resources offered to churches as part of the Eco Church NZ project. They can be found online at [www.arocha.org.nz/resources/rich-living-series/](http://www.arocha.org.nz/resources/rich-living-series/) and a copy of the Climate Change booklet is in the Morrison Lounge.

Other resources can be found on the website of Silvia Purdie, a Presbyterian minister, and Jane particularly draws your attention to *The Rubbish Challenge* at

[www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge.html](http://www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge.html)



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

**Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Saturday 20 March 2021**

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)



## *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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Lectionary readings, 2 - 4 April 2021 in Year B, the Year of Mark			
Good Friday - 2 April			
Is 52: 13 –53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10: 16-25 <i>or</i> Heb 4: 14-16, 5: 7-9	Jn 18: 1 - 19:42
Holy Saturday - 3 April			
Job 14: 1-14 <i>or</i> Lam 3: 1-9, 19-24	Ps 31: 1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4: 1-8	Mt 27: 57-66 <i>or</i> Jn 19: 38-42
Easter Dawn - Sunday 4 April			
Ex 14: 10-31, 15: 20-21	Ps 114	Rom 6: 3-11	Mk 16: 1-8
Easter Day - Sunday 4 April			
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

Lectionary readings, 7 March to 1 April 2021 in Year B, the Year of Mark			
Sunday 7 March - 3rd Sunday in Lent			
Ex 20: 1-17	Ps 19	1 Cor 1: 18-25	Jn 2: 13-22
Sunday 14 March - 4th Sunday in Lent			
Num 21: 4-9	Ps 107: 1-3, 17-22	Eph 2: 1-10	Jn 3: 14-21
Sunday 21 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 28 March - Harvest Thanksgiving			
Deut 26: 1-11	Ps 126	Gal 6: 6-10	Mt 13: 1-13, 18-23
Sunday 28 March - Palm Sunday or 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)
Holy Week			
Monday 29 March			
Is 42: 1-9	Ps 36: 5-11	Heb 9: 11-15	Jn 12: 1-11
Tuesday 30 March			
Is 49: 1-7	Ps 71: 1-14	1 Cor 1: 18-31	Jn 12: 20-36
Wednesday 31 March			
Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12: 1-3	Jn 13: 21-32
Maundy Thursday - 1 April			
Ex 12: 1-4, (5- 10), 11-14	Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11: 23-26	Jn 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

March	
5 March ~ Friday	7 p.m.: World Day of Prayer service, in the church
6 March ~ Saturday	9 a.m.-12 noon: Working Bee in church grounds (if wet, postponed to Saturday 13 March)
7 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro, Communion
10 March ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, 29 Minto Street
11 March ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month: <i>1 Peter</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road (note change of date from 4 March)
14 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, a service of hymns selected by Parish Councillors
18 March ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 March ~ Saturday	Material due for April <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, <i>The Christian Year</i> , Gregor Macaulay
22 March ~ Monday	Otago Anniversary Day
28 March ~ Palm Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson <i>Harvest Thanksgiving</i> 5 p.m.: Children's service, Mary Somerville
April	
4 April ~ Easter Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro, Communion. End of Daylight Saving
8 April ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month: <i>2 Peter</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
11 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Paul Ranby
15 April ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Mary Somerville
20 April ~ Tuesday	Material due for May <i>Opoho Signal</i>
25 April ~ Sunday (ANZAC Day)	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
26 April ~ Monday	Public Holiday

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