



# 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

21<sup>st</sup> August 2016

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> August

|          |            |                      |
|----------|------------|----------------------|
| 9.30 am  | Mornington | C Gibson             |
| 9.30 am  | Mosgiel    | S Pole & Mosgiel LMT |
| 11.00 am | Glenaven   | C Gibson             |
| 11.00 am | Wesley     | S Pole & Mosgiel LMT |
| 1.00 pm  | St Kilda   | TBA                  |

**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - The August Meeting will take place on the 24th August in the Church (Please note) at 2p.m. The Guest Speaker will be the Rev. David Crooke (Rtd) - his subject - "Visit to Belgium". Leah & Helen will be the Hostesses (thanks to those who said they would help Judy - who will be in the kitchen). Please remember the Fellowship of the Least Coin. All Welcome.

**EXPLORERS GROUP.** Next meeting: Sunday 28 August, Mornington Lounge, 4.30 pm.

**OPEN EDUCATION** - On Wednesday, 24 August, at 7.30 at Mornington Methodist Church, Colin Gibson explores the religious music written by the modern Welsh composer Karl Jenkins. Jenkins first made a world-wide hit with his stunning multi-media Armed Man Mass, an eloquent cry against war. Among much else, he has since written powerful and beautiful large-scale settings of the Gloria and Te Deum, a Requiem, a Stabat Mater and sets of delightful Christmas carols. Terry Waite described his music as 'a gift to humanity' for its interfaith character and its focus on world peace. Come and hear for yourself—and bring a friend (koha \$5). The usual 6pm pre-session meal (\$15) will be offered by Judy Russell (sign in or ring 455 3727 for your booking). Proceeds go to the Syrian refugee families now settling in Dunedin.

**MORNINGTON FOLK** have learned to anticipate the occasional visit of JOHN GIBSON for his dramatic exploits on the piano. Even without the encouragement of his father, John delivered last Sunday an impromptu postlude to the morning service - after the style of famous ragtime pianist Scott Joplin. As per usual, all we could do was watch as the piano rocked and rolled - and wish for more!



## **PUBLIC FORUM - Otago University Centre for Theology and Public Issues**

### **An Issue for Everyone: A Forum on Family Violence**

#### **Professor David Tombs and Dr. Mercy Ah Siu-Maliko**

This Public Forum at First Church of Otago will explore the issue of family violence in countries around the world, including New Zealand, and will discuss the challenges that family violence raises for Christian faith and church ministry.

The forum will conclude with the launch at 5pm of *Christian Faith and Family Violence: A Report for Samoan Communities in New Zealand*. This is a new web-based resource on family violence written by Dr. Mercy Ah Siu-Maliko for the Centre for Theology and Public Issues. The launch will be followed by refreshments.

Further information [www.otago.ac.nz/ctpi/news](http://www.otago.ac.nz/ctpi/news)

Burns Hall, Sunday 21 August 4:00pm First Church of Otago  
415 Moray Place. **ALL WELCOME!**

## **FAITH THINKING**

In September, this course will be held:

### *Going deeper into the Gospel of Mark*

Professor Paul Trebilco, University of Otago

**7:00 – 9:00 pm Thursday September 15, 22 and 29**

Burns 7 (Albany Street), University of Otago

Each course costs \$20. Please register online at

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation/index.html>

For further information please go to:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/news/otago055227.html>

**PRAYER REQUEST**

Please remember those families in the Parish who are still mourning for the death of their loved ones recently, four of them. Thank you for all those who were in attendance at those funeral services to support the families.

**13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OPEN PEACE LECTURE**

DUNEDIN ABRAHAMIC INTERFAITH GROUP AND OTAGO TERTIARY  
CHAPLAINCY

**Between Law and Spirituality - Islam's legal basis for its spirit of peaceful coexistence**

Imam Afroz Ali

Founder and President, Al-Ghazzali Centre for Islamic Sciences and Human Development Sydney, Australia

Burns 1 Lecture Theatre, University of Otago.

Wednesday 24 August 2016, 5.30-7pm

The Peace Lecture will be followed by supper in the Humanities Division Common Room, upstairs near Burns 1.

If possible, please bring a small vegetarian contribution to supper, and deliver to the Common room before the lecture. All welcome.

Information: Greg Hughson 479 8497 [greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz)

Please see [www.dunedininterfaith.net.nz](http://www.dunedininterfaith.net.nz) for all previous Annual Peace Lectures since 2004



## **STORY FROM THE MISSION**

*Incredible Years:* The Incredible Years parenting programme finished with eight parents successfully completing the course, and shared a celebration event with the other Incredible Years course members from Carisbrook School, from the group facilitated by Rebecca from the Ministry of Education and Tangi from the Pacific Trust of Otago. We met with the participating parents, their partners and children, for a meal and presentation ceremony where parents spoke about what they had gained from the course and received a certificate and a small gift in recognition of their hard work and achievements during the fourteen week course.

Parents spoke of the value of working in a group and supporting each other and many have made friendships which we hope will continue to grow. We were happy to see that the evaluations completed by our course members showed their satisfaction with the course and the assessments the parents completed on their children's behaviour showed that most had seen an improvement. For the parents who completed PCOMS, there was also an improvement noted in each case. These results are consistent with the reports from parents that their children responded positively to the strategies they put in place during the course.

**If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit [www.givealittle.co.nz](http://www.givealittle.co.nz) and search for The Methodist Mission.**



## **EVOLUTIONARY SPIRITUALITY A DREAM OR REALITY?**

I have been exploring the question of whether the new scientific information about evolution and the origins of the universe have any implications in our understanding of spirituality.

In his book “Teilhard de Chardin –The Divine Milieu Explained – A Spirituality for the 21st Century” Louis M. Savary explores Teilhard's thesis that new knowledge dramatically affects how we experience the spirit today.

Teilhard developed a list of seventeen basic principles to outline his argument for the impact of evolutionary knowledge on spirituality. It is from these seventeen principles that Savary proposes a reworking of traditional Spiritual Exercises for the 21st century.

Teilhard's Basic Principles:>

1. The discoveries of modern science must form an important foundation to any contemporary spirituality if it is to be true, relevant, and inspiring.
2. Evolution is happening continually on every level of being -and it has a direction. It is not static, fixed or given. It develops, moving forward.
3. The Law of Attraction-Connection-Complexity-Consciousness is the law that is giving evolution its direction.
4. Evolution is based primarily on spirit, not on matter.
5. We all live and move and have our being in the divine milieu\*.
6. Everything has a “within” as well as a “without.”
7. The principle of self-convergence is now operating.

8. At present, evolution is focused in the “noosphere.”
9. The success of God’s plan for creation depends on your conscious and creative activity to keep that divine plan evolving and developing in the direction God wants for creation.
10. Any true spirituality today must be a collective spirituality.
11. Today, even an individual spirituality, that is, a private and exclusive redemptive relationship between God and me, must include all other human beings and the rest of creation.
12. To know, love, and serve the universe with a passion.
13. To love the “invisible.”
14. To love the “not-yet.”
15. An evolutionary spirituality is focused primarily on grace, not on sin.
16. To recognize that union differentiates.
17. To synthesize all things in the Universal Christ.

Savary describes the "Divine Milieu" in the following way:

"One of the richest symbols of the Divine Milieu may be found in the omnipresence of radio waves and other invisible signals actively alive and operating in each square centimetre of space in your home. For example, choose some precise location in any room of your home. Carry a radio to that spot. The signals from every radio station, AM, FM, are present in that spot. And if you assembled all your neighbours from blocks and blocks around your house who had personal cell phones, each cell phone signal would be accessible simultaneously in that exact same spot in your home.

If you then took all these electrical components to another room in your home, all these hundreds – maybe thousands – of signals would be active and alive in that tiny space as well. In fact, no matter where you went in your neighbourhood, no matter in what precise spot you chose to turn on your cell phone, these same hundreds of invisible signals would be there actively ready for you to tune into them.

And all those signals are in every space equally and simultaneously. You know this because you may be driving along the road at 60 km an hour, yet the passenger in the back seat of your car talking on a cell phone experiences the voice of the caller without interruption as the car speeds along.

The divine milieu is like these radio and cell phone signals – omnipresent, always actively operating."

So, if it is true that evolutionary knowledge does affect our experience and understanding of the activity of the spirit then we will need to give serious attention to how we tune our lives to pick up the signals in this Divine Milieu that is active and continues to unfold.

Over the coming year, in worship at Mornington and Glenaven (and in other programmes within the life of the parish) we will turn our hearts and minds towards this question of how we might develop spiritual exercises which take seriously the context of our 21st century knowledge.

Rod Mitchell