



# 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

25<sup>th</sup> May 2014

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> June

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

### OPEN EDUCATION: A FRESH EYE

Following the hugely successful visit of Professor Lloyd Geering, which not only challenged our thinking but also raised \$300 for the Solomon Islands disaster relief fund, we next welcome an expert staff member from the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. She will give a richly illustrated talk about some of the religious paintings held by the Gallery, and how we might learn to look at them. This session will be on Wednesday May 28, at Mornington Church, Galloway Street, commencing at 7.30pm. Bring a friend, help us build our audiences. There is a koha of \$5. As usual, Judy Russell will provide a scrumptious pre-session meal at 6pm. Cost \$15, ring Judy (455 3727) to book your place.

**EXPLORERS GROUP** We meet this Sunday, 25 May at 4.30 pm in the Mornington Church lounge. All welcome.

## **IMPORTANT PARISH NOTICE**

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WESLEY HALL, behind the Wesley Methodist Church on SATURDAY 31 MAY from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

THIS WILL BE A CRUCIAL MEETING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH. YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED: it is essential that we hear from as many Methodist folk in this parish if we are to make clear decisions about the way ahead for Dunedin Methodism.

Please bring something to eat at lunchtime; drinks supplied.

IT WILL BE A STRUCTURED DAY BASED AROUND YOUR RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS:

- 1. What strengths can we contribute which might help sustain the life of the parish?**
- 2. My passion is ..../My passions are.... . Is there a way this passion (these passions) can be used to enliven the church?**
- 3. Given our desire for a viable Methodist future, what creative, radically new ideas need to be explored that lead to growth?**

2.00 – 3.00: Gathering session.

**What have we discovered today?**

Following the meeting the Parish Executive (Presbyters and Parish Stewards will analyze the material for dissemination to each church.

**SPECIAL LECTURE** – Professor Kate Pickett's and Professor Richard Wilkinson's Special Public Lecture on Inequality, sustainability and well-being. Professors Pickett and Wilkinson (authors of "The Spirit Level") shall first present the evidence showing that reducing the income differences between rich and poor is crucial to achieving higher levels of sustainable well-being in the future. They shall then go on to suggest the policies which can ensure that greater equality becomes deeply embedded in our societies. All Welcome.

**Inequality, Sustainability and Wellbeing**

**Monday 26 May, 5.30pm**

**College of education auditorium**

**Union street east, Dunedin**

### **MORNINGTON AT ST MARY'S**

The Mornington congregation will joyfully celebrate Pentecost on June 7 with the Anglican congregation of St Mary's (Whitby Street). Please note that the service at St Mary's starts at 10.30am, that is, later than our own usual time. If possible, come wearing something red.

**MORNINGTON METHODIST FELLOWSHIP** meeting for May will take place on Wednesday 28th May, at 2 p.m. in the Church Lounge. The Guest Speaker will be Mr Glen Mitchell from the Dunedin City Council - the subject is "Earthquake Preparations". This will take place at 2.30 p.m. I am sure we are all interested in what will happen to the Church buildings - but more so I believe we all need some tips in thinking about our own homes. Don't forget your small change for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. All welcome.

**BEV IS SEEKING ASSISTANCE** to experience a new hobby. She wishes to begin her twitching career by spotting one or more of the local kaka, (large green parrot) one of the lords flying creations. To aid Bev in her pursuit please join her in the Orokonui car park at 1:30p.m. on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, if able, to assist Bev in her wheeled pursuit of these remarkable birds or if simply wishing to enjoy the ecosanctuary yourself. The tracks through the forest are well graveled and marked and the café serves a good cuppa. Come and twitch with Bev. Photos will be taken.

## CONNECTIONS - THE LAUNCH

For some of us, especially those who write regularly for the *Connections* column, today is a significant day with the launch of our book *CONNECTIONS* within the Parish. Every member-unit of Dunedin Parish will be given a copy today.

Our most sincere thanks to a very generous but anonymous donor who has financed a large proportion of the cost of producing the book, and to the Wesleydale Trust that has provided \$600 bridging finance, which as we are able we will repay from the sale of additional copies once the initial gifts have been made.

And thanks to Professor Lyn Tribble who has kindly agreed to help us launch the book at Mornington today, and will say a few words at a brief ceremony in the course of this morning's service. It is good to have a person of Lyn's standing to be able to assess the worth of our little production - which is a token of the many hundreds of hours of work by a dedicated group of writers sharing a weekly roster since February 2007. Each of those writers has three articles, selected from among many, featuring in the book. It is interesting to note a wide variation in styles, focus and approach when the articles are placed alongside each other. Many more can be sourced on the Parish website [www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz).

We will be taking orders for additional copies from today at \$10 each. We'll take your names at Church, or you can phone Ken Russell 455.3727 and we'll fill your orders as we are able from remaining stocks. They can be used for gifts as a souvenir from our Parish - perhaps with the commendation that we are confident the *Connections* column is perhaps unique and certainly special, being a current affairs column in a weekly church bulletin, relating gospel values to everyday events and debates. As such, we think our Connections column is something to be both proud of and spoken about, and we trust your response to our publication will reflect something of that pride. Enjoy the book. *Ken Russell Colin Gibson. Editors.*

## **BULLET POINTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WED 14 MAY**

- The Broad Bay church decision to close was ratified by the Parish Council. Decision to be passed to Synod.
- Rev Dr Rod Mitchell passed review process and was invited to remain in the parish.
- The President and vice President are to be invited to Dunedin Parish in early October.
- A Special Parish council meeting is posted for 11 June.
- Combined service at Knox Church on 6 July to take place of all Dunedin Methodist Parish churches.
- Communion to be held on 29 June because of the combined service above.

## **Dunedin Methodist Parish**

### **July 2013 - March 2014**

#### **Income**

##### **Offerings**

Broad Bay	540.00
Glenaven	1,024.19
Mornington	12,253.20
Mosgiel	4,662.40
Wesley	1,782.60

Glenaven Property	2,505.00
Rental Income	10,815.00
Other Income	442.81

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**34,025.20**

#### **Expenses**

Ministry	17,878.70
Ministry Rental	4,900.00
Removal Fund	450.00
Connexional Budget	1,836.00
District Expenses	624.99
Property Expenses	5,531.74
Other Expenses	4,993.95
Structural Surveys	26,511.00

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**62,726.38**

#### **CWS Christmas Appeal 2013**

Sent direct from Parish	399.50
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## **FAITH THINKING 2014**

Courses Offered from June to October. Continuing Education Short Courses jointly offered by the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago and some Dunedin Churches.

### ***Conflict, Community & Church Growth - Reading Galatians***

Presented by Dr Chris Caradus (Mornington Presbyterian), this course will be held on **Friday June 20, 7-9pm and Saturday June 21, 9-12.30** at Mornington Presbyterian Church, 16 Maryhill Tce, Mornington.

### ***Going Deeper into the Gospel of John***

Presented by Prof Paul Trebilco (Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago), this course will be held on **Thurs July 17, 7-9pm; Thurs July 24, 7-9pm, Thurs July 31, 7-9pm** in Burns 5 (Albany Street), University of Otago.

### ***The Theology of the Church's Mission***

Presented by Dr Adam Dodds (Pastor, Elim Church), this course will be held on **Monday August 4, 7-9pm; Monday August 11, 7-9pm, Monday August 18, 7-9pm** at The Hub (Next to Elim Church, 67 Harrow Street).

### ***Music and Worship through the Ages***

Presented by Malcolm Gordon (Worship, Music and Arts Enabler, Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand), this course will be held on **Friday September 19, 7-9pm and Saturday September 20, 9-12.30** at Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, Knox College, Arden Street.

### ***The Other Church History: How Christianity went East and South into Asia and Africa from the Beginning until the Present Day***

Presented by Dr Tim Cooper (Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago), this course will be held on **Friday October 10, 7-9pm and Saturday October 11, 9-12.30** in Burns 5 (Albany Street), University of Otago

For further information go to

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/news/otago055227.html>

For a registration form please contact the

Summer School & Continuing Education Office,

University of Otago,

Email: [continuing.education@otago.ac.nz](mailto:continuing.education@otago.ac.nz)

Phone: 479 9181

### **STORY FROM THE MISSION**

I received a referral from a young father who had recently separated from his wife and three children, where he was the main caregiver. He had been informed that he had no rights as a father as the Mother was always awarded the day to day care of the children, and that he needed to contact a lawyer and go to family court to get access sorted.

With help from the Methodist Mission Support & Advocacy Worker he decided to enrol in our Parenting Through Separation course, and as a result, drafted a parenting plan for shared care of their children – to be presented to his ex-partner. Included in this draft was the opportunity for the family to have a ‘meeting’ where each person’s voice was heard, including the children around what they thought their family could look like. The result - the children were keen to have shared care with extra care to cover each parent’s hours of work. The importance of this proposal was that the parents agreed to let the children have their say. A great outcome avoiding the necessity of the family court involvement.

### **PRAYER GROUP**

Thank you to those who have indicated that they wanted to be part of the Parish Prayer Group. In due time I will invite you for our first meeting. In the mean time please continue to pray for the future direction of our parish and our need to support one another.

### **INVITATION TO ANNUAL OPEN PEACE LECTURE**

You are warmly invited to attend the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy and Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group Annual Peace Lecture

**“Believers of the world - unite”**

Rev Dr Lord Leslie Griffiths

Burns 1 Lecture theatre, University of Otago

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 5.30-7pm followed by supper

**Rev Dr Leslie Griffiths, the Lord Griffiths of Burry Port**, is a Methodist Minister and Superintendent of Wesley's Chapel, London. Leslie Griffiths' story begins in real poverty in South Wales. Thanks to his outstanding intellect and a grammar school education, he became the youngest ever staff member at the University of Wales, before the call to ordained ministry led him, via Cambridge, to Haiti to work with some of the poorest people on earth. He has been a member of the British House of Lords since 2004. As a regular columnist and BBC broadcaster Dr Griffiths has spoken extensively on interfaith relationships, euthanasia, the Church and civic society, and international affairs. He sits on the Labour benches and speaks on education, international affairs and a range of social and ethical issues. He was the President of the British Methodist Conference in 1994-5 and an influential church leader in the two decades since. He helped to get the Christian Socialist Movement affiliated to the Labour Party and has twice given the prestigious Tawney lecture in 1995 on 'The Survival of Hope' and in 2002 on 'Multiculturalism'. A prolific author, popular speaker and respected broadcaster, he has been senior minister of Wesley's Chapel in the heart of London since 1996. He is President of the Boy's Brigade and a Canon of St Paul's Cathedral in London.

Dr Griffiths will also present a seminar in the Department of Theology and Religion Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2pm-3.15pm Burns Building Room 4c.11 Title : "How to communicate meaningfully with ordinary people - the challenge to Theology". He will also preach at Knox Presbyterian Church, George St Dunedin at a Methodist District and Ecumenical service at 10am Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July. All welcome.

Further information : Greg Hughson [greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz)  
479 8497





## JOURNEY WITH HOPE

Our parish is on a journey to an unknown future but with an assurance that God is journeying with us and we also have one another as companions on the way. Although the future is unknown, having one another as companions is certainly an encouragement. We are companions as we start this journey, during the journey, and as the journey will arrive at its destination. The hymn that was written by Joy Dine is really reflected on this purpose. On the first verse she writes, “God who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow, lead us as you led your people in the desert long ago; journey inward, journey outward, stir the spirit, stretch the mind, love for God and self and neighbour marks the way that Christ defined.” It is my prayer that God would give us courage to explore what is right for our future.



### ***At the crossroads: being open to options***

The leadership team is asking us to express our thoughts on what

we are about and where we are heading, as we consider the future of our buildings. We need to talk about our driving aims and values, about what we want to achieve, before we can know what buildings we need. Many have responded to this call, and the parish-wide gathering already held in March revealed a range of views.

The following is a response to the impressive 14-page “notes on future directions” put together by the Explorers Group -- which meets at

Mornington at 4.30 today. I am grateful to the Explorers for the careful thought they have put into their discussions in recent months, notably asking *What is the good news?* Related questions and answers are wide-ranging, applying not only to our condition in little old Dunedin, but to the Church at large.

In the (ecumenical) Wednesday Group a few years ago, I was challenged by the question, from a non-churchgoer, as to why I go to church. My answer was 1) *community* and 2) *continuity*. That person has since come to Glenaven and seen that we do what we do because of 3) the *good news* we have received in life. Both the community and the continuity relate to the good news; there would not be a church without it. So this is the motivation for what I am proposing for Glenaven in North East Valley.

I have already spoken briefly of my dream for our church, of a discussion group that meets on a Saturday, say 5-6pm, with the purpose of offering young people “a space to be who they are” (these are Siosifa’s words, used in a different connection). I envisage that this should be open to any young person (undefined), whether they have a church background or — as increasingly may be the case — they do not. This would not be a worship service, more like the Explorers Group or the Open Education programme. It might involve eating and drinking together (in a non-party sense!). Hospitality is at the heart of Glenaven, and our round tables are made for discussing things — social and personal issues, theology — whatever people need or want to discuss, over a cup of tea. (Remember the Y@M group said in their March presentation that food was important — it always is.) It would be an open space, in which the only rule is to respect other people’s feelings and opinions, their persons and their property. I do not envisage this as a drop-in centre — the Baptist Church in NEV has just established one -- but an ideas forum, a touch-base support group. And I do not expect to offer the initiative until next year.

I have thought about it a lot, because this is a commitment I am promising beyond what I do now; but in my view it is something worth attempting, because it is relevant to this particular church which I want to see continue into the future.

It is about *community*, *continuity* and spreading the *good news*. 1) We have a *community* already existing in that building, but it is very small, Sunday attendance barely making double figures. 2) This existing community has had over 100 years of life, and in recent decades its life has been opened up and invigorated by members of the LGBT (Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community, and by connection with students. So there is *continuity* for this idea in this place. 3) It is the natural place to convey the *good news*, but in a form that suits the people who hear it. These people have not wanted to come to a worship service, for whatever reason, or they would be at Glenaven already. They might indeed want to come to a worship service, instead or as well, once they see what kind of community we are: open to everyone.

As I think about where our church might go in future, I need to explain where I am coming from, my own church -- or more specifically my non-church -- background. As Siosifa has said, you are always looking back, when paddling a waka or rowing a boat, even as you move forward.

1)Community: The local Anglican church in Wakari, where I grew up, was just down the road from our house. With some of my five siblings I took part in Sunday School and Bible Class, including as a teacher, enjoyed choir-singing and playing the organ. But my history is quite different after 1968, when I left that childhood church to get married and didn't join another for 18 years.

2)Continuity: What I do now is generally in continuity with that upbringing, but the Anglican church (of which I am still a member) was

much changed when I returned to it in 1986. It had begun to recognize its bicultural roots, and it had since 1977 ordained women. When John and I were married in St Paul's Cathedral in 1987, it was by a woman priest whom I'd known since high school. We were grateful to have our marriage accepted, for we were both divorced. We then took part in the movement to have women included in the (then all-male) choir. When they were, we both took up the challenge of singing in the cathedral choir, for most of the years 1996-2003. When we joined the Methodists, our first Christmas was at Glenaven, before we were formally welcomed to the Mornington congregation in 2004. Our experience was of a diverse, open and inclusive community, in continuity with John's Methodist Church in the past, but also in continuity with contemporary Anglicanism.

### 3)What's this *good news*?

We had heard the words of the *good news* in numerous ways, including in the English literature we studied. Even when not attending church regularly we still felt joined to it in some way. Yet the good news does not affect people so much when received just in the form of words, but when it's fleshed out in actions as it was fleshed in Jesus' actions of healing and helping, reconciling and including. During the many years I was not a member of any church, I was greatly helped -- especially as a solo parent in Wellington -- by other people who were. I didn't know they were church members at the time, but years later when visiting familiar Anglican churches in Wellington, I discovered the names of many of my friends and mentors on the nametags inside the door. Although all these people would have different theologies, from each other and from me, they in fact acted out our Methodist headline: *Finding Good in everyone; finding God in everyone*. That to me is the *good news*. They didn't try to 'convert' me, or bring me to the church building, or suggest I needed saving from my sins; they just treated me as someone of value. That's what I'd like to do for young people, especially those who've been treated otherwise elsewhere.

-- Helen Watson White