



# 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

2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2012

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2012

9.30am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
6.00pm	Broad Bay	No Service

### CHRISTMAS 101

This year's Christmas play, performed by members of Y@M, follows a group of students enrolled in a new course – Christmas 101.

Come along and enjoy the fun.

One performance only – **16 December 9.30 am at Mornington.**

### Highlights from the Parish Council Meeting 21 November 2012

- The Methodist Mission encourages the Parish to become involved in the Methodist Church's 10-year programme: *Let the Children Live*.
- The Parish Council resolved to get detailed engineering reports on all Parish buildings as soon as possible.
- The Parish is maintaining a healthy financial position.
- The Parish is seeking a new Parish Steward to replace Richard Cannon who has completed four years in this position.

## 2012 FOOD BANK DRIVE

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 6.00 – 9.00pm. Listen for the sirens in your street – please place items in the ‘Lions’ trailer! Please help to make someone’s Christmas that much better. Proceeds to local foodbanks only.



## DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH FINANCES JULY – SEPTEMBER 2012

### Income

Offerings Broad Bay	687.00
Glenaven	1,051.39
Mornington	14,771.10
Mosgiel	3,863.30
Wesley	<u>2,131.20</u>
Glenaven Property	2,505.00
Rental Income	10,555.00
Other Income	<u>892.18</u>
	<b>36,456.17</b>

### Expenses

Ministry	14,418.76
Ministry Rental	4,900.00
Removal Fund	510.00
Connexional Budget	1,836.00
District Expenses	624.99
Property Expenses	2,642.77
Other Expenses	6,077.04
Conference	<u>1,502.00</u>
	<b>32,511.56</b>

## ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISITMAS BREAK

The Mission Office will be closed from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December until Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Could you please ensure your Orders of Service over this period are sent to Sarah ([sarahc@dmm.org.nz](mailto:sarahc@dmm.org.nz)) no later than 9.00am Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The final Bulletin for 2012 will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> December edition and the first Bulletin for 2013 will 17<sup>th</sup> February.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Ryan Elkins who turns 12 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
 Ramone Sarup who turns 5 on the 6<sup>th</sup> December  
 Evie Freeth who turns 11 on 7<sup>th</sup> December

## **SYMPATHY**

On behalf of the Mosgiel Methodist Church and the wider Dunedin Methodist Parish I would like to convey a message of sympathy and condolences to the family of Isabel Smith of the Mosgiel congregation for her death on early Monday morning. Our prayers that God will grant his peace upon you and all who are affected by her death. May we find grace to endure during this time of mourning.

## **REPORT FROM MORNINGTON LEADERS MEETING**

- Ron Jarvis has retired from being gardener / lawnmower after many years careful attention to these areas at our Church grounds and we thank you sincerely Ron, for your dedication.
- Is there someone in our Congregation who would take over these duties (the 2 front Gardens and lawns). Please see Ian if you can.
- We congratulate our young people at YAM and with congregation connections who have received who have received Awards for their excellent school work.
- We also thank Jeanette Gibson who has faithfully placed articles about our church activities in The Star and Mornington Messenger for some time now. Is there someone willing to do this for us? See Ian about this too please.
- Campbell Weston is arranging another walkabout to some of our houses for Carols on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Followed by supper for everyone at the Church. This will be fun as it was last year.
- The YAM team, under the excellent direction of Ginny will give their production on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December. We look forward to this so come along to that Sunday Service.
- We have gratefully accepted Colin Gibson's offer to be Chair of the Leaders Meeting from February next year. Ian will be Acting Chair from now until 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013.
- We thank Rev. Siosifa Pole for his dedicated work as our Presbyter in our Church and Parish and wish him and his family every blessing for the Christmas time with an enjoyable break during January.

### **Story from the Mission**

A new family enrolled at preschool with their 3 year old daughter. Mum has three older boys at school and is due in October to have another baby. Mum and partner moved down from the North Island as dad got a job in forestry. They have no family/ friends or contacts in Dunedin and Mum has felt rather isolated. She is worried about how she might cope once baby is born by caesarean at the end of October without any family and friends to help with the older children and general daily routines, especially with being unable to do many chores for up to 6 weeks. Dad only has one week off work due to it being a new position and obviously it not being financially viable. Their income is monthly which brings about another host of financial concerns with raising 5 children and the ability to make food and money last the month. Mum initiated support from me to access services and programmes via the Hub. Once baby is born she is keen to participate in the new cooking classes, access the breast room and to learn to knit as a way to meet new people and families and integrate into our community. To alleviate her worries about support after baby is born, with her consent I have arranged for Bellyful to help with meals for the family for the first few weeks after Dad returns to work, Supergrans to visit and share knowledge and initiate a small vegie garden, Family Start to visit the home and offer family support and programmes to attend at the Hub once she is mobile again. With this wrap around support Mum will feel well supported and become an integral part of our community.



### **What difference does love make? by Greg Hughson**

Jesus teaching encourages us to love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind, and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. The Christian life is all about love. The author of John's gospel goes so far as to declare that God IS love.

But what is the nature of true love in the Christian sense ?

It is more than a feeling. Christian love is an act of the heart, soul and mind. Christian love flows from our heart and soul but is disciplined and directed by our mind and will.

Remember what Paul wrote to the Corinthians about the sort of love which Christians should express:

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13)

Can you imagine a world without love? For some, sadly, this is a reality. There are many people in our world who are living in situations where love is absent. Wherever abuse is happening it can be attributed to insufficient love. For where love is strong and persistent and consistent in families or institutions, abuse will not happen. People do not intentionally abuse those who they truly love.

Christian love flows from our heart, our soul and from our mind – in other words, from our whole being. Christian love is felt and expressed as a response to the love of God for us. Christian love is directed towards not only those whom we agree with, but towards those we disagree with.

What difference does love make? Love makes a huge difference. Children who have not been genuinely loved will not thrive or be able to reach their potential emotionally, physically or spiritually. In my ministry as a Chaplain I sometimes meet with students and with staff who struggle with all sorts of problems as a result of less than ideal childhoods. Where there has not been enough love received in childhood, people find it harder to be loving as adults. Where there has not been enough love received, confidence is not as strong in adulthood - and there is a higher chance of depression. And yet there is always the opportunity for healing and restoration. Whatever we have missed out on as children I believe can be made up for by being surrounded by loving people later on in life, and by opening our hearts, minds and souls to the love of God. The Church family exists to pass on this love of God to each other, to encourage each other in loving ways and to demonstrate love in action to the world around us. I have in recent years discovered that other religions have very similar goals.

There are many differences between Christian belief and Muslim belief, but at the heart of both faiths lies the two core teachings which are

central beliefs and are the same, to love God - to **devote** ourselves to God with completely, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Recently I organised an interfaith panel to Visit to St Hilda's School. I went along and introduced the panel who spoke to a Year 11 Religious studies class. The panel was made up of one Jewish, one Christian and one Muslim person. All three shared about their love of God and their religion's commitment to caring for others and improving our society and world.

In spite of these good intentions, as we all know people of these three great Abrahamic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam do not always live out the core beliefs of our faiths. If we are truly full to overflowing with the love of God we will have the ability to love our enemies, to do good to those who persecute us and to work for healing of relationships with people who are different to us.

It is the love of God which will empower us to take on the character of God so that we will be able to uphold the cause of the oppressed, give food to the hungry, prevent abuse, give new insights to those blinded by crime or affluence, lift up some of those who are bowed down by grief, anger, depression and hate, watch over and care for new arrivals here in Dunedin and Mosgiel, sustain and uphold those who have no parents and those who have lost their husbands or wives.

God can help us to do all these things. If we have love in our hearts, minds and souls we will be able to love our neighbour and care for our neighbour as we love and care for ourselves. Following the way of Christ is following the way of love and service, and along the way we will, like our lord Jesus find ourselves weeping and crying alongside others who are grieving.

As Christmas approaches, let us love our neighbours as we love ourselves, especially those around us who are grieving. They shall know we are Christians by our love, a love which can be inspired by allegiance to God and to God's greatest commandment. All you need is love.

Greg Hughson, University Chaplain

**WORSHIP SERVICES  
CHRISTMAS 2012 AND JANUARY 2013**

***Christmas Eve, Monday 24 December:***

10.30pm – Glenaven, with supper at 10.00pm

***Christmas Day, Tuesday 25 December: :***

9.30am – Mosgiel (combined with Wesley)

9.30am – Mornington (combined with Glenaven)

***Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December:***

11.00am – All combined at Wesley

***Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January:***

9.30am – Mosgiel

11.00am – Wesley

9.30am – Mornington (combined with Glenaven)

***Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January:***

9.30am – Mosgiel (combined with Wesley)

9.30am – Mornington (combined with Glenaven)

***Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January:***

9.30am – Mosgiel (combined with Wesley)

11.00am – Glenaven (combined with Mornington)

***Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January:***

9.30am – Mosgiel (combined with Wesley)

11.00am – Glenaven (combined with Mornington)

*What kind of preparation do you have during Advent?  
How can you prepare yourself?  
When are you going to prepare?*

