



# 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

12<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> November

9.30 am	Mornington	D Phillipps
10.00 am	Mosgiel	H Watson White
11.00 am	Glenaven	D Phillipps
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

**EXPLORING A GREEN SPIRITUALITY** - On Sunday 26 November at 4.30pm, at Mornington Methodist church, the Explorers' group holds its final business meeting for the year. Liz Petrie leads a discussion of Green Spirituality, by which is meant the rapidly emerging view of the planet on which we live as 'sacred space'. Climate warming, the extermination of hundreds of animal and other species, the plundering of natural resources—we haven't done well as God's stewards. Can anything be done, or is it too late? Can religion say anything worth hearing? If you are interested in the natural environment, and concerned at its dangerous degradation by human activity come along and join in the discussion.



**FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS** enjoyed a lovely afternoon to celebrate Ian Bartlett's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at St. Barnabas on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. Ian had several parties to celebratethout the week.





## **THE METHODIST MISSION is opening a Youth Transition Home (YTH) in January 2018**

The Mission's new Youth Transition Home (YTH) will provide homeless young people from Dunedin with a safe, comfortable place to live while they pursue education, training or employment. Young people will have 24/7 support and learn important life skills like cooking, budgeting and personal care, to help them achieve independent living.

YTH will be part-funded by Government, but extra help will be needed in the form of donations and volunteer contributions. If you would like to assist, please visit our online registry:

**[www.thankfulregistry.com/MMSouthYTH](http://www.thankfulregistry.com/MMSouthYTH)**

or contact Christine on 03 466 3407

or **[hub@mmsouth.org.nz](mailto:hub@mmsouth.org.nz)**.

Mission staff look forward to speaking more about YTH at a Sunday service in November (date still to be finalised).



**DUNEDIN YOUTH TRANSITION HOME - SUNDAY SERVICE** - There will be a service organised by both the Dunedin Methodist Parish and the Methodist Mission Southern on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of November, 1pm, at Mornington Methodist Church. The purpose of this service is to bless this project and to allow the Mission to share briefly to the Parish the purpose of this project. Everyone in the Parish is welcome to this service and please invite your friends to join us.

**REV FRED BAKER, FORMER MINISTER AT MOSGIEL** - Fred died on 31 October, and Marion and I attended his funeral in Christchurch on 6 November. We had been with Fred, Marcia, and their family in the Southern Highlands of PNG where they made an outstanding contribution. The service included a moving video tribute from one of their closest PNG friends, Rev Wasun Koka, who owes much to their influence. I took the liberty of passing on a greeting from our Parish. Marcia and Fred also spent many years caring for the Methodist Archives in Christchurch. *David Kitchingman.*

**MID-WEEK SERVICE** 15<sup>th</sup> November @ 2pm @ Earlene Owen's, 9 Aitken Place, All Welcome.

**FLYING TO AUCKLAND** - On Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wesley Roskill Parish that weekend. This was my Parish before I came to Dunedin. Siosifa Pole.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** on Wednesday 15th November at St Kilda 7.30pm. This will be our AGM.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Margaret & Barrie Ferguson who celebrated 60 years of marriage last Thursday. Our love & prayers from Mosgiel congregation.



## STORY FROM THE MISSION

### *Client Support Work (Milton):*

Diane had a couple of goals she wanted to achieve while working alongside the Mission and one of these goals was to find employment. Due to having children Diane had been out of the workforce for a number of years. With the support of the Mission Diane was able to update her CV and begin applying for jobs. Diane's strengths were that she was focussed and determined to find a job – she also showed perseverance when her applications weren't successful. Diane after 3-4 declined job applications decided to think outside the square. She approached a local farmer to ask if he would take her on a voluntary basis so she could learn how to work on a dairy farm. The farmer took Diane on and after 2 weeks of Diane turning up to work he offered her a job. Diane was over the moon and now has a full time job.

**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.**

**AN UNEXPECTED BUT WELCOME** addition to Sunday's service at Mornington was a brief cello recital by JUDY DAVIS immediately after the service. Judy played Adagio from the Dvorak Cello Concerto in B min, and was accompanied by John van Buskirk. Warm applause followed the recital. Judy has a long list of accomplishments in her music career in Dunedin being a founding member of the Dunedin Civic Orchestra 51 yrs ago; founding member of the NZ Youth Orchestra; a teacher of cello at King Edward Tech College and the original Musical Director of Cellists of Otago.

Photo - Judy with John van Buskirk.





**UNCOMFORTABLE FOR MANY** brought up in an atmosphere of 'polite' sexual ethics, few of us have surely not avoided in recent

months the media's preoccupation with the fall from grace of some of the most rich and famous figures of the entertainment world.

The name of Harvey Weinstein is one that, in the words of President Roosevelt will "live in infamy." One of the most powerful figures in Hollywood has been exposed as an habitual sexual predator, preying on a succession of much younger women, all of whom were dependant on his powerful influence to prosper their careers in the movie industry. We know only too well the sordid details in the still-unfolding story.

But Weinstein is not alone. And his case has unleashed a torrent of similar allegations from women whose experiences paralleled those of the Weinstein victims. Powerful men like House of Cards actor Kevin Spacey and Fox presenter "the Spin Stops Here" Bill O'Reilly have been brought low as once-silent women, and men, have found the courage to speak up and tell their stories. And of course, these are only the latest crop of sexual exploiters. For decades the media has covered the lurid descriptions of the sexual assaults of British celebrities Jimmy Savile, Garry Glitter, Rolf Harris, men who have used their fame and status to ingratiate themselves with successions of impressionable kids, putty in their hands at first, and then relying on various rewards and the fear of exposure to guarantee the continuing silence of their young victims. And it's worth noting that each of these famous names had close associates with an intimate knowledge of their life and work, and who must have suspected the seamier side - but chose the easier path of silence than risk the exposure of the famous one who paid them handsomely and by continued association ensured their own secure status.

And of deepest regret, the Church has not been exempt from its own abusers. Priests and pastors have preyed on vulnerable youth in their care, running roughshod over ordination vows and codes of conduct

that should have guaranteed pastoral safety. The Catholic Church alone has paid out huge huge sums of money to hush long-silent complainants on every continent, and the tide seems not about to turn. Early next year even greater notoriety seems guaranteed to an already stained catalogue of scandals when 76 year old Cardinal George Pell goes to trial in Melbourne facing historic sex charges. Pell is one of the most senior cardinals in the Vatican hierarchy, and it is said he carries the credibility of the Pope himself on his shoulders, the Holy Father having vowed to stamp out sexual abuse among the priesthood. It is said the prosecution will present hundreds of witnesses to events going back 30 years involving the younger Father Pell.

It is all very well to analyse the more sensational instances of sexual abuse on the current scene, but do we in the Church have insights with the potential to turn the male dominated culture that feeds the Harvey Weinstens of this world away from the assumptions of sexual entitlement at the heart of the rape culture?

I have been reading a brief article by American Methodist minister, Roger Wolsey entitled "Theological Violence toward the Divine Feminine." He says *It occurs to me that there is a direct correlation with men's violence toward women with the theologies purveyed and adopted many men – a theology that commits violence against the feminine divine – to the point of relegating it to invisibility, obscurity, and outright non-existence. Note: many women subscribe to such misogynist theologies – as unwitting victims and purveyors of their own internalized oppression.*

*It should be obvious that if a major swath of society embrace no feminine aspect of God, then this leads to a minimizing of the status and role of women in the world – and their essential worth. Such results include glass ceilings, discrimination, and harassment in the workplace; in domestic home life; and in religion.*

Wolsey clearly believes that until the Church puts women in their rightful place in theology, and thus in worship and in practice, it is in no

position to exercise leadership in a world desperately anxious to free itself from unhelpful notions of a subordinate feminine role. Again, he says *Christianity of most every stripe is waning in the Western nations. This is largely due to many people mistakenly thinking that conservative evangelicalism or fundamentalism are the only forms of Christianity out there (many have never heard of progressive Christianity) — that is, they reject the notion of a magical, specifically male, god who lives in the sky who we should fear and who punishes us to hell if we don't believe that Jesus' death on the cross is what saves people's souls.*

Put in those terms the stakes are high, and those of us struggling to fashion an ever more inclusive theology need to redouble our efforts lest the church decline further into irrelevance.

Finally, let me share a dream of the kind of church that could never abide the abuse of women. It is the *consenting church*, a church that so respects and reveres its women that neither "consent", nor "constraint" is the overriding issue. A church in which trust and mutual respect is of such an order that all the senses are safely given free reign, without fear, and all members, women and men, give themselves freely, to touch, to hug, to laugh, to cry, to share each others joy and pain without reserve. It is not pie in the sky. It is the only kind of church warm and honest and open enough to be the transforming community that Jesus pre-empted, and which the world so desperately needs.

*Ken Russell*