



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

1st July 2012

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8th JULY 2012

9.30am	Mornington	K Russell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	K Russell
11.00 am	Wesley	G Watson
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
4.00pm	Broad Bay	No Service

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The June Meeting will take place on the 4th July at 2 p.m. This will take place in the Church Lounge, followed by Devotions - taken by the Rev. Siosifa Pole, who will then chair the Annual Meeting.

The Guest Speaker will be Siosifa - subject - "Growing up in Tonga". All Welcome. **(Please note the change of date).**



PARISH PROPERTY FINANCE AND RESOURCING COMMITTEE

Will be meeting on Thursday 5 July, 7.30pm, at the Mission staff room. One of the main topics for discussion will be insurance levels for congregations.

Further information from Jenny Winter 478 0491 or mcleanwinter@clear.net.nz.

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

On behalf of the Mornington congregation and the wider Dunedin Methodist Parish, I would like to convey a message of sympathy and condolences to the family of Joy King on her death. Your grief and sorrow are also ours as well. May God give us courage and peace as we continue to journey without Joy's company. It is God's love that holds us together with those who have departed from us.

THANK YOU

I would like to convey my appreciation and thanks on behalf of the parish to all those who contributed to the celebrations of the lives of Mabel Chandler, Geoff Preston, and Joy King.



It was definitely a tough time in our parish life but your support enabled us to honour these people in the most appropriate way. I am sure their families are all appreciated your love and care. May God bless you all.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To Annie Sussman who celebrates a Birthday on 2nd July.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR at Mosgiel was the attraction last Saturday night, when the Y@M group, with a number of parents, met at the home of Ginny Kitchingman and Richard Cannon before heading off for the big show. Verdict on the night - WOW, NEAT, COOL.

The meal was YUMMY, butter chicken and heaps of other goodies. Thanks Ginny & all. And the SHOW was brilliant in every way, passionately performed by a talented local cast. Good idea. Let's do it again some time....

Picture shows Y@M with a well fed look.



Story from the Mission

On Wednesday 20th June some of the children, teachers and parents joined Delta and some of the Highlanders rugby team to watch as they built our new playground fence. This was an exciting time for the children and families as they were able to meet and talk with some of their local rugby team and see where there new centre is going to be. The children did a wonderful job mingling with the rugby players and even managed to help hammer a nail or two, some of the children even made it onto the local news and into the newspaper. Lisa provided each of the children with a wee notebook and pen so they could get Highlander autographs – which many of them did!!



Recent Facebook comments from parents:

- 1) *A big thank you to all the staff. My family and I have appreciated the kindness shown to and in taking care of MJ over the last 4 years.*
- 2) *I looked absolutely everywhere little citizens is the best in town...the teachers are just amazing ... great structure preparing our precious kiddies for school. Love it so much we plan to visit when my son starts school :)*



Earthquakes by their nature shake, disrupt and frighten the heebiejeebers out of those in their path. Christchurch knows only too well. Even worse, aftershocks of varying magnitude keep on jolting the unstable ruins, hastening the inevitable doom of some of the City's most celebrated structures - none moreso than the iconic Cathedral.

Having ventured once, I have nothing more to say about the Cathedral. There are contenders enough on both sides of a heated debate as to its future, and surely it is time for people like me with no particular ties to Christchurch, and only a layman's knowledge of the complexities involved, to leave difficult decisions to those who have a stake in the City.

But as to the future of large stone or brick churches, whether in Canterbury, Otago, or anywhere else in this earthquake prone land, the Christchurch experience has been salutary. In bishoprics, vestries, and councils church leaders count the sharply escalating cost of ownership of their particular icons from the grand era of Church building. The picture they see is akin to an earthquake of another kind, which added to other negative indicators such as falling attendances and eroding incomes, point to a dismal future for the established church.

A case in point was showcased last week when the Anglican Bishop of Dunedin laid bare the parlous situation of his Diocese.

He was remarkably frank. The Anglican Church in the region, he said, has been in decline by any parameter that could be named. "Starved of resources" he said several of his parishes have reached a point of virtual extinction. Property statistics are dire. 30 parishes in Otago and Southland own 60 churches between them, and as many halls. All have to be inspected and many will need expensive remedial work, the cost of which will be well beyond their ability to pay. Add to that, the cost of insurance has risen 60%. Topping his list, no doubt, is the Cathedral in the Octagon, yet to be inspected, but even one of the ancillary buildings would cost \$200,000 to fix. What he was saying, it seemed to me, is that the financial cost of earthquake code compliance for a property-laden but

cash- strapped diocese is the straw that will likely break the camels back, and nothing short of a radical restructuring of the whole top heavy edifice will be sufficient.

The Bishop realises only too well that while Christchurch Cathedral is the focus of media attention it is not typical of the problems facing the Church in general. Whatever the fate of the Canterbury icon, whether to restore or to rebuild, so great is both the world-wide Anglican and the community investment in it, that one way or another the money will be found to fund the final outcome. But no such funding will be available to "rescue" other beleaguered parishes of all denominations, a painful realisation that is slowly beginning to dawn well beyond the Diocese.

Bishop Wright was at pains to convey not pessimism but realism. He says he is energised by the challenge of it, and good on him for that. The nature of the challenge, he says, is to build something "more authentic" - perhaps the most significant words in his entire statement. We Methodists might well take a leaf from his book as both locally and nationally we face our version of the same challenge/problem.

Just as significant, I thought, was the ODT editorial that followed a few days later. It was more than simply a bland empathising with the problems of the Diocese, but a fairly penetrative examination of the deeper issues behind the Bishop's statement. I'll quote just a few extracts

"Part of the (the bishop's) authenticity might indeed have less to do with the shape or grandeur of the buildings in which the diocese worships, and rather more to do with how a church sees itself and its role in the 21st century.... it might include a genuine look at worship, the language in which it is conducted and the means by which the community of the church is enjoined, "connected" and enriched. In today's world, temples to material well-being, in their manifold variations, abound. The spiritual and social dimensions are not so well catered for, and it is in this realm that the churches, however they choose to re-cast themselves, have a critical role to play. After all, ... God does not dwell in temples built by hands."

Well said. The Earthquake further up SH 1 has most assuredly shaken things up, as all decent shakes do, and wise heads in both the Church and Community are beginning to be quite outspoken about the long term consequences for us all.

The real Church will undoubtedly survive, but I doubt that many of us have yet grasped the extent to which the future "restructuring" demanded of the Church will impact on church as we know it. Lighter and leaner for sure, but there was another word significantly missed by both the Bishop and the leader-writer, and that was REFORMATION.

Let's face it. The future of the nation's cathedrals, and the viability of traditional administration structures, are in reality a distraction. What is at issue is as fundamental as the faith of the Church. The real Church will survive, for sure, but not because our buildings have been earthquake proofed to a certain percentage of the government's code, nor because people have come flocking back to fill empty pews and replenish empty coffers.

The *authentic* Church will survive when it grasps the courage to recast its faith in terms that attract both the imagination and the intellectual commitment of 21st century people. It is a challenge that has already been joined by scholars, writers, preachers and teachers, but it has a long way to go before it becomes a reformation as influential as that headed 500yrs ago by Martin Luther.

Sin and guilt-based theology must go. So must the impossible concept of atonement by blood, to name only two of the traditional doctrines that have become progressively more offensive as the years go by. As one Anglican priest in a recent sermon put it, the *theological* challenge to the Church outweighs any other - and the integrity of the Church today will be shaped by "*how it comes to understand God, humanity, and the mission of Jesus*". ... whether God is forever the judge and punisher of sins; whether humanity is forever depraved and in need of saving, or whether Jesus' mission is in sacrificially dying to influence an otherwise angry and vengeful God.

To guide the Church as we know it into a profoundly different faith in respect of all three, will take more than an earthquake of 7.1 on the richter scale. More likely a mighty shake of the Spirit.

Ken Russell

