



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)

<b>Presbyter:</b>	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Dr Richard Cannon	477 5030
	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
<b>Tongan Steward:</b>	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Siosifa: <a href="mailto:parish@dmm.org.nz">parish@dmm.org.nz</a>	466 4600
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## PARISH BULLETIN

26<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2012

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

9.30am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	D Phillipps
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	D Phillipps
1.00pm	St Kilda	Comb. Wesley
4.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

### EXPLORERS GROUP

Meets in the Mornington Church lounge at 4-30pm on Sunday August 26th, all welcome

### MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.

The August Meeting will held on the 29th August - in the Church Lounge at 2 p.m. (please note the change of date).

The Guest Speaker will be the Rev Donald Phillipps. The Subject - 57 Methodist Societies - and counting! All Welcome.

## **AN ENCHANTING EDWARDIAN EVENT**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 at 2.00pm. Mornington Methodist Church.

Entry \$5.00. Dress; Gents – Bowtie / Ladies – Hat and gloves

This is a Parish event, everyone welcome.

A plate of food per car load please. If you have a **FLAG** please bring it as this will be a patriotic occasion. Entertainment will be provided.

If you need tickets see Margaret Connor or Fay Richardson. There will be door sales.

## **ANNUAL OPEN PEACE LECTURE**

DUNEDIN ABRAHAMIC INTERFAITH GROUP AND OTAGO TERTIARY CHAPLAINCY

“Words, concepts, deeds. Peace as a way of living.” Rabbi Adi Cohen - Wellington Progressive Jewish Congregation. Monday 3 September 2012 5.30-7pm. St David Lecture Theatre, Otago University. Followed by supper together at All Saints Anglican Church Hall 786 Cumberland St. All welcome.

## **MORNINGTON CHURCH NOTICES**

- Leaders' Meeting people responsible for reports for the AGM (Sunday 16 September after church) please have them in to Sarah Campbell [sarahc@dmm.org.nz](mailto:sarahc@dmm.org.nz) by the last day of August, please. As she is to be away for a week it would pay to be prompt.
- Sunday 30 Sept combined service with Vice-President of NZ Methodist Church - pencil in date in diary. More to follow.
- Saturday 8 September, 1.30 pm in Lounge Lay Ministry Team training planning for roles in church.
- Mary Thompson is in Palmerston North - George has the books. George & Judy will be in Wellington 2-6 September.
- 13 September 7.30pm PF&R meeting at Mission.



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

To Kakala Pole who turns 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

## **BULLETIN NOTICES FOR 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER**

As I will be on leave around this time, it would be appreciated if all notices for the 2<sup>nd</sup> September Bulletin by into the Mission Office (phone 466 4600 or [sarahc@dmm.org.nz](mailto:sarahc@dmm.org.nz)) by 10.00am on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August.

Thank you. – Sarah Campbell.

## **WATER FOR LIFE**

A limited number of copies of the excellent DVD film of the concert celebrating the stories and poetry of Margaret Mahy are now available. The first edition was sold out at once: a good birthday or Christmas gift. Price \$10. We also have a number of small (12x12") cloth carry-bags, finely made and in attractive designs, for sale at \$5 each. Contact Colin Gibson for sales (453 6662) All profits go to the Water for Life project of Christian World Service to provide water resources for Palestinian women on the West Bank.



## **SEKONAIA POLE**

Has had a good week. Not only was the Otago Boys HS Choir, of which he is a member, placed **SECOND** in the National Secondary Schools Choir competitions held in Wellington, but he returned post haste from Wellington to take his place as Hooker for the Boys High 1st XV and he scored a try in the resounding win over Waitaki Boys last Saturday. His picture in try-scoring mode in the ODT last Monday said it all - was he looking up to the ref to award the try, or was he looking towards Siosifa in the crowd with the implicit question "what about that one Dad?" All indications are that Sekonaia's influence on Otago Boy's has been profound. Not only popular and respected, but clearly marked out as a leader for the future.

Well done Sekonia! *KR*

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 15 AUGUST 2012

- The Vice-President, Olive Amani Tanielu, will preach at the combined Parish service on 30 September 2012.
- The President's Pastoral Committee has decided to seek an independent investigation of whether or not it has acted unethically in relation to the Dunedin Methodist Parish.
- The Parish accounts shows a surplus of ~\$18,800 for the financial year July 2011 – June 2012. This represents savings from the unfilled 0.25 ministry position, but some of the surplus will be loaned to congregations to pay building insurance premiums for the current financial year
- Two candidates for the 0.25 ministry position are being processed by Mission Resourcing.

### DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH FINANCES APRIL – JUNE 2012

#### Income

Offerings	Broad Bay	681.00
	Glenaven	1,173.62
	Mornington	13,225.70
	Mosgiel	3,871.70
	Wesley	<u>2,858.60</u>
Glenaven Property		2,505.00
Rental Income		10,105.00
Other Income		<u>2,475.29</u>
		<b>36,895.91</b>

#### Expenses

Ministry	15,749.80
Ministry Rental	4,200.00
Removal Fund	714.00
Connexional Budget	1,836.00
District Expenses	624.99
Property Expenses	3,750.33
Other Expenses	<u>2,719.29</u>
	<b>29,594.41</b>

#### Special Income

Water for Life \$3,330.00

**LAST SUNDAY'S SERVICE** at Mornington, led by Greg Hughson, focussed strongly on the chaplaincy at Otago University. Two students with links to Mornington spoke of their progress at University. From left - Christina Hughson is in her final year of a degree in physiotherapy and is at a stage where she will be applying for jobs for 2013, and is excited by the reality that next year she could be "anywhere." The congregation was impressed with her poise and articulation. Go well, Christina. Scott Greaves is doing geography, philosophy, politics and others, and he too is excited as to where his study will take him. With Scott, a refreshing ability to reduce complex things to a simple rationalisation - typical of young Kiwi males of Scott's age. Go well, Scott.



## THANK YOU

I would like to convey my thanks to all the volunteers who are working in any capacity to assist the work of the Dunedin Methodist Parish. From the Statistics form, it is clear the excessive amount of time that you give for the work of this church. Obviously, without your passion to serve God in this parish, we wouldn't be able to function.

It is my prayer and hope that you will continue to give your support to the ministry of our church.

### ***Thinking of Someone to Thank by Richard Carlson***

This simple strategy, which may take only a few seconds to complete, has long been one of the most important habits I have ever engaged in. I try to remember to start my day thinking of someone to thank. To me, gratitude and inner peace go hand in hand. The more genuinely grateful I feel for the gift of my life, the more peaceful I feel. Gratitude, then, is worthy of a little practice.

### **Story from the Mission**

Have had the PD gangs at Forbury working on the gardens, cleaning and painting. Our current Social Work student has been a huge help with both the move and working with the playgroup mums. I have postponed Music and Movement and Superheroes playgroup for a couple of week just while we move but this won't take place until July. The Dunedin Korean Playgroup has decided to return to the Hub for their regular weekly meetings and would like to have groups for the Infants on a Friday morning as well.

Carol from family violence brought Grace Zhang along to the Hub. Grace is from Shakti the Ethnic Women's Support Group. Grace is interested in connecting with women in need of support and thought she could do that through the Hub. Hannah Henderson from Idea Services came for a visit and to talk about some connections with them maybe with volunteers. Great conversation with the Ladies from the Council about a bike library with the result they are going away to do more planning and we will meet again in August. Anna Hughes from Conscious Parenting would like to come for a visit to the new Hub. They meet once a month and would like to do this at the Hub.



I couldn't believe my ears. Here was I standing in the kitchen of my daughter's house in the little village of Cranbrook in comfortable, wealthy south-eastern Kent, England, listening to a BBC radio programme in which two Anglican women priests were slugging it out over the issue of whether the Church of England should allow (allow!) women to become bishops.

I might have been listening as I did twenty years previously to the same debate, the same arguments being hurled at each other by two Anglican women, on a BBC television programme exploring the vexed question of



whether Christian women should ever be allowed to become *priests* in the Church of England. I recall with delight the way in which the cameras moved back from the nose to nose opponents to pick out in the back row of the fiercely engaged audience several silent women. They speechlessly represented the real world and the status of religious women beyond the hot-house confines of the Anglican Church of the time: Methodist and Presbyterian woman ministers, a Quaker leader, a Sikh female priest, a Jewish female Rabbi, besides several others.

But back to the present and BBC radio. Both speakers were Anglican priests and chaplains, one pro, the other anti women bishops. The woman arguing for change pointed out (mildly enough) that since there were now more than 30,000 ordained Anglican women whose existence had certainly not brought down the wrath of God on the Church of England—a church which without such leadership could now no longer supply even its dwindling congregations with ministry—the more able among them were surely entitled to the more senior position of bishop.

The conservative argued that since *Genesis* (that is, the second version of the creation story—though she didn't seem to know about the *two* creation stories) describes women as subordinate to men in their creation (the rib and the snake stuff) it was unthinkable for a woman to exercise any position of authority over men, either as wife—she always took her husband's say as final, she told us, and was so much happier as a result—or as a bishop. And hadn't St Paul instructed women to 'be obedient', and didn't Jesus choose only men as disciples? It was breathtaking stuff: a twenty-first century woman arguing for a pre-historic social contract.

Only days later, on Granada television I caught a Muslim woman commenting on the debate from another faith perspective. Enlightened? No suree! Women, she declared, were all ritually unclean (she was referring to menstruation, I suppose) and therefore could never be religious leaders of her own faith or of any other.

In the event, the General Synod, having at least defeated a proposal to allow *second-class* women bishops who would not have equal authority with male bishops, decided to postpone any decision on the matter, on the grounds that that would allow the warring parties to cool down and possibly come to agreement. In November of this very year of our Lord, 2012, the Synod may—or may not—decide whether to permit its women

priests to dream about becoming bishops of their church. But I wouldn't hold my breath.

This to my mind ridiculous situation, brought about by conservative women and men brainwashed by generations of biblical literalism and engrained social custom, proves that patriarchy is alive and well; that the kind of gender inequality described so well by Trish Patrick in her reflection on the position of women in society and the church during the Explorers' services held in this parish only a few weeks ago, persists to this day.

But before we throw any bricks at English Anglicanism, let us make sure that New Zealand Methodists (and that includes Dunedin Methodists) have clean hands in the matter. Let us make sure that there continues to be a balance between men and women in leadership positions at all levels of our Church; that our worship services acknowledge and honour the feminine as well as the masculine sides of our human nature; that we live in a society where women and men, girls and boys, enjoy the full respect and support that every human deserves. Jesus showed the way. Let the Church not block it with road signs saying Keep out! Not you! Or worse still, They shall not pass!

***Colin Gibson***