



# 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
	Dale Meredith	467 2070
<b>Tongan Steward:</b>	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Siosifa: <a href="mailto:parish@mmsouth.org.nz">parish@mmsouth.org.nz</a>	466 4600
	Katrina: <a href="mailto:admin@mmsouth.org.nz">admin@mmsouth.org.nz</a>	
<b>Parish Prayer Convenor</b>	Elaine Merrett: <a href="mailto:elaineross@xtra.co.nz">elaineross@xtra.co.nz</a>	489 7663
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
<b>Mornington:</b>		

## PARISH BULLETIN

27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> September

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

**EXPLORERS MEET TODAY** - This afternoon at 4.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church the Explorers group will explore the question 'Why are they not listening and and what can we do about it?' If you have never been before, why not risk it? We're an ordinary bunch of inquisitive people willing to talk openly and freely about important questions.

**AS I REACH MY THREESCORE YEARS** and ten, I feel like celebrating the idea that God doesn't feel quite up to dealing with me yet. Please join me for a finger food pot luck lunch on Sunday 27th Aug, at Mornington Methodist Church, and we will enjoy one another's company. All welcome at the service at 9-30, led by Prof Colin Gibson, or else for the lunch beginning at about 1pm. NO GIFTS, PLEASE, JUST THE PLEASURE OF HAVING YOU THERE. Bev Sutherland

**EXTRA! EXTRA! OPEN EDUCATION** - The Otago University graduation of their daughter has brought to Dunedin two parents now living under Israeli occupation in the biblical city of Hebron on the West Bank of the Palestinian territory. Mai and Naser Tamimi lived and studied in Dunedin themselves 5 years ago; now they have an enthralling tale to tell of life for Muslims under Jewish rule in the much disputed land of Palestine. We have arranged a special Open Education session to hear their story; bring a friend, for little unbiased news comes to us about this troubled part of the Middle East. Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, Wednesday 6 September, 7.30pm. A koha of \$5. Preceded by the usual splendid meal offered at 6pm by Judy Russell. Sign in for this meal (\$15) at the church, or ring and let Judy know you are coming (455 3727). And we will also hold our usual Open Education meeting on 20 September, to be advertised later.

**COMBINED SERVICE WITH KNOX PRESBYTERIAN** - Our Parish will have a combined service with Knox Presbyterian Church on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, 10am. Please bring a plate for that service to share with others during morning tea. The guest preacher is the Peace Lecture this year, Dr Sami Awad from Bethlehem.

**PULPIT EXCHANGES** on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September for Taieri churches. Rev Malcolm Falloon (Anglican) for Mosgiel Methodist Church, Rev Siosifa Pole (Methodist) for the Salvation Army.

**COMBINED SERVICES FOR MORNINGTON AND GLENAVEN CHURCHES** during the month of October while the renovation work is going on at Glenaven church. It means that Mornington and Glenaven churches will have combine services on these Sundays at Mornington Church, at 10am:

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of October

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of October

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October

**PARISH COMBINED SERVICE** will be on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October at Mosgiel Methodist Church, 10am. Please bring a plate to share with others during the morning tea.

It's good to vote! Enrol!

Vote for what is good for you and Aotearoa New Zealand

Topics for GOOD VOTING - election 23 Sept 2017

**WARM DRY  
AFFORDABLE  
HOMES**



**CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES**



**FAiR  
INCOMES**



**CLEAN  
WATER &  
CLIMATE  
JUSTICE**



Information on voting and election issues [www.facebook.com/PublicIssuesNetworkAotearoaNZ/](https://www.facebook.com/PublicIssuesNetworkAotearoaNZ/)



## STORY FROM THE MISSION

*Early Years Hub:* The Wild Things Multi Ethnic playgroup had a wonderful celebration for Eid al Fitr. This event marks the start of Shawwal which is a time of feasting and celebration that comes at the end of Ramadan. There were approximately 100 whānau at the Hub and everyone had a wonderful evening.

An update from our last report: as reported we had given away all our stocks of blankets and were unable to continue to assist those who were looking for warm bedding. Our heartfelt thanks to the Mornington Methodist Church congregation and friends (even as far away as the North Island) for their incredible generosity in donating more blankets and warm bedding so more families can stay warm.



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.

# Open Lecture



Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group and Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy

## **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Peace Lecture**

# Healing, transformation and non-violence: Peace-making in the Holy Land

Dr Sami Awad, Holy Land Trust, Bethlehem | [HOLYLANDTRUST.ORG](http://HOLYLANDTRUST.ORG)

To be introduced by:

Professor Harlene Hayne, Vice-Chancellor, University of Otago

St David Lecture Theatre

Monday 11 September

6:15pm - 7:30pm

Supper to follow at All Saints' Anglican Church Hall, 786 Cumberland St.







### ***Tahi Ua:* CHANGING OF TIDES**

It is always refreshing to walk down at St Clair beach on a sunny afternoon. On my day off, I love walking on the beach and there I always aware of the changing of the tides. At the low tide, I can walk on the beach below the seawall at the Esplanade right to St Kilda beach. At the high tide, I can't walk where I can at low tide. The sea is high and the waves roll strongly and crash powerfully into the seawall.

This living experience of the changing of tides reminds me of the importance of time for the local people in Tonga when they go to the seaside looking for seafood for their sustenance. Usually, the local people of the Island go to the sea at the low tide to find seafood. They do it with extra care for their safety and for the sake of their families. While they are looking for seafood in the coral reef, they aware that the high tide will return. They hurry, according to the time, to ensure that they will have everything that they want. When the high tide

risers, they return home with their catch and watch for the next low tide. If the low tide happens twice in a day the people of the village would see it as double blessing. It means they can go to the sea for a second time and look for more seafood. Two low tides on one day is what we call '*tahi ua*', which means, 'two seas'. Those two seas would provide more than enough for local people for their livelihood. It usually happens in the morning and late afternoon. Because of the vitality of *Tahi ua* to the survival of our people, I see it as a concept that identifies the inevitable changing of time, the risks, and the opportunities that come with it.

Our life and our movements are basically controlled by the passage of time. There is a saying, 'Time is waiting for no person.' In the western world, we have something that we call a 'watch' that measures time. It ticks every second, every minute, and every hour. Whatever we do, we are controlled by the ticking of the watch. It means we sleep on time, wake up on time, and start work on time. Our behaviour and action change according to the changing of time so that there is no confusion, contradiction, or missed opportunities. In other cultures, they don't rely for their timing on watches but rather in the natural world and human interaction. Just like the concept of *tahi ua*, movement and action are influenced by the context where they live and interact with human and the natural world.

I had that experience when my lecturer, who is an American and I had a trip to Tonga in 1995. We came to the capital of Tonga, Nuku'alofa. On our return to my village, we decided to go by bus. We walked onto a bus that would take us, but after 15 minutes sitting in the bus we were still the only passengers. My lecturer started to worry and asked me the time the bus would leave. I told him that in this place there is no exact time for the bus to leave. The bus can only leave when it is full of passengers, and so we sat in the bus for about an hour before it departed. It was really a learning experience to this American. Time in this context did not depend on watches but on human interaction and

relationship. The bus driver didn't leave until everyone from this village was on the bus to return home safely.

In his book entitled, *The Gift of Time*, William McConnell insists that our understanding of time is shaped by our various contexts despite the clock ticking. He states, "We have all noticed that sometimes time flies, sometimes it drags, and other times it just lies there heavy on our hands. That is, our inner time responds differently to the steady pace of the clock, depending on what is happening within and around us." (p. 17) Whatever our understanding of time, *tahi ua* notion reminds us that our action must change when the tides change. No one has the power to confront or to ignore this change. Our survival will depend on our evolving and adaptation to the change of the tides.

We are in a time when the tides are changing in terms of politics, morality and values, social problems, theology, human conditions, and the natural world. Such tides of change are inevitable, but the church must look for ways to respond effectively and smartly so that it still relevant in these changes. Jesus talks in the gospel about the sign of times and need for us to act wisely. He says, "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near." (Matthew 24:32)

As we are approach the General Election, the concept of *tahi ua* reminds us that we need to take action before is too late, to take the risks in order to find successful outcomes, and also look for opportunities for the survival of our community, our *whanau*, and our *kāinga*. It means that while we have the time and the opportunity we take it with two hands. Don't let it slip away for it will cost us a lot.

Siosifa Pole