

*Opoho Signal*

*September 2021*

*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



*Blooming Dogwoods in Yosemite*

photograph by Larry Marshall

**September 2021**

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## *Editorial*

Hmmmm ... the last time I wrote an editorial for the *Signal*, New Zealand was just about to go into a lockdown because of Covid-19 cases in the community, and the general election was delayed by a month. And here we are again, but with increased anxiety because of the highly contagious nature of the Delta strain of the virus.

But as Julian of Norwich said centuries ago in *Revelations of Divine Love*, God did not grant humanity a safe life. Instead:

*If there is anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again we are always kept in that same precious love.*

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For many, God's 'precious love' may come to them through the beauties of nature, particularly during times of stress, such as now and during last year's level 4 lockdown.

In 2013, my husband Chris and I visited the Yosemite National Park in California. It was a wonderful experience and I am grateful for the few hours we could spend to view the famous El Capitan rock formation, and the park's ancient trees. I brought home from that trip a book called *Yosemite Meditations for Women*, which is a collection of inspiring quotes by a group of remarkable women, combined with beautiful photography of Yosemite's natural landscape.

Reading the book anew, I thought I would like to share some of the women's reflections on their experiences of nature and God. To quote from the book's foreword, *here in this book, women's voices celebrate the way back home to what is good and wild and healing.*

*A human mind is small when thinking*

*Of small things.*

*It is large when embracing the maker*

*Of walking, thinking and flying.*

**Joy Harjo** (born 1951) - an American poet, musician, playwright, and author, she is the incumbent United States Poet Laureate, the first Native American to hold that honour.

*It is this belief in a power larger than myself*

*And other than myself which allows me to venture*

*Into the unknown and even the unknowable.*

**Maya Angelou** (1928-2014) - an acclaimed American poet, storyteller, and civil rights activist, was Hollywood's first female black director, but became most famous as a writer, editor, essayist, playwright, and poet.

*If the sight of the blue skies  
Fills you with joy, if a blade  
Of grass springing up in the  
Fields has power to move you,  
If the simple things of nature  
Have a message that you understand,  
Rejoice, for your soul is alive.*

**Eleonora Duse** (1858-1924) - often known simply as Duse, she was an Italian actress, rated by many as the greatest of her time, in keen competition with Sarah Bernhardt.

*For me the sun on my face  
Will always be a blessing,  
The sound of running water  
A comforting hymn,  
The voice of the wind a benediction,  
And the blue sky  
An aspiration.*

**Beth Pratt** (or Pratt-Bergstrom) is a wildlife advocate, author, and California Director for the National Wildlife Federation.

*Write your story,  
Sing your song,  
Illuminate your vision  
Of the natural world.  
That we may better see  
Our relation with Nature,  
Experience its gifts to us,  
And deepen our love  
And care for the earth.*

**Bonnie Gisel** (born 1948) is an environmental historian, cultural/religious/American historian (nineteenth century), environmental educator, and John Muir scholar and author (Muir, 1838-1914, was an early advocate for the preservation of wilderness in the United States).

*It began in mystery and  
It will end in mystery,  
But what a rare and  
beautiful country lies  
in between.*

**Diane Ackerman** - a poet, essayist, and naturalist, she earned MFA and PhD degrees from Cornell University. She is well known for both her poetry and her non-fiction writing.

**Jane Bloore**

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### *Lockdown*

In a few short days, our 'normal' has changed. When we left church on 15 August we were looking forward to having a shared lunch together the following Sunday. That was not to be.

I am writing on day 4 of level 4 Covid lockdown. It is the day after New Zealand has processed its highest number of Covid tests, over 41,000, and given a record number of Covid vaccinations, over 56,000 – a terrific effort from New Zealand's frontline health team, lab workers and the five million. I encourage those of you who are eligible to book your vaccinations to do so, if you haven't done so already. Like remembering to scan or keeping a record of where you have been, it is one very concrete way of loving our neighbour (and ourselves).

I will be sending out a little worship resource each week while we can't meet face to face. Lockdown gives us fewer ways of keeping in touch with one another, but we do have phones and emails, and, for the more technical, Zoom and the church Facebook page. While we are all isolating to eliminate the virus, we know that that is very tough on some. Let's remember in our prayers those who are in a bubble of one, or are in bubbles where they are providing care for another without the support and respite that they can usually count on.

Opoho Presbyterian Church has an organised pastoral care network that tries to keep in touch with its people and to support them. But in a small church, like ours, it is the unorganised pastoral care network, that all of us are part of, that might make the real difference. So do ring one another, and do let Philip or me know if there is someone you think could do with a phone call from me. My email is [clarelindnz@gmail.com](mailto:clarelindnz@gmail.com)

Grace and peace

**Clare Lind**



### *Parish Council and Church News*

The August meeting of the Parish Council was held online and was kept to 40 minutes because of time limits for Zoom meetings.

Discussion naturally focused on responses to the lockdown and reviving some of the things we did last year to keep in touch with and look after each other.

It was agreed to hold this year's Annual Meeting after morning worship on Sunday 7 November.

The record takings from this year's Parish Fair have been noted previously. We can now report that the takings have now crept over \$9,000, thanks to the sale of some 'big ticket' items. Thank you to Michael Ovens for his work in arranging that.

**Gregor Macaulay**

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### *What to do when there's no church*

Even if lockdown continues, you needn't abandon all spiritual practices. The lectionary readings detailed elsewhere in this newsletter are a systematic selection of Bible passages that you can read for yourself.

Missing the music at church? Try turning on *Praise Be* (presented by Beth and Frank Nichol's son Chris) on TV1 each Sunday morning at or about 7.45 a.m. (or 8.45 a.m. on TV1+1) for a selection of hymns sung by New Zealand congregations and choirs – often including Dunedin people. And on radio, RNZ Concert has *Hymns on Sunday* at 7.30 a.m. each Sunday.

If you have internet access, you can search for sermons, Bible commentaries, and Christian music, ranging from mediaeval chants to oratorios, familiar hymns, and modern worship songs.

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*Fellowship Group*

**2 p.m. on Thursday 9 September at 22 Warden Street  
(Covid permitting!).**

Fellowship Group normally meets in the Morrison Lounge at 2 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. However this month the meeting is a spring celebration at Chris Young's new house in Warden Street. You are all very welcome to come along.

At our meeting in August it was lovely to hear Clare, our minister, talking about her life. Clare is a skilled origami artist and surprised us with peace cranes to take home.



*Clare with one of her origami creations*



*Peace crane*

Other good news shared from Pam is that Meegan and Pam move into their new home in early September.

An important part of Fellowship Group meetings is our participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin, as we bring along our least coins each month.

After a time of conversation, at about 3 p.m. we have a cup of tea or coffee, accompanied by delicious baking (thank you Chris and Miriam!) We finish by 4 p.m.

**Andrea Johnston**

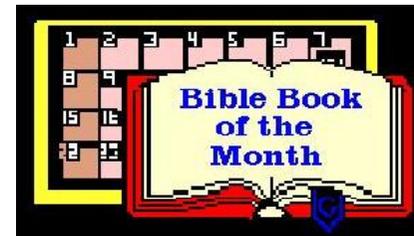


*Poems Prayers Psalms Prose  
an open friendly writing group*



Next meeting is Tuesday 14 September, 7-8.30 p.m., at the Salmond College Chapel, 19 Knox Street. All welcome.

For more information, please contact Abby Smith: 027 606 3552, [abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com](mailto:abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com)



Although the group has now worked its way through all the books of the Bible, there will be a further meeting of the group on 7 October (postponed from 2 September) to review the journey over the past 6½ years (subject to the lifting of lockdown).

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**



## Opportunities for Service 5 September - 24 October 2021

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

|                  | Morning Tea                            | Door Duty                     | Readers           | Prayers         | Data Projector    | Music                  | Flowers        | Hall Cleaning    | Church Cleaning          |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>September</b> |                                        |                               |                   |                 |                   |                        |                |                  |                          |
| 5 September      | No service at Covid Alert Level 3 or 4 |                               |                   |                 |                   |                        |                |                  |                          |
| 12 September     | Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson              | Daniel Larsen Benjamin Thew   | Marian Weaver     | Daniel Larsen   | —                 | Guitarists and Singers | Fiona Stirling | Chris Young      | Benjamin Thew            |
| 19 September     | Hamish Spencer Abby Smith              | Marian Weaver Michael Ovens   | Daniel Larsen     | Mary Somerville | Daniel Larsen     | Gaynor Haig            | Judy Rodda     | Michael Ovens    | Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton |
| 26 September     | Meegan and Pam Cloughley               | Jenny Bunce Jane Bloore       | Abby Smith        | Andrew Smith    | Hamish Spencer    | Music Group            | Judy Rodda     | Michael Ovens    | Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton |
| <b>October</b>   |                                        |                               |                   |                 |                   |                        |                |                  |                          |
| 3 October        | Bronwen Strang Marian Weaver           | Mary and John Somerville      | Jenny Bunce       | —               | Abby Smith        | David Murray           | Jane Bloore    | Christine Cleugh | Jane Bloore              |
| 10 October       | Jane Bloore Christine Cleugh           | Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson     | Julie-Ann Fleming | Benjamin Thew   | —                 | Guitarists and Singers | Jane Bloore    | Christine Cleugh | Jane Bloore              |
| 17 October       | Hamish Spencer Anny Smith              | Gregor Macaulay Mark Ranby    | Lena Henderson    | John Roxborough | Benjamin Thew     | Gaynor Haig            | Allison Mulder | Andrew Smith     | Mulders                  |
| 24 October       | Daniel Larsen Shona Somerville         | Andrew Smith Shona Somerville | Gaynor Haig       | Mark Ranby      | Kieran Somerville | Music Group            | Allison Mulder | Andrew Smith     | Mulders                  |

**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.

## *Interfaith Matters*



A couple of lovely and very committed women involved with Interfaith, Kirsteen McLay and Thera Stoff – one attending Knox (Presbyterian) and one St Patrick’s (Catholic) – are also involved with refugee placement. They have asked for the following information to be put forward in our faith communities. The contact email address is: [starfishcollectivenz@gmail.com](mailto:starfishcollectivenz@gmail.com)

### **Refugee Sponsorship Programme**

**Help needed by The Starfish Collective in supporting refugee families to settle here in Dunedin.** Starfish is basically doing a job similar to Red Cross. The difference is that Red Cross deals with refugees who are part of our national refugee quota (1500 per year) and these families are not chosen by anyone here. Starfish and other kiwi individuals and organisations (churches, community groups etc.) are part of the new CORS (Community Sponsorship of Refugees) programme. This programme allows for 50 people per year to be sponsored, in addition to the 1500 in the quota. These families can be chosen by us (the sponsors). They also have to meet criteria set out by the New Zealand Government. This sponsorship project was piloted in Christchurch, Timaru and a couple of other places in 2018. It was successful, but was then delayed due to the Christchurch mosque shootings and Covid-19. They are now bringing the programme back. You can look at their website and find out their ethos (and the “Starfish Story” which gave them the inspiration to do this) at [www.thestarfishcollective.weebly.com](http://www.thestarfishcollective.weebly.com)

Extract of information provided by Kirsteen:

1. If anyone wishes to **register as an organisation** (and be sponsors in your own right) the closing date for this is now 1 October 2021. It is estimated that the cost needed per family is around NZ\$5,000. This cost covers finding and paying bond on a rental property (and some rent until the arrival of the family) and furnishing the property. Starfish has ten families who wish to come here and have given profiles to us with permission to share. Anyone interested in considering sponsoring any of these families can contact me (Kirsteen) and I will then send them.
2. **Donations of goods** (furniture etc) are greatly appreciated, also household items (even plates, cutlery, microwaves, towels... any household basics).
3. Anyone with a **property available to rent** out at a rate affordable to those on a benefit, please contact us. Ideally, the property should be available to rent for at least two years.
4. We need **people to help “on the ground”** when the families arrive. This involves things such as: signing children up for school, signing up for doctors, signing up for the Dental School, investigating avenues for work and English language study; helping the family obtain firewood if they don’t have a heat pump; helping them get around until they are in a position to purchase a car and obtain a New Zealand driver’s licence. We will draw up “time sheets” and people can write in the hours they’re available for this “on the ground” help. It also helps to have your own transport. In this way we can, we hope, cover each family for the early period of their arrival. This help would be needed for around six months and really varies in hours depending on the needs of and sizes of the family. Families with a high level of English language, for example, tend to need less help in this way.
5. We also need help with ideas for **fundraising activities** and with the actual activities themselves. The more money we are able to raise, the more families we can potentially sponsor.

***Bronwen Strang***

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*From Presbyterian Support Otago*

A message from PSO's Community Mission Liaison about Financial Inclusion.



*Financial Inclusion*

PSO recently celebrated the launch of our Good Loans programme in Central Otago. Good Loans are no-interest and low-interest loans available to people on limited incomes. We provide this programme in partnership with Good Shepherd NZ, BNZ, and the Ministry of Social Development.

Here at PSO we want to foster 'Financial Inclusion' – which means everyone should have access to ethical, affordable and appropriate financial products and services. We also offer Financial Mentoring, Money Mates group programmes for adults and youth, and (for our most vulnerable clients) Total Financial Management.

To find out more about our financial services, please visit our website at [www.psotago.org.nz](http://www.psotago.org.nz) or if you would like to chat about any of our services, please contact us on (03) 477 7115.



*PSO Food Bank*

Their current wish list is for breakfast spreads, muesli bars, and two-minute noodles. During lockdown, you could consider making an online cash donation; see the PSO website.



*Advance Notice: Christmas Craft Fair at Opoho Church Hall*



***Hand-made goodies and gifts for sale in the church hall just before Christmas***

***Saturday 4 December 10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.***

***Sunday 5 December 11.30 a.m.- 12.30 p.m. (after church)***

Opoho folks are encouraged to think about what they could make for sale – for example: knitting, painting, woodworking, drawing, crocheting, weaving, baking, jam-setting, curd-making, baking, ANYTHING that you can make yourself.

For people whose art/craft is their income, we are happy to make a deal where an artist/craftsperson sells her/his wares with a donation to Opoho at the end. Tell your crafty friends!

I am looking for a few helpers to make cups of tea/coffee during the Saturday fair.

If you have questions or great ideas, please contact Abby on 027 606 3552 or [abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com](mailto:abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com)

***Abby Smith***



*The Rubbish Challenge:  
10 Steps to Less Waste in 10 Months*

A resource for churches and whanau by the Rev. Silvia Purdie

More material and videos at

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

**Step 8) September:** Kids

**Bible verses:** Isaiah 11:6 *The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid goat, the lion and the calf together, and a little child shall lead them.*

Matthew 7:9 *Would anyone give your child a stone when he asks for bread?*

**'Big Idea'**

We surround our kids with plastic! They eat out of plastic bags in plastic boxes. We buy them more and more brightly coloured plastic things to play with. Imagine a God-centred, creation-based play space for kids. Isaiah's vision of God's salvation *shalom* on earth is of a child leading all the animals in harmony – not just plastic toy animals but real living beings – where “nothing will hurt or destroy” (v10).

**Questions** – for reflection and discussion

Do children really need everything to be brightly coloured and individually wrapped? What values are we teaching them?

What are good ways to engage with young people about environmental issues? How are they leading the church?

Watch video at

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

**Action Step for September**

Explore with parents, children, youth and ministry leaders how to reduce plastic and rubbish.

- use natural materials for crafts
- play outside, no matter what the weather
- don't laminate
- choose natural fabrics for clothes and bedding
- buy non-toxic crayons and chalk instead of felt pens
- teach children about what happens to waste

**Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, thank you for our children, each one made in your image.

Nourish them as they grow in a damaged world.

May we give them good things instead of junk and feed them hope instead of anxiety.

Amen.





Saturday 4 December 10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

Sunday 5 December 11.30 a.m.- 12.30 p.m. (after church)

### *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)

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)

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

### **Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Monday 20 September 2021**

Please send all material for the next *Opoho Signal* to:

Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011

Email [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)

Lectionary readings, 5 September to 24 October 2021 in Year B, the Year of Mark			
<b>Season of Creation 1 September to 4 October</b>			
<b>Sunday 5 September - 15th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Prov 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23	Ps 125	James 2: 1-10, (11-13) 14-17	Mk 7: 24-37
<b>Sunday 12 September - 16th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Prov 1: 20-33	Ps 19	James 3: 1-12	Mk 8: 27-38
<b>Sunday 19 September - 17th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Prov 31: 10-31	Ps 1	James 3: 14- 4:3, 7-8a	Mk 9: 30-37
<b>Sunday 26 September - 18th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Esther 7: 1-6, 9- 10, 9: 20-22	Ps 124	James 5: 13-20	Mk 9: 38-50
<b>Sunday 3 October - 19th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Job 1: 1, 2: 1-10	Ps 26	Heb 1: 1-4, 2: 5- 12	Mk 10:2-16
<b>Sunday 10 October - 20th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Job 23: 1-9, 16-17	Ps 22: 1-15	Heb 4: 12-16	Mk 10: 17-31
<b>Sunday 17 October 2021 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Job 38: 1-7, (34-41)	Ps 104: 1-9, 24, 35c	Heb 5: 1-10	Mk 10: 35- 45
<b>Sunday 24 October - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Job 42: 1-6, 10-17	Ps 34: 1-8, (19-22)	Heb 7: 23-28	Mk 10: 46- 52

## Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

All physical gatherings are subject to the lifting of lockdown restrictions.

September	
5 September ~ Sunday	No service at Covid Alert Level 3 or 4.
8 September ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
9 September ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, 22 Warden St (Note change of venue)
12 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Peter Wishart
14 September ~ Tuesday	7 p.m.: Poems Prayers Psalms Prose – an open friendly writing group, Salmond College Chapel, 19 Knox Street
16 September ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge or Zoom
19 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 September ~ Monday	Material due for October <i>Opoho Signal</i>
26 September ~ Sunday	Daylight saving begins – put clocks <i>forward</i> one hour 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
October	
3 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
7 October ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month: Reviewing Our 6½ Year Journey, 129 Signal Hill Road
10 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Mary Somerville
14 October ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
17 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 October ~ Wednesday	Material due for November <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 October ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
24 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
31 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson

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*September 2021*

*via email*