

Opoho Signal

March 2020

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 2020

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Ed Masters

cell phone 027 637 9818

Parish Clerk: Tui Bevin phone: 03 473 8677

email: mark.bevin@gmail.com

Worship Services at Opoho:

Every Sunday at 10 am

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

Editorial: Making Decisions

As some of you know, I spend two or three days of most weeks in Wellington, where I am a science advisor to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). This government department is huge, covering everything from immigration, labour laws and mining regulations to economic development and science. My role is mostly in this last area, giving advice to bureaucrats about the Government's science policy and its implementation.

I am one of the science advisors spread over different government ministries, departments and agencies. Our job is to provide independent, specialist advice about the evidence relevant to the work of the public service. Often, of course, we have to speak to other scientists in order to be completely up to date with the latest developments, and so we have to find the appropriate expert. New Zealand's two degrees of separation are often useful here!

The science advisors advise, but as with all advice, it may be ignored. Political or economic considerations may be more important. In many cases, the research isn't clear, and so we need to give our professional opinion about the weight to assign to the various pieces of evidence. Indeed, situations where there are

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conflicting agendas or when the evidence is complicated are the very ones for which robust, expert advice can be so valuable.

To give an example outside my area of expertise and not an MBIE issue, we may think that our justice system is biased against M ori. But what is the evidence? More than half of the prison population is M ori, even though M ori comprise just 17% of the wider population. The data shows, too, that, if you are M ori, you are more likely to be stopped in public by the Police; if stopped, you are more likely to be arrested; if arrested, you are more likely to be charged; if charged, you are more likely to be convicted, and, if convicted, likely to receive a longer sentence. The system is biased all the way along.

How do we fix this sort of problem? Complex problems rarely have simple solutions. Here it is not a matter of changing one or two features of the justice system. The first step in a solution, however, is to make people aware of the problem. That way, people can ask themselves to what part of the problem (if any) they contribute; what changes can they make?

Another part of the solution is simply not to send so many people to prison. New Zealand imprisons a larger proportion of its population than any other western country except the USA. The direct financial costs (let alone any other costs) are phenomenal, at about \$91,000

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per prisoner per year. And yet we constantly hear comment about being soft on criminals. Here, the solutions are politically tricky, not the least because the evidence tells us that early intervention in life (indeed, very early intervention) is by far the most effective, and yet this sort of work is long-term, taking decades to show results.

In spite of all the challenges, the job is a blessing: I get to be involved with work that can really make a difference, that can make our society a better place. Who wouldn't want to do that?!

Hamish Spencer

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### ***Parish Council and Church News***

Our interim moderator, the Rev. Ed Masters, the minister at First Church, convened our February Council meeting. It was good to learn more about him and benefit from his skills and insights. He preached and met the congregation at the service on 16 February.

Parish Clerk Tui Bevin, in her report to the Parish Council, thanked everyone who helped with Margaret and Mike's farewell. It was a wonderful send-off. We give thanks for her ministry and pray they have a long and happy retirement.

Tui thanked Fiona Stirling, too, for the lovely banner she has produced. It is above the entrance door area in the hall and contains a tribute to Allan Cloughley. Final location and fixing are to be finalised.

The Ministry Settlement Board has had its first meeting as it begins the journey towards recommendations for ministry in the parish.

Finance and property is a huge area, and Mark Bevin reported on a long list of matters. These included: noting under fundraising that the craft fair earned about \$1200, a great effort; the vegetable garden had resulted in some good feedback; and several substantial maintenance issues were listed. At the time of writing this report, the garage sale had yet to take place. Mark's report is on P. 5.

Two new members are being added to the Finance and Property

Committee, Benjamin Thew and John Roxborough, and there are other members of the congregation who are happy to help with specific tasks.

Good progress has been made on the worship planning calendar. Our date for the Hospital Chapel service, where we help with patient-moving for the service, is 26 April.

We have a pastoral carers' breakfast planned for 23 March, before church.

A date is already in place for our election political meeting for the Dunedin North electorate. It will be on 13 September, the Sunday before the 19 September election.

Our condolences go to Patti Swetz on the death in a climbing accident of her grandson Peter Adler, and to Jenny Bunce and Hilary Calvert, after their cousin died suddenly at an Auckland beach.

We were delighted to hear and share news from Fiona Stirling and Bron Strang at church on the last Sunday of February.

Fiona reported on the "marvellous" wedding in Wanaka of her son Julian to Emily; they live in Wellington.

And Bron was excited to tell us about the engagement of her son Robbie to John. They live in Melbourne.

Andrew Smith will be our representative at the annual meeting of the Synod of Otago and Southland in Gore in April.

As Tui said, we are fortunate our parish has many people who have skills and are willing to undertake the myriad of tasks necessary for keeping a parish moving forward.

***Philip Somerville***

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Property and Finance Update

Garage Sale

As it ticked down to 9 a.m. on Saturday 22 February it was raining, there seemed to be too much stuff collected in the hall, and where would the people come from? I really need not have worried. Apart

from the incredible work of the helpers on the day, others had been busy spreading the word on Facebook and amongst friends.

The very successful sale produced a profit of \$2230, well in excess of the anticipated amount, and a big help towards meeting our fundraising target for the year.

Working Bee

Please keep the morning of Saturday 21 March free, if possible, for the working bee. This is our opportunity to tidy things before winter and it would be good to have a big turnout this time.

Mark Bevin

OK Time

Sunday School has been revamped this year. We are calling it Opoho Kids' Time - or OK Time, and it will be held on the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month during term time.

On the first Sundays of the month the children will go out to the Morrison Lounge after Chat Time and have morning tea together (with parents) and then return to share in Holy Communion.

We have a team of six leaders taking OK Time, with two rostered on together each time. Our small numbers, variable attendance and the wide age range of the children make it a challenge for the leaders. Please keep our young families and the OK Time leaders in your prayers.



Saturday 14 March from 11 am.

at Fiona and Henrik's lovely place overlooking the sea at Tumai. All welcome.

Details will be emailed closer to the time.

If you need a ride, please contact Shona Somerville at 473 8862.

Presbyterian Support Food Bank

Here is a photograph of recent Food Bank donations from Opoho Church. Miriam Vollweiler delivered them to Julie, a Family Works reception and administration staff member, on the morning of Monday 10 February, and Julie and Miriam unpacked the boxes. The support that members of the church quietly give each week to this service is greatly valued. Keep up the good work!



Kitchen

Would everybody who arranges tea / coffee for any events at the Church please arrange to bring milk, and to take it home again afterwards.

If you notice any kitchen supplies running low, make a note on the whiteboard by the Morrison Lounge door.

And a big **thank you** to Aileen, who does the re-stocking.

Fellowship

Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler are organising Fellowship group, with oversight and support from Val Williams, and they welcome any members of the church and wider community to join them. They meet monthly in the Morrison Lounge at 2 p.m.: a chance to share and talk and often with an interesting speaker, afternoon tea and a chance to catch up in a relaxed gathering.

The next meeting is on Thursday 12 March at 2 p.m., with Helen Leach talking about recipes and cookbooks.

Opportunities for Service, March - April 2020

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

Sunday	Morning Tea	Door Duty	Readers	Prayers	Music	OK Time, Children	Flowers	Hall Cleaning	Church Cleaning
Mar 2020									
1 Mar	Smith / Spencer	Jenny Bunce Marian Weaver	Christine Cleugh	—	David Murray	—	Jenny Roxborough	Meegan Cloughley	Christine Cleugh
8 Mar	Shona & Philip Somerville	Mary & John Somerville	Maurice Andrew	Marian Weaver	Mark Bevin	Julie-Ann Fleming Kirsten Beyer	Jenny Roxborough	Meegan Cloughley	Christine Cleugh
15 Mar	Rodda / Hamilton	Michael Ovens Andrew Smith	Jenny Bunce	Benjamin Thew	Gaynor Haig	Mary Somerville Andrea Johnston	Jane Bloore	Andrew Smith	Jane Bloore
22 Mar	Jane Bloore Tony Parry	Smith / Spencer	Marian Weaver	Abby Smith	Mark Bevin	—	Jane Bloore	Andrew Smith	Jane Bloore
29 Mar	Jenny Roxborough Bronwen Strang	Jane Bloore Benjamin Thew	Hamish Spencer	Gregor Macaulay	Music Group	—	Judy Rodda	Benjamin Thew	Rodda / Hamilton
Apr 2020									
5 Apr	Christine Cleugh Meegan Cloughley	Shona & Philip Somerville	Jane Bloore	—	David Murray	—	Judy Rodda	Benjamin Thew	Rodda / Hamilton
12 Apr	Smith / Spencer	John Stenhouse Gregor Macaulay	Julie-Ann Fleming	Andrew Smith	Mark Bevin	—	Jenny Roxborough	Shona & Philip Somerville	Gregor Macaulay
19 Apr	Shona & Philip Somerville	Marian Weaver Jenny Bunce	Benjamin Thew	Daniel Larsen	Gaynor Haig	—	Jenny Roxborough	Shona & Philip Somerville	Gregor Macaulay
26 Apr	Service at Hospital Chapel - No Service at Opoho Church								

Thank you! for all you do, and please:

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.

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.

Garden and Grounds Working Bee

9 a.m. - 12 noon

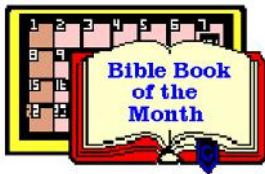
Saturday 21 March 2020

Please bring some hand tools for garden and grounds work.

We are hoping for a good turnout so we can get the grounds ready for winter.



Any queries talk to Michael Ovens at 466 7756 or Mark Bevin at 473 8677



The March Bible discussion will be on the Epistle to the Ephesians. We meet at the Bevins' home, 129 Signal Hill Road at 7.30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month.

It is helpful, but not essential, to have read the month's book first. Everyone is welcome. If you have any queries about this please ask Tui Bevin or John Stenhouse.

6 March ~ Ephesians

2 April ~ Philippians

Tui Bevin



Harvest Thanksgiving at Opoho is on Sunday 15 March

Operation Cover Up

Any time of the year is the right time to knit squares and/or sew them into blankets.

Please use wool, not synthetic, as wool has more warmth.

Cast on 40 stitches in double knitting, knit 40 rows (or 20cm) in garter stitch and cast off. For other wool weights adjust to make 20 x 20cm squares.

A bag at the back of the church is topped up with wool if you need some.

Money for shipping costs also gratefully accepted.

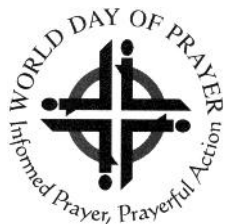
Contact Marian: weavermariane@gmail.com 027 473 6026

Marian Weaver

KCML - A Message from the Rev. Dr Steve Taylor

On behalf of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML) I announce the news that the Rev. Dr Mark Johnston is leaving his role at KCML. Our loss is the Kingdom's gain. Our sadness is the loss of exceptional and gifted leadership.

Mark will be taking up a teaching role overseas, and joins his wife, the Rev. Dr Carolyn Kelly, who has been appointed to a university chaplain role in Scotland.



7 p.m. Friday 6 March

This year the Anglican church will host the World Day of Prayer service for the northern area of Dunedin at All Saints' Anglican Church, 786 Cumberland Street (opposite North Ground).

The service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe. Everyone is very welcome and encouraged to come along.

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*Caring for God's Creation*

Do you have a keen interest in caring for God's creation? Have you heard about the PCANZ policy *Responsible Stewardship of God's Creation*? If you answered yes, then we want you!

At the 2016 General Assembly the proposal *Responsible Stewardship of God's Creation* was passed. This proposal set out 10 practical steps for churches to put into practice that would help to reduce their environmental impact. This goes alongside the PCANZ mission statement of Caring for God's Creation.

Unfortunately very little action is being made in regard to this. Many parishes lack the tools, suitable people and time to engage with the issue fully.

But we want to change this. We want to make it easy for churches to put their best foot forward in helping care for God's creation. A workgroup is being put together to address the issues that churches face and will aim to provide an easy pathway for churches to follow to put this proposal into action.

If you are interested in being part of this workgroup we would love to hear from you. Please email Marissa Kelderman [marissakelderman@gmail.com](mailto:marissakelderman@gmail.com)

from ***Southern Presbyterians Newsletter, February 2020***  
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Dunedin Hospital Chaplaincy

Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistant Training

Do you feel God calling you to become a part of the Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry? A training course for Voluntary Chaplaincy Assistants will be held later this year at Dunedin Hospital. We invite you to join us for a taster and information evening in the Hospital Chapel on

Wednesday 25 March, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

RSVP to either Cameron.Sinclair@southerndhb.govt.nz or the office answerphone 474 0999 ext. 58135.

from ***The Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy***
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*Dunedin North Otago Resource Group:*

The first meeting for 2020 of the Dunedin North Otago Resource Group will be held from 6 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday 10 March at Green Island Presbyterian Church, 208 Main South Road, Dunedin. The cost of the meal will be \$15. If you plan to attend for the meal and meeting or just for the meeting, please advise [admin@knoxchurch.net](mailto:admin@knoxchurch.net) preferably by midday Friday 6 March, or at the latest 9am Monday 9 March.

We will be welcoming new members, acknowledging transitions and thanking some long-serving elders. Our theme relates to Lent and Easter. We wish to stimulate and enable respectful conversations about the significance of Lent and Easter. All are welcome.

***Kerry Enright, Planning Team Convenor***

027 467 5542, [minister@knoxchurch.net](mailto:minister@knoxchurch.net)  
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*Invitation from Presbyterian Support Otago
to join the*

Taieri Gorge Annual Rail Walk

Sunday 3 May 2020

To book your seat, please phone 477 4449 or email bookings@dunedinrailways.co.nz

For more information, go to www.psotago.org.nz/
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## 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](https://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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Calendar for early April 2020	
The calendar for March is on the back page.	
1 April ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Ministry Settlement Board, venue TBC
2 April ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>Philippians</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
5 April ~ Sunday	DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS – put clocks back one hour 10 a.m.: Worship for Palm Sunday with Holy Communion, the Rev. Graeme Munro 11.30 a.m.: Pastoral Care and Community Committee, Minister's Study
9 April ~ Thursday	7 p.m.: Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion, Morrison Lounge, the Rev.
12 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship for Easter Sunday with Holy
16 April ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge

Lectionary readings, 1 March - 5 April 2020 in Year A, the Year of Matthew			
Sunday 1 March - 1st Sunday in Lent			
Gen 2: 15-17 3: 1-7	Ps 32	Rom 5: 12-19	Mt 4: 1-11
Sunday 8 March - 2nd Sunday in Lent			
Gen 12: 1-4a	Ps 121	Rom 4: 1-5, 13-17	Jn 3: 1-17 or Mt 17: 1-9
Sunday 15 March - 3rd Sunday in Lent			
Ex 17: 1-7	Ps 95	Rom 5:1-11	Jn 4: 5-42
Sunday 22 March - 4th Sunday in Lent			
1 Sam 16: 1-13	Ps 23	Eph 5: 8-14	Jn 9: 1-41
Sunday 29 March - 5th Sunday in Lent			
Ezek 37: 1-14	Ps 130	Rom 8: 6-11	Jn 11: 1-45
Sunday 5 April - Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday			
None or Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29 or Ps 31: 9-16	None or Phil 2: 5-11	<i>Palm</i> Mr 21: 1-11 <i>Passion</i> Mt 26: 14-27:66 or Mt 27: 11-54

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

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Friday 20 March

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

Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011

Email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

**Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church in
March 2020**

1 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev Graeme Munro, Quarterly Communion
4 March ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Ministry Settlement Board meeting at 41/36 Shetland Street
5 March ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>Ephesians</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
6 March ~ Friday	7 p.m.: World Day of Prayer, North End ecumenical service. All Saints Church, 786 Cumberland Street
8 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith
11 March ~ Wednesday	8 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee meeting, 64 Cannington Road
12 March ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge, Helen Leach will talk about recipes and cookbooks
14 March ~ Saturday	11 a.m.: Parish Picnic at Tumai – details to be circulated closer to the time
15 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Peter Wishart
19 March ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 March ~ Friday	Deadline for material for April <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 March ~ Saturday	9 a.m.-12 noon: Working Bee at church
22 March ~ Sunday	8.30 a.m.: Pastoral Carers' breakfast, Morrison Lounge 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro 5 p.m.: Children's Church, Mary Somerville
25 March ~ Wednesday	6.30 p.m.: Psalm writing with BYO takeaways, 129 Signal Hill Road
29 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship with Music Group, the Rev. Anne Thomson 11.30 a.m.: Parish pot luck lunch in the hall
The calendar for early April 2020 is on P. 14	

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