



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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

Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
Parish Stewards:	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
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Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600
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Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett: elaineross@xtra.co.nz	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

15th Oct 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 22nd October

10.00 am	Mornington	M Hardy
10.00 am	Mosgiel	G Abernethy
10.00 am	Glenaven	Combined at Mornington
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MOSGIEL LEADER'S MEETING - We had to cancel our meeting last week. Leader's Meeting will now be held on **Tuesday 17 October at 7:30pm.**

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

ALL WELCOME TO COME ON A TRIP TO OAMARU on 12 November to visit the congregation on St Luke's Anglican Church, Oamaru.

Plan is to leave Mornington by 11:00a.m. and share a cut lunch for those who wish at the Anglican Church at Maheno with impressive stained glass windows.

Leaving there we will arrive at St Luke's located on Thames St Oamaru where the Lampedusa Cross will be introduced to the locals, the choir will sing for our hosts, they may respond and then we will share afternoon tea and chatter. For those interested a tour of the historic precinct of Oamaru from the comfort of a vintage Buick will be available. The intent is to have an enjoyable social gathering and meeting with the people and St Luke's and an invitation will be extended to our neighbours, the parishioners of St Mary's, to join us. If interested in coming please advise Cam Weston on 454 5600 or 021 995 130 as numbers are required by St Luke's. To avoid stressing our hosts this is a self-catering trip so bring your lunch and a plate for afternoon would be appreciated.

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.



FIRE AND EARTHQUAKE DRILL - Today at Mornington Church

we will carry out a **practice fire drill** for those attending worship in the church building. In the event of any fire, **leave the building immediately by the nearest exit.** There are **two**: the main one into the foyer, and another to the right of the main entrance at the rear of the church. If you are leaving through the foyer exit, please go directly outside and **assemble on the far side of Galloway Street. Wait there until you are given the all clear.** Would those first out push open both leaves of the doors.

If you leave by the **alternative rear exit**, please **gather in the green space outside** on the south side of the church. **Wait there until you are given the all clear.** (Morning tea will then be served as usual in the hall lounge.)

Note that in the event of an **earthquake**, since the church building is considered 100% safe, **stay inside**, kneel on the floor, and if possible protect your head and neck. Wait there for the all clear.

Any feed back will be welcomed by members of the Leaders' Meeting.

Thanks

ANNUAL HOLIDAY - I will be away on Annual Leave from Tuesday 17th – Monday 23rd of October. While I am away Rod Mitchell will take care of the administration of the Parish. Any pastoral matter please contact Rod, 4773700.

EXPLORERS AT WORK - The Sunday 22 October Explorers group led by Rod Mitchell will be considering the problematic future of religion or religion as it may be in the future. Join us at 4.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. Visitors welcome.

BIBLE AND INTERPRETATION WORKSHOP - THEME: NEW WINE INTO NEW BOTTLES Saturday 28th October, Mornington Church, 10am – 3pm. Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders, and all those who are interested are welcome. Thanks, Rod and Siosifa



AT A PARISH MEETING LAST SATURDAY Rev David Poultney from Nelson was unanimously endorsed as the next Superintendent of our Parish from August 1, 2018. It was a very well attended meeting, ably chaired by our District

Superintendent Rev Peter Taylor, from Invercargill. David is no stranger to this Parish as he and his partner Darren were members at Glenaven and Broad Bay, and David candidated from Dunedin in 2005. Since then he has had ministries in Hamilton and Nelson. He holds several positions of responsibility in the Church, among them Convener of the Faith & Order Committee. Photo shows Peter Taylor, David Poultney and Otago Synod lay rep. on the Stationing Committee, Rachel Masterton

Hear the
Royal Dunedin
Male Choir

East Taieri Church
2pm Sun 29 Oct

12a Cemetery Rd
 East Taieri
 03 489 6308
www.etchurch.co.nz

No charge
Afternoon Tea
to follow

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE - DUNEDIN ANNUAL
GATHERING**

Monday 16th October 2017 7pm-8pm followed by supper

Venue: The Quaker Centre, 15 Park St, Dunedin

Prayers and reflections on peace from all faiths

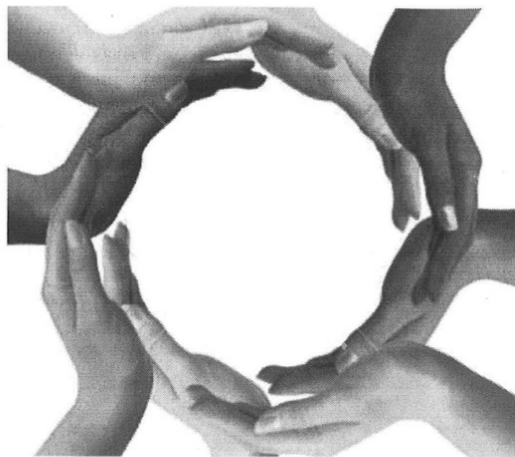
Everyone is welcome.

Organised by the Dunedin Interfaith Council

dunedininterfaith@gmail.com

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.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Client Support Worker:

An elderly lady self-referred to the client support service needing help to go over her Meals on Wheels bill as she felt she was being overcharged. A home visit was organised and together we went over bill. We then rang the Meals on Wheels provider to compare their dates with what the client had. Unfortunately at the time of ringing the provider there was no answer so a message was left for them to contact the client support in regards to the bill. The client was happy for the client support worker to discuss her bill with the Meals on Wheels provider. A follow up appointment was arranged with the client to ensure her need had been met – in the meantime the Meals on Wheels provider did ring the client support worker back and it worked out that the bill was correct. At the follow up appointment the client support worker went through the bill and calendar days with the client to show how the Meals on Wheels provider had charged the correct days. The client was happy with the findings and duly wrote a cheque for the amount owing. She was very thankful to have had the help to clarify her bill as it was causing her some stress.

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.



This year, one of my winter-time activities has been to begin sorting through my papers and effects. It takes time to read through documents that were once significant and that represent many hours of concentration and commitment from me and from others. Determining their fate is a dilemma.

Reading through my files relating to Glenaven Church has brought back memories of my intense involvement with the people and the buildings of this remarkable component of the Dunedin Methodist Parish. From relative obscurity it became, for a time, the focus of national debate which threatened the unity of Methodism in New Zealand. The issue was the acceptability for ordained ministry of gay men and lesbians. One of my papers reminded me that I was once a member of the Parish Leaders Meeting responsible to voice gay and lesbian issues and, though no longer a member, I think this is where I can perhaps contribute to Connections.

At the Explorers meeting on Sunday 27 August, Colin Gibson led a session looking at how the Dunedin Methodist voice might be heard amidst the din of modern media in the electronic age. It was a difficult question to answer. My first thought was that we need to join the revolution and make better use of the internet including social media. My next thought was that we need to have some understanding of just what the “Good News” is that we want to share.

When I first started attending Glenaven it was one of just a handful of congregations in New Zealand that unconditionally welcomed LGBT men and women. Two others were Broad Bay and Mornington. This was indeed good news for someone like me who had been exiled by the doctrines of most churches both here in Aotearoa and throughout the world. This unconditional acceptance attracted not only LGBT people and, for a time, the congregation flourished despite being ostracised by other churches in North East Valley. I thought that this was indeed The Gospel, the good news that was worth sharing.

Since 1978 the GLBT community has adopted the rainbow flag as a symbol of identity. This is not the natural rainbow with its seven colours, but a six stripe flag, red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet, usually depicted horizontally with red at the top. I had the idea that the newly refurbished Glenaven church might have a rainbow banner hanging from its bell tower announcing to the residents and many

visitors to the suburb that here was a remarkable church with a remarkable message. This idea was not widely supported.

Since the law was changed in 1986 male homosexuals can no longer be imprisoned for intimacy. In 1992 it became illegal to discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation (and the Methodist Conference of 1993 agreed to act within this law.) Now gay and lesbian couples are free to declare their love in marriage and to enjoy most of the rights of the heterosexual majority. However, within the Church and wider community, discrimination is still widespread. I know that I will be accepted and welcomed as a gay man at Mornington and Glenaven, but what is there to tell me this or, more importantly, to tell others this good news?

Years ago, as part of my work with Pflag, (Parents, family and friends of Lesbians and gays,) I created a simple plasticised rainbow flag with the words "This is a safe place for Lesbians and Gays" printed on it. The Methodist Mission displayed it in their office foyer, but Age Concern thought it inappropriate for their club rooms. Where do you think I might feel more at home? Could we display such a sign on all our church notice boards? Would it be an accurate statement?

There are many other reasons why people can feel marginalised; race, skin colour, language, religious belief, dress codes, age, gender, disability, poverty, to name some. Jesus lived amongst the marginalised of his time and society and through his life and his stories he proclaimed the all-inclusive love of God. I wonder what the "Good News" of the Gospel is for you and whether there is a way to share it amidst the din of our modern age.

Euan Thomson