



Methodist Parish

Finding good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

20th March 2011

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 27th MARCH 2011

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| 9.30am | Mornington | K Russell |
| 9.30 am | Mosgiel | G Preston |
| 11.00 am | Glenaven | K Russell |
| 11.00 am | Wesley | G Preston |
| 1.00pm | St Kilda | S Finau |
| 6.00pm | Broad Bay | No Service |

EXPLORERS GROUP

Meets 4-30pm on Sunday 27th, in the Mornington Church Lounge, All welcome.

A MEAL FOR CHRISTCHURCH QUAKE VICTIMS

Judy Russell has offered to prepare a three-course meal (with optional wine) on Saturday 9 April at a charge of \$25 dollars. All profits will go to the Christchurch Earthquake Victims Fund. The meal will be followed by a free movie, *Mousehunt*. a family comedy. (please ring Judy (4553 727) if you want to share this special meal in a good cause. Or sign in at Mornington, where the meal will be held at 6pm.



CHISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

This week's Open Education session and the pre-session meal have raised \$560 for the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PARISH HALF-TIME MINISTRY POSITION

The extraordinary Parish Council meeting planned for next week to discuss the half-time ministry position in the Dunedin Parish has been postponed until Thursday 31 March when the President of Conference Rev Desmond Cooper hopes to visit and attend the meeting. Further details will follow.

CELLISTS OF OTAGO 2011 SEASON

The first concert of the 2011 season will take place in the Mornington Methodist Church at 3pm, SUNDAY 20 March. Proceeds are to be donated to relief for the Christchurch Earthquake. The usual admission prices of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and students will apply, with the proviso that anyone wishing to donate a larger sum will be most welcome to. There will be a varied programme of over an hour with Pachebel, Bach and Faure, interspersed with Glenn Miller, Thelonius Monk and Fats Waller! The cellists will again be led by University executant Heleen Du Plessis. The talented musicians of Dunedin will be on show with David Murray, Myles Chen, Thomas Scott, Corwin Newall, Kirsten Bevin and Florian Beyer.



THE MISSION IS ON THE MOVE!

The Administration Office of the Methodist Mission is on the move! We will be relocating to the Middleton Road Community Centre (old Corstorphine School) temporarily until Wesley Village is established. The office will be closed on Friday 25th March for moving, this will mean **any articles/notices for the Bulletin and material for Orders of Service must be into Sarah no later than Tuesday 22nd March at 5.00pm.**

JUMBLE SALE THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated lots of treasures for our annual jumble sale. Again it was fantastic fun and a great success. It was a beautiful fine day so we set up our furniture, sports and tool departments outside to create a spot of 'outdoor ambience!' We sold lots of treasures, all at very



reasonable prices and raised \$1,500.00. The following weekend we had a garage sale, as a way of further reducing the left over stock that needed to be delivered to other opportunity shops and raised another \$200.00. So a great effort and special thanks to all of the amazing ELC staff who put in many hours behind the scene, along with Graeme an ex Approach student who worked long hours the week before setting up the hall and was on deck for both sale days to make cups of tea for the workers and keep things running smoothly. Start saving your things for 2012 – I am happy to collect at any time and am very grateful to Alex for the use of one of the back rooms in the hall for storage throughout the year. The best thing about the jumble sale is all of the team work and good relationships that are formed, I love being part of the event and finding goodies for the Early Learning Centre is a big bonus!!

Arohanui, Denise Howard, *Section Manager, Child & Family Services*



I am ready for Easter. Yes, even though Lent has just started and the Easter weekend is a few weeks away, I'm all set. I've got an Easter Bunny, so this time I won't have to buy one at an exorbitant price at the Warehouse or Pak'nsave or the New World, or wherever else cunning merchants are scheming to relieve me of my money.

My Bunny is rather cute. He consists of a large, white rabbit (well, really a hare) head with a pink nose and two purple-lined ears, set on a spring-loaded pop-up handgrip. When you press his button, he leaps into the air (resurrection style) with a resounding 'Boing! Boing! Boing!' Then he subsides until you press his button again. I've thought of bringing him to church on Easter Day, but somehow 'Boing! Boing!' isn't quite the sound I want to make, nor is it—I suspect—a sound others might wish to hear.

Now why rabbits and Easter? I really don't know, but they do remind me of Beatrix Potter, author of perhaps the most famous rabbit story ever told, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

Beatrix was born into a wealthy London family, but grew up a lonely child supervised by nurses and educated by governesses. The atmosphere in

her home was oppressively quiet, and she developed a yearning for the dream world of the countryside. She taught herself to draw and paint, and began sketching her own pet animals, dressing them in clothes to make them amusing. Eventually her dream world generated a number of stories, illustrated with her own pen and watercolour drawings. In 1893 she sent one to Noel Moore, the five-year-old son of her former governess, Annie Moore. Little Noel was recovering from a bout of scarlet fever, so Beatrix amused him with a story based on her own pet rabbit, Peter Piper: 'I don't know what to write to you, so I shall tell you a story about four little rabbits, whose names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail, and Peter'.

Later, after successive publishers had turned down her manuscripts, she privately printed *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* herself. Her own copy of this edition contains the following inscription, recording the death of Peter Piper. 'In affectionate memory of Peter Piper, who died on the 26th of January 1901 at the end of his 9th year. Whatever the limitations of his intellect or the outward shortcomings of his fur and his ears and toes, his disposition was uniformly amiable and his temper unfailingly sweet. An affectionate companion and a quiet friend.'

I have always loved those little Beatrix Potter books, and especially the tale of that naughty rabbit. But as an adult I have gone on to read many other books with different visions of the world—*Watership Down* among them, in which rabbits fight ferociously with each other, become refugees and have to combat a terrible plague. New Zealanders who have to deal with plague numbers of rabbits on our farmlands might also have a different vision of those cuddly pets; one more in keeping with Mr McGregor's fury at finding them thieving in his vegetable garden.

Now I reckon that far too many Christians are content with their Sunday School versions of Jesus...you know, the one just like Peter Piper, whose 'disposition was uniformly amiable and his temper unfailingly sweet. An affectionate companion and a quiet friend.'

I understand their deep and abiding affection for a Jesus of this kind, but I hope they will grow to realize that there is more to be said and learned about one who gathered small children to himself, but also faced up to the big bad cruelly real world, and changed it forever. Is your Easter Jesus going to be a cuddly pet, another Peter Piper, or an exploding-out-of-the-grave Son of God?

Colin Gibson