



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
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

20th December 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 27th December

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

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH MEETING - The members of the Wesley congregation are invited for a special meeting to be held on Sunday the 27th of December at the church after the service. The purpose of this meeting is to talk about the future of the congregation. Please be prepared to stay longer after the service.

PARISH COMBINED SERVICE - The Parish will have a combined service on the 31st of January at Mornington, 10am. Please bring a plate to share with others after the service.

THANK YOU - I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Katrina Rawson on behalf of the Parish for her expertize and patience in printing and compiling our orders of Service for this Year. There are not enough words to express our appreciation and thanks. We only wish that you and your family will have a Wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

ANNUAL LEAVE - I will be away from the office for my Annual Leave from the 11th to the 2nd of February. While I am away Rod Mitchell will take care of any pastoral issues that affect anyone in the parish. When Rod is away from the Parish, Gordon Abernethy is offering to provide the pastoral care for anyone who has need. Thanks, Siosifa.

WELCOME VISITORS at Mornington last Sunday were Professor David Tombs and his wife, Rebecca Dudley. As mentioned more fully on last week's bulletin, David has taken up positions as head of Theology and Public Issues at Otago University, and comes from a distinguished record teaching conflict resolution and reconciliation in Belfast. David made a deep impression on the Mornington congregation with his perceptive analysis of the motives driving Joseph, a "righteous man" in the early Matthew texts, as witness repeated questions from the floor at the conclusion of his reflection. We look for a return visit next year.



MORNINGTON/GLENAVEN SERVICES CHRISTMAS AND JANUARY:

24 December Christmas Eve: Combined at Glenaven 11pm
(Please bring a plate of finger-food for supper from 10.15pm)



25 December Christmas Day: Combined at Mornington 9.30am

27 December Sunday: Combined at Glenaven 10.40am for 11am

3 Jan Sunday: Combined at St Mary's (Anglican) Mornington 9.30am

10 Jan Sunday: Combined at Mornington Methodist 9.30am

17 Jan Sunday: Combined at Mornington Presbyterian 9.30am

24 January Sunday: Combined at Glenaven 10.40am for 11am

(Afterwards a pot-luck picnic at Watsons', 5 Cairnhill St, Maori Hill)

SERVICES FOR MOSGIEL AND WESLEY:



25th December, Mosgiel and Wesley have combined service in Mosgiel church at 9.30am

27th December, Mosgiel and Wesley have their own separate services in their own churches.

3rd January, Mosgiel and Wesley have their own services in their own churches.

10th January, Mosgiel and Wesley have a combined service in Mosgiel at 9.30am.

17th January, Mosgiel and Wesley have a combined service in Mosgiel at 9.30am.

24th January, Mosgiel and Wesley have a combined service in Mosgiel at 9.30.

IT'S A BITTER-SWEET time at Mornington today as we say goodbye to [Y@M](#) as we have known it these 12 – plus years. [Y@M](#) has been an integral part of our life as a Church, and we have watched the kids of



[Y@M](#) grow into wonderful young human beings. The years have seen a succession of exciting, stimulating productions authored by Ginny Kitchingman and the team, and it seems likely that today's production **THE WORST DAY FOR COWBOYS** will be the last. From an archive of many hundreds of pictures here are just two from 2008 and 2010 demonstrating the exuberance that has encouraged us all, and of the way that these young people have "grown up" in our midst, and are moving on , , , , THANKS GINNY. THANKS one and all!!!



KNOX CHURCH DUNEDIN

Student and Young Adults Worker - Part-time

We need an enthusiastic Christian leader who will engage students and young adults and help us listen and support them, changing as we do. We are a central city church next to the University and Polytech. We have growing participation by students and young adults. We encourage an inquiring, genuine, enlivening and inclusive faith in Jesus Christ.

For position description and terms of appointment, contact admin@knoxchurch.net. Applications close 4 January 2016.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Take 10 Streets

As part of getting to know the South Dunedin community I have visited the Market which runs every other Wednesday from the Community Hall. On this occasion I met two ladies who noticed my badge and were keen to find out about Take 10 streets and what happened at the Hub. One of the ladies in particular seemed quite excited about this resource sitting on her door step, especially the craft group. The next day I had a phone call from this lady wanting to know more. On my initial conversation with her she had had no idea of the existence of the Hub but took it upon herself to find out more after our chat, she had googled us and decided to give me a call. She told me how she was incredibly lonely and wanted to meet more people. I invited her for a coffee and a tour round the Hub so she could familiarise herself. I was really happy she had made the effort to contact me as she has had a difficult life, however I was struck by her positivity and her determination to make life better for herself. She is both intelligent and philosophical about the hand life has dealt her but she is not using it as an excuse to let life drag her down. She came to the craft group the following day full of anticipation; she left with a smile, the promise of new friendships and returned for the next meeting.





THREE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

For many the exchange of gifts at Christmas is a fraught business. While some enjoy the whole process others, for a variety of very good reasons, find it a real headache. So why do we do it? One of the reasons we indulge in this exercise is continuing the tradition of the three wise men who are said to have brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myhrr, just what any self respecting new born would have at the top of his/her present list for Saint Nicholas! At a deeper level, they have a rich symbolic significance. Choosing gifts can be tricky, but such a delight when we get it right- for both giver and receiver. However getting it right isn't always easy.

But God got it right.

For me, among all God's gifts, three in particular delight me;

The gift of smallness
potential

A tiny baby. Hidden promise and

The gift of mystery and wonder..
of otherness'

The gift of transcendence. 'A sense

The gift of 'The Way'.....

A model for living.

THE GIFT OF SMALLNESS

We live in a super-sized world where BIG is seen as best. A motto of today's culture seems to be 'the bigger the better'. Even we, humanity, are getting bigger by the generation. What's more, smallness is frequently perceived as inferior, because it is associated with weakness and insignificance therefore in need of up-sizing. Yet God chose to gift us with a tiny, weak and helpless baby. 'What was God thinking!!!! In fact, it's quite ingenious. I've heard many first time expectant parents say 'this baby is not going to change our lives much, we will carry on as usual and baby will fit around us.' Not so!!!! Babies have the knack of concentrating parent's minds to a degree that life is totally changed. Never to be the same again. Offering no hint of what is to come, a tiny baby is but a beginning, an ingenious, lovable beginning,

the promise of things to come, nestled hidden in the future.(more about that later) Baby Jesus was to drastically change not only his parents lives, but the lives of people down through the centuries. Small can be powerful, commanding our attention while delighting our very being.

At the same time, smallness can also serve to remind us that 'the world is charged with the grandeur of God' (Gerald Manly Hopkins). John Muir, an American conservationist and explorer of the 19th century, said that 'man feels closest to God when he feels small. 'It can be a moment of transcendence, when, confronted with the magnificence of thundering waterfalls cascading hundreds of feet down awe inspiring mountain sides, or marvelling at the beauty of the night sky, we are compelled reflect on our place in the greater scheme of things, asking 'What are human beings that you (God) should take us so seriously' (Job7: 17)

Smallness can be challenging, yet it can be pure gift if we allow ourselves to see beyond the immediately obvious, to the potential lying hidden in unknown and unseen .

THE GIFT OF MYSTERY AND WONDER

'Oh lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the works thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

The first verse of this rather secularised hymn, expresses something of the magnificence of our planet home. 'Awesome', (used here in its proper context!!) invites us to contemplate the wonder and mystery of earth and the universe whether we are creationists or evolutionists. Some of the mystery and wonder has gone from our lives. Science has explained much of what used to mystify people of previous centuries. Scholars and scientists are constantly learning more and more about the rational world, which can be life changing, yet the rational world does not satisfactorily address the deepest and most profound

questions about the universe and the meaning of life. There is plenty to wonder about still, and much to find mysterious, provided we don't let scrupulous rationality rob us of the gift of wonder and mystery. Christmas is still a time of wonder and mystery provided we can suspend our need for the rational, the explainable and the literal. Let's look for the gift and the significance beyond the words.

How is it that a tiny baby could have such a profound influence on human lives for over 2000 years? It is such a human story, yet it's infused with mystery, wonder and yes, even divinity; God with us, Emmanuel....'You are the mystery found, the mystery sought.' (Bill Wallace).

What a gift!!!

THE GIFT OF 'THE WAY'

Earlier I mentioned the promise of things to come nestled in the future. This little baby grew up to be a revolutionary leader, a leader whose thinking was centuries ahead of his time. He gave us a way of living if we have the wisdom to follow. He wasn't perfect, in fact he probably gave his parents quite a few sleepless nights. Nor was he a master of diplomacy, but Jesus' teachings are more relevant today than ever. Love, justice, reconciliation, compassion and peace and hope are just a few of the values he taught. Unfortunately, it isn't a popular way because it runs counter-intuitive to the culture we live in.

Advent each year serves to remind us it is never too late to be on 'The Way,' to make a fresh start. It's a little bit like a permanent yearly subscription, gifted free of charge from God to everyone.

Pure gift!

Smallness, mystery and wonder, and The Way', three timeless gifts of God offered anew every year and what's more, it's God's resounding and final 'YES' to all creation including humanity - in spite of ourselves.

Happy Christmas!!!

Trish Patrick