



# 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

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> July

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

### MEDIA SUNDAY

This Sunday is the Media Prayer Sunday. We are asked to pray for those who work in the media whether TV, Radio, Internet, Facebook, or newspaper to spread the good news of God's transforming love that was revealed in Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray for the producers, announcers, presenters, journalists, advertisers, and all that you know who work in the media.

**MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 1:30pm in the church HALL lounge Rev. Donald Phillipps will be our speaker. ALL WELCOME.

### **TIME AND THE WONDER OF THE UNIVERSE**

Christians have in the Bible an ancient story of the life-cycle of the universe from Creation to the Apocalypse. On Wednesday 20 July, Open Education presents a film giving a truly astonishing modern account of Time and the lifespan of our universe from its beginning to its end, as scientists now understand it. Magnificent images, a compelling narrative, ideas to set you thinking about faith as well as science. Wednesday, 20 July, 7.30pm, at the Mornington Methodist Church (koha \$5). Book for the \$15 6pm pre-session meal catered by Judy Russell: sign in or ring 455 3727 by Monday 18 July.

### **OTAGO DISTRICT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held in the Mosgiel Methodist Church  
**Saturday 16 July 2016**

#### **12:30pm - POT LUCK LUNCH**

Please bring FINGER FOOD to share

#### **1:45pm - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Collection for Social Services** - going to the Family Support Fund

**OPENING PARCELS** is always fun for kids - but adults as well can share the same sense of anticipation. So it was on Sunday when the much-awaited parcel from Italy was brought unopened to Church by Cam Weston. For weeks we have wondered what the Lampedusa cross would be like, knowing it would be made by island carpenter Francesco Tuccio from the wreckage of refugee vessels washed ashore after yet another perilous and often tragic Mediterranean crossing.



At the appointed time in the service came the un-wrapping – and the ugly, almost squalid appearance of the cross, in two pieces, came as no surprise, these crosses are being sent to loftier places than our parish - the British Museum, the Vatican, but it is believed ours is the first commissioned from New Zealand. It is to be dedicated in what is expected to be an inter-faith service with the Muslim community immediately after the arrival of the next refugee allocation to Dunedin. Details to be announced next month.

Photo - Cam and Siosifa do the honours as the long parcel gives us our first look at the Lampedusa Cross.





## LIFE MATTERS SUICIDE PREVENTION TRUST QUIZ NIGHT

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 7pm Event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/990741664379742/>

Organise a team (4 to 6 people) and come have a fun night at the Mosgiel RSA, 6 Church St, Mosgiel. Tickets are \$5 per person, payable on the night. Please register your team as soon as possible with Nikki on 0273431099 or by emailing her via [events.mmrsa@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:events.mmrsa@vodafone.co.nz). All the money raised will go towards paying for the traffic management required for the Dunedin Hopewalk on Saturday the 13th of August.

### HOPEWALK Event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1795184507368422/>

HOPEWALK is a walk to bring greater awareness around suicide and promote the suicide prevention agencies who are doing their best to provide information and support around suicide related issues.

Our hope is to remind those who feel like they are by themselves – you are never alone.

The parade will start at the School of Dentistry and will finish at The Octagon where will have a minute of silence to remember and mourn suicide victims, followed by some entertainment.

Further information: Greg Hughson [greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz)

Ph. 027 212 1048 <https://www.facebook.com/LifeMattersOtago/>

### STORIES FROM THE MISSION

*Take 10 Streets:* Over the last few weeks

Dawn has continued to have many positive conversations with the 'Take 10 Street residents, most with a desire to see

positive changes within their immediate and wider community – from getting to know neighbours better to seeing an improved shopping centre. She came across a man who had a real desire to play a bigger part in making his community a safer place, to do something constructive and worthwhile. He was still really interested in being



involved with the patrol but was unsure how he should go about it. With a little investigation he was able to get the contact name and number for the local co-ordinator. He was so thrilled and fired up with enthusiasm, he was going to get in touch with the co-ordinator and let Dawn know how he got on. Dawn also met a young mum who had a nine week old baby and was keen to have contact with other young mums, she was able to talk to her about the Hub and the groups which ran from there. The craft group also has a new member - Dawn met a retired lady when door knocking who said that she had found it difficult getting to know people. She has loved coming to craft and now goes to an exercise class with one of the other craft ladies.

*Invercargill Skills for Dads:* The first delivery of Skills for Dads programme by Nga Kete in Invercargill prison with 8 participants has been successfully completed. Aggregating the PCOMS data, the average shift in parenting knowledge and confidence is 5.3

There were some challenges managing from a distance and getting information back to put into Exess – these were worked through and processes sorted for next delivery. The facilitators from Nga Kete fed back how much they enjoyed delivering the programme and what a difference it did actually make to the men who participated.



### **“CHALLENGING THE GODS OF TODAY”**

We were fortunate to have Rev. David Clark, MP to speak to us at the May Open Education meeting. It was refreshing to

learn that he was one of three of the intake into Parliament this year with theological degrees – ‘Christians in Parliament’! There would also be other members who would own Christianity.

The words, “*Challenging the gods of today,*” were used by David during his talk, “Can Religion and Politics Mix?”

It became obvious throughout his talk that the answer is yes!

An extension to that question could be: “Can religion and being a member of this world mix?” And, of course the answer again is, “yes!” **BUT** it depends on the religion, or the particular branch of a religion. We can mix mustard in the muffin mix, but that would give a bad taste, an unpalatable taste. So as we all know there are religions, or particular branches of a religion (Christianity not excepted) that are unpalatable, that actually are dangerous, life threatening; as if it was not mustard but arsenic mixed into the muffin mix.

The role of the Christian Church and its members in this world today has changed a lot over the years - once the Christian Church was the moral and spiritual corner stone of society, and before that there were times when particular groups of the Christian church were a bit like the arsenic in the muffin mix.

But society and its structures have grown and changed. Many today do not regard the Christian Church as the corner stone of society. The basic fabric of society is not now as dependant on the church these days. The welfare system has attempted to fill that role. We must be thankful for the Mission arm of our church, and of other churches, which are showing the national welfare system a better and more economical way of caring for and educating our needy fellow humans - giving value through *values*!

The change in the structure of society has left the church behind to some degree, and so much of society feels it does not need the church as it once did.

The church has been changing though, trying to keep up with society without losing its values - to keep the values we treasure while the world's values are gradually being devalued.

If we believe, really believe that we know the truth, then we must not only show the truth but live the truth, show that we value our belief and *challenge the gods of today*.

It is good that our own church leaders are exploring this, and are looking for suggestions and ways to erecting direction signposts at the top of the cliff, rather than erecting fences or trying to put the pieces together at the bottom.

Our values are the things we believe are important and they should show in the way we live and work. They should determine our priorities, show us our life is turning out as we want it to. It is heartening to know there are people out there thinking this way.

Last month in the ODT was a feature article, “A Question of Values,” Tom McKinley reported on the thinking of a young New Zealand Rhodes Scholar, Max Harris, who, at Oxford University, is writing a book, “The New Zealand Project.”

Harris comments on his book: *“It is an effort to widen and deepen political debate in New Zealand. Individualism, competitiveness, and tiered thinking – hierarchal capitalism – have seeped into many aspects of our culture and society. We need to wind our way out of that mode of thinking.”* ---Yes, indeed!

On values, alongside humility and love Mr Harris would like to elevate care, creativity and community. Values he says could be employed to reinvigorate a values-based politics.

Mr Harris is not alone in this thinking, other concerned New Zealanders and people from France, Canada, U.S.A. and other countries are also thinking in this direction.

Our Parliament has a ‘Code of Conduct’ that each member reads and signs. Included in that code are: working for public good; respect for Parliament and its members; will not advance private interests; avoid conflict of interest; ensure proper use of public resources.

The Speaker in Parliament appears, at times, to have a difficult job to keep order, which makes one wonder about how much respect some parliamentarians give the Code of Conduct.

Max Harris and Philip McKibbin wrote a paper titled 'All you need is a politics of love.' ([www.opendemocracy.net](http://www.opendemocracy.net))

They think the answer to the growing disdain of politics lies in advocating a values-based politics, specifically the values of everyday life, especially kindness or love.

Love, they say, is a sentiment of enduring warmth towards a person or people which shows a deep concern for them. It is closely connected to kindness, generosity and commitment.

I like Scottish Bishop Stephen Neill's thoughts on love, "Love is the steady direction of the will toward the lasting good of another."

We know the language of the New Testament writings was originally Greek, they had a number of words defining the different types of love. Unfortunately the translation into English can only come up with one word, love.

The Maori word 'aroha' encompasses a spiritual quality of goodness, expressed by love for people, the environment and all living things. It expresses genuine concern towards them and acts with their welfare in mind without discrimination.

In our Christian religion, the heart of our faith, our Christian life, is quite simply, what Jesus taught – to love God and to love that which God loves – aroha.

Did not God so love the world that he gave his one and only!

Gordon Abernethy