



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@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600
	Katrina: admin@mmsouth.org.nz	
Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett: elaineross@xtra.co.nz	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

5th February 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 12th February

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole & LMT
9.30 am	Mosgiel	D Phillipps
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole & LMT
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

PLEASE NOTE – The Methodist Mission has changed its email domain to **@mmsouth.org.nz**, as of **30/01/2017**. Emails sent to the old addresses will be forwarded on until **28/02/2017**. Please change your contact lists to reflect the change in e-mail addresses:

Katrina: admin@mmsouth.org.nz

Siosifa: parish@mmsouth.org.nz

MOSGIEL LEADERS MEETING - On the 7 February at 7:30pm in the hall.

THANK YOU - I would like to express my sincere thanks for the leaders of the Parish for taking care of our ministry while I was away on my Annual Leave. I would like to thank in particular Rev Rod Mitchell and Rev Donald Phillipps for being responsible for the pastoral issues that face some of our people during my absence. I'm back to work and I am looking forward to continuing to work with you this year. Siosifa Pole.

WAITANGI DAY AT OTAKOU MARAE - Just a reminder about the invitation from Otakou Marae for the Waitangi Day celebration tomorrow, 6th of February. Visitors assemble at the gate 9.45am and the Powhiri will be at 10am. Any member from the Parish is welcome to attend.

EXPLORERS GROUP. We begin the year with a potluck social occasion for members and partners at 6.00 pm on Sunday 26 February in the Mornington Lounge. If you've been thinking of testing the waters to see if the Group conversations would interest you, this would be an ideal time to come along. Inquiries welcome to David Kitchingman, Convener.

PUBLIC ISSUES for Parish Bulletins Sunday 15 January 2017

Prayers for Public Issues

We ask for prayers for Public Issues in January from all parishes.

Prayers include the power of the Holy Spirit for the prophetic role of churches on inequality, in advocating for and demonstrating climate responsibility, in ensuring optimal growth and care of *all* children and families in Aotearoa New Zealand.

These are key areas and there are others which you may choose for your prayers – matters for local communities, Pacific Islands, local and global concerns such as peace, conflict, migration and trade.

We would like to hear of your special concerns.

Pacific & Climate news:

At Marrakech, the Paris Agreement came into force, and Trump was elected. Can the US leave? Yes, with a 5 year and 1 year option.

Peoples of faith launched a moral statement on climate action. Anglicans and Quakers have signed, Methodists to pursue

Fiji is to be the Chair for the next UN Climate Change 'Conference of Parties'. 2017 is the year to profile Pacific priorities at the table of nations: survival, resilience, oceans and fisheries, mining, cultural values, and funds for adaptation and relocation. Migration needs attention.

We are advised of a significant drop in approvals for Pacific applications for residency in New Zealand because of the emphasis on employment skills

Children in focus for legislation:

The Vulnerable Children's legislation is proceeding with the advantage of strengthening child centred practices for children in need of care and protection. Weakened provisions for Maori children to be placed with whanau have led to a possible Waitangi Tribunal claim by the Maori Women's Welfare League.

Inequality and politics

The great shifts in political landscapes expose social division and the over-riding-importance of turning around inequality and educational disparity. Patterns of voting for Trump and Brexit link with lower education. Leadership changes in NZ are not be so momentous – yet!

For more on these items visit: Public Issues Facebook

www.facebook.com/PublicIssuesNetworkAotearoaNZ/

and www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/index2



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Literacy and Numeracy (Prison): One of the learners who was in high/medium sec came to the pre-hospitality course and asked how it would help him. Steve said that when he was reclassified to low sec, if he had the unit standard he would be able to get a job in the prison kitchen. Shortly after the course finished he passed the unit standard (167) and a couple of weeks after that was reclassified. When Steve saw him just before the Christmas break, he had just started his new job in the kitchen and was very happy.

UN WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK 2017

**Celebration of
Interfaith Harmony Dinner**
hosted by
The Dunedin Interfaith Council



6.30pm – 8.30pm, Tuesday 7 February 2017
VENUE: Recreation Hall
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
14 Fenton Crescent, St Clair, Dunedin

Everyone Welcome



The dinner is vegetarian pot-luck.
Please bring a meal or dessert to share.
This is a family friendly event with special speakers,
music and entertainment for children.

For further information contact the Dunedin Interfaith Council
email: dunedininterfaith@gmail.com

OUR FIRST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING for 2017 will be held at St Kilda on Wednesday 8th February 7.30pm. Minutes have been emailed. Rev Trevor Hoggard is coming to look at our buildings and assess our future strategy on Wed Feb 22. He is the national Director of Mission Resourcing.

UNIVERSITY ORIENTATION

The Combined Christian Groups (CCG) committee on campus are once again providing a tent on the Museum lawn during Orientation week, from Monday February 20th - Wednesday 23rd. Our tent will be a hospitality and information centre where new students can find a warm welcome, day and night. Baking and fruit, for distribution to students via our tent can be delivered to the Upper Room Chaplaincy offices upstairs in the University Union building **from Monday 20th until Wednesday 23rd**. You are very welcome to visit the CCG tent during Orientation week.

We also need help on Tuesday 14th **February** from 9am-lunchtime in the Old Gym, next to the Otago Museum on Cumberland Street, to pack the OUSA College packs. We need as many volunteers as possible on this day. Lunch will be provided. People of all ages are welcome.



THE REFORMATION

Half a millennium since it started – still needing twice the momentum

In this first 'Connections' for 2017, let's mark one of its biggest anniversaries. It's now 500 years since Martin Luther is considered to have ushered in the Protestant Reformation. The exact date of his *Ninety-five Theses* was 31 October 1517, when he may have nailed them on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church in Germany.

The precipitating practice that angered Luther was the selling of indulgences, whereby the Church traded remission of punishment for sins. Luther's supreme courage and level of critical analysis come through clearly, but the Theses can also make for depressing reading – revealing not just the pettifogging legalism of the theology of the time, but that even the reformer himself couldn't but be trapped to some degree by the underlying mechanistic concept of what faith is all about.

A modern 'translation' of the Theses, such as by C.N. Trueman, helps to penetrate the outer layer of 16th century preoccupations through to the more abiding issues. Here are the first three Theses according to Trueman:

1. When Jesus said 'repent' he meant that believers should live a whole life repenting.
2. Only God can give salvation – not a priest.
3. Inward penitence must be accompanied with a suitable change in lifestyle.

Compare No. 3 with an older and more literal translation: '[The word repent] does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.' These few samples may suffice to give something of the flavour of the massive onslaught Luther mounted against the Church's failings as he perceived them.

Last month, as it happened, I also posted a notice on the door of a church – Mornington Methodist in Dunedin. But don't panic! It was very innocuous. It merely itemized times and places of worship during January. Nevertheless, it faintly echoed a surviving effect of the standoff between Luther and his ecclesiastical superiors which led to schism within the Church. The fault lines that began to show up in Europe in 1517 are still detectable if one considers who are most at

ease in worshipping with whom on the other side of the world five centuries later. We do have some rare joint observances with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters, but our combined services in January have operated only with Anglicans and Presbyterians.

So just how much have old wounds healed? A lot, even in my own lifetime. I can recall suspicion and friction in the 1940s between my primary school and our neighbouring Catholic school. I well remember a fervent fellow Methodist in the 1960s who became much more agitated when speaking about Catholicism than on any other topic. Yet that was also the time of the Second Vatican Council and things began to change.

A Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue, for example, has now been running for more than 50 years. That seems an awfully long time to be talking, but it has produced some notable results. In 1999 the two churches signed the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, and in 2015 they issued the 'Declaration on the Way' to mark a pathway toward greater visible unity between Catholics and Lutherans. Given the animosity over past centuries, these have been no mean achievements. This coming October, Pope Francis will go to Sweden to attend an ecumenical commemoration of the start of the Reformation, with leaders of the Lutheran World Federation and representatives of other Churches.

Methodism has also been involved in various ways. In 2006, the World Methodist Council, meeting in Seoul, South Korea, voted unanimously to adopt the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. If you don't remember the Dunedin celebration at the time that may be because there wasn't one – the niceties of justification theology are not high on our liberal agenda. But nonetheless there is an ongoing high level New Zealand dialogue between the Catholic and Methodist churches. A recent symbolic gesture of mutual appreciation has been

the exchange of liturgical taonga, including some of the work of our own Colin Gibson.

So far, so good, one might say. Perhaps we are at last moving 'from conflict to communion', as one of the joint study documents has expressed it. But it would be misleading, in my view, to suggest that formal progress, as instanced above, towards resolving longstanding arguments between branches of the Christian Church is where our energies should be most directed. The 16th century Protestant Reformation and the Counter Reformation that followed it were manifestations of the Zeitgeist of the time, and to a large extent now risk leading us down a blind alley.

So, as hinted at in the heading above, I would want to argue that the Reformation was not only an historical event with repercussions still being worked through today, but that further reformation as now required is of a very different order. However, space is rapidly running out before I can post that thesis, and the ninety four others that may be needed to back it up. Fortunately, the quincentenary observance of the most notable reformation so far will continue throughout the year, so perhaps I can wait until my turn comes round again for a Connections contribution to see if 95 times 10 (average words per thesis) can fit into a standard length Bulletin.

David Kitchingman