



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Find us on Facebook: **Dunedin Methodist Parish**

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	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
Parish Stewards:	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
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Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett: elaineross@xtra.co.nz	489 7663
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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

17th Sep 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 24th September

9.30 am	Mornington	C Gibson
10.00 am	Mosgiel	S Pole (AGM)
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
2.00 pm	St Kilda	S Pole (Annual Offering)

DUNEDIN MUSICAL SOCIETY - This afternoon at Mornington Methodist Church, 2.30pm, a programme of vocal and instrumental music including Handel and Brahms songs and a saxophone trio. Sounds like fun on a Spring afternoon. Come along and support the performers. All welcome. Cost \$2.

MORNINGTON METHODIST CHURCH AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held as part of the service and following communion on 1 October.

If you are responsible for an annual report from your organisation and want it to be part of the AGM Report please submit it electronically if possible (by email) to Katrina at the Mission office (katrinar@mmsouth.org.nz) not later than 12 noon on Friday 22 September.

If you have a matter you would like brought up for discussion at the AGM please contact the Chair, Colin Gibson, by the same date (phone 453 6662 or email colin.gibson22@vodafone.co.nz).

Unless I am otherwise notified, I will assume that you are willing to continue in whatever office you currently hold for a further year.

Ken Russell, Leaders Meeting Secretary

EXPLORERS IN ACTION - The Sunday 24 September Explorers group led by Colin Gibson will explore the tricky business of Naming God. See you at 4.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. Visitors welcome. Name tags optional!

OPEN EDUCATION

What is going on in the world of peace studies? Otago University boasts one of the few world centres for the study of conflict resolution and the achievement of political peace. Come to Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, on Wednesday 20 September, at 7.30 to hear from three post-graduate students about their researches in this area, crucial if we are to discover ways out of living forever in perpetual and bitter conflict. Your attendance will show that you care and want to support such fundamental independent study. A koha of \$5. This session will be preceded by the usual tasty 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).

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Our September meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th in the Church Lounge at 2 p.m. Our Guest Speaker will be Nicky Page - Director of City of Literature (In December 2014 Dunedin became New Zealand's first ever UNESCO City of Literature). All welcome. Please remember the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

GAMES NIGHT - for all the Parish to be held at the Mosgiel Methodist Church Hall on **SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER at 7pm**. See you there for a fun night. Please bring any board games that you would like to play.

It's good to vote! Enroll!

Vote for what is good for you and Aotearoa New Zealand

Topics for GOOD VOTING - election 23 Sept 2017

**WARM DRY
AFFORDABLE
HOMES**



**FAIR
INCOMES**



INEQUALITY?

**CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES**



**CLEAN
WATER &
CLIMATE
JUSTICE**



Quality of water is critical to the health and well-being of the population. It is essential for the environment and the economy.



information on voting and election issues: www.facebook.com/PublicIssuesNetworkAotearoaNZ/

OTAGO HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY SUPPORT TRUST - Annual Public Meeting, Thursday 21 September, 1pm, Dunedin Hospital Chapel. RSVP by Monday 18 September for catering purposes to Frances Ph. 4740999

THANKS FOR SUPPORT - I received an email from Knox Church minister, Rev Dr Kerry Enright, expressing his delight for our church's support in our combined service at the weekend. It was really a great opportunity to show our solidarity with Dr Sami Awad, the peace lecturer and all those who are campaigning for peace in the Middle East and elsewhere.



Take 10 Streets This last month has been spent reconnecting with people from the Take 10 Streets area after Dawn's period of leave. People had noticed that Dawn hadn't been around and they were happy to see her back again. A couple have had big changes since they last talked with Dawn, one guy in particular was in a much better state emotionally and financially, he has reconnected with his children and told Dawn that talking to her gave him the courage to ask WINZ for a review of his circumstances.

The library group are gearing up for the opening of the Pop Up Library Facility on the 8th of September. They have now created their own letter heading and have a letter of support from Laura with which they can continue to approach businesses to support their art competition, hopefully with a prize donation. There have been murmurs within the group to investigate recycling unwanted wooden bus shelters and using them for seating opportunities around the Take 10 area as currently there are none.

Skills for Dads (Prison): For the first time, the Skills for Dads course at OCF was facilitated by two fathers. Feedback from the participants was universally positive, and participants concluded

the course feeling more confident in their roles and abilities as fathers to have a positive influence on their children's' lives.

Some participants from this course moved on to Storybook Dads, and shared their perspectives on Skills for Dads with other group members, encouraging them to attend in the future. Participants in Storybook Dads were clear and focussed on making the most of the opportunity to connect with their children via the DVD recording, and through creating physical resources for their children.

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.



ON A RECENT VISIT to my family in Normandy, France, at the famous Scriptorium of Avranches, where precious manuscripts from the near-by Mont St Michel monastery are preserved, I saw several examples of the work of modern calligraphers displayed in the museum shop. What particularly caught my attention was a beautiful transcription into French of words by Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Do you remember her? The simple Croatian nun, who for years worked with a few helpers to bring some respect and dignity to the final moments of the poorest street folk of that huge city? I was deeply moved by what she said, and although I can't reproduce the beauty of the lettering I saw or the original

French text, I offer a plain translation into English. I suggest that you read it slowly and give it some thought as you do so.

Life is an opportunity: seize it
Life is a thing of beauty: wonder at it
Life is a blessing: savour it
Life is a dream: turn it into a reality
Life is a challenge: face it
Life is an obligation: carry it out
Life is a game: play it
Life is a precious thing: value it
Life is a treasure: preserve it
Life is love: take pleasure in it
Life is a mystery: go towards the heart of it
Life is possibility: fulfill it
Life is full of sadness: overcome it
Life is a hymn: sing it
Life is a battle: confront it
Life is an adventure: dare to take part in it
Life is happiness: deserve it
Life is life: protect it.

It is hard to imagine how such brave words, such an affirmation of life, could emerge from the desperate squalor and wretched poverty which were this nun's daily surroundings. She might have written, 'Life is unutterably cruel: despair and die'. Yet she is the voice of indomitable faith as she declares her own indestructible joy and delight in life as she knew it in that harsh, faraway place.

For me, these words re-connect me in a personal way with my family on the other side of the world; they remind me of the short but happy time we had together. They connect me, too, with the noble example of a saintly life poured out for others; a woman whose dauntless and determined faith enabled her to shine out the love of Christ into the murky gloom of the slums of Calcutta. They are there to remind me of the great cloud of witnesses—Paul’s words— who have finished their share in the race of life and now watch me as I try to complete my own little lap in the great marathon as decently as I can.

Mother Teresa’s words also connect me with one of the most precious aspects of my own creative life, my music making, as well as with my memories of the beautiful Sunday by Sunday musical expressions of worship among the beloved members of my own community of faith’—not to mention similar beautiful works among the millions of Christian communities world-wide. Yes, you’ve spotted the Teresa phrase which first drew me into her proclamation of faith. **‘Life is a hymn: sing it.’**

Whatever our lives may be, however full of joy or grief, however filled with pleasures or with pain, let us make the most of this most precious gift of existence. And let us do all we can to make existence good for others. Our brief lives are all that we have to work with. Our life is our hymn: sing it!

Colin Gibson