



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)

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	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
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<b>Parish Prayer Convenor</b>	Elaine Merrett: <a href="mailto:elaineros@xtra.co.nz">elaineros@xtra.co.nz</a>	489 7663
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<b>Mornington:</b>		

## PARISH BULLETIN

12<sup>th</sup> February 2017

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> February

9.30 am	Mornington	Helen Watson White
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole & Mosgiel LMT
11.00 am	Glenaven	Helen Watson White
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](mailto:admin@mmsouth.org.nz)

Siosifa: [parish@mmsouth.org.nz](mailto:parish@mmsouth.org.nz)

**MOSGIEL CHURCH MID-WEEK SERVICE** - Wednesday 15 February, 2pm. All are welcome.

**PARISH PICNIC** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017 11am to 3 or 4pm at Waiora Scout Camp at the bottom of Three Mile Hill @ Bridgefield. Look for balloons at gate. Please bring your own food, drinks & any games you would like to play plus chairs,rugs etc. All welcome. Toilets & treated water available.

**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 20<sup>th</sup>- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 20<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**. You are very welcome to visit the CCG tent during Orientation week.

We also need help on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> **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.

**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - The first meeting of the year will take place on Wednesday the 22nd February at 12 noon. Please bring a non-dessert contribution of food for a pot-luck luncheon. Desserts will be provided. The Guest Speaker - Sue Galloway - subject - Sinclair Wetlands.

**THE MORNINGTON WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** Service will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 3 March in the Mornington Presbyterian Church, 16 Maryhill Tce. Supper to follow. Everyone welcome.

## **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/](http://www.facebook.com/PublicIssuesNetworkAotearoaNZ/)

and [www.methodist.org.nz/public\\_questions\\_network/index2](http://www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/index2)

**LENTEN STUDIES** - Start on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> of March at Mosgiel Methodist Church, 7pm. The whole Parish are welcome.

**SERVICE TIME CHANGE** - The Mosgiel Methodist Church will change its starting time of service from 9.30am to 10am on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2017.

**WAITANGI DAY CELEBRATION** - At Otakou Marae last Monday on the Waitangi Day celebration, few from our Parish were present to represent the Parish on their invitation. It was an amazing day of talking, listening, observing, learning, and even relaxing in a harmonious way. Different peoples from various cultures and different walks of life were welcomed and treated with integrity in the Marae. I have to extend my sincere thanks to Hilda, Greg, and Colin for setting up a stall for our Parish in the Marae. Many people were able to understand what is going in the Parish through this engagement. Our family were really appreciative of the opportunity.

## STORIES FROM THE MISSION

*Little Citizens:* The new dinner option is going really well - we have between 7 and 11 children staying for dinner each night. Feedback from parents has been positive.

- Parent 1: My child has starting eating and she will come home with a full tummy and is happy. If she hasn't eaten much for dinner at centre (this is rare) she will have a small supper before bed.
- Parent 2: Love, love, love it. My girls are eating and are happy and are now sleeping through the night because they have food in their tummy's. They used to leave centre tired and too hungry to eat dinner so they would just fall asleep and then wake up in the middle of the night hungry.
- Grandparent 3: has asked Maree for the recipes her grandson likes. The family are happy that he has started eating at centre and occasionally he will want some of their dinner when he gets home.

*Support & Advocacy:* Sandra presented at the office with her 2 young children looking for support as she had been ordered back to NZ from her homeland by her ex-husband who had actioned the Hague Convention. Sandra has no family supports in New Zealand and very limited social connections. She had been ostracised by her ex-husband's family and did not feel like she could trust anyone. Sandra was feeling isolated, vulnerable and uncertain of how she was going to move forward. After meeting with the Mission Sandra has been able to focus on what she needed to do legally in terms of her situation and to plan a way forward for her and the children. Sandra has prioritised her immediate goals. She has enrolled her children into an early learning centre, is applying for jobs and is looking at what her options are in terms of re-establishing herself in a country she is not from. Sandra has begun to feel more positive about her situation and is building confidence as she negotiates the world around her.



## **CAN JESUS BE A BELIEVABLE LIVING CHARACTER IN TODAY'S WORLD?**

I am writing this article before the event I wish to write about – always a risky venture. Maybe what I end up saying in this article will bear no resemblance to what has taken place on Saturday the Feb 11<sup>th</sup>! But, let me try and describe the event and its intentions before it has taken place.

On Saturday approximately 14 people, will meet to explore two significant issues in the life of the church. The first issue is associated with who Jesus is, and how we, as 21<sup>st</sup>-century people, can have a relationship with this person. I'm calling this first exploration 'oasis one'; here we plan to explore the life of Jesus as a teacher. It is hoped that in the future 'oasis two' we will explore Jesus as a prophet; 'oasis three' will explore Jesus as a healer; the final 'oasis four' will examine Jesus as a spirit person.

The second significant issue for the life of the church, is about how we might experience the movement of the spirit in a 21<sup>st</sup>-century context. And it may be there is a relationship between these two specific questions, about Jesus and the Spirit. Clearly, Father Roger Haight, a wonderful Jesuit theologian, argues that the modern church needs to recover both a quality relationship with Jesus and have the skills and openness to experience the evolutionary movement of the spirit in our modern Western society. In this new dynamic evolutionary world that is being presented to us, many have wondered what impact this might have on our spiritual experiences and understandings. Let me express a sharp contrast. In the not too distant past, the created world was regarded as a given: God created and it was good. This led to spirituality being about how we as humans lived within the given fact.

Now however since we have discovered that the created world is continuing to unfold, we as human beings have to ask some new questions. For example, how do we participate in this unfolding process and do we have a significant role to play? And how do we connect to this 'spirit in action' which we come to know through evolution?

I need to declare that this particular workshop has a significant experimental component to it. Not only is it exploring a relationship with Jesus and the spirit, but it is seeking to do this in light of the fact that both Jesus and the spirit are considered to be two sources, which are foundational to the beginning of the church. So if Jesus and the spirit set the church in motion, then maybe reconnecting with these two source foundations of the church could be a fruitful place to begin seeking a solution to the present and future dynamics of a vibrant Christian community.

I believe that we stand at a unique moment in the history of the world when creative options are available to humankind in ways that have not been available in the past. New knowledge in all fields of exploration has become available. Within the last hundred years, an explosion of knowledge about the functioning of the human brain, the knowledge that simply was not available to earlier generations, is now available. People like Freud and Jung have given a new richness to our understanding of consciousness. Imaginative symbolic language and the interpretation of dreams are only two areas that have benefited from this new exploration of consciousness.

My hope is that if this workshop gets anywhere near achieving some of the intentions expressed above it can be a workshop that we as Methodists can take further afield.

*Rod Mitchell*