



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyter:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
Parish Stewards:	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Dr Richard Cannon	477 5030
	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@dmm.org.nz	466 4600
	Nat: natv@dmm.org.nz	

PARISH BULLETIN

1 April 2012

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8 April 2012

9.30am	Mornington	S. Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	G. Watson
11.00 am	Glenaven	S. Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	G. Watson
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
6.00pm	Broad Bay	

OPEN EDUCATION

Practice leader at the Methodist Mission's Approach Community Learning Centre, Charles Pearce, gave a stunningly good presentation to the first meeting of the Parish's Open Education series on the subject of Youth at Risk, in which he discussed some of the factors involved in youth suicides (particularly among young men). Any parent would have learned much that was useful in their dealings with their own children as they make the troubled transition from dependent child to mature adult. Charles referred to an excellent publication called *The Anger Toolbox*, which he described as simple, easy to read and making total sense. (Do your children ever fly off the handle; do you?) This valuable resource can be purchased online at <http://www.skylight.org.nz/Shop/The+Anger+Toolbox>. Skylight have a range of other books and resources of a similar kind.

MOSGIEL'S GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

APRIL 6^{TH.}, "WALK OF THE CROSS" 9:00 AM FROM OUTSIDE HOLY CROSS CHAPEL, CHURCH STREET ENDING IN TIME FOR THE SERVICE AT ST. LUKES FOR COMBINED CHURCHES AT 10:00 AM. MORNING TEA TO FOLLOW.

15 APRIL BROAD BAY

A change to the preaching plan: The service at Broad Bay on 15 April will be taken by Helen Watson White, not Siosifa Pole as originally indicated.

PARISH EASTER STUDY: FINDING A VOICE

Session 3, '*Pressing forward and breaking through*' will be held this Tuesday, April 3rd at 7.30 pm in the Mornington Methodist Church. Extracts from the movie, *The King's Speech*, are used as a starting point for Bible study. Everyone from throughout the parish is very welcome to attend; come to just one or two if you can't make it to all the sessions. Sessions 4 and 5 to complete the series will be held after Easter; look for dates in Bulletin.

Maundy Thursday Service

You are invited to a Maundy Thursday Service
Held at Mosgiel Methodist Church at 7pm on 5th April
This service will base on Tenebrae Order of Service.
Tenebrae is the Latin for "darkness".
All are welcome.

**MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TUESDAY
3RD APRIL OUR SPEAKER WILL BE COLIN GIBSON
SPEAKING TO US ABOUT HIS MUSIC 1:30PM IN OUR
CHURCH HALL LOUNGE ALL WELCOME. Anyone requiring
transport please phone Elaine on 489 7663.**

Barnabas Fund NZ

World crisis and tragic events often place Christians in greater peril than others because of the discrimination they suffer.

Barnabas Fund NZ field representative, Stephanie Dole will be at St Stevens Church on 4 April from 7:30-9:00PM. Stephanie will be providing you with current and important information on the persecuted church, how Barnabas Fund is helping, and how you can be involved in making a difference for your brothers and sisters who face persecution on a daily basis because of their faith in Jesus Christ. We will also be spending some time in prayer.

Please come be a part of this night. Friends are welcome and we appreciate if you can get the word out to anyone who might take an interest.

4 April 7:30-9:00PM

**Stephen's Presbyterian Church
267 Malvern St., Leith Valley, Dunedin**

INSTALLATION SERVICE

St Lukes on the Taieri would like to warmly invite you to the installation of Stephen White as the new vicar of St Lukes on the Taieri.

The service will be held on Thursday, April 12th at 7pm in St Lukes Church, Gordon Road.
Followed by supper.

Servants Health Centre in Dunedin needs a MANAGER.

This is a paid position of 20 hours weekly (but negotiable). SHC is a Christian health centre, staffed by volunteers, offering services at no charge to some of the most disadvantaged people. We have been serving for three years and now need to position ourselves for future growth. We are looking for an effective leader with excellent relationship and communication skills, who is able to take our vision forward.

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Experience in this role and in the health sector would be an advantage.

Please reply with your CV to Manager Position, c/- John, Servants

Health Centre, 100 Princes Street, Dunedin 9016 or to

john@shc.org.nz

A Story from the Mission

The Nursery children have been lucky enough to add a new member to their Little Citizen family. "Pepper the rabbit". We were very lucky to have him donated to the centre. It is a great learning experience for the children as they are developing skills in caring for animals and each other, being kind and sharing responsibility for another living creature and each other. The nursery children have been into dancing and learning about sound. They love the tubes we have been donated, they yell into them and make all different sounds.

South Dunedin Walk of the Cross.

The South Dunedin churches are joining together in the walk of the Cross on Good Friday at 9am.

The walk will start from the Shark Bell at St. Clair Esplanade and finish at the Baptist Church.

Easter Dawn Fish Service

The Broad Bay Methodist Church

hosts an early service on Easter day at the beach with fish breakfast at 7am.

All are welcome



If there is a South Island controversy that has attracted more national attention of late than the parlous state of the Otago Rugby Union - and related issues of DCC debt and the Forsyth Barr stadium - it is the heated stouch over the future of the Christchurch Cathedral.

The media have been saturated with it. The competing options have been heatedly canvassed. To rebuild the Cathedral as it was, stone upon stone; to built a brand new Cathedral on the same iconic site; or even to relocate (perish the thought) to a site less prone to future earthquake damage? And just as cogent in the debate is the equally vexed question of where responsibility lies? Is it wholly with the owners, the Anglican Diocese, or does the City, which over time has assumed a virtual ownership, a certain right of possession, have a moral right to play a leading part in deciding what is best to be done? And even further, the question of cost. The Bishop, Victoria Matthews, has quoted the cost of replicating the original Cathedral at \$100 million, well beyond, she says, the resources of the Anglicans. Her figures have been seriously challenged as a none-too-subtle device to deflect away from her Diocese's desire to offload the long-standing burden of maintaining the Cathedral, largely for the benefit of the wider community. Against her, the voices of experienced architects and engineers are quoting \$20 million as a much more realistic cost of restoring what was lost, and with it the iconic image so beloved of city traditionalists.

The permutations of the debate are endless, with widespread anger at the most recent decision of the Cathedral authorities to

lower the entire surrounds of what is left of the building to a metre or two above ground level, a move that critics say cynically pre-empt the aspirations of those who want the old cathedral to rise from the rubble.

As an outsider I find it hard to be drawn too much into the pros and cons of the controversy. Where I am drawn in, and at quite an emotional level, is at the point where the witness of the Church to the Gospel is under consideration, and what that witness needs to be in a broken City seriously considering its life beyond the misery of repeated shaking.

As one who has done no more than sadly tour the circumference of the stricken Christchurch CBD, I respond to the vision of those who dream of a new city emerging from the ruins, daring, innovative, and incorporating the very best of New Zealand design and construction. It's a heady vision, and I am impressed with the resolve and ability of local leaders who say with conviction that it can be done, even while retaining enough of the heritage aspects for which the former city is so well remembered.

But where is the Church in this dreaming? Last week's article in the ODT by columnist Ian Harris probed those dimensions. He asked " how will Anglicans . . . affirm Christianity in a way that is part of the new world rather than the old. Will nostalgia pull them backwards? Or will faith, in the sense of a trusting orientation to life and its possibilities, impel them forward?

Surely, that is the question for all the churches, and with due respect to the Bishop, she has given little indication she is receptive to input that does not sit easily with a stiff and authoritarian understanding of her episcopal role. Suffer under the tragedy of it all she undoubtedly does, but her demeanour conveys to all and sundry that the future of the Cathedral is an Anglican matter, and Anglican it will remain - as witness the

"deconsecration" ceremony, where the good lady invoked her "canonical authority" in first-person ecclesiastical formalese. The question many will have asked was how the damaged Cathedral was more "consecrated" before her invocation than after it, and what difference her episcopal release to the crumbling walls would make to the final outcome? The "deconsecration" was well reported, but I saw no evidence at the time that the theological issues behind her high-sounding rhetoric were explored.

But can they be ignored? Ian Harris reminded us of the towering figure of Paul Tillich, who shook the foundations of Christian theology only a generation ago by challenging the view that unswerving loyalty to ancient traditions (often) means holding fast to understandings and doctrines forged for a world long gone. The new Christchurch will demand more of the Church than that!

So let me make reference to a small but not unimportant initiative by our erstwhile Parish member Rosalie Sugrue and six other Methodists of liberal persuasion from Auckland to Dunedin (of whom I am pleased to be one) who have made a submission designed to draw to the attention of the Bishop and Anglican authorities the importance of other considerations that go beyond those on which the debate has so far focussed.

A quick summary are these -

- * That the Diocese recognise the impact of the quakes on other denominations and faiths; that other sacred buildings of great spiritual significance have been lost, and that ecumenical factors be taken into account when decisions are being taken over the Cathedral.

- * That just as the post-war generation was inspired by the resurrection of Coventry Cathedral from the ashes of the Blitz, in a similar manner the rebirth of the Christchurch Cathedral be made to speak to the pluralistic realities of the 21 century by

retaining the West Wall, the Rose Window and other special features, but incorporating multi-purpose space to provide for other Christian traditions who have lost "their cathedrals."

* To invite the other faiths of today's Christchurch to furnish a space for their traditions, and to create a truly inclusive place of worship, celebration and meeting.

* To enshrine the 4th article of the Treaty of Waitangi (recognising all faiths present in New Zealand at the time of the signing), Karen Armstrong's "Charter for Compassion", and the Millenium Statement as the founding documents of a truly ecumenical cathedral.

We are given to understand the proposal is on the agenda for the next Cathedral meeting, with the Bishop in attendance. And what are it's chances of it being heard? Who knows! And was it an impertinence or a waste of time? Surely not.

We Church people are expert in adopting charters, and embracing high-sounding verities like unity, inclusion and diversity. We Methodists are particularly adept at it, but so are the Anglicans. Only three years ago the two churches embraced the Anglican/Methodist Covenant. But there are times in life, times of crisis and times of opportunity, when for credibility the creeds and charters have to leap off the paper on which they are written and take flesh. It's called "doing theology."

Ken Russell