



# 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
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Siosifa: <a href="mailto:parish@dmm.org.nz">parish@dmm.org.nz</a>	466 4600
	Katrina: <a href="mailto:admin@dmm.org.nz">admin@dmm.org.nz</a>	
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
<b>Mornington:</b>		

## PARISH BULLETIN

24<sup>th</sup> August 2014

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> August

	Mornington	Combined at Wesley
	Mosgiel	Combined at Wesley
	Glenaven	Combined at Wesley
10.00 am	Wesley	S Pole + Others
	St Kilda	Combined at Wesley

**EXPLORERS GROUP** meets at 4.30pm at Mornington on Sunday 24th Aug, please note the change of date from the usual last Sunday of the month. Professor Paul Trebilco of the Department of Theology and Religion will speak on recent biblical studies research into the role of eye-witnesses in safeguarding “records” of Jesus life, teaching, death and resurrection (in an oral culture) from 33AD until the first gospel (Mark) was written.

**POSTPONEMENT - COUNTDOWN OPEN DAY** for 30th August is postponed till further notice.

**BULLET POINTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

1. The official closing service for Broad Bay Methodist Church will be at the Church at 11am 30 November 2014. All most welcome.
2. Congregations will be informed of possible future building options and asked to consider them. Reports to Prof Richard Cannon ASAP, please.
3. George Davis intends to retire as Parish Steward. We are seeking a replacement in the Parish Executive team. Any nominations to George or Rev. Siosifa Pole.
4. The President of the NZ Methodist Church will be visiting Dunedin on 4-5 October.
5. Congregational statistics to Hilda Hughson ASAP, thank you.

**THE DUNEDIN BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN** New Zealand is holding a meet the candidates evening to enable **you** to come along and hear the views of Dunedin candidates on designated topics. At the conclusion of the evening candidates will take further questions from the floor. The candidates are:

- Michael Woodhouse, National
- David Clark, Labour
- Jen Olsen or Kay Murray, Alliance
- Denise Roche, Green Party
- Guy McCullum, Act
- Rob Stewart, Internet/Mana

Chair is Professor Nicola Peart, University of Otago, Law Faculty.

Date: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Salvation Army Hall, Princess Street Dunedin.

## STORY FROM THE MISSION

Take 10 Streets' Jackie has been busy getting to know South Dunedin, the neighbours and the direction for the project. The beginning of the project is starting to take shape and in a very exciting way. From meeting with the neighbours and seeing some of the activities that happen in the community, interesting trends are emerging. We are beginning to see micro-communities within South Dunedin. So far two different households on different streets seem to be providing a form of community network hub. A meeting place for neighbours to "pop in" for a chat or tea. One of these residents also mows the lawns for neighbours, therefore extending his role within the neighbourhood and street.

Both key homes are providing slightly different functions for their neighbours and both take very different forms.

One man, whose home is situated in the centre of a block of flats, is very eager and willing to get to know all this neighbours and extend his networks. In my time there (perhaps 30 minutes) there was 3 different neighbours come and go, I was also encouraged to call back anytime.

While the other house, owned by a young man, is situated on a wide-open street. His neighbours are made up by a diverse mix of ages nevertheless he still connects to them all in some way; young or old. Another young man from down the street was there at the time and they spoke about helping out older neighbours by doing their lawns. While they didn't actively seek to meet new people, he feels his home is an open, sociable house on the street.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY to

- ☺ Annabelle Wilson, who turned 4 on 12<sup>th</sup> August!
- ☺ Keanu R Bartlam, who turns 1 on 27<sup>th</sup> August!
- ☺ Juliet Wilson, who turns 2 on 30<sup>th</sup> August!





LIFE MATTERS DUNEDIN  
**WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY SERVICE**  
**“Every life matters”**

Date: WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 7pm

SUPPER TO FOLLOW

Venue: ST PAUL’S CATHEDRAL, THE OCTAGON, DUNEDIN

**ALL WELCOME**

During the service an opportunity will be made available for members of the community to briefly share an experience, a reflection or a poem.

Inquiries: Corinda Taylor [lifemattersotago@gmail.com](mailto:lifemattersotago@gmail.com)

or Greg Hughson [greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz)

<https://www.facebook.com/LifeMattersOtago>

**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - The August Meeting will take place on the 27th August in the Church Lounge at 2p.m. The Guest Speaker will be Mr Maurice Haywood - his subject being "Flashbacks". I am sure the Members that have lived here all their life, as well as some of us who are only "new" will be very interesting in this illustrated talk of early Dunedin. Please remember your small change for the Fellowship of the least Coin. All welcome.

## **PIN FOR PARISH BULLETINS 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2014**

### **Values, Elections, Candidates**

Meetings with political candidates are popping up in Methodist churches and many public forums.

Values are a guide to voting decisions; values such as sharing to meet the needs of everyone, as in Acts 2, ensuring participation, stewardship, good homes, wellbeing for children now and in the future. There is a resource on the Methodist Public Issues website for party policies.

Here are two topics, and two questions you might ask of candidates:

#### **Children**

1. Will your party introduce a comprehensive plan to phase out child poverty, with targets and measures to achieve this?
2. Would these measures include legislation and a universal child payment?

More questions on Children at:

[www.methodist.org.nz/public\\_questions\\_network/index](http://www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/index)

#### **Climate Justice**

1. What plans does your party have to address climate justice?
2. How will your party achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to 5% below 1990 levels, given NZ emissions are up by 25% at present?



## **INVITATION TO SPRING AFTERNOON TEA, SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER**

Mary and Sue invite our Mornington friends to a spring afternoon tea at our place, 197 Balmacewen Road on Sunday 7th Sept; come any time between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm.





## SAND

When I was a little boy, after I had had spent the day at the beach digging channels in the sand, building sandcastles and watching the incoming tide sweep it all away, I was put into a bath, and when I was lifted out to be dried, to my astonishment there at the bottom of the bath lay a multitude of tiny grains, shifting about in the swirling water. That was sand.

When I was much older I climbed down an enormous wind-driven sandhill to reach a remote Otago beach. There I watched the waves thundering onto the shore and noticed the deep footprints I left behind me washing away in the swirl of the water. I pretended not to see two lovers hiding in the dunes; I spent a long time gazing at a yellow-eyed penguin standing on a sandy ledge, waiting for its mate to come waddling ashore. That is sand.

Siosifa has reminded us that sand means much more than rock does to Pacific island peoples. We harvest iron sands and oil-rich sands, and on the West Coast they sift the sand looking for gold nuggets. When floods rage we pile up protective banks of sand-filled bags.. Nobody can count the number of grains of sand on the face of the earth and on the floor of the sea. Sand, that precious particle, that wonderful element of our world.

Most of us are first aware of sand on the edge of the sea or the margin of a lake because it is there that the grinding down of rock by the wash of water or wind takes place. Sand creates for us a world of delight, but for other creatures it is a nurturing place, a home: a nesting or resting place for penguins, seals and sea lions, for crabs and shellfish. And it is

a place where stories cluster, for Jesus himself often walked there. On sandy places legend and real life meet and mingle.

Sand is ground-down rock and minerals, often made up of hard grains of quartz, glittering with silica. Under a hot sun it is burning, waterless, trackless; a place where winds and sandstorms obliterate footsteps and dessicate plants. At this very moment thousands are thirsting and dying on the pitiless sands of the desert. Inland, sand becomes desert or wilderness, where the shifting dunes and bone-dry wadis create a huge barrier to any movement: a world of hardship, loneliness and desperation. There Jesus was tested by dreams of power; there later generations of Christian hermits tried to escape from the world and all its temptations. And the whole Hebrew nation was forged in the desert, as the tribes escaping from slavery in Egypt struggled across the empty Sinai deserts towards Canaan.

Grains of sand dribble easily through the fingers; sand is hard to hold. On the seashore the wash of the tide fills any marks we may have left, overwhelms our sandcastles, threatens to break through the defences of sand dunes, piles and rock walls. How natural that we should think of time itself as dribbling through our fingers, or even more pointedly slipping away, grain by grain, through the narrow neck of a sandglass. Our fear of our own mortality is symbolized by sand.

In his poem *Ozymandias* (did you learn it off by heart at school?) the English poet Percy Bysshe Shelley pictures an ancient colossal sculpture, now shattered and almost buried in the desert sands as an image of human pride brought low by the passage of time. Its inscription, 'Look on my works, you mighty, and despair,' was meant to terrorize the tyrant's people; now it serves to remind us all that all human power is temporary, a brief moment in the vast deserts of what we call history.

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Robinson Crusoe was horrified to discover the imprint of a human foot on the sandy beach of his desert island. But he was to find that the presence of another human being was not necessarily a threat to his own existence. Man Friday became a pupil, a friend, an ally. Sand, whether it's desert or shore, can be a place of human community, even of totally unexpected revelation and revival. In the desert, Moses met his God in a burning bush; in the desert a starving horde of migrants found a food they could only think of as miraculous. They called it manna: we know it as mushrooms. But most important of all for the Christian story of which we are part, a group of despondent disciples went back to fishing one morning and found both a catch exceeding all they could have hoped for, and the man they thought dead standing on the beach, preparing a hot breakfast of fish cooked over a driftwood fire.

No area of sand is limitless: there are boundaries where we move beyond the edge of the sand into another kind of world. At the close of this service we will reenter the secular world of the everyday; we will leave the coast and journey on to the rim of the sky and the sea. But beneath the sea on which we sail will stretch continuously the sandy bottom of the ocean, and the Christ who stood on the shore welcoming his disciples to share food with him will be there to greet us.

Colin Gibson