



# 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>	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>Parish Prayer Convenor</b>	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
<b>Mornington:</b>		

## PARISH BULLETIN

5<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> June

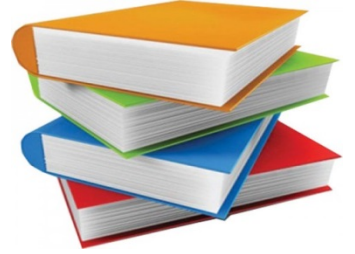
9.30 am	Mornington	G Davis & Mornington LMT
9.30 am	Mosgiel	G Abernethy
11.00 am	Glenaven	G Davis & Mornington LMT
11.00 am	Wesley	G Abernethy
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

**MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June in the Hall Lounge @ 1:30pm when our speaker will be Mrs Ronda McLaren speaking to us about her trip to India ALL WELCOME.

**MOSGIEL'S MID WEEK SERVICES** are in recess till August 17<sup>th</sup>. Please note: Bible with Attitude will start at the earlier time of 1:15pm each Wednesday at Mosgiel for the next 6 weeks all welcome.

## OPEN EDUCATION: GOD IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Richard Randerson is a retired New Zealand Anglican bishop whose fifty years in ministry have focused on the Church's engagement with issues of poverty and justice, public ethics, theology and inter-faith relations. On Wednesday 15 June, at 7.30pm in Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, he speaks and leads a discussion on 'God in the 21st Century'. He argues that the Church can no longer simply reaffirm its traditional images and doctrines of God, but have Dawkins and Geering both got it wrong? Can we continue to believe in God as that which we deeply experience at the heart of life, giving us a sense of connection to all life, people and creation, experienced in the nature of love, changing our lives and calling us to be agents of change for the wellbeing of others and the earth that sustains us? His notable 2015 book, *Slipping the Moorings*, which addresses many of these issues, will be available on the night for \$25 (\$20 unwaged).



Sign in for the usual pre-session meal catered by Judy Russell or ring 455 3727 to book your place. But don't miss an outstanding modern Christian speaker of national standing, and bring others to hear him.

## PARISH GAMES EVENING

<sup>th</sup>  
**Saturday June 11**  
**at 7-9pm in the Wesley hall.**



Fun for the whole family and friends! Come and join in an evening of board and card games, or indoor bowls and team games, then supper. (Hilda Hughson ph 4876226)

A small contribution towards supper appreciated.



### RADIO CHURCH

a weekly service presented by Dunedin Inner City Ministers' Assoc  
 Otago Access Radio 105.4FM & 1575AM and online [www.oar.org.nz](http://www.oar.org.nz)

### 8.30am Sunday

**IT WAS A HORRIBLE DAY OUTSIDE** but the combined Parish service in the Wesley Hall last Sunday generated some warmth of its own with a friendly atmosphere and some good singing from three choirs. Thanks to Mornington and St Kilda choristers for their contributions to the service.



Pictures show 1. the St Kilda choir and a view of part of the congregation and 2. the delightful St Kilda youth presentation. And thanks to Siosifa for a well prepared service. As a Parish we need to be present and visible to each other. In the words of the old conference hymn "And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?"





## STORY FROM THE MISSION

*Take 10 Streets* Lots of great conversations have been happening within the 10 Streets but one of the best things to have transpired in the last month was based on a connection Dawn had made several months ago with a lady who both lives and works within the Take 10 Streets area. She has shared several conversations with this lady; she knows of Dawn's role in the community and has an idea of what happens at the Hub. A few weeks ago she shared some rather difficult family news with Dawn, the basis of which led Dawn to encourage her to come and see our Community Support Worker. The lady seemed encouraged didn't see her for weeks until she came into the Hub asking to talk to Dawn, she was quite emotional and didn't know what to do as the family situation had got worse. Our CSW was available to talk to her and the lady left the meeting with a more positive outlook that she could do something to help the family situation. The following day Dawn received a message to say thank you to us all and that she had followed the advice given by our CSW, she felt more in control and that something was going to happen to make a positive change.

Other great things Dawn came across were the good deeds of neighbour to neighbour.

- A newly retired painter/decorator is doing odd jobs, at no cost, for the neighbours in his near vicinity.
- One young couple were not using their car one day and gave it to an elderly couple to use as they were no longer able to afford to run their own car anymore.
- Another lovely lady delivers leaflets to help ends meet, she pushes the leaflets around in a child's pushchair, and whilst she was delivering she was picking up litter from the streets and gutters and putting it into plastic bags on the back of the pushchair. When Dawn talked to her about it she said she wanted herself and her neighbours to live in a nicer environment.



**JOY COWLEY WORKSHOP** *Approaches to Christian Living*. Saturday June 25, 2016 10am-3pm. Cost \$10. Optional lunch \$10. Venue: Opoho Presbyterian church. Register with Tui Bevan by June 18: [mark.bevan@gmail.com](mailto:mark.bevan@gmail.com) or 03 473 8677.

(Hilda has more details)

**CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE (CWS)** has a special event in June, the 'Refugee Ration Challenge', to raise funds to support and empower refugees in camps in Jordan and Lebanon.

For five days, ending on 20 June, World Refugee Day, volunteers are committed to living on the rations supplied to a person in the camps.

Elizabeth Duke (from Dunedin Quakers) has volunteered, and invites support at her page –

<https://operationrefugee.everydayhero.com/nz/elizabeth>

There is more information about the challenge and why it's needed at [www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz](http://www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz) This is also the site through which others can volunteer.

**PRAYER NEEDS** - For those who have prayer needs, please pass on to the Parish Prayer Convenor and she will pass on to the members of the Prayer Group.



**I WILL BE AWAY** next weekend (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June) for the Talanoa Oceania Conference in Auckland. The theme of this Conference is "JustUs 2 Justice". For those who have any pastoral issue while I am away, please contact Rod Mitchell.

Thanks, Siosifa Pole



## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN DUNEDIN

Back in April I helped organise and lead a Refugee Information night at Mornington Methodist Church,

organised by our Dunedin Churches Welcome Refugees Committee. Over 100 people attended, including members of our Dunedin Muslim community. The Choir sang, "Tell my people I love them" (Thanks Choir!) Also, I gave a brief message, based on a 2003 Uniting Church of Australia resource (see below) and we heard an excellent talk from Mouhannad Taha. Mouhanned, a Lawyer, came to Dunedin from Damascus in Syria with his family a few years ago. He has recently been admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the NZ High Court and is working for Jenny Beck Law here in Dunedin. A wonderful man, who through his faithfulness and character illustrates how people from other lands can bring great blessings to our community. Mouhannad has become a key person in Dunedin, assisting with the first group of former refugees from Syria settling here. The second group of refugees arrive in Dunedin on June 17th.

Two passages from the Uniting Church Justice statement (2003):

"There is no question about the Christian response to asylum seekers and refugees. The Church is called to be a place of welcome. As faithful disciples we are to provide care and comfort to those who come to this land as strangers, seeking safety. Christians are called to act with compassion, grace, and generosity, and all that we do must be a reflection of God's love for the world. Every human being is made in God's image and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of where they came from and how they arrived. Asylum seekers are our neighbours and we can do no less than the Samaritan as he went out of his way to care for his Jewish neighbour. We can do no less than offer the love of God and the compassion of Christ to everyone we meet, but especially to the stranger, the exile, the poor

and the oppressed. In God's love we shall all find freedom and peace and in the face of a stranger we shall see the face of Christ.”

“God is identified as the God who cares for the exiled and the stranger. God brings justice to the oppressed and calls on the people of faith to care for the strangers in their midst as they care for each other. Refugees are identified in the Bible with widows and orphans as the most marginalised people, the most at risk, and the test of faithful obedience to God was how a community or individuals cared for these most vulnerable people. To oppress the weak and the powerless and the homeless was to risk the judgement of God.

Hospitality to the stranger therefore became one of the strongest moral forces in ancient Israel.”

Last Sunday at our Combined Parish service, Siosifa preached a wonderful and challenging message about Christian faith which needs to be applied “beyond the fringe”. Supporting former refugees in our community is a great example of what God is calling us to do together. Our Refugee Resettlement Committee, chaired by Father Gerard Aynsley, met again last Tuesday. We plan to set up a Refugee Resettlement Trust in Dunedin, to co-ordinate support for former refugees, going forward. Let me know if you can help with this, or want to be added to our list of Dunedin Church Volunteers, available to help former refugees here.

It was wonderful to read in the ODT last Tuesday about the first baby born to a former-refugee Syrian family here in Dunedin.

Updates on the work of our Dunedin Churches Welcome Refugees Committee can be found via our Facebook page:

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

Christian World Service (CWS) has a special event in June, the 'Refugee Ration Challenge', to raise funds to support and empower refugees in

camps in Jordan and Lebanon. For five days, ending on 20 June, World Refugee Day, volunteers are committed to living on the rations supplied to a person in the camps.

Elizabeth Duke (from Dunedin Quakers) has volunteered, and invites support at her page:

<https://operationrefugee.everydayhero.com/nz/elizabeth>

There is more information about the challenge and why it's needed at [www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz](http://www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz). This is also the site through which others can volunteer.

Successful settlement, according to our NZ Government Refugee Resettlement Strategy, is achieved when people can participate fully in their new community. The Strategy has five goals:

self-sufficiency – all working-age refugees are in paid work or are supported by a family member in paid work

participation – refugees actively participate in New Zealand life and have a strong sense of belonging here

health and wellbeing – refugees and their families enjoy healthy, safe and independent lives

education – English language skills help refugees participate in education and daily life

housing – refugees live in safe, secure, healthy and affordable homes without needing government housing assistance.

Let's do all we can to help meet these goals in Dunedin and elsewhere.

Rev Greg Hughson, University Chaplain