



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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

<b>Presbyters:</b>	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
<b>Tongan Steward:</b>	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
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## PARISH BULLETIN

30<sup>th</sup> March 2014

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> April

9.30 am	Mornington	D Phillipps
9.30 am	Mosgiel	G Watson
11.00 am	Glenaven	D Phillipps
11.00 am	Wesley	G Watson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

### COMBINED DUNEDIN CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 7pm Dunedin Town Hall . Special Guests: Ian Grant, Brad Thorn, OBHS and OGHS Choir. All welcome.

### PASTORAL CARE MORNINGTON

Our Pastoral Care Groups have been reviewed. All church folk will belong to one of these groups. Your Group leader will be in touch with you so you are aware which Group you are in and whom you may contact if you have a need. In this way we hope to support our community in Christian love and friendship. If you have any questions or concerns about this please speak to Beryl or Ph 4767447

**EXPLORERS GROUP** meets on Sunday 30th March, at 4.30pm in the Mornington Church Lounge, where our intended topic is Further discussion of future directions for the parish. All interested people welcome to join us.

**MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 1:30pm in the church when Max Quinn from The Natural History Department will be speaking to us. ALL other Mosgiel church groups have been invited plus any of our own church members are very welcome to come and hear Max.

**THE CURTAIN BANK** is in desperate need of donations of good quality clean curtains to supply the need for this winter. If you have curtains you would like to donate or know someone who does they can be dropped off at the Hub (158 Oxford Street) or to the Curtain Bank (174 Princes Street, from Monday-Wednesday, 9-3 pm).

Alternatively contact Tammy on 425-9678, 021 2240922 or email [info@dunedincurtainbank.org.nz](mailto:info@dunedincurtainbank.org.nz)

### **OPEN EDUCATION: LLOYD GEERING**

Following an informative session with a speaker from the Women's Refuge, Open Education's second session on April 16th, at 7.30pm in the Mornington Church, will be an illustrated lecture by Professor Lloyd Geering. Asked to talk about what is the future of God Professor Geering replies: The answer to the question of the future of God can be best understood by looking at the context in which the idea of God came to birth. Now this is what I have sketched in my book "From the Big Bang to God". I have put the substance of this into a powerpoint presentation I have called "Humanity's Place in the Cosmos". Don't miss the chance to hear this remarkable man on an important topic for all thinking Christians, but get there early to ensure your place. The session is preceded at 6pm by a meal catered by Judy Russell (ring her to book a seat, phone 455 3727). The usual charge of \$5 for the talk, and \$15 for the meal.

**DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION  
UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO**

**Dr Dirk Jongkind**

Deputy Senior Tutor, St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge  
Research Fellow in New Testament Text and Language, Tyndale  
House, Cambridge

**Open Lecture**

*'On Camels, Armies and Inscriptions:  
Remembered history in the Old Testament'*

Archway 2 Lecture Theatre

Thursday 3 April 2014, 5.15pm

**Open Seminar**

*'The Oldest Complete Greek New Testament:  
Codex Sinaiticus'*

Seminar Room 4C.11

4th Floor, Arts Building, 95 Albany St

Friday 4 April 2014, 3.00pm

*All Welcome*

**STORY FROM THE MISSION**

A woman who had got themselves in significant financial difficulty that was impacting on the care they were able to provide for their child came in a huge state of distress. This client knew what they needed to do, that they needed professional help with organising their finances and finding a path forward. They just didn't know how to go about accessing the budget support they needed. They are now working with Budget Advice support with a plan in place that works towards a clear end goal for them – it does entail some sacrifices on her part, but has allowed her to have some confidence in planning ahead and ensuring good care for her child.

**DUNEDIN PARISH STRATEGY HUI** held Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014.

Over 40 people attended this day to canvas ideas, where we were encouraged to share opinions, dreams, and fears in order to inform the Property (PF&R) Committee and Parish Council as we look ahead 5-10 years.

Overall the mood of the group was positive, with many people comfortable to share their thoughts. We were asked the question: What kind of people do we want to be? One answer: An outward-looking community of Methodists who are serving those around them.

The Tongan congregation left us in no doubt that they are part of our parish, are grateful for the St Kilda site, and are a growing, vibrant congregation, so will need to extend the building.

Some ideas were about buildings, and the cost of earthquake strengthening. Rev Michael Greer, facilitator, suggested our parish strategies for the future will be reflected in our buildings. He commended us on being willing to face tough questions and take risks – a ‘gutsy’ parish! He heard us pushing property matters aside in favour of people. If we ‘tweek’ we’ll be having these same discussions in 5 years’ time, so ‘revolutionise’ was his challenge.

Mornington Y@M group had contributed ideas to ‘What we think and what the church will need in the future’: people, food to share, money, leaders, new people/families, a place to gather, support, commitment and trust. Maybe we need intergenerational events with food? The St. Kilda Youth Group contributed through their singing and love of music. Their presentation demonstrates the vitality of music in youth culture, which is something we treasure in our parish.

Nigel presented an update on Methodist Mission Southern. Their offices are about to move to Teviot St.

We all took pleasure in the delicious soup, cheese rolls, and muffins that Judy Russell prepared for our lunch. Thanks to Judy for the wonderful lunch that we shared together. Thanks also to Colin Gibson for all the arrangement and delegating of responsibilities. It was indeed a wonderful day for the whole parish.



**LAST WEEKEND'S PARISH STRATEGY DAY** at the Mission Office was a good event, chaired by Colin Gibson and facilitated by Rev Michael Greer of Levin. Of course it remains to be seen what decisions will be made to assist the Parish into a leaner and more effective future, but the forty-plus Dunedin Methodists who gave five hours of a Saturday to dream, listen, opine, strategise and pray about the importance of property for our mission as a Church, would have made their way home in the knowledge we had faced some hard facts, and drawn closer together in doing so.

Our thanks to those who led us well. Pictures show the group together, and a small group from our St Kilda Church who sang for us.





## From the grassroots

With the current superpower behaviour of Russia in the Ukraine, I am reminded of the pre-1989 Cold War setting, where the two great superpowers, USA and USSR, were ranged against each other, with enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world many times over.

I was reminded of the many New Zealanders who fought (with words) to make sure we knew just how that situation impacted on our lives. In the reverse process, they also made us aware (by their words) how much our individual convictions – amazing as it may seem -- could influence the state of world affairs.

I was also reminded of some of those courageous people -- the ones who spoke out even as they were being dragged away from demonstrations -- as I read Maire Leadbeater's recent book *Peace Power and Politics: How New Zealand Became Nuclear Free*. Before reviewing it for the *NZ Listener*, I also re-read *Peace People: A History of Peace Activities in New Zealand*, by the author's late mother, Elsie Locke -- a patient but feisty and wise old woman when I met her some years ago.

You may remember Elsie's son, Keith Locke, recently retired from being a member of our Parliament. He was the one who spoke out against our country's involvement in the superpowers' wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, as he had done in the 1990s in regard to the first Gulf War and its threatened repetition halfway through that decade.

As I put Elsie Locke's *Peace People* back on the shelf and tried to find room for her daughter's new addition to my history shelves, I looked for other books I could pull out to give away...and happened upon a slim volume, the removal of which wouldn't make much difference to the space problem, but which turned out to be valuable enough to keep anyway.

It was *Turnbull Library Record* Vol.24 No.2, from October 1991 (the year of the benefit cuts that have never been reversed.) Inside was Elsie Locke again: her Founder's Lecture delivered in the National Library auditorium the year before *Peace People* was published. Its title and its author are the two reasons I kept it: "What hope for a sane and humane world?" she asks, and does the best she can to offer a positive answer.

The speech begins, however, with a negative. "If you deduce from my title that I don't consider our present world to be either sane or humane, you are right. I often feel as if I'm back in the 1930s, when I was appalled to discover not only how much human misery surrounded me, but how stupid it all was: poverty amidst plenty, people going hungry while farmers had produce they couldn't sell. I concluded then that whatever the reasons, they ran deeper than any wrongheaded policies of governments. And I think that now."

In pursuit of any sort of answer, she says, you have to "begin from the home ground, which is where we have to take action if we aim to make any real contribution to desirable and necessary changes in the world to which we belong." To get to know the nature of her "home" society, she used the research she did for the School Publications Branch of the Dept of Education in the 1960s, when commissioned to write a series of booklets for intermediate-age children on our social history: how people -- both Pakeha and Maori -- "lived and worked, travelled, went to school, socialized, joined together for common purposes". In 1984, 56 of these short pieces were published in a book called *The Kauri and the Willow*. The research also no doubt contributed to many other of her writings for children, for which she is probably best known.

"The study fascinated me and I reckon that for every word I wrote, I read a million. I completely overhauled my view of New Zealand history. I no longer saw the political notables as responsible for the innovations and achievements in social policies and conditions, of which we were justly proud. They came on stage at the end of the

process, nearly always. The impetus for change came from the grassroots where the need was perceived, and was driven forward by mass movements or pressure groups; or else by far-sighted people in strategic places. One of the most obvious examples is the winning of the women's franchise ahead of all the other sovereign states in the world."

Another example she gives is the pressure from a few dentists in provincial towns to have some kind of dental service in schools; they observed, in the early twentieth century, that about a quarter of children never saw a dentist at all. By 1916 they had won the support of the NZEI (NZ Educational Institute). "The politicians weren't listening much; there's no concern revealed in the *Parliamentary Debates*. They were however very much concerned with the war -- and such a high proportion of the enlisted men needed dental treatment before they could be sent overseas, that special clinics had to be set up in the camps. Their director, Col T.A. Hunter, was among the reformers and when the war was over he persuaded the powers-that-be to transfer the equipment to schools."

In 1921 the first training school for dental nurses was opened -- one positive part of the legacy of the First World War which is being commemorated this year, a century on.

*Let the children live*, we say, when once again we are faced with a large number of children held back by their parents' poverty. Pressure on the current government should include our speaking out, in this election year, about the need not only for free medical but also free dental care, and the raising of the minimum wage, for a start. It's a pity those fought-for clinics are long gone from our schools.

-- Helen Watson White