

*Opoho Signal*

*August 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



**August 2021**

**Minister: The Rev. Clare Lind**

**cell phone 027 026 1962 email: [clarelindnz@gmail.com](mailto:clarelindnz@gmail.com)**

**Parish Clerk: Philip Somerville phone: 03 473 8862**

**email: [psomer39@gmail.com](mailto:psomer39@gmail.com)**

***Worship Services at Opoho:***

**Every Sunday at 10 am**

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

*Editorial*

This has certainly been an eventful few months for Opoho Church. We have now officially welcomed the Reverend Clare Lind as our new minister. There are many opportunities for new growth in a church and a new ministry strikes me as one such opportunity. New ministry represents a natural chapter in the story of a church. This is not the first chapter for Opoho Church but it is a new beginning of sorts.

When I think of new beginnings I think of big exciting changes. Unless I am directly involved, I spend less time thinking about how a new event is implemented. It is easy to think about innovation without considering the years of research, the trials, and the developments that precede new products and knowledge. It easy to

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think about new legislation without considering the policy, the committees, the submissions, and the drafting processes which precede law. Transition may follow a new beginning but the beginning is often a small step or even a thought.

These school holidays I have been endeavouring to clear out my house. My family and I have more possessions than we need (and, in particular, paraphernalia for younger children than we now have). The process of tidying is one where things often look messiest about halfway through. This mess is an important part of the tidying process. Challenges can be a part of change and growth.

It can be more difficult to think of new beginnings in the winter when the land seems bare and the nights are cold and long. But the land is full of new beginnings in the winter. Several enthusiastic bulbs in my garden appear to have adopted this interpretation and have begun to appear from the earth.

Aotearoa recently celebrated Matariki, marking the M ori new year. I understand this is a season of preparation, a season to learn, and a season plan. Perhaps it is the beginning of growth. In its own quiet, steady way, winter is as much a time for new beginnings as spring.

A single journey may include various beginnings. This is tremendous as it means any given moment is an opportunity start anew. Faith can begin with the smallest flame. Faith is a journey. For me, belief challenges. Belief invites exploration and contemplation alike. It is not too late to journey, to learn, and to grow.

Growth does not mean the loss of traditions. If there is a way of doing things which worked well on a previous adventure, it may work well next journey. Many traditions have developed over long periods of time and work well. Indeed, growth is seldom sudden. Perhaps the art lies in knowing when and how to challenge ourselves.

Following, Clare's recent induction, Clare said she was looking forward to seeing what we might get up to together. I share in Clare's sense of adventure. Let us see what we will get up to next.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

**Julie Mander**

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### *Parish Council and Church News*

The main event in the parish in the past month was, of course, the service of induction of our new minister, Clare Lind, on 8 July. The church was full and warm, and the service was also full of warmth. An earlier formality (on 6 July) was a Presbytery function at Burns Hall (First Church) to present the call certificate to Clare. Philip Somerville was there and spoke on behalf of our Parish Council and congregation.

The 'Poetry and Peas' pot luck meal on Saturday 24 July was thoroughly enjoyed by the 20 parishioners who attended. The hall was warm, the food was plentiful and delicious, and a wide variety of poetry was shared – the poems were a mix of old and new, original and otherwise, comic and serious.

Another opportunity for a convivial gathering is coming up: there will be a pot luck lunch (without poetry) after our service on Sunday 22 August.

**Gregor Macaulay**

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*The following prayer by **Andrew Smith** was used in the service of induction on 8 July.*

Good evening God. Surprise! It is us.

We don't usually expect to be addressing you on a Thursday night in winter, and yet here we are!

We are in the middle of doing something new – we let go of what we have done in the past, and we embark on a new ministry.

God, who is heard in the ratchetting cry of the tui and the korimako, and the solid heavy beat of the kereru, if we start from the beginning again, can we start in love?

We are still the same people, even if we pretend, and we need inward eyes that see past the visible exterior into the invisible; Isn't that where you come in, Invisible God? Isn't that why we want to see Jesus?

We don't need to talk to the manager; maybe we need to embody love;

maybe we haven't been as good at that as we like to think; maybe we don't see how forbidding our church walls are; maybe our comfortable church halls haven't been as broad as we like to think.

At the turning of the winter, as you lead out Matariki with the dawn, maybe your holy fire is leading us out to try something new.

We could get used to this.

You can't wait on us, and if that is so, then we are the ones who might have to run, in a most undignified manner, if we want to catch up with your direction, your leading.

We pray that your fire will not burn us; we will settle for being baked into what new mould you have for us.

In the meantime make us listening: to new words, to new songs, to new prayers, to new voices; properly listening, so you can ferment our hearts.

We are praying for a blessing on a new beginning at Opoho Presbyterian Church under the ministry of the Reverend Clare Lind, and an end to the vacancy.

Lead us out to a good start, we might be surprised at what you are planning to do, dear God.

Yours are the words of love we need to hear, and we pray the prayer that you taught your disciples [Our Father ...]

~~~~~

*People-Movers*

Sunday 11 July was Opoho's rostered day for helping patients at Dunedin Hospital get to the chapel service. So that Philip Somerville wouldn't miss Clare's first service, Marian Weaver kindly took over as team leader. She also took the photograph below of the rest of the people-moving group – a mixture of Opoho Church regulars and Opoho locals (left to right, Jo Plunket, Alyth Grant, Bronwen Strang, Miriam Vollweiler, Rudie Tomlinson, and Anne Marie Fox).



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*Reminder!*

**Sunday 22 August**

Pot luck lunch in the Hall, following morning worship.  
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*Fellowship Group*

**2 p.m. on Thursday 12 August in the Morrison Lounge.**

Fellowship Group normally meets on the second Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Morrison Lounge. On 12 August, Clare Lind will talk about her life so far. You are all very welcome to come along.



*Marion with a photo from her wedding day*

At our meeting in July, Marion Rae kept us enthralled and entertained with stories from her childhood and throughout her life. We missed Val Williams (now back home), and phone numbers were tracked down for people to keep in touch with her.

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**  
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## Opportunities for Service 1 August - 26 September 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>August</b>									
1 August	Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson	Jenny Bunce Jane Bloore	Gregor Macaulay	—	Benjamin Thew	David Murray	Winter	Bronwen Strang	Mulders
8 August	Meegan and Pam Cloughley	Shona Somerville Gregor Macaulay	Andrew Smith Judy Rodda	Mark Ranby	—	Guitarists and Singers	Winter	Andrew Smith	Christine Cleugh
15 August	Christine Cleugh Shona Somerville	Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson	Bronwen Strang	John Roxborough	Kieran Somerville	Gaynor Haig	Winter	Andrew Smith	Christine Cleugh
22 August	Daniel Larsen Jane Bloore	Abby Smith Hamish Spencer	Rudie Tomlinson	Marian Weaver	Sanel Tomlinson	David Murray	Winter	Jane Bloore	Meegan Cloughley
29 August	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton	Andrew Smith Mark Ranby	Jenny Bunce	Abby Smith	—	Music Group	Winter	Jane Bloore	Meegan Cloughley
<b>September</b>									
5 September	Bronwen Strang Marian Weaver	Mary and John Somerville	Jane Bloore	—	Abby Smith	David Murray	Fiona Stirling	Chris Young	Benjamin Thew
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

**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.

## *Operation Cover Up*



During our worship service on Sunday 18 July, the eight blankets Opoho Church is contributing this year to Operation Cover Up were blessed.

The project is run by *Mission Without Borders* which is a Christian charity originally set up 60 years ago to get Bibles into the Soviet Union.

Operation Cover Up is under the umbrella of *Mission Without Borders* and was started in 2000. It was started in Opoho by Mrs Kirsten Westerskov (Tui Bevin's mother), then Abby Smith coordinated it, and in more recent years, me.

The operation is at least nationwide in New Zealand. We knit squares that are sewn up into blankets, and these are collected from throughout the country and dispatched in shipping containers to Eastern Europe, where the blankets are distributed to all age groups through aid networks and programmes. In most years, two containers are sent from New Zealand. On the Mission Without Borders website there are photos of people receiving and using the blankets: [www.mwb.org.nz/get-involved/operation-cover-up](http://www.mwb.org.nz/get-involved/operation-cover-up)

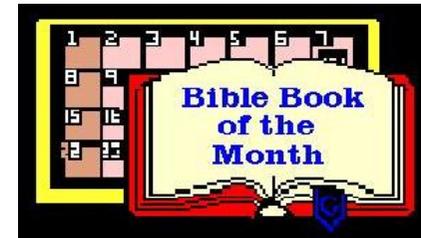
***Marian Weaver***

## *Poems Prayers Psalms Prose an open friendly writing group*



Next meeting is Tuesday 17 August, 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)



This month we will look at *Revelation*, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 5 August 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)

Although Revelation is the last book of the Bible, there will be a further meeting of the group on 2 September to review the journey over the past 6½ years.

***Tui Bevin***

*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 7) August: Batteries**

**Bible verse:** James 3: 8-10

*The tongue is a restless evil, full of deadly poison! With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth comes both blessing and cursing. E te whanau, this should not be so!*

**'Big Idea'**

Every cordless device we use has a battery in it. They are great while they work, but then what? If batteries are tossed out with your kerbside rubbish or recycling, the hazardous substances they contain could cause a fire in the rubbish truck or recycling plant. If they end up in landfill, the poisons inside batteries may leak out into soil and ground water.

**Watch video at**

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

**Questions – for reflection and discussion**

When we buy a battery, do we know what's inside it?

Do we know what will happen to it when it dies?

How come we use toxic substances every day, without a thought?

Discuss James's challenge about the words that we speak.

When can words be poisonous?

What toxic attitudes and behaviours do we take for granted as 'normal'?

We often feel drained. How does God 'recharge your batteries'?!?

**Action Step for August**

Set up a Batteries Box at your church. Get an artist (or the kids!) to design it so it looks cool. Every couple of months empty it at your Council recycling depot.

At home and at church, stop buying things that need throw-away batteries.

Switch to recyclable rechargeable batteries.

**Prayer**

Lord of all, we confess that the words we speak can hurt.

Guard our tongues, that we may not wound one another.

We confess that the things we use every day hurt our environment.

Inspire our choices, that what we use, including batteries, may not wound your creation.

Guard our living that we might be people of faith in the small things and in the big things,

through Christ our friend and the Holy Spirit our Energiser,  
Amen.





### Presbyterian Support Food Bank

There is a year-round need for contributions for the Food Bank. Please leave contributions in the basket at the back of the church. The food bank is well stocked with the 14,474 cans donated at Octacan, but **tea, coffee and Milo** are very low at the moment. Food items (but nothing frozen or perishable please) or other useful housekeeping items are welcomed.

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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](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)

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

#### **Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Friday 20 August 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)

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| Lectionary readings, 1 August to 19 September 2021<br>in Year B, the Year of Mark |                 |                              |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 1 August - 10th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                              |                 |                              |                         |
| 2 Sam 11: 26-12: 13a                                                              | Ps 51: 1-12     | Eph 4: 1-16                  | Jn 6: 24-35             |
| <b>Sunday 8 August - 11th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                              |                 |                              |                         |
| 2 Sam 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33                                                          | Ps 130          | Eph 4: 25-5: 2               | Jn 6: 35, 41-51         |
| <b>Sunday 15 August - 12th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                             |                 |                              |                         |
| 1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-14                                                         | Ps 111          | Eph 5: 15-20                 | Jn 6: 51-58             |
| <b>Sunday 22 August - 13th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                             |                 |                              |                         |
| 1 Kings 8: (1,6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43                                             | Ps 84           | Eph 6: 10-20                 | Jn 6: 56-69             |
| <b>Sunday 29 August - 14th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                             |                 |                              |                         |
| Song Sol 2: 8-13                                                                  | Ps 45: 1-2, 6-9 | James 1: 17-27               | Mk 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23 |
| <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             |

## Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

| August                  |                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 August ~ Sunday       | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion                                                            |
| 5 August ~ Thursday     | 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month: <i>Revelation</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road                                |
| 8 August ~ Sunday       | 10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith                                                                                |
| 12 August ~ Thursday    | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge                                                                   |
| 15 August ~ Sunday      | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind                                                                       |
| 17 August ~ Tuesday     | 7 p.m.: Poems Prayers Psalms Prose – an open friendly writing group, Salmond College Chapel, 19 Knox Street |
| 19 August ~ Thursday    | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge                                                                  |
| 20 August ~ Tuesday     | Material due for September <i>Opoho Signal</i>                                                              |
| 22 August ~ Sunday      | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, followed by pot-luck lunch                                           |
| 29 August ~ Sunday      | 10 a.m.: Worship, Gregor Macaulay, <i>Hymns by Sydney Carter and Fred Kaan</i>                              |
| September               |                                                                                                             |
| 2 September ~ Thursday  | 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month: Reviewing Our 6½ Year Journey, 129 Signal Hill Road                     |
| 5 September ~ Sunday    | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion                                                            |
| 9 September ~ Thursday  | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge                                                                   |
| 12 September ~ Sunday   | 10 a.m.: Worship, preacher TBA                                                                              |
| 16 September ~ Thursday | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge                                                                  |
| 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   | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind                                                                       |

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