



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

26th March 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 2nd April

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.30 am	St Kilda	S Pole

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT 26 March 2.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. Items include piano and chamber music. All welcome. Cost \$2

THE EXPLORERS GROUP meets today, **26 March**, in the Mornington Lounge at 4.30 pm. Topic: 'Taking a lead on **Leadership**'. Interested? Come join us.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - Will continue on Wednesday, 29th, 7pm at Mosgiel Church. All are welcome.

PARISH STEWARDS - Our Parish needd people to take the role of Parish Steward and we need two people. Surely, we have competent and experienced people in the Parish to take this role. I urge the people of the Parish to consider this important request. We can't run the Parish without having leadership. Please think and be prayerful about it.

MOSGIEL METHODIST AND ANGLICAN CHURCHES - Combined Service
Mosgiel Methodist church and St Luke Anglican Church will have a combined Lenten Sunday Service tonight, 7pm, at St Luke Anglican Church. The members of our two churches are encouraged to join in this service.



STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Client Support Workers: A Mum presented at the office wanting to know where she can get help for her young teenage son who she had found out had just started using drugs. Mum was beside herself and was unsure of what to do and was looking for some advice. The Mum was a conscientious parent who didn't want her son to go down the wrong path. We discussed options Mum could take and these included informing the other teenagers' parents and talking to the local Policeman. Mum was also made aware of an age appropriate counselling service that specialised in Drugs and Alcohol. Mum asked if she could be referred to this. As we were talking the Counsellor arrived in the building and Mum was able to make an appointment directly with the Counsellor. Mum was happy she stopped into the office as

she wasn't sure if we could help. She was pleased to have a got some immediate help and had a plan to talk with her son, talk with the parents of the teenagers. Mum was also going to talk with the local Policeman as she felt it was a growing concern for the youth in her area. Mum scored high on her PCOMS as she was happy with the outcome and felt good knowing she had a plan and had accessed some support.

Little Citizens Kiwi Room: Recently we have been exploring Sea Week in the Kiwi Room, particularly through music. At mat times Erin has been teaching us a new action song called "Kei roto i te Moana". It is great for Anna to be learning a new song with and alongside the children, repeating it and practicing it. It is a wonderful song because it draws parallels (through familiar words such as moana and wheke) to the very popular "Kina Kina" which we sing every day at mat times, just before kai time. The song includes actions, reinforcing children's learning with a visual, which we are practicing in the Kiwi Room through increased use of sign language, which Erin is also teaching us. It was fascinating today at mat time watching one of our Under Twos attempting to sign our Welcoming/Naming song herself, without Erin's guidance. Through this waiata the children are experiencing te reo and Maori myths. The last line of the song "Kei roto i te Moana" says "He Taniwha!" and we all make big scary faces – they love it and laugh and giggle at all our scary taniwha faces! We are having such fun and learning so much through music, which is a particular teaching focus in the Kiwi Room, strengthening the children's engagement in a group, ability to sit still and focus, and verbal language.

If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission.

FRIENDS OF THE OTAGO TERTIARY CHAPLAINCY

Friends of the Chaplaincy are a group who support our Chaplaincy team at the University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic, through showing interest in their work, prayer, attendance at various events, and through financial support.

Friends:

- receive an occasional newsletter via email (quarterly or so) which tells you of significant forthcoming events (including graduation services), gives cameo-stories of the work of chaplaincy, and give details about support options.
- attend services held by the Chaplains, and other events associated with Chaplaincy; for example our annual Peace lecture.
- are committed to pray for the work of the chaplains;
- are encouraged to give on a regular basis to support the work of Chaplaincy through automatic payment (eg \$10 per month).

Our bank account for regular donations is: Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board BNZ University of Otago 02 0929 0132985 00 Donations are tax deductible, so for a receipt, (or for assistance in setting up an automatic payment) please contact the Board Treasurer Mr Phil Tait via Philip.Tait@op.ac.nz One off donations can also be made via the givealittle link on the Board's website. You can sign up to become a friend via the Board's website:

<http://www.otago-tertiary-chaplaincy.nz/friends-newsletter>

Becoming a friend of the Chaplaincy does not require you to commit to financial support.

The 2017 Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Team: Paul, Lyn, Greg, Amy, Mark and Mike



Parish Links

MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

We are delighted to welcome our dear friends from Wesley to our worship services and activities, also to provide Sunday school, when required.

Since the start of the year we have had another afternoon tea at Blackstone café in Mosgiel. This has proved to be a popular social event and a good chance to catch up with everyone's news and views.

Our monthly mid-week services have recommenced. Also the 10am start to our Sunday Worship service seems to be well received. Siosifa is conducting a Lenten study group at Mosgiel, entitled WALKING WITH JESUS, by Liz Babbs. It is proving to be most interesting and thought provoking.

Our Harvest Festival service was well attended and we were able to donate the generous harvest to the Mosgiel Food Bank.

We look forward to a combined service with St Luke Anglican church in Mosgiel. This is the first combined service of our two churches and will hopefully be the first of many.



Mosgiel Church Harvest Festival

GLENAVEN NEWS: We are proud of our wee river in NEV (Lindsay Creek, which flows beside Glenaven Church), and on Sunday 26 March, the Valley Project has organized CreekFest, a day of festivities celebrating our awa/stream, with discovery walks beginning at 12 noon at Pentland St playground, and from 1-4pm music and other activities at Chingford Park Pavilion, access from North Rd.



WHAT DO THEY KNOW AND HOW DO THEY KNOW IT?

I'm sitting at a rented bach in Lake Hawea in the sunshine thinking about data, and privacy, and how poor social services are at actually getting better at what we do, and the certain knowledge that the abuse of personal information - how we see ourselves, and of how others are able to see us - is a deep and violent abuse.

Which is not bad going for a lazy weekend in the sun. To be fair, being misquoted by the ODT as saying I trust government to do the right thing with data, has been a pretty good prod!

The debate about data in social services hits three massive faultlines in NZ society - a rightful fear of the state intruding into our personal lives and punishing us for our choices and expressions of innate self; a general reluctance to have people know our "stuff"; and a widespread and general ignorance (including within government) about what sophisticated statisticians, their analytics, algorithms, and software, can show us about how to do better helping work.

In the last few weeks the Ministry of Social Development has, with an Inspector Clouseau level of bumbling, become the object lesson of why government should not attempt clever thinking. While clearly satisfied with their own performance, it is blindly obvious to most of the rest of us that there isn't a single part of the introduction of Individual Client Level Data that MSD has gotten right.

Not least of which is *why* this data might be helpful, what data they want, how they want to collect and store it, how it will be used, how they will protect it, who should collect it, and the list goes on.

But I'll stick my neck out here and say: it would be a shame if MSD's actions in this debate come to define it.

Because let's face it: it is assuredly possible to do better helping than NZ currently serves up. We've had a Green Paper, a White Paper, several Prime Ministers' Science Advisor reports, two Productivity

Commission reports, the Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group report, and two major reports out of the CYFS Expert Advisory Group, in the last decade alone and they all reach fairly similar conclusions:

- We really have no idea of what is working or why it is working
- We have very little idea about who needs what kind of help
- We have only a few ideas about when is the best time to help
- We know only a little about what causes poor life outcomes (rather than just being associated with them)
- We cannot say which providers do better work (remembering that most clients are engaged with more than one provider)
- No-one can say how many people have been helped in any given year
- The general state of the workforce (skills and practice) is weak

New Zealand is 19th out of 36 OECD countries for child poverty. Fully a quarter of our school children occupy the “long tail” of low academic achievement, high adolescent morbidity, and poor long-term life outcomes. Notifications to CYFS have **quadrupled** in the last decade. And we spend double the proportion of GDP on social services that we did just over a decade ago. Interestingly, we also have over double the rate of NGOs per head of population compared to the UK, Australia, and the US.

And yet: don't take our data. Hmmm.

Here's the thing, putting MSD aside (a big ask I know). It is possible to uplift Individual Client Level Data, combine it with other government data (which happens already in Education, Health, and Justice), and then make the identifying details invisible. It's possible to do this in a way that means even the computer operator doing that combining cannot see individual details. It's possible to do it in seconds. It's called de-identification and Statistics NZ do it all the time.

Say for instance you know that 9% of 4 year olds in Otago Southland are clinically obese. Say you also know that *another* 4% have dental caries so bad they'll need anaesthetic for treatment. (Both of these things are true.)

Say you had their addresses through the B4 School Checks. It would be possible to heat map Otago Southland to show where the greatest concentrations of those kids are. And then de-identify the data. Automatically. You could then send Public Health Nurses into the early childhood centres in the middle of those hot spots, to provide education and support to the families around diet and dental care. The same Public Health Nurses could also engage with the local authority to look at the licences for fast food joints in those parts of town.

And you could do all of that without ever breaching privacy. That's the simple stuff.

Imagine now that you could see that 20% of the clients are using 80% of the services and you could generate a simple checklist that would enable to you see those people at the start and switch them out of fragmented multi-agency support (messy, expensive, and often non-productive) into specialist intensive support (still expensive, but likely to work better).

Or that you could figure out which of the many different family violence interventions actually works to reduce family violence (and keep families together). Because right now we don't really know.

Or that you could see the one agency in Kaikohe that is absolutely caning it in terms of turning around lost youth, and you see what it is in their service machinery that makes the difference, and then spread that knowledge and skill into other agencies in other towns.

That's what a good social investment system might be able to do.

If it wasn't being implemented by MSD.

Laura Black