



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
Parish Stewards:	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@dmm.org.nz	466 4600
	Katrina: admin@dmm.org.nz	
Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

30th November 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 7th December

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	C/W

MOSGIEL MWF - our final meeting for the year is to be held on Tuesday 9th December at 1:30pm at 40 Forth Street Mosgiel. This will be our Christmas afternoon tea. Please note change of date.
RSVP to 489 7663.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES - The Advent Bible Studies will start on Wednesday 3rd of December, 7pm at Wesley Church. Everyone is welcome to this study group.

CHRISTMAS CRISIS - The world premiere of a new play by Ginny Kitchingman will be performed by Y@M on Sunday 14 December at 9.30 am at Mornington and 11 am at Glenaven. *Christmas Crisis* is set in the Emergency Department of Sacred Heart Hospital. We can promise you plenty of medical drama, lots of laughs, singing and dancing, and the Christmas message as well! Come along and enjoy.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to

- ☺ Ryan Elkins who turns 14 on 3rd December!
- ☺ Ramone Sarup, who turns 7 on 6th December!
- ☺ Evie R Freeth, who turns 13 on 7th December!



Tēnā koutou! Talofa lava! Ni sa bula vanaka! Malo e Lelei! Greetings!

Our multicultural Methodist Church *Te Hāhi Weteriana* Conference in Hamilton 15-19th Nov 2014, was at 2 venues. The large arena was used for the induction of our new leaders, President Rev Tovia Aumua and Vice President Dr Arapera (Bella) Ngaha, and for the ordination service. Tania Shackleton was among the 12 new presbyters. Tongan, Samoan, Wasewase ko Viti (Fijian) and Waikato combined Choirs had been practising and sewing and sourcing special ceremonial artefacts. There were at least 6 brass bands represented. Wonderful sight and sound! Nicola Grundy was one of the chaplains. The address by Rev Rex Nathan was “Ordination in a Changing World” – past, present and future in New Zealand Aotearoa.

The other venue at WINTEC was for work, reflection and guest speakers.

- A suggested day for gifting of hymns between Methodists and Catholics is Sunday May 17 2015.
- The new Principal of Trinity Theological College is, Rev Dr Nasili Vaka’uta.
- Michael Lemanu is the new Tauwiwi Children, Youth and Families Ministry national coordinator.
- Engineer, David Hunt, spoke for the Auckland and Manukau Synods about buildings. He favours using the Auckland Council rule of not less

than 34% NBS for public buildings. Closing a building does not guarantee public safety. However, Greg Wright wants us to learn from Christchurch quakes and prepare for unknown risks. After some debate, there was no consensus, so the matter returns to the Connexional Property Committee then to Synods for further discussion.

- Rex and Jan saw advantages in 2year presidential appointments, but it does restrict the roles to those who can take 2 years out of their work. The theme for the next 2 years is “A time to sow, a time to grow”.
- Special guests from Tonga, Samoa and Fiji presented gifts of mats, baskets, money and artifacts.
- Bryan Bruce shared his thoughts on morality and economics. What’s an economy for? Bryan’s answer: To provide the greatest good for the greatest number over the longest time. Economic decisions are at heart moral decisions.
- MWF special projects will support Diabetes Youth, and a new programme in South India to protect communities at risk of multinational companies taking over their land, pushing them out.
- Conference 2015 will be held in Blenheim 14-18th November.
- Youth and young people were well represented at Conference.

There is still plenty of life within the Methodist Church. There were many other very interesting speakers and topics; this is a fraction of what took place. Check out the photos at www.flickr.com and search for Methodist Conference. Hilda Hughson, Parish Steward.

THE FABULOUS FESTIVE CHRISTMAS CONCERT welcomes all and will be held at Mornington Church on Saturday the 6th of December commencing at 7.30pm sharp. Calling any talented individuals ready and willing to show their skills. The extraordinary evening will be accompanied by popcorn and ice cream, no cost but donations to the Kayima Community Primary School. Please contact Annabelle or Campbell Weston during the evenings on 454 5600 if you're interested in participating.



BULLET POINTS FROM THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at Mosgiel Wednesday 26 November:

- Today, Broad Bay Church will close, and the last service at 11am will be attended by the Vice-President of the Church, Dr Bella Ngaha
- Building and strengthening matters progress with options for the future being examined and discussed
- Rev Siosifa Pole is due to have his 5-year review, planned for March 2015
- Rev Pole will undertake the Teviot Union Parish Superintendent position from the beginning of next year.
- Greetings and congratulations to new ordinands, Rev Tania Shackleton and Rev David Ahn
- Mornington Church will hold a Christmas Concert on Saturday 6 December at 7.30 pm; and on Sunday 14th Dec the YAM group will participate in the morning service; there will be a combined Carol Service at 7pm.

WANTED: ONE PARISH STEWARD - male or female for the Dunedin Methodist Parish.

- A person who wishes to help the Parish Minister(s) by affirmation, honest dialogue and goal-setting.
- ROLES:
 - Caring for others, being in a team of three, each with a three year tenure.
 - Having some administrative and pastoral skills, and trusted by others
 - able to hold discussions with the Minister(s) on the life of the Parish
 - willingness to attend some regular meetings

[See Methodist Church of New Zealand, Guidelines for Parish Stewards (IL No 152.pdf)]

A CONVOY of CARLOADS made the journey from Mornington Church to Matuanui Rd, Owaka, last Sunday to visit the home of Nathan and Linda Wilson, Annabelle and Juliet. It was a great day, blessed with a fine day, and we enjoyed a shared meal in the wonderfully spacious and modern home this popular



couple have built on the Wilson family farm. Point of interest was a trek across the property to the historic waterwheel, built in 1891. The wheel sits on a creek and once powered a number of functions on the farm. But then it fell into disuse and sat idle for 100 years until Nathan with the help of electric power got it up and running - and what a thrill it was to see the huge wheel beginning to turn. And now it only needs the addition of a generator to be a useful source of power on the farm. But that will be another story. Some of the party went on to visit the



disused railway tunnel further down the Owaka highway. A great day was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Cam Weston for organising the event.

ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Mission Office will be closed from midday Wednesday 24th December until Monday 12th January. Could you please ensure your Orders of Service over this period are sent to Katrina (admin@dmm.org.nz) no later than **12 noon Thursday 18th December**. The final bulletin for 2014 will be the 21st December edition and the first Bulletin for 2015 will be 18th January. Thank you everyone, wishing you a very happy Christmas.

A RECENT QUESTIONNAIRE was seeking information on the use of computers and other aspects of IT(information technology). Fair enough. The Parish is to be commended for getting on board the modern world of new technologies, and applying them for the our central task of “spreading the Good News.” But this candid shot taken at Mornington this week raised questions about the growing influence of IT - or does the camera lie? And who are these tech-worshippers? We leave you to judge. Haha.



Mary, mother of Jesus, has always been for me an enigmatic figure. We know so little about her and what we do know is so shrouded in mythology and religious dogma the real Mary and her essential humanity are lost. However, I do love the cadences of the birth narratives. Their poetry and familiarity transport me to some hopelessly sentimental and romantic place where, common sense suspended, I'm loathe to ask the difficult questions swirling around the advent story. In truth, the whole event may have been Mary's first annus

horribilis (Possibly Joseph's as well!) What was she really like? What was it really like for her?

The gospels would have us believe her to be meek, and submissive, overjoyed to be used, her voice sanctified and constrained by centuries of patriarchal influence. This perception is reinforced by religious artists through the centuries, portraying Mary as passive, enigmatic...resigned to her fate, a vessel 'fit for purpose.' She would become pregnant, give birth and raise her equally enigmatic child, a child whose life and death were to change the course of history.

What was it like for Mary raising this child who must have been something of a handful? A child who followed the beat of a different drum and was known to provoke controversy from time to time. Recently I came across a cartoon which delighted me, yet gave me pause for thought. Imagine two year old Jesus defiantly standing ATOP his bathwater, arms folded obstinately across his wee round tummy, bottom lip virtually 'dragging on the floor' a scowl on his infant brow. Mary kneeling beside the bath, eyeballing him, equally determined, with a 'you better do this or else' look, and a very purposeful index finger pointing into the bath water , saying 'IN'.

In my experience little boys are usually very happy to be immersed in water, providing soap isn't involved. Jesus may have been no different. But what the cartoonist might also be suggesting, is that Mary was no 'pushover'. No 'terrible two' year old was going to outwit her even if he could walk on water! Love it!!!

Colm Toibin in his stunning and thought provoking book 'The Testament of Mary' releases her from the shackles of mythology to reveal her humanity. A strong, wise, highly intelligent woman, fearing for the safety of her son who persisted in following the dictates of his youthful conscience and the other young rebels who he saw as his 'family'. Colm mercilessly strips away the notion that Mary was completely supportive of her beloved son's convictions as he relentlessly pursued a course she knew could not end well.

Who is this Mary of antiquity who, simultaneously, has been elevated and trivialised by dogma, creed and magical thinking, depriving her not only of her humanity but also her son?

Perhaps the most pertinent and searching question one might ask of Mary is 'was it worth it?' Colm Toibin doesn't shrink from asking it!

This advent season, I invite you to reflect on this ordinary yet extra-ordinary young woman who arguably, apart from Jesus, had the most to lose in this situation, but the least power to influence events which would change her life and the lives of countless others for millenia to come.

Trish Patrick

Mother or disciple

Mary, did it hurt
to have repeated to you
that Jesus saw the foreign crowd
as family to him now?

How far had you come to greet him
this famous son of yours
only to find
he was too busy
about his father's business
to come out to greet you?

Did you wonder bitterly what rights
nine months of pregnancy
hours of hard labour
years of nurture
carried with them?

Was it then you decided
that you would join him
in this adult work
not as mother only
but as disciple too?

Matthew 12: 46-50

Susan Jones. 'What was it like'
(*used with permission*)