



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:	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
	Joy Clark	455 9534
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

29th November 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 6th 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	TBA

CORRECTIONS FOR PREACHING PLAN

Christmas Eve Service at Glenaven 24th December:

Supper starts 10.15pm

Service starts 11pm.

Christmas Day 25th December

Mornington and Glenaven churches combined at Mornington

Sunday 27th December

Mornington and Glenaven churches combined at Glenaven



CONFERENCE SUMMARY 2015

THEME "A time to re-sow and a time to re-grow"

- Conference started on Saturday with a formal Powhiri. This was followed by the opening service and the acknowledgement of those who had died throughout the year. In the afternoon we had the service honouring those who had retired.
- At the Conference dinner on Saturday night our guest speaker was Sir Ray Avery (New Zealander of the Year 2010). One of his interesting remarks was "The Power of Us" which acknowledges that people working together can achieve what individuals alone cannot. A message for all of us.
- Sunday afternoon at the Ordination Service one Deacon and eight Presbyters were ordained. The Wesley Centre Choir, Hastings Samoan Choir, Wasewase Ko Viti Choir and the Blenheim Tongan Choir took part in the service.
- The new president elect is Prince Devanandan. Prince is a Sri Lankan who moved to New Zealand with his family in 2003. At present he is teaching Community Development and Social Change at Trinity College and is the Director of Mission and Ecumenical.
- The new Vice President elect is Viv Whimster. Viv is the Convenor of the Methodist Lay Preacher's Network.
- The Tauwi Report on Sexuality was presented. The Task Group reported "That at this time there is no consensus for a gay or lesbian person to be acceptable as president". Ongoing consultation within the group will continue.
- The next Conference will be held at Wesley College Auckland from 1 – 5 October 2016.
- On Wednesday afternoon I was able to attend David Poultney's Induction Service for Synod Superintendent for the Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast. I attended the dinner at night and extended greetings on behalf of the Dunedin Parish.

A copy of the Conference Summary can be downloaded at www.methodist.org.nz/conference/2015 and click on Conference Summary

ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Mission Office will be closed from midday Wednesday 23rd December until Monday 11th 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 17th December. The final bulletin for 2015 will be the 20th December edition and the first Bulletin for 2016 will be 17th January. Thank you everyone, wishing you a very happy Christmas.

ADVENT STUDY 7pm, Wesley church, all are welcome: This study series is based on this book entitled *Making room for Jesus* by Liz Babbs.

First study with pot-luck dinner, 26th of November

Second study on 3rd of December

Third study on 9th of December

Final study on 23rd of December

Bake Sale



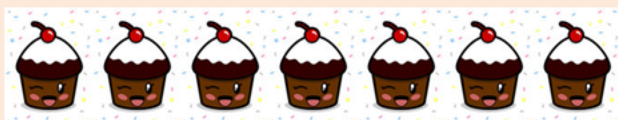
For Hospital Chaplaincy

Thursday 17 December
9.30am Dunedin Hospital
Foyer

Christmas Baking much appreciated

Contact Frances 474 0999 ext 58130

Frances.oconnell@southernhb.govt.nz



2015 Food Bank Drive

Monday 7th Dec
6.00 – 9.00pm

Listen for the sirens
in your street - please
place your items in the
'Lions' trailer!



PLEASE HELP TO MAKE SOMEONE'S
CHRISTMAS THAT MUCH BETTER!

Proceeds to
Local Foodbank Only!



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS



Parish Links

Glenaven Church, in Chambers St NEV, was built in 1905 and named after the subdivision in which it is located. The brick church and its former (wooden) hall remain in Methodist ownership but are leased out during the week to a preschool, Montessori @ the Gardens. With the centre licensed for up to 70 children ranging in age from 16 months to 6 years, the worship space is the home of the youngest of these, while the adjoining lounge, next to the kitchen and with a bathroom recently added, serves slightly older children. A major aim of the centre is encouraging children to learn not just from their teachers but from each other - *tuakana teina*: the younger from the elder (siblings or cousins) -- both inside and outside, in the playground and garden. It's nice to think our land and buildings are a place where children learn (as the website says) respect, "for themselves, their peers and their environment" plus "a sense of order and harmony".

MOSGIEL CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE would like to advise our customer's that we are MOVING! Not far, just two shops down, to Gary Pearson's former offices at 137 Gordon Road, Mosgiel. Therefore our store will be closed on Friday 27th November, to enable us to do this; and so we're open for Mosgiel Market Day on Saturday 28th November. So be sure to come check out our new store.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Incredible Years: Ann, one of the parents in the IY group, has a little boy with some developmental delays, who runs away from her and has no sense of danger. Ann has been very restricted in where she can take him and what they can do together. She has been working on some strategies to support more compliant behaviour, such as praising and rewarding appropriate behaviour, setting clear and developmentally appropriate limits and planning ahead. Last week, this mum told a lovely story about how she



had taken her little boy to the gardens and he had held her hand all the way round the lower gardens. She told him that he could lead to where he wanted to go but he must hold her hand, and if he did they would have an ice cream afterwards. Of course, he led her to the duck pond first, and then they had a lovely walk together followed by an ice cream. She was so pleased by her success and it was a great positive experience for both of them.

BULLET POINTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MOSGIEL:

- If you have information to share about an event, please let Mary Thompson know so that she can add it to the website. Email: maryt@actrix.co.nz or ph: 4640787. Mary kindly puts the bulletin onto the website each Friday before we see it on Sunday.
- Please think carefully about the future of our church and who could take a turn at being a Parish Steward. Joy Clark is no longer able to do this role. Present ones are Earlene Owens from Mosgiel and Hilda Hughson from Mornington.
- Presbyters' annual leave: Rod 16-22 Jan; Siosifa 8-14 Dec, 12 Jan-1 Feb. As these overlap, Gordon Abernethy will be available.
- Next Parish Council meeting 10th February at St Kilda.

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER.

Thursday	3 rd Dec	7pm	Advent Study at Wesley
Sunday	6 th Dec	6.30pm	End-of-year pot luck dinner
Wednesday	9 th Dec	7 pm	Advent Study at Wesley
Sunday	20 th Dec	9.30am service	Y@M Christmas production.
Wednesday	23 rd Dec	7 pm	Advent Study at Wesley
Christmas Eve -Thursday	24 th Dec	10.15 for 11pm service	Supper and Service at Glenaven.



**We welcome Barrie Peake, Warden of
St Mary's Mornington, as a guest
contributor**

***PRACTICING CHRISTIANITY* and RESOURCE CONSENT**

Having just spent most of the last two weeks working on an assignment which I must both complete and pass in order to renew my license to be a Certified Independent Resource Management Act (RMA) Decision Maker, I have begun to wonder how the practice of Christianity in a church might fare when examined in terms of allowed activities under at least some aspects of New Zealand's major legislation that controls all environmental activities in this country.

To consider an answer to this question, some background knowledge to the RMA (1991) would be helpful. This major piece of legislation was enacted in 1991 and its purpose is clearly specified as 'to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources' in a manner '...which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing, and for their health and safety while.... avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment'. In achieving this purpose, the Act specifically states that a number of matters of national importance must be recognised including 'the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, waters, sites,, sacred areas (waahi tapu) and other....(taonga)'. In a related vein, it also goes on to say that the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi must be taken into account.

To undertake any environmental activity one must obtain a resource consent from the local territorial authority (in Dunedin, this would be the Dunedin City Council or Otago Regional Council) and they will issue this consent (sometimes with conditions) only if the activity meets their requirements as specified under a City or District Plan which in turn must incorporate the above principles.

Now the 'environment' is considered in the Act to include 'ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities...and the social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions which affect these

matters'. To the best of my knowledge there has never been any religious activity such as *practicing Christianity* in a church which has been considered under the RMA, but I suggest it is not too much of a stretch to imagine that it might relate to the '..social, and cultural conditions' mentioned above as part of an ecosystem. So, let's consider how the practice of Christianity in our church might fare if an application was made for a resource consent to undertake this activity under the RMA in its present form.

First it would be necessary to ascertain from the DCC whether practicing Christianity is an *allowed activity* in the Dunedin City Plan. If it is specifically allowed in the Plan, then there would be no need to apply for a consent and there would be no restrictions whatsoever on either the physical structure of the church or how it is used. At the other extreme, if it is specified in the Plan as a *prohibited activity*, then the church could not be built or used to practice Christianity (at least under the RMA). But's let's assume it is instead classified as a *restricted discretionary activity* with the discretionary matters including the environmental impact of the church building and meeting in it on a regular basis. So a consent application would need to be lodged with the DCC with full physical details of the church building, how it would be used for meetings as well as an Assessment of Environmental Effect (AEE) document which would include comments on the potential effect of both the church building and meeting in it on the surrounding environment such as that of the neighbours (restriction on their view, noise (e.g. too loud church bells, music and/or singing!), allowed times of the day for meetings, increased numbers of parked cars during meetings)

Once received by the DCC Planning Department, their staff would recommend based on the 'magnitude' of the potential environmental effects and the number of neighbours that might be affected, whether the DCC grant the consent *without notification* to the public but including conditions relating to the discretionary matters such as maximum building height, building size relative to the land area, the maximum number of people who could attend a meeting, allowed time period for these meetings (would they approve mid-night communion on Christmas

Eve?!)) and adequate provision for any off-street parking of vehicles given the maximum meeting attendance.

If however the planners consider any of these environmental effects are likely to be more than minor, they can recommend *limited notification* (when just the immediate neighbours or other parties who are likely to be affected can make submissions) or *public notification* when any member of the public can make a submission. In either of these situations, the DCC would then establish a Consent Hearings Committee consisting of licenced councilors and/or independent commissioners such as myself, to hold a public meeting and hear all submissions from the council planners and all other parties. They would then 'weigh up' all of the evidence that has been presented at the hearing along with that provided in the original consent application, and using the hierarchy of guidelines specified in the RMA, make a decision on whether the activity of *practicing Christianity* will be allowed in the proposed church building and if so, subject to what conditions.

Of course, this is quite an imaginary scenario and what is missing in the RMA is any jurisdiction on the effect an activity might have in relation to not just the material environment, but spiritual matters as well. Is it too fanciful to suggest that the spirit could be included as an attribute of at least the human ecosystem as defined in the RMA? In which case this Act might be used to legislate activities such as practicing Christianity that could affect the human spirit as well as the material environment. Could you then ever imagine who would decide whether this particular activity expressed in the present language of the RMA, has 'a more than minor adverse effect on the human spirit'? Would any revised version of the RMA that included such a provision for legislation of *effects on the human spirit* ever be passed by the New Zealand parliament given its recent lurch to secularism ?

Barrie Peake