

Opoho Signal

July 2018

via email

Opoho Signal

Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

email: marg.garland@gmail.com

website: www.opohochurch.org

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



Gathering at the table in the hospitality of Jesus

July 2018

Minister: Rev Margaret Garland

phone: 03 395 6129 - cell phone 027 757 2367

Parish Clerk: Tui Bevin phone: 03 473 8677

Worship Services at Opoho:

Every Sunday at 10 am

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

Aha! Moments Around the Table

Research commissioned by the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership on the life-long learning needs of the church has produced some interesting results¹. While the document is not yet published (the feedback process is continuing), I have a copy at the church which can be shared by email or borrowed. It just might lead to some lively discussion!

There were a number of 'aha' moments in the report for me, none more so than this quote: *"We have become fixated on Presbyterianism being a certain kind of structure, an order, and we've lost the sense in which Presbyterianism is about a set of values and practices."* For me, this question about 'formalism versus values and practices' connects with an ongoing conversation in our church about how we should approach the sharing of Holy Communion. I am thinking about not so much the theology as the practice of distribution.

Currently we serve communion in several different ways: coming forward to the front of the church and then going back to our seats, or standing round the table in a circle, or, as traditionally, by being served in our seats with white cloths on the back of the pews.

In this issue.....	Page
Editorial	2
Parish Council News	4
Property & Finance Update	7
News from the Parish & the Wider Church.....	8
Taking the Pulse.....	9
Favourite Hymns, Sunday 22 July.....	9
Opportunities for Service.....	10-11
Can you help?	10-11
"Out of the Depths", Margaret Garland.....	12
Psalms Writing Group	13
Bible Book A Month.....	13

This last is a practice I had not encountered until I came south, and I was intrigued. I went back into the history of Presbyterianism in Scotland to find the origins of this practice of 'dressing the church'. Before the mid-19th century, in many kirks communion was held perhaps once a year, and the practice was to seat parishioners around a table with a white cloth – it would often take a whole day to get through the lines of people waiting for the invitation to come sit at Christ's table. As a purely pragmatic solution people were served in their seats and the white cloth was transferred to the pew as a symbol of the table.

Yet the serving of communion in this way (with or without the cloth) has sometimes become formalised so much so that it no longer points to the values and story of the sacrament itself. It is possible to get trapped in this situation when solemnly distributing the bread and wine becomes more important than embracing the openness of the invitation to gather at the table in the hospitality of Jesus. Some of us may even have memories of times when an emphasis on formality meant that children or strangers who did not know the choreography were frowned on, and the presence of the warmly welcoming Jesus was devalued, and not understood.

For myself, I find the value and practice of Holy Communion the

In this issue.....	Page
Movie Group.....	14
Interfaith Matters	14
Help us to say 'No!', John Birch.....	15
Dunedin North Otago Resource Group, 14 August	16
Reminders!	17
Keeping in Touch	18
Calendar for early August.....	18
Lectionary for July & early August	19
Opoho Signal contact details.....	19
Calendar for July	20

most meaningful when we come forward to gather round the table; and then we eat, pray and sing together before leaving from the table to go out into the world in Christ's name. We draw in the aroma of freshly-made bread which doesn't always tear apart so easily, moments when we can easily imagine the reality of being there at the table for that last supper!

Perhaps variety helps, but whatever our practice, when we share in a meaningful way words others have spoken throughout the centuries, and we have time together for listening and silence, then we can find ourselves open to experiencing Christ with us in unexpected and human ways and even things which make us say "oops" can lead us to say 'aha'!

Margaret Garland

1. Rosemary Dewerse, *A Report on the First Round of a Research Project Investigating Life-Long Learning Needs of Ministry Leaders in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand*, Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, Dunedin, 2018.

As Minister of Opoho Parish for the past (almost) seven years, Margaret is loving both living Opoho and being part of the church here, and the opportunity to be part of such a rich and vibrant community. Despite living for 24 years in North Canterbury she still sees herself as an avid Otagoite and loves being close to her roots in South Otago.

She is married to Mike and they are proud parents of Jessie and Isobel and Mlra the cat.

~~~~~

**Parish Council News**

**Opoho Church News**

Thank you to all who helped with the memorial service for Betty Macara. I was particularly moved by the two former nurses from Ross Home who spoke. They had come from orphanages in India and felt that Betty had been a mother to them. Betty had bought the material for their wedding dresses and organised the dressmaking, as well as doing all she could to help organise their weddings. I also spoke to a woman at afternoon tea who had been taught by Betty at Bible Class in Gore and had stayed in touch with Betty since. The

service was a lovely tribute to a remarkable woman and well worth doing.

We will be holding another of our quarterly Children's Services at 5 pm on Sunday 8 July. These services are very important for our families with young children and are a lot of fun. If you would like to join the fun and come along and help, especially with the tea and tidying up afterwards, that would be much appreciated! Please see Margaret or Tui about this.

If you can manage to get to worship before 9.50 am on Sundays, you might consider joining Margaret and one or two others in prayer before the service, in the little vestry beside the pulpit. If you have any questions about this, please ask Margaret or Tui.

We have three new New Revised Standard Version Bibles now available in church, and the one on the lectern is in large print.

Please remember to put the key back into the little box by the back hall door as soon as you have opened the doors, so that you don't forget to do so. If the key is missing, this causes inconvenience to the next people needing the key.

Thank you to all involved in the parish garage sale. \$1125 has been raised so far. A few of the remaining larger items will be put on Trade Me so this figure may yet rise. This is a wonderful result and gets us closer to meeting our budget for the year.

Parish Council will not have its usual evening meeting in July as it will be holding its annual retreat on Saturday 21 July.

The indoor bowling club that used our hall for many years ceased to function several years ago. We are planning to remove the Bowling Club trophy boards from the hall walls and just keep a small one for old times' sake. We have discussed photographing them for posterity with one of our archivists. If you or anyone you know has any interest in actually having any of these, please get in touch with Michael Ovens, Mark Bevin or Margaret.

At the afternoon tea following Betty Maraca's service, Helen Trainor asked me if anyone at Opoho Church would be interested in joining the volunteer roster to make tea and coffee for blood donors. Helen is

responsible for the roster and is very short of people. If you are interested in doing this for occasional 2 to 4 hour shifts, please phone Helen at 03 473 0050.

### **Wider Church News**

An Arty Crafty day for children from preschool age to year 8 will be held on the last Saturday of the school holidays, Saturday 21 July, to encourage more entries in the Love Reaches Out art and writing competition. It will be at Flagstaff Community Church, 9 Centennial Ave, Wakari from 10 am to 3 pm, with story times at 10.30 am and 1.30 pm. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. Last year's participants tended to stay for 1 to 2 hours. It is free, and art materials are provided but please RSVP so there will be enough food and materials. For more information contact Carolyn Sims, Presbyterian Support Otago, 03 477 7115, [carolyns@psotago.org.nz](mailto:carolyns@psotago.org.nz) or Cheryl Harray, Kids Friendly 027 489 6153, [cheryl@kidsfriendly.org.nz](mailto:cheryl@kidsfriendly.org.nz)

Ross Home, Presbyterian Support Otago's oldest care home, will celebrate its 100th anniversary at Labour Weekend this year. For more information contact Ross Home: [ross-admin@psotago.org.nz](mailto:ross-admin@psotago.org.nz) or phone 03 473 0029.

### **In the News**

Did you see a very young Bronwen Strang and her brother, Peter, hula hooping in the Good Sorts piece, at the end of the news on TV1 on 3 June 2018? It was in a short piece about Maurice Haywood from Dunedin who has a passion to rescue old films and bring them to life in the digital age.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v05OemThOuU&t=0s&list=PL32B72637EB9E2C56&index=2>

***Tui Bevin***

~~~~~

Property and Finance Update

Last time the Fair, this time the Garage Sale! Thanks again from the Property and Finance Committee.

Another splendid effort has seen a further \$1125 raised so far, with a few more items to hopefully sell on Trade Me.

Thanks go to all who donated items, and to the willing crew who had an entertaining half-day talking to dealers, visitors and Opoho people who browsed under no time pressure. Interesting conversations and connections! The help-yourself morning tea received favourable comments, and showing items on the website drew interest and focus from dealers.

The success of the two fund-raising events will see us home for the budgeted income this year despite some shortfall in offerings. Ideally the amount pledged through regular offerings should cover the basics, while the fund-raisers cover the extras, and perhaps one day that will be the case.

Speaking of extras brings me to the drain issue.

Church Drains

The laying of new main drains in Farquharson Street has revealed the parlous state of our drains, part of which run under the rockery where conifers have done their damage over the years. Many of you will have seen the video I showed at the 24 June service. Essentially, things are still flowing, but the joints are all damaged, and roots are able to grow in. There is a cost saving in attending to things NOW (while the road is being worked on) and before blockages start occurring.

We are still awaiting a quote for the "road to boundary fence" part of the renewing (not covered by our City Council), but overall we expect a bill for complete replacement to be around \$8500. Parish Council feels we could make this a special one-off appeal and also look to the community for help. Once quotes are firmed up, we will bring more details before the congregation.

More on this next month.

Mark Bevin

~~~~~  
7

## *News from the Parish, and from the Wider Church*

- ❖ Welcome home to those who have recently returned from travels around New Zealand, and around the world. We are delighted to see you safely home. To those who are away from Dunedin, or about to set out on journeys near or far, we keep you in our prayers, and look forward to your safe return, when the time is right!
- ❖ We remember in our prayers all those who have recently had bouts of illness and hospital stays.
- ❖ Bronwen is enormously relieved, and enormously grateful to those who helped rescue her son, when his yacht capsized in the harbour a few weeks ago.
- ❖ Margaret and Mike's daughter Jessie is now living in Melbourne and beginning her PhD at La Trobe University, on the trade and consumer choices entangled with the material footprint of Victorian Christchurch.
- ❖ A special service of remembrance was held on 12 June for Betty Macara. Speakers mentioned Betty's excellent memory, right up to the time of her death. It was clear that throughout her life, Betty was a very significant, very positive, influence in the lives of many people.
- ❖ Ross Home celebrates its centenary at Labour Weekend this year. It was the first care home established by Presbyterian Support (then known as PSSA – Presbyterian Social Service Association).
- ❖ The new Chief Executive of Presbyterian Support Otago, Michael Parker comes south from Timaru, having most recently been the Chief Executive of Support South Canterbury.

### ***from our Correspondents***

*Please do pass on to Andrea Johnston any news and snippets you come across, for inclusion in Parish News.*

*Andrea's contact details are on Page 19.*

~~~~~

Taking the Pulse at Opoho Church – 2018

Following on from the 2017 Parish Council retreat, it was agreed that choosing the direction we were heading as a church couldn't take place without a sense of everyone's vision, commitment and resources. As a first step, we decided to instigate a 'taking of the pulse' of the congregation. A small group has put together some questions that we hope will lead to honest and realistic responses from this community of faith.

We base our questions on this understanding of our purpose -

We are here as God's people to be a place of:

- Spiritual nourishment; a place to give and share
- Community; for individuals, families, all of humanity
- Support; people and activities, contributing to society

We plan to have this conversation with some individuals, with small groups in the church and as a congregation over the next couple of months. We hope that you will find an opportunity to share your thoughts.

Please contact Margaret or any member of the Parish Council if you have questions.

~~~~~

## *Favourite Hymns - Sunday 22 July*

On Sunday 22 July, our service will focus on hymns and songs that we hold as favourites. Margaret and Mark want to include as many as possible of the recommendations in the service so please send in your choices (only two per person) by Sunday 15 July.

As long as we can access the music, we will endeavour to include them.

We look forward to hearing what you would like to sing. There may be some stories that go with your choices!

~~~~~

Opportunities for Service

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

	Morning Tea	Door Duty	Readers	Prayers	Music	Flowers	Sunday School	Hall Cleaning	Church Cleaning
1-Jul	Rodda / Hamilton	Cunninghams	Daniel Larsen	—	David Murray	Winter Flowers	Activities at back of church	Jane Bloore	Chris Young
8-Jul	Marian Weaver Bronwen Strang	Mary & John Somerville	John Stenhouse	Mary Somerville	Mark Bevin	Winter Flowers		Michael Ovens	Gregor Macaulay
15-Jul	Tony Parry Jane Bloore	Andrew Smith Gregor Macaulay	Jane Bloore	—	Gaynor Haig	Winter Flowers		Michael Ovens	Gregor Macaulay
22-Jul	Cunninghams	Michael Ovens John Stenhouse	Andrew Smith	—	Mark Bevin	Winter Flowers		Mulders	Fiona Stirling
29-Jul	Jenny Bunce Christine Cleugh	Tui Bevin Mike Garland	Gregor Macaulay	Marian Weaver	Music Group	Winter Flowers		Mulders	Fiona Stirling
5-Aug	Shona & Philip Somerville	Marian Weaver Hamish Spencer	Christine Cleugh	—	David Murray	Winter Flowers	Activities at back of church	Christine Cleugh	Rodda / Hamilton
12-Aug	Smith / Spencer	Cunninghams	Marian Weaver	Andrew Smith	Gaynor Haig	Winter Flowers		Christine Cleugh	Rodda / Hamilton
19-Aug	Hamilton / Rodda	Jane Bloore John Somerville	Mike Garland	—	Gaynor Haig	Winter Flowers		Bronwen Strang	Cunninghams

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

Can you help?

If you feel able to help regularly, or occasionally, in any of the areas mentioned here, please talk to Andrea Johnston to Margaret.

On a recent Sunday morning, our Assurance of Pardon was based on Psalm 130, using words written by Margaret. We share these words here.

We sang *Out of the Depths* to the familiar tune *Rockingham*. Many will remember singing 'When I survey the wondrous cross' to this tune.

Out of the Depths

Out of the depths, to you I cry,
God, hear my voice, attend my call.
Forgive me God and guide my way,
Without your mercy all should fall.

Wait, oh my soul, wait for our God,
For in God's word we put our hope.
More than the watchman waits the dawn,
so does our soul wait for the light

O Israel put your hope in God.
With steadfast love, unfailing grace
you are redeemed, released, reformed
in hope, in light, in love, in grace.

Margaret Garland

Psalm Writing Group

6.30pm - 8 pm Wednesday 11 July

A small group of people at Opoho have been meeting over the last year to share psalms they have written. Some are based on the psalms from the Bible, others speak into the issues of today as a conversation with God, others are forms of prayer and contemplation. We meet monthly and listen to each other, provide feedback and encouragement.

Some of the psalms we share are posted on our website and some are used in services or on other occasions.

Would you like to join us? Our next gathering is at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 11 July, in the Morrison Lounge at Opoho Church. We bring our own takeaways and eat together before we share the psalms. If you have a psalm you would like to share or if you would like to come and just listen you are most welcome.

If you have any questions, please talk to Margaret.

~~~~~

### *Bible Book A Month Discussions*

*7.30 pm, Thursday 2 August ~ Micah*

*7.30 pm, Thursday 6 September ~ Nahum*

The next Bible Discussion is on the book of Micah.

We meet at 7.30 pm at 129 Signal Hill Road and everyone is welcome, even if you can only make an occasional evening, or are new to the Bible.

Please read the month's book beforehand if possible. For more information please ask Margaret the minister, or John Stenhouse the discussion leader.

**Tui Bevin**

~~~~~

Movie Group

The next movie group meeting is at 49 Signal Hill Road on Thursday 12 July at 7 pm. Details of the month's movie will be included in the Sunday notices.

Movie nights are an opportunity for people to gather in someone's home, to watch a movie together, and afterwards reflect together over a cup of tea or coffee, on anything that particularly struck them as they watched.

The group is very informal. All are welcome to come along as and when they are able, with different people hosting as they are able. The gatherings are usually on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm, although the day is flexible.

If you would like to know more, if you have a movie to suggest, contact Margaret.

~~~~~

### *Interfaith Matters*

Our Interfaith meeting is usually on the first Sunday afternoon of the month, but this month it has been moved to Sunday 8 July, because on the Sunday 1 July World Refugee Day was celebrated.

The meeting is on Sunday 8 July from 2.30 – 4 pm, at the Hare Krishna Centre, 133 London St.


Rev Cameron Sinclair, a Hospital Chaplain, will talk to us about plans for the new hospital.

A contribution to afternoon tea is always appreciated but not necessary.

**Bronwen Strang**

~~~~~

Help us to say "No!"
to the prompt within
that makes us say,
"I cannot do"
"I am not able"
and open our hearts
to the possibility
that if we are asked
then we are also
suitably equipped
for the task
that you have chosen.



@John Birch, faithandworship.com

Dunedin North Otago Resource Group
(sub-region of the Southern Presbytery)
Tuesday 14 August, 6 pm to 8.30 pm
Stuart Hall, Knox Presbyterian Church
449 George Street, Dunedin

Main Speaker: Prof. Jonathan Boston.

Jonathan is a member of St John's Presbyterian Church Wellington and one of New Zealand's leading social policy commentators. He is a prolific author and brings a strong Christian perspective to his work. He has been an active contributor to discussions regarding climate change. Jonathan is Professor of Public Policy at the Victoria University of Wellington School of Government.

Jonathan will offer some specific Christian reflections on the proper role of the state in the funding and provision of social assistance and assess the current New Zealand government's welfare reform agenda, including its goals to reduce child poverty and enhance child wellbeing.

September 2018 marks the 80th anniversary of the enactment of the Social Security Act which Michael Joseph Savage called "applied Christianity".

Interacting with Jonathan, we will talk together about how Christians and congregations can remain informed and active in advocacy regarding social policy in our country.

We will also spend time in prayer and encouragement of each other.

All are very welcome to come along.

Meal provided - \$10 per person. The meal will be from approximately 6.10 to 6.45, at which time the meeting proper will begin.

RSVP to admin@knoxchurch.net by Sunday 12 August 2018.

Kerry Enright

For the Dunedin North Otago Planning Team

Reminders!

Sunday 15 July, 5 pm.

Children's Church for Pentecost.

Come along and join the fun!

Come along and help (help with tea, and tidying up, is always welcome!)

Sunday 22 July, 7 pm. Evening Worship

Winter reflections by candlelight

Wednesday 25 July

2 pm Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge.

Bronwen Strang speaking on *Celebrating in Texas with Youngest Son*.

7.30 pm Study Night, Morrison Lounge.

Simon Rae speaking on *Purposeful Imagining*.

Supper to follow

~~~~~

***Turangawaewae—a place to stand***

Sunday evening services during winter, in the Gathering Area at Knox Church, 7 pm, incorporating art, song, reflection, reading, interview, silence, prayer.

8 July - Matariki

29 July - Sufficiency in the world

15 July - Violence

5 August - What are we hungering and thirsting for?

22 July - Sufficiency in Aotearoa

12 August - What is quality of life?

## *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 either to Andrea

[andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz](mailto:andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz) or to Margaret

[marg.garland@gmail.com](mailto:marg.garland@gmail.com)

~~~~~

Calendar for early August	
The calendar for July is on the back page.	
1 August ~ Wednesday	7.30 pm: Christian Development Committee Meeting. 111B North Taieri Road
2 August ~ Thursday	7.30 pm: Bible Book of the Month. <i>Micah</i> 129 Signal Hill Road
5 August ~ Sunday	10 am: Worship with Holy Communion. Rev Margaret Garland 11.30 am Pastoral Care and Community Committee meeting at back of church
8 August ~ Wednesday	8 pm: Property and Finance Committee meeting
9 August ~ Thursday	7 pm: Movie Group. Details to be advised.
12 August ~ Sunday	10 am: Worship: Rev Margaret Garland

Lectionary readings, 1 July 2018 to 12 August in Year B, the Year of Mark			
Sunday 1 July - 6th Sunday after Pentecost			
2 Sam 1: 1, 17-27	Ps 130	2 Cor 8: 7-15	Mk 5: 21-43
Sunday 8 July - 7th Sunday after Pentecost			
2 Sam 5: 1-5, 9-10	Ps 48	2 Cor 12: 2-10	Mk 6: 1-13
Sunday 15 July - 8th Sunday after Pentecost			
2 Sam 6: 1-5, 12b-19	Ps 24	Eph 1: 3-14	Mk 6: 14-29
Sunday 22 July - 9th Sunday after Pentecost			
2 Sam 7: 1-14a	Ps 89: 20-37	Eph 2: 11-22	Mk 6: 30-34, 53-56
Sunday 29 July - 10th Sunday after Pentecost			
2 Sam 11: 1-15	Ps 14	Eph 3: 14-21	Jn 6: 1-21
Sunday 5 August - 11th Sunday after Pentecost			
2 Sam 11: 26-12: 13a	Ps 51: 1-12	Eph 4: 1-16	Jn 6: 24-35
Sunday 12 August - 12th Sunday after Pentecost			
2 Sam 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33	Ps 130	Eph 4: 25-5: 2	Jn 6: 35, 41-51

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

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Sunday 15 July

Please send all material for the *August* Opoho Signal to:
Andrea Johnston, 6 Abbeyhill Road, Pine Hill, Dunedin 9010
phone 473 9473 mobile 021 516 275
email andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz

Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church in July

1 July ~ Sunday	10 am: Worship with Holy Communion. Rev Margaret Garland
5 July ~ Thursday	7.30 pm: Bible Book of the Month. <i>Jonah</i> 129 Signal Hill Road
8 July ~ Sunday	10 am: Worship: Rev Margaret Garland
11 July ~ Wednesday	6.30 - 8 pm: Psalm Writing. BYO takeaways. Morrison Lounge
12 July ~ Thursday	7 pm: Movie Group. 49 Signal Hill Road.
15 July ~ Sunday	10 am: Worship: Rev Margaret Garland and John Stenhouse on <i>Jonah</i> 5 pm: Children's Church for Pentecost with tea. Deadline for August <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 July ~ Saturday	10 am: Parish Council Retreat 129 Signal Hill Road
22 July ~ Sunday	10 am: Worship. Rev Margaret Garland <i>Favourite Hymns</i> 7 pm: Worship. Rev Margaret Garland <i>Winter reflections by candlelight</i>
25 July ~ Wednesday	2 pm: Fellowship Group. Morrison Lounge Speaker: Bronwen Strang <i>Celebrating in Texas with Youngest Son.</i> 7.30 pm: Study Group. Morrison Lounge. Simon Rae on <i>Purposeful Imagining</i> . Supper to follow
29 July ~ Sunday	10 am: Worship with Music Group. Rev Margaret Garland
The calendar for the early part of August is on P. 18	

Opoho Signal

July 2018

via email