



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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

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## PARISH BULLETIN

16<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2013

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2013

9.30am	Mornington	G Davis/Lay Ministry Team
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	G Davis/Lay Ministry Team
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
4.00pm	Broad Bay	No Service

### MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT

**Today, 2.30pm** at Mornington Methodist Church. All welcome. Come and enjoy some great piano playing. Cost \$2.00.

### OPEN EDUCATION: DAVID BROMELL ON PLANNING THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL SERVICES

Don't miss a rare chance to hear David Bromell, a former minister in this parish, now a senior Government consultant, talking about Government planning for the provision of social welfare services. This may be the most important session of the year, following Laura Black's incisive account last month of how it is out there for the poorest and most disadvantaged members of society. Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, **Wednesday June 19, starting at 7.30pm**; a koha of \$5. As usual there will be a pre-session meal offered. Invite your friends and interested members of the public to attend.

### **MOSGIEL MID ~ WEEK SERVICE**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2:00pm.** Followed by afternoon tea, all members of the Parish welcome. Phone 489 7663 for transport.

### **MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The June Meeting will take place on the **26th June at 2 p.m.** This will take place in the Church Lounge, followed by Devotions - taken by the Rev Donald Phillipps, who will then chair the Annual Meeting. The Guest Speaker will be Donald - subject "Some Interesting People". All Welcome. Don't forget the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

### **COMBINED PARISH SERVICE**

Will be held **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 10.00am** in Wesley Church Hall, Wesley Street, South Dunedin.

The service will be led by Rev. Donald Phillipps. Following the service morning tea will be served, contributions of food for this would be much appreciated. Thank you.

### **COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR REV. DR ROD MITCHELL**

A Commissioning service for Rev. Dr Rod Mitchell will be held at Wesley Church hall on the **30<sup>th</sup> of June at 10.00am** in the Wesley Church Hall, Wesley Street, to minister in Dunedin Methodist Parish. This is the Sunday that the Parish has its Combined Service and hopefully everyone in the parish will turn up to support Rod and his family in this special occasion. Pray for Rod and his family as he begins his ministry in our parish.

**LAST SUNDAY was all about THE FLUTE** at Mornington and Glenaven services, led by Colin Gibson as worship and music leader, and Esther Oh as flautist. Colin traced the role of the flute in worship - from simple bone pipes found in the caves inhabited by Neanderthal Man - through Egyptian, Sumerian, Greek. Roman. Aztec and Mayan civilisations where various developments of the flute have been found. On the Elizabethan stage flutes and recorder were played to accompany appearances of gods and supernatural beings.

The Bible story witnesses to the importance of the flute and the pipe in Jewish worship and the following references were cited as evidence of this - Gen 4: 21; Psalm 150; 1 Samuel 10: 3 – 6; Matt 11: 16 – 19; 1 Cor. 14: 6 – 9; Rev 18: 21 – 24 and when Esther regularly plays her flute in the our services she is contributing to a long tradition.

Pictures - Cam Weston holds Christine, Fiona, Blaire, Celia and Lachlan in thrall as he tells the story of the Enchanted Flute and Celia Cannon and teacher Rachael Hanna show their fine illustration of “learning by heart” stories and poems that tell of important values.



### **STORY FROM THE MISSION**

Rebecca worker has been working with a client around finances, housing and relationships - she has a very young family and in the past has experienced social isolation. Her dream is to train and to qualify as a Kindergarten Teacher. She has put in an extraordinary amount of hard work and shows great determination to move forward, so much so that she has developed the confidence to volunteer at a local school, to apply for a learner driver's licence, so that she is able to be more mobile, and putting together a CV to hopefully secure some part time work. This will help to relieve past financial worries, feel that she is part of a community and enable her to meet new people. She is also looking further into the future at the possibility of further education so that she will be able to achieve her goal of being a qualified Kindergarten teacher.



'Tut, tut', said the Mayor, 'He's only the leader of a minor Tibetan sect, and anyway I have a plane to catch to Wellington for another meeting of some kind or other—when I can find it in my diary.' Peter Lyons, the pastor of a Christian sect ungraciously named Grace Church, was much ruder. Under the heading Faith and Reason in the *Otago Daily Times* opinion page, he summarized the beliefs of the Buddhist faith, dismissed them as futile and graciously pointed out that since following Jesus Christ is the only way to God they are all (there are 350 million or so Buddhists in the world, 6% of the world's population) all of them doomed to an after life of total despair, banished for ever from the face of God—because they are not Christians.

So you might have thought that the visit of the Dalai Lama could have gone unnoticed except by the small Buddhist communities in our own undeply religious city.

Not a bit of it. To my astonishment, when I attempted to attend a Tuesday lunch-hour meeting held in the Town Hall I couldn't get in. Not because there were police or council officers keeping us out, but because the good people of Dunedin had already bought up every seat available, nearly 2,000 of them. What a sight! Crowds pouring into the entrance of the Town Hall, eager to find a seat, clutching their precious ticket. 'Is this the queue for tickets?' asked an anxious-looking woman, before pushing past me and vanishing into the interior.

And what a crowd. Not your average church attendance. Here were men and women of every age and degree of faith—or none. Many teenagers and young adults: just the group so singularly missing among our usual Christian congregations.

I wondered why. Could it be that the major publicity given the visit by the local newspaper had created such a stir? Were people anxious to wipe out any impression that this city didn't want to welcome any such visitor? Or was it a genuine and otherwise unsatisfied spiritual hunger: the sense that in this man there was something they deeply identified with. Was it his exotic faith? His reputation for wisdom? His Nobel Prize work for peace? His gentle, smiling face? I couldn't tell.

If they knew from media reports that not all Buddhists were like the Dalai Lama, that in Burma Buddhist mobs had attacked Muslim villages, looting and burning and driving out young and old in a display of the same ethnic violence and religious intolerance that has ravaged so many countries in modern times, they didn't seem to care. They were there to crowd around him and hear what he had to say—dare I whisper the thought—rather like the crowds who flocked to hear Jesus in the Galilean countryside.

So I didn't get to hear the Dalai Lama's words of wisdom or fall under the spell of that charismatic figure in his saffron robes, but I felt glad that our people, the ordinary citizens of Dunedin, had thronged to our city centre in their thousands in a massive display of religious tolerance and excited interest in another religious tradition and its distinguished representative.

I only felt ashamed when I thought of that strident newspaper article from the leader of the Grace Church, with his one-way mind and his one-way theology, his display of old-fashioned religious arrogance and intolerance. (Briefly I recalled a wonderfully funny television scene from Pete and Dud (Peter Cook and Dudley Moore) in which Pete is taken aback when his partner Dud suggests that Christians like themselves might have got it all wrong, That when they went to heaven, who might be there but the Buddha, smiling at them!)

So we'd best be out there in the market place expressing our conviction that tolerance and respect for other faiths than ours is the true Christ-like way. Let us connect with each other, rather than disconnect. Let us appreciate courage and peacefulness and faith and wisdom and human goodness wherever we find it, and never become so precious about claiming that ours is the only way that we ban and seek to destroy the way of others.

The crowd gathered to hear the Dalai Lama in the Dunedin Town Hall showed that there is a deep well of spiritual curiosity and interest among our fellow citizens, churched or non-churched. Can we find the bucket to draw from it ourselves?

***Colin Gibson***

## Warm Homes Project

As you know Dunedin has a reputation for cold and old homes and we also know the effect this can have on our health and of course not forgetting the impact it has on the horrendous power bills we incur at this time of the year!

Warm Homes is a fantastic well-funded insulation project that The Mission along with other social services is getting on board with. Already many families are benefitting from a warmer home and for many it has cost them nothing!

It's not a complicated scheme and the process from start to finish is very straight forward – even all the paper work gets completed on your behalf!

All The Mission has to do is identify individuals and families who could benefit from living in a drier and warmer home. Once we receive a referral we would arrange to meet or complete the one page questionnaire over the phone and from here the rest gets taken care of.

So that people don't miss out on this opportunity we would appreciate if you could help us to spread the word amongst your neighbours, family and friends – you may well be eligible yourself.

If you can tick one of the below boxes –then please make further enquiries by calling one of the Mission's Support and Advocacy workers to find out more.

- Live in a home that was constructed before 2000
- Live in a privately owned or rental accommodation (landlords can benefit also)
- Have a Community Services Card
- Are a "Working for Families" client
- Your accommodation is contributing to poor health –eg: asthma, coughs and colds
- High power bills
- Low Income

NB: This project excludes DCC and Housing NZ properties as they have their own insulation process

Shona Johnsen	Main Office	Phone: 4663020
Vikky Spiers	Little Citizens	Phone: 4663403
Rebecca Lovett	Approach Learning Centre	Phone: 4877959
Sharon Landreth	Arahina House	Phone: 4897959
Christine Thomas	The HUB	Phone: 4663407

Warm Homes project is funded by The Community Trust of Otago, The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority and Smart Energy Solutions.

**A Prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi  
(13<sup>th</sup> Century French saint)**

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
Where there is sadness joy.*

*O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved, as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life  
Amen*