



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
	Sarah: sarahc@dmm.org.nz	

PARISH BULLETIN

16th DECEMBER 2012

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER 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	No Service

COMBINED MORNINGTON ADVENT SERVICE

St Mary's Anglican church invites its fellow Mornington congregations to celebrate Christmas in a combined service on Sunday 16 December at 6.30pm. The time is chosen to better suit families with younger children. This will be the Rev John Sherlock's final service, as he is leaving for a new posting at Mapua and an opportunity will be taken to farewell him.



COMBINED MORNINGTON CHURCHES CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 16th Dec. 6:30 – 8 pm. *Carols *Fun *Craft
St. Mary's Church, Cnr Whitby and Lawrence Sts, Mornington.
Christmassy supper provided

MORNINGTON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

For those wishing to share Christmas joy with other members on the congregation the Mornington Walking Carol is to take place on 22nd Dec 2012, leaving the church at 6:30p.m.



The choir will visit those within walking distance of the church returning to the church for supper after sharing seasonal cheer through their superb singing.

Those intending to sing please advise Cam ph 4545600

ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRSITMAS BREAK

The Mission Office will be closed from Friday 21st December until Monday 7th January.

Could you please ensure your Orders of Service over this period are sent to Sarah (sarahc@dmm.org.nz) no later than 9.00am **Tuesday 18th December**.

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



PARISH CAROL SERVICE AT GLENAVEN

10.00pm on Christmas Eve. Come and see the new decorations. Bring a plate – fancy supper appreciated.

COMBINED PARISH SERVICE

Led by Rev. Siosifa Pole will be held on 30th December, 10.00am at Wesley Methodist Church, Hillside Road. This will be followed by morning tea and contributions towards this will be much appreciated.



TO WHOSE CRICKET TEAM SHOULD SHE BELONG?

A puzzling question, perhaps, but even Andrea Mosley's closest friends would have assumed the Black Caps to have a prior claim to her talents than those brash but brilliant Aussies. And so it came as a surprise for most of us to learn, only last week, that after all these years where Andrea has so distinguished herself as "one of us" she has only very recently taken the step of becoming a New Zealand citizen. Congratulations Andrea. You sure took your time! Better on our side than theirs! In the photo Colin Gibson marks the occasion with the gift to Andrea and granddaughter Annabelle Wilson of Michael King's "An Illustrated History of New Zealand."



Faith Communities Against Family Violence A National Statement

Family violence in our communities is one of the most significant moral, spiritual and social challenges that we currently face as a country. As communities of faith in Aotearoa New Zealand, we believe it is our responsibility to take a stand and address this challenge.

Family violence is completely unacceptable and is never justified. Often the most vulnerable victims of violence are children, and it is here that we are taking a stand. Our children deserve the best we can offer them.

Accordingly, we have come together, as communities of faith, to declare the following:

- *We recognise that children are our future and as such are a significant and precious gift to society today.*
- *We understand that our beliefs, values and traditions will live on through our children.*
- *We accept that the wellbeing of children is our responsibility.*
- *We acknowledge that children deserve our compassion, kindness, love and care.*
- *We believe we can make a difference in the lives of children and families.*

In light of these declarations we commit our communities to:

- *Accept our responsibility to stand up for our children, women and families.*
- *Refuse to tolerate violence within our families or communities or turn a blind eye to it.*
- *Strive to provide places of safety and nurture for the children and families of our community.*
- *Encourage our communities to report family violence, hold perpetrators accountable and provide support for victims.*
- *Ensure that our staff are trained to respond safely to family violence and are well supported with appropriate policies and resources.*
- *Partner with community organisations to ensure that families experiencing violence are referred appropriately and we will advocate with government for policies and resources to address family violence.*

Story from the Mission

Arahina had an opportunity to promote our services and that of the Mission at a MOSGIEL EXPO held on October 10th at Silverstream school. We decided to have a table and share with the Taieri Christian Care food bank. The Coordinator of the Foodbank made 100 cupcakes, and the icing, Arahina supplied the icing nozzles and homemade icing bags, we offered each child an opportunity to ice and decorate a cupcake and go into a competition to win a small prize –This was an extremely effective way in which to engage local people, via their children and food !

We had a folder full of information and handed out several brochures, but the draw card was the cupcakes. The Foodbank and Arahina complement each another and we have had several enquiries from local people around networking and the where to and how... Our table was the most visited!

A successful outcomes of this was two families who have parents who are socially isolated came for the day, they initially hovered around the Arahina/Foodbank table until they recognised and talked to people they knew, this was very successful and the two women who did not know each other now have a circle of friends, and have agreed to work on their C.V's together at Arahina. All it took was a child wanting to decorate a cupcake. [and get to eat it too].



We've all seen the evidence of the modern explosion in communications between people. The most obvious sign is the young mother pushing her pram with two young children in tow crossing the road with a mobile phone clapped to her ear. Once we just talked or shouted at each other or sent smoke signals. Then, with the invention of paper, we could write messages or send letters (interesting name, that) or Christmas cards or—in a new age— aerogrammes.

The first sign that we were developing new means of connections was the now defunct telegram: remember those embarrassing ones you heard read out at a wedding? Then it was the telephone, first of all in a windowed and wooden red box on the street, where you queued up waiting for that interminable conversation to end so that you could start up

another one. But in the end we all had a telephone in our homes, so the competition for ear space was within the family, and all the keener for that.

Next came the electronic devices: the radios, the emails (hundreds of them), the fax machines, the mobile phones, the cell phones (all those desperate users cursing as they try to beat predictive text, or just stumble through a sentence or two without a major booboo. I suppose skyping is the present ultimate—there's sure to be another—with the communicatee a fuzzy face on a computer screen, conducting a conversation from the other side of the world.

So I was pleased when another member of our congregation walked over to me after a service and **told** me about an interesting BBC radio programme he had heard in the wee small hours of the morning. Later he came to my house and personally delivered a paper copy of said programme: now there's a real communication addict at work.

So that I can honour his determination to communicate with me, and in turn communicate to you what the BBC chap said to millions of listeners, I am going to print the whole text in this article. Be warned: the speaker was that Scottish stirrer, John Bell of the Iona community, and he stirred up a hornet's nest of respondents declaring that he had quite taken away their pleasure in plum pudding and presents and jolly carol-singing in the rain (for with global warming taking hold it hardly ever snows now in Britain over the Christmas period).

Here's John Bell, speaking on Thought for the Day. 'Last week, in Preston, I met a woman who said that when she was expecting her first baby she asked her doctor how long she could ride the pillion on her husband's motor bike. "As long as you feel comfortable," the doctor replied. But when he discovered that with a week to go she was still throwing her leg over the dream machine, he told her to stop immediately. I imagine it wouldn't be very pleasant to find that your waters were breaking when you were travelling at 80 miles per hour on a Harley Davidson.'

And that's why I sympathise with the 70% of people who said in a survey last week that they doubted the Biblical account of the birth of Jesus.

But do I hear someone asking, what's the connection between a pregnant woman riding pillion and the Christmas story? Well, just as a pregnant woman in her last weeks wouldn't be seen dead on a motorbike, I don't believe that Mary would have ridden a donkey. What's more, I don't believe that Jesus was born in a snowstorm. The average temperature in Bethlehem these days is around 70 degrees Fahrenheit; it can't have been much different then.

Nor do I believe that the baby was laid in hay and surrounded by animals. I mean, it might have been 2000 years ago, but people understood the rudiments of hygiene even then. What's worse, I don't believe in the innkeeper or his wife, in the cattle shed or in the shepherds bringing a lamb. What earthly use would a lamb be to a baby? And to cap it all and risk accusations of atheism, I don't believe that either the baby or the little town of Bethlehem was silent. And I don't believe these things because they are all understandable but fanciful accretions courtesy of Victorian carols, Christmas cards and school nativity plays performed for the benefit of parents' cameras.

None of the things I disbelieve in appear in the Bible, including the silent night. All we know about Bethlehem is that it was crowded out. People would have been drunk or partying or both.

What then are we left with? An almost single-parent mother giving birth to a boy in an alien village in occupied territory at a time when one in four women and one in three babies died at the point of birth. There was no one of importance in attendance, and the vast majority of the outside world, if surveyed, would have said that the event held no significance for them.

The risk of dying during labour, of being exposed to the elements and ignored by the public is precisely what Christmas celebrates: the presence of a God who relates to us not from the immunity of heaven but from the insecurity of earth. This is about the costliness of love, not the confection of sentiment.'

Now there's real communication: God's wordless communication with us. A thought for the day; a thought for the Christmas season?

Colin Gibson

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 30th December:

10.00am – All combined at Wesley

Sunday 6th January:

9.30am – Mosgiel

11.00am – Wesley

9.30am – Mornington (combined with Glenaven) or St Mary's Anglican in Mornington.

Sunday 13th January:

9.30am – Mosgiel (combined with Wesley)

9.30am – Mornington (combined with Glenaven) Mornington

Presbyterians and Anglicans may join us.

Sunday 20th January:

9.30am – Mosgiel (combined with Wesley)

11.00am – Glenaven (combined with Mornington) or Presbyterian Church in Mornington.

Sunday 27th January:

9.30am – Mosgiel (combined with Wesley)

11.00am – Glenaven (combined with Mornington)