



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
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
Parish Stewards:	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
	Dale Meredith	467 2070
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600
	Katrina: admin@mmsouth.org.nz	
Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett: elaineross@xtra.co.nz	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

8th Oct 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 15th October

10.00 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
10.00 am	Glenaven	Combined at Mornington
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

REMINDER - Mornington and Glenaven Churches have combined Sunday services due to strengthening works at Glenaven Church. The services will be at the Mornington church from Sunday 8th to Sunday 22nd of October at 10.00 am.

INNER CITY MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION RADIO CHURCH

Each Sunday morning a pre-recorded service of worship is offered to our wider community by members of the Dunedin Inner City Ministers' Association.

Shut-in folk, people in rest-homes, in hospital, travellers and anyone else who cannot attend church services can tune in to:

Otago Access Radio 105.4 FM, or worship with us online via www.oar.org.nz each Sunday morning from 8.30 am – 9.00 am.

Please publicise these services widely through all your networks, and tune in yourself to be led in worship by a wide range of Dunedin Church leaders.

Podcasts of services are available, so you can listen to them at any time. This provides a very valuable resource to our wider community.

Go to <http://www.oar.org.nz/browse-podcasts/> and find "Radio Church" via the "Select Programme Name" box.

Radio Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1241647572519138/>

For further information contact Greg Hughson

greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz

MOSGIEL CHURCH MID-WEEK SERVICE - At Elaine and Ross Merrett's home, 2pm. Welcome to all and please bring a plate to share.

MOSGIEL LEADER'S MEETING to be held in the church lounge on **Tuesday 10 October** at 7:30pm.

MOSGIEL ANNUAL DINNER:



OPEN EDUCATION MEETS MARTIN LUTHER

Yes, folks, we have rescheduled the talk on Martin Luther by Professor Peter Matheson cancelled in July due to illness and bad weather. Peter is the leading scholar of the Reformation in New Zealand, and has had a busy programme of talks all over the country. Now he returns to his home town to tell us about the famous priest whose defiant actions 500 years ago began the huge split in the Catholic Church which led to the emergence of Protestant churches, among which we number our own denomination. Don't miss this final Open Education session for 2017, given at Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25 October (note the different date). A koha of \$5 will go to the support of one of our Dunedin Methodists, burned out of her home. There will be the usual pre-session meal catered by Judy Russell, starting at 6pm (\$15). Sign in at Mornington or ring Judy on 455-3727 to book your place.

PARISH COMBINED SERVICE - Sunday 29th of October, Mosgiel church, 10am. Please bring a plate for the Morning tea.

REMINDER - Church service at the on the 29th at SFX. It is at 6.30 followed by supper.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Intensive Literacy & Numeracy (Prison):



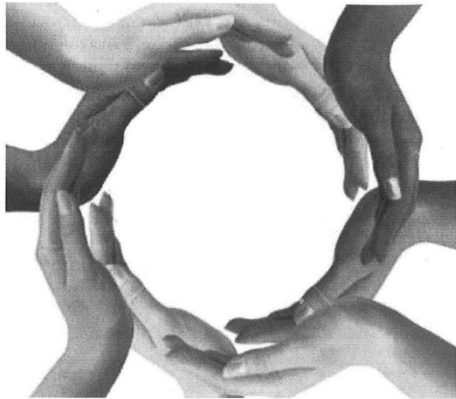

It has been an interesting time getting to know, and work with, the students who are already established in their learning through the Foundation Skills at the Otago Correctional Facility, their attitude has been welcoming and they are appreciative of the fact they are there to learn and want to get on. One new student joined the Step Up class, his confidence was low as he had given up on school by the age of 13 and had problems concentrating for longer periods of time, but he wanted

to do his best. Although only 22, he is a father to 3 children and wants to do something for them to be proud of. He decided numbers were his strongest area of learning so he began working with problem solving using number, he surprised himself how much he actually knew and how easily he could pick up new strategies. When the lesson time came to a close he was sad to go, he had enjoyed himself, something he had never thought to really happen in a classroom environment. As he left the programme's building one of the guards commented he had never seen this student look that happy, that "he was lit up like a light bulb".

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.

Week of Prayer for World Peace

15th ~ 22nd October 2017

St Francis of Assisi's Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.



THE IMPORTANCE OF RITUAL

Firstly I must begin by apologising to Ken and Katrina for the lateness of this article.

I had entirely confused the date for it with that of work for a service at Mosgiel at the end of the month. Sometimes being older has a few demerits!!

All of us are involved in rituals and have been from our birth. Indeed, the act of birth itself, for so long closeted within the domain of women is ritualistic. It has a term called gestation, attendants whether they be doctors and nurses or a midwife and relatives and friends. Some of you will remember a country where it was the man's role to wait outside the house or the hospital until the arrival was formally announced. Many men used to escape in New Zealand to the local hotel to either celebrate or drown their sorrows. Such I think is less common today, but "wetting the baby's head" is still common among many families once the child arrives home.

We all have daily personal rituals – getting out of bed in the morning, bathing in a certain order. I far prefer a bath where I luxuriate in warm water and think. The daily ablutions contain an order, usually the same for each day – washing, doing one's hair, eating breakfast then brushing teeth. Your order may be different but each day may have fixed points. Some have their breakfast set out on the table the night before. But some have little breakfast – more about that below.

There are larger, more important rituals for some and generally they are removed from the mundane daily tasks. Christenings, weddings and funerals are some. These provide significant marker points in our lives where we might meet the extended family. These rituals contain important features that are often repeated – with Christmas, the address book is got out, presents are wrapped and posted, a pine tree or a modern replacement is put up and decorated, invitations and arrangements are made for all to attend who can. On the day,

particularly if there are children present there is a sense of anticipation as presents are unwrapped and delight is palpable. Boxing Day follows and some go out to purchase presents at a cheaper price than before Christmas Day. The tree is then taken down soon after. The pine needles brushed up, and a New Year begins. This season of Advent is particularly important to those who call themselves Christians for its rituals annually embed the basic joy of renewal of faith.

Other rituals come less frequently. Voting once every three years is a Saturday ritual for me and my wife, Judith. Sometimes the results are less satisfying than the results of a daily bathe. By the time this article is distributed, the numbers of special votes will be known – a matter which apparently will allow a minor party to choose which major party it will form an alliance with in order to form a government. Although I support MMP over First Past the Post as a more democratic form of representation, I have a scornful view of a politician being called “the Kingmaker” when he cannot even gain the confidence of the electorate which he sought to represent. The strength of MMP was to give minor parties a voice and place in the House of Representatives, not to call the shots over other parties which had by far the largest support of the electorate.

And so to our state of the nation – we have a skewed market for housing where the needy are shut out of places to buy, a high suicide rate (these two are more likely linked), increased prices for common foods because of the dominance of overseas trends on commodities, common assaults increasing in the community, a health system which seems to be in a state of disorganisation - all of these and other problems have been subject to election promises by politicians, but what is done?

What is lacking is a state of grace and the application of common sense. It seems that an obvious benefit that the Church used to confer on the community was both of these necessities. The Church’s principal

thrust of “Love thy neighbour” seems to be lost in the overwhelming spam of trivia that comes at us from all directions in society. TV, newspapers, idle conversations veer away from the serious and problematic issues that need addressing. Poverty, inadequate housing and loneliness are now confronting issues in this society. And their place is exacerbated by the rich capturing so much of the economic cake in New Zealand. When 85% of the wealth of the country is in the hands of less than 10% of the nation then we have a massive problem of inequality. It is the seedbed of revolution. It is simply not good enough to say “It was always so” or that “the rich get richer and the wealth trickles down to the less well-off” because it is simply not so. It is not the truth, and even slight knowledge of New Zealand history would tell one so.

A key part of what has been lost by many in New Zealand is ritual. Their lives have little order, little to pin hope to. Their Christmases are provided by some charity, their dependence is not on honest work but on what lean pickings they can get from the Ministry of Social Development through Work and Income. The very fact of dependency puts them in a position where random acts of kindness form their daily rituals. This randomness pervades their lives. Money comes and goes, little is put aside against a day of need, for every day is the same.

Has the Church a role here? It certainly has and the Mission is at the forefront of putting the issues of the needy in front of the public. Maybe, this has been misplaced, not by the Mission, but by us the congregational workers. The Methodist Church was founded on addressing the spiritual and corporeal needs of the people, and indeed possibly was so effective that it averted the possibility of a social revolution in the country. We need to take a more effective role here. Politicians’ platitudes are not cutting it, so it is time for congregations to identify neighbourhood needs and act to effectively address them. What do you think?

George Davis, 6 October 2017.