



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

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

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<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
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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
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
<b>Mornington:</b>		

## PARISH BULLETIN

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> April

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

**MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** Tuesday 4th April at 1:30pm in the Hall Lounge. Our speaker will be Miss Dos Wills - "Some of the The trips I have made".

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** - This coming Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April will be the fourth Lenten Study. Mosgiel Church, 7pm. All are welcome

**THANKS** - To those who attended and supported the first combined service of the Mosgiel Methodist Church and the St Luke Anglican Church last Sunday. It was a great evening of worship and fellowship. The feedback is encouraging. Many thanks.

## **SWEET ADELINES NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Dunedin Town Hall April 20 – 22.

Programme details –

**THURSDAY APRIL 20 – 8 p.m.** Dunedin Town Hall.

Welcome and Official Opening. Entry FREE.

A short programme featuring the Christchurch City Chorus, who will present their 15 minute dance package that won them the 5<sup>th</sup> place in the international competitions in Las Vegas last year. (Our Dunedin girls, Lynley Kloogh and Robyn Abernethy joined with Christchurch for this competition)

**FRIDAY APRIL 21 – 12 noon** Dunedin Town Hall - Quartet Competitions. (Robyn is singing in this competition in a quartet called 'Diversity'. GO ROBYN & DIVERSITY!) Entry \$30 and \$15.00 for seniors and under 25.

**FRIDAY APRIL 21 – 5.30p.m.** Octagon (St Pauls Cathedral if wet)  
Mass singing by competition entrants. Free performance.

**SATURDAY APRIL 22 – Dunedin Town Hall – 12 noon – Chorus Competitions.** The Dunedin Chorus, under the direction of Robyn, are singing in the small chorus competition - (a small chorus is up to 30 singers plus the Director). GO DUNEDIN!! Entry \$30 and \$15.00 for seniors and under 25.

If you want further information ask Robyn or Lynley.

A little bird has told me that the Revelry Quartet will be busking round Dunedin during the Convention – if you see them see if you can work out which one you will know – a clue – look for a young lady that strongly resembles Sharon Connor!!!

**PRAYER REQUEST** - Please pray for those who are sick and frail, for the future of the Parish, and for the leadership of the Parish.

**50 YEARS AGO TODAY** - Leah Taylor recently unearthed an amazing coincidence. 50 years ago today, on 2 April 1967, a special service was held to dedicate the Mornington Church current organ. A year earlier the organ had been bought from the Trinity Methodist Church and reconditioned before being installed at Mornington. This instrument is the only surviving nineteenth century Walker organ in New Zealand. At the special service organ recitals were given by Dr Colin Gibson and Dr Douglas Bolitho. The Mornington Church Choir, conducted by Mrs Dorn Herbert, also provided special music for the occasion.



### **FAITH THINKING EVENTS**

These are jointly organised between the Department of Theology and Religion and some Dunedin Churches, and supported by Continuing Education at the University of Otago.

#### *Issues of War and Peace*

Professor Murray Rae, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago. **7:00 – 9:00 pm Friday April 7 and 9:00am – 12:30pm Saturday April 8.** Burns 7 (Albany Street), University of Otago

#### *Islam and Christianity*

Dr Adam Dodds, Senior Pastor, Elim Church. **7:00 – 9:00 pm Monday May 8, 15 & 22.** Elim Church Conference Room, 67 Harrow Street



## **STORY FROM THE MISSION**

*Corrections:* A new student started on both the Step up and the kitchen programmes. He did okay at school but lost interest when other influences came to bear, but he has been thriving doing the work and is making plans to start his own business with the help of his family when he is released soon. The Mission has been helping him with business plan templates to give him extracurricular reading and writing work as well as setting him up in the frame of mind to take on this challenge. He is also seeing his case manager about a business course after our chats.

One of the students worked really hard in the ILN class so that he would be accepted onto the carpentry course. He had to meet a particular literacy and numeracy level and so was accepted onto the carpentry course. Our tutor met up with the prison carpentry instructor last week and the instructor was keen to let him know how impressed he is with this student's work. So impressed that he has invited the tutor to go into the workshop and view the work.

A further Intensive Literacy and Numeracy student achieved the required literacy and so has now been moved to low security unit and is working with the grounds crew.

**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.**

## *Parish Links*

The Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship meeting could well have been cancelled this month, with the speaker unable to come at the last minute and Mornington church power to be cut off during the day. However, Sue Galloway and the Methodist Mission HUB saved the day for the 20 members attending.

With very little warning, Sue was able to gather enough information to present one of the MWF Special Projects and the HUB provided an excellent room for the meeting. Nicaragua is the country we are supporting this year and money raised will focus on families and prevention of violence against women. Horrifyingly, Nicaraguan women are concerned that femicide (the deliberate killing of women because they are female) is rising.

**A SERVICE FULL OF INTEREST** and ENCOURAGEMENT was held at Mornington last week when Greg Hughson and Mike Wright, University chaplains, along with seven students at various stages of university education, were with us to lead the service Greg gave us all a challenge from the University motto "*Sapere Aude*", literally "*Dare to be Wise*". And gave a valuable lead toward a contemporary understanding of the ancient concept of wisdom.

Photo: The students (left to right) Eseta (Masters in Planning - Geography), Viviana (Pharmacy), Fiona (First year Health Science), Rachel (PhD Psychology), Vince (Masters in International Studies), Heather (Medicine) Absent: Sekonia (Commerce)





## CHOICES

Talking to my daughter in law about my dilemma in choosing a topic for this article, I said how much easier it might be if I was offered a topic, or several topics from which to choose instead of the existing brief... 'write about anything you like, the choice is yours.' ' Well' said my dear, ever pragmatic daughter in law, 'There's your topic, The Freedom to Choose – can one have too much choice?'

That certainly had possibilities...thank you Debbie!!!

A dictionary describes freedom as 'the power or right to think, to choose, to act and speak freely without fear of an undesirable outcome.'

Freedom of choice is probably the one aspect of freedom we consciously or unconsciously exercise every day of our lives. Our right to choose is enshrined in the democratic process, yet the questions 'Do we truly have as much choice as we think we have?' and 'How do we learn to make good choices?' are good questions to ask.

How do we learn to make good choices?

In his book 'The Myth of Choice' Kent Green field writes...'To be a good thinker and a decent choice maker depends not only on the analytical and reflexive parts of the brain, but also on our emotional abilities.' These suggestions make it clear that the freedom to choose well is enormously complex and challenging, dependent on factors sometimes beyond our control.

However, it doesn't stop us from being obsessed with our right to choose and have as much choice as possible.

But is it possible to have too much choice? Can we be spoilt for choice? In my opinion, yes we can.

Paradoxically, all those seemingly available choices can be something of an illusion.

The fact is, we all have limitations of one sort or another. As a school leaver, I really, really wanted to be a police woman, so I applied...all 4' 11inches, 6 and half stone of me.... I was turned down...not big

enough!!!! Back to the drawing board.

I remember learning very quickly when the kids were little, always to limit choices offered, otherwise paralysis set in and they were unable to make any choice at all.

We as adults are pretty much the same. In my experience a profusion of choice can render a bunch of intelligent people unable to reach any sort of agreement. Limit the choices and it is more likely useful discussion will follow, resulting in consensus.

The perception of unlimited choice can be an unrealistic taskmaster. My unlimited choice of topic is, in fact, limited by lack of knowledge, experience, and imagination. Major life choices are limited by biology, economics, culture, religion, geography to name a few.

Making WISE decisions is another challenge, requiring discernment, research, intelligence and common sense, which sadly doesn't seem all that common at times.

Having made choices, we then have to take responsibility for them and make the most of the consequences, intended or not.

However, very often the choices we make are not really choices at all. If someone cannot find a home they can afford to rent, they have the choice of sleeping rough or going to a homeless shelter, or couch surfing. Not choices I would be wanting to have to make.

Does the term 'Hobson's choice' ring any bells?

Those on the bottom of the life's ladder have very little choice in most of life's decisions. The further up the ladder one goes the more 'real' the choices.

Statistics tell us that it takes only two catastrophes in a person's life to find oneself on the bottom of the ladder. For some it may be one, perhaps redundancy or job loss. As a Workplace Chaplain, I witnessed these catastrophes. For a few the catastrophe turns out to be a blessing in disguise, but not all that often!!!

There is an election coming up and our responsibility is to go into this election informed, so we can choose who we want to represent the

values we cherish, remembering it is those on the bottom of the ladder who most intimately live with the consequences of the choices the country makes.

Democracy is not without its flaws. Often we have to live with a choice that is not ours, and accept gracefully the will of the majority. It doesn't mean we have to like it.

This is the season of lent when Jesus chose a path he must have known would likely end in massive suffering.

Last Sunday Greg reminded us about Wisdom (Sophia.) Jesus was a Rabbi, a teacher in the Wisdom tradition. He taught in parables, sacred stories and poems. But not only did he teach in this style, he 'turned it upside down' ( ' The Wisdom Jesus'...Cynthia Bourgeault ).

I wonder how informed his ultimate choice might have been? I'm pretty sure his disciples and his family must have considered him extremely unwise. Jesus himself had a wobbly moment in the garden where he prayed 'that this cup be taken from me...yet not my will but thine be done'. A choice that would have ghastly consequences.

People in war torn countries are being forced into making the painful choice of staying in their ravaged communities, risking hunger, poverty, imprisonment, torture and death, or choosing a dangerous journey to an unknown future. For some even that choice is beyond their reach.

The Lampedusa Cross is a tangible symbol of death and life. It speaks of the agonisingly difficult choices the refugees have had to make for themselves and their families, all too often with fatal consequences.

Let's be thankful that, at least we live in a country where many of us still have the privilege of making choices. May the choices we make be life enhancing, influencing for good our lives and the lives of those around us.

Trish Patrick