



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

1st November 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8th November

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MOSGIEL MWF TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 1:30pm church hall Lounge.
Rev Siosifa Pole' will be speaking to us about his Long Service Leave.
ALL WELCOME. Many thanks Elaine.

REMINDER - Mornington Leaders Meeting will be on Tuesday
10th Nov 7.30pm.



A TIME OUT - On Saturday, 14 November, there will be an opportunity to engage in a reflective Retreat, directed by John Franklin, Anglican priest, former chaplain to the Bishop of Dunedin and an experienced spiritual director. This retreat has been organized for the Methodist Parish and will be held at St Margaret's House, Brighton, from 10am to 3pm. Numbers are limited to 15, transport can be arranged, and there will be no charge to participants. Contact Colin Gibson (453 6662 or colin.gibson@clear.net.nz) to register. Registrations close on Sunday 1 November. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Wesleydale Trust.

FOLLOWING ON FROM LAST YEAR a concert is to be held in the Mornington Church on Saturday Nov 28 commencing at 7:00p.m. This is open to all who would like to entertain. To date a wide variety of items have been proposed.

Would those who would like to take part please advise Cam Weston on 021 995 130 or 454 5600 so a program can be arranged. Please come, whether performing or not, as an enjoyable night of surprising variety is promised with some crowd involvement required. Shoes for dancing may assist. Entry is a gold coin to cover costs of a simple intermission delight.

PEOPLES CLIMATE MARCH Dunedin – Sunday 29 November 1pm leaving the Dental School, speeches and music in the Octagon. Support the call for climate justice and global action on climate change.

5th SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER 29th November: Mornington Methodist is hosting a very special event for the churches of Mornington. Rev. Dr. David Clark, MP for North Dunedin will join us for a meal and the service. Meal 4:30 – 6:30 and Service is at 7pm. David will speak at both occasions on the theme 'Can we afford to be generous'. Please put in your diary. Further details will follow.

Parish Links

MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

It is pleasing to report that our recent A.G.M. was very well attended. The church was resplendent with Spring flowers which had been supplied by ladies of the congregation. These were later distributed to our 'over 80's', as is our usual custom after a Spring flower service. We are blessed to have some very willing helpers who make these services so special. Following the service 23 of us gathered at the Mosgiel Railway station, where we enjoyed the usual food and hospitality provided by 'Blackie'. It was a very happy occasion and an opportunity to exchange news and views with all and sundry, especially spouses and members who do not normally make it to our services. We continue to look at ways in which to expand our outreach programme to the Mosgiel community.

CWS SYRIAN FAMILY REFUGEE APPEAL - Proceeds from the Open Education talk given by Sherrima Bower (the last in the 2015 series), together with those from the pre-session meal provided by Judy Russell amount to just over \$800. That's a fine amount from a relatively small group of people, but in the face of the enormous challenges facing thousands of refugees from an appalling civil war in Syria, which has become a cockpit for rival international powers, it is a very modest contribution. If you would like to bring the amount up to \$1000, with a gift of \$200, please contact Parish Treasurer Lynley Kloogh.

ADVENT STUDIES - Advent Study series will start on Thursday the 26th of November, 7pm, at Wesley church. It will begin with pot luck dinner. The material for the study will soon be indicated in the bulletin. All are welcome to participate.

STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Science Kids:

Science Kids has started with Bathgate Park and Carisbrook Schools being the first to participate.

There has been very positive feedback already. One Mum saying her son came home very excited and said he had decided what he wanted to be, “a Scientist “.

Also from one of the facilitators: On returning to Carisbrook Heights, and children departing, I noticed one parent was hovering by the van as if she wanted to talk. She wanted to know how her daughter had coped with the visit to the museum, as she is on the autistic spectrum. She also asked about the things the children had done so she could talk to her daughter about it at home. Apparently, the day the children received letters about the science project her daughter was incredibly excited and kept nagging at her mum to get the permission slip returned as soon as possible. Mum was happy to hear that her child enjoyed the visit, participated in all the activities and contributed well, and cooperatively, in the new environment. The whole conversation only took about five minutes but during that time she thanked me three times for giving her child such a great opportunity and she was so grateful. Mum felt it was so lovely someone would want to do that for her child.

Support and Advocacy

I had the occasion to work with a lady who was living in a Domestic Violence/Partner abuse situation, one of power and control over her daily existence; she stated this was worse than physical violence in that you had to pre-empt your partner’s behaviours in a given circumstance and be prepared for whichever option was chosen. This lady felt she had no escape, she did not have any money as this was monitored, no relatives that could take her in [abuse is often a family secret] and was



too frightened to look at a future on her own because she would have no support. So what changed!

Due to Health conditions her circumstances changed, she was in hospital for a lengthy stay, she chose not to return to her family home immediately but stay with a friend until she felt well enough to go home. She confided in her friend who contacted The Mission, and as a result of this we were able to put appropriate supports in place so that she never went back home. She secured a Work and Income Benefit and a flat so she could live independently. Her family were not supportive in the first instance, but when domestic abuse was identified other family members have come forward and she is helping them work through procedures to keep them safe. This has been a life changing experience for this lady, her family and extended family. It's not OK to live with domestic abuse, it takes one person to make that change, to break the cycle.

PRAYER REQUESTS - The Parish Prayer Group met last two weeks to pray for those who need prayers and to affirm our belief in the power of prayer. We had 15 requests for prayers. I am sure we can all pray from wherever we are. Please if you need prayer don't hesitate to contact our Parish Prayer convenor.



PARISH SERVICES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY - Soon you will have the Preaching Plan for the next quarter. Some of our special services will be indicated in the bulletin for our people to know.

PARISH LINKS – Please those who write articles for Parish Links are to contact Hilda Hughson to ensure there is no clash with others who send articles to put in the bulletin.



A LINE IN THE SAND

‘Cricket certainly thrived after the [Restoration](#) in 1660 and is believed to have first attracted gamblers making large bets at this time. In 1664, the "Cavalier" Parliament passed the Gaming Act 1664 which limited stakes to £100, although that was still a fortune at the time, equivalent to about £14,000 in present-day terms. Cricket had certainly become a significant gambling sport by the end of the 17th century. There is a newspaper report of a "great match" played in Sussex in 1697 which was 11-a-side and played for high stakes of 50 [guineas](#) a side.’

There’s nothing new under the summer sun! And I grieve for the game I have loved all my life.

Until 1964 the Laws and Regulations of the Methodist Church of New Zealand contained a clause within the ‘General Rules for the Guidance of Members’ that gave clear expression to its position on this matter:

Gambling of every kind is expressly forbidden on all Methodist premises. Lotteries, raffles or any other devices of hazard or chance must not be conducted in Methodist buildings or under the auspices of the Church.

In that year (1964) the ‘General Rules’ were significantly amended. References to gambling, dancing, entertainment and amusements and the liquor traffic disappeared, along with sections on marriage and Sabbath observance. The ‘General Rules’, often couched in negative, ‘anti’ language, were replaced by a series of positive statements, all beginning with the words: ‘We believe....’

My recollection of the time was that the Methodist Church had an uneasy self-image - regarded as a Church that said "No!" more easily than it said "Yes!" It might be said that it is easier to be specific in declaring what one is against than what one is for. What the Church ended up with, therefore, in its Law Book, was a series of fine statements, lauding virtue. But how does a Law Book deal with human sinfulness, without naming what that means? Can one stand 'for' something, without standing 'against' something else.

Let me ask just two questions: 'Is it always a virtue to be certain?' 'Does our faith have no room for doubt?'

Think about Thomas, the disciple, "Doubting Thomas". Did Jesus really rebuke Thomas for not accepting on the testimony of his fellow disciples. I've been helped by reading a short reflection by an American Jesuit priest, Kevin O'Brien. He suggests Thomas' response is perfectly reasonable? Thomas found it hard to swallow the claim that Jesus had shown up in his absence. A dead man miraculously alive may have sounded to him like the imaginings of scared and desperate men. To want proof seems perfectly reasonable. Thomas must have hoped it was true, but he needed the proof of his senses for that to be.

What's the point of what Jesus said to Thomas? That we are to trust in things that are beyond our capacity for reason? That's what Christians are always being challenged to do – to go beyond the limitations of our physical senses - to experience God's presence in our lives. That's what faith is all about, isn't it?

What a lot of question-marks! But reason and faith have to be in opposition to each other. Rather, the two inform and complete each other in making us fully human. So the idea of 'mystery' in Christianity isn't a cop-out. Mystery might be understood as the reality we can't yet explain. It calls for a certain humility and openness.

The more certainty we have, the more sure we are that we are correct, the less room there is for God's mystery. Doubt isn't the problem – in fact, it's the very place where you start to ask questions. Except that we trust that, wherever our senses and our human reason take us, God will be there - wherever "there" is. Faith is a journey – it's always seeking understanding. The great scientist [Albert Einstein](#) once said "I believe in intuitions and inspirations...I sometimes FEEL that I am right. I do not KNOW that I am."

Back to the beginning. I think the answer to my earlier question is that it is not always a virtue to be certain, and we don't need a Law Book to tell us what to do in every situation. So what do we need for our faith journey? A map with the destination clearly marked, or a map showing the next kilometer or two? Or is our faith journey not about maps, but about the company we keep on the way? The way Jesus of Nazareth has already travelled.

Donald Phillipps