



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
	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

19th November 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 26th November

9.30 am	Mornington	G Hughson
10.00 am	Mosgiel	R Masterton
11.00 am	Glenaven	Combined with Mornington (10am)
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

SAVE THE DATE: The parish will hold a farewell for the Pole family on Saturday December 16th. Details to follow.



SOME POINTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ST KILDA ON WED 15TH NOV 2017

- Colin Gibson will take over from Hilda as chair of Parish council.
- **Rachael Masterton has offered to organise the notices in the bulletin. From now on, please send your notice to Rachael by WEDNESDAY 5pm for the Sunday bulletin. She will arrange them in order of date, and add a quick reference calendar. This will be especially helpful over the holiday season. Her email address is: rmasterton@actrix.co.nz**
- As the amount of money contributed to the parish is decreasing, we need to change this in order to keep paying for our ministers and other commitments. Can you add to your present giving?
- Watch future editions of Touchstone for stories about the work of Methodist Mission Southern.
- Significant work at Glenaven has been completed: earthquake strengthening (\$30,000 cost was a fifth of the budgeted cost), upgrade of the kitchen and indoor painting.
- St Kilda congregation has raised \$60,000 towards work on their building and plans are ready for the next step.
- Each congregation has work to do on Health and Safety documentation, fire drills, etc.

MOSGIEL LEADER'S MEETING - There will be a special Leader's Meeting on Wednesday 22 November at 7:30pm in the Church Lounge. This is to put together a Health and Safety plan for Mosgiel.

DUNEDIN YOUTH TRANSITION HOME – SUNDAY SERVICE

The service will be on Sunday 26th November at Mornington Methodist Church at 10am. This service is organized by both the Dunedin Methodist Parish and the Methodist Mission. 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 the service and please invite your friends to join us. Please note that no service will be held at Glenaven on this day.



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.

CHRISTMAS IN VIEW

Our Methodist Hub is looking for pots and pans and kitchen things of good quality, and blankets with warmth in them. Also, toys for Christmas stockings—not stuffed ones, though—for children of all ages. They will go to people who have little or nothing. Can you help? Deliver to 158 Oxford Street, South Dunedin, off Prince Albert Road, or ring Christine on 466 3407.



OTAGO DISTRICT METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Saturday 9 December 2017 at Mornington Methodist Church at 2pm - "CHRISTMAS IS COMING".

Wear something Christmasy.

Please bring a plate of food per carload. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship together

A HELPING HAND

It has been suggested that at Mornington we should build up a resource of prayers, 'favourite hymn' choices, stories, passages suitable for readings, short sermons or ideas for sermons, and any other material suited to worship—contributed by members of the congregation. These could be used in an emergency (when, for instance, on a 'snow day' the preacher couldn't access our hill) or taken up and used in normal services by the worship organisers. Over the next few Sundays a Red Box will be left in the foyer for such material. Have you anything you could contribute? Can you help create a treasury of worship resources?



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



DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH
July – September 2017

Income

Offerings

- Glenaven	1,637.19
- Mornington	11,853.50
- Mosgiel	2,918.00
- St Kilda	0.00

Glenaven Property 3,900.00

Rental Income 12,723.55

St Kilda for Strengthening 60,000.00

Other Income 5,013.38

Total Income	98,045.62
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Less Expenses

Ministry 19,350.79

Ministry Rental 4,800.00

Removal Fund 275.01

Connexional Budget 1,836.00

District Expenses 2,958.00

Property Expenses 4,253.60

Other Expenses 1,872.98

Conference 0.00

Total Expenses	35,346.38
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Surplus	\$62,699.24
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THE SPRING FLOWER SHOW

The spring flower show service was held at Mosgiel on 1st October. During the afternoon these flowers were delivered to members in hospital and those unable to attend the service.



DISTRICT WOMENS FELLOWSHIP AGM was held in Mosgiel. The weather was so kind, the sun just streamed down and we spent a nice afternoon together.





STORY FROM THE MISSION

Intensive Literacy & Numeracy (Prison): One student decided he would try some creative writing with a moral to it, the story set in Texas during the times of gunfights and saloons. The end result was imaginative, well written and, when shared with the others in class, was heralded as a master piece. It inspired the student to write a formal letter for his next piece of writing, the writer in the character of the sheriff and another character as the recipient. The student was really stunned at the positive reaction he got from his peers when he read the story to the group; it has inspired him to write further short stories in his free time based around those same characters.

Client Support Worker (Little Citizens): My journey with one client has come to a happy conclusion. When I first met her she was facing financial problems, was living in fear of her abusive ex-partner, and was for all intents and purposes homeless, sleeping on a family member's couch with nothing to call her own. Thanks to the Women in Need fund, this client was able to purchase furniture and household basics. I supported her in approaching WINZ regarding other types of financial support, and in looking for affordable, suitable accommodation. She has recently moved into what she described as "finally a place to call home", which she loves, and is now able to look to the future.

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.



Visions, prophets, seers

As we approach the season of Advent, or 'the Coming', our suggested Bible readings often contain descriptions of the end of the age, and the 'Second Coming'. The last book in our bible, called Revelation, can be called the Apocalypse, from the Greek word meaning 'disclosure' or 'unveiling'; a simpler word for Revelation is Vision. The writers seem to SEE things in their imagination -- great or beautiful or sometimes frightening things, described in the utmost detail, so that you don't forget them in a hurry.

Do people still have visions or revelations? Sure they do. Unfortunately, some of the things they see are not imagined -- not fictional, not 'fake news' -- but true. The ODT of August 19 reprinted an interview by The Observer's Carole Cadwallader, in which Al Gore describes the world as he SEES it, in a sequel to his 2006 documentary An Inconvenient Truth, about global warming and climate change:

'The film runs through a host of facts: that 14 of the 15 hottest years on record have occurred since 2001 is just one. And the accompanying footage is biblical, terrifying: tornadoes, floods, "rain bombs", exploding glaciers. We see roads falling into rivers and fish swimming through the streets of Miami. The nightly news, Gore says, has become "a nature hike through the Book of Revelations".' The ODT can easily illustrate such things from its own files. Added to pictures of the effects of Hurricane Franklin in Mexico, and a wildfire in Athens, is a photo of flooded fields on the Taieri.

It's possible to put your hoodie over your head and retreat, quivering, to the couch, when you see some of this stuff. But what inspired me about Gore's first film was his description of his youth spent close to Nature, at the family farm with a river running through it. He gained his passion and his reason for being in that state of near-Eden -- enough to give him the drive to fight against the forces on track to destroy it. And he's a great teacher, firing up through his factual slide-shows legions of other people who care enough to teach others, who then teach others...

Two other prophets with a similar background I've recently encountered through reading and films. The first is the late historian Michael King, whose daughter Rachael has brought out some of his writings under the title *The Silence Beyond* (Penguin, 2011). In 'What I believe', King, who was brought up Catholic, outlines his personal faith in something much closer to Nature than to the judging God of Jewish and Christian tradition: 'In the coming and going of the tides, in the rise of mist and the fall of rain, I see a reflection of the deepest mystery and pattern in all life: that of arrival and departure, of death and regeneration.' He also quotes Bishop Spong on that 'gravitation towards wholeness':

'The healing powers of the human body and the regenerative power within the natural order to adapt and to overcome enormous abuse for me point to the...presence of the creating God. This is close, I suppose, to a Gaian view of the earth and every creature on it making up a single organism.'

There's another side to this view, says King, who SEES also a 'dark shadow' over the future of our planet and our species: 'just as the earth has the power to spawn and sustain life, humankind now has the capacity to interrupt that process, to inflict death without regeneration, departure without arrival. In our ability to strip the earth

of its resources, to perforate the ozone layer, to trap industrial gases within the atmosphere, above all in our ability to unleash the destructive [nuclear] power of a thousand suns, we not only have the means to exterminate our species. We now have the power to kill God. I have no strong inclination to close on an apocalyptic note, simply to be realistic. What preserves me from despair at the prospect of humanity's infinite propensity for greed and annihilation is the matching power and pervasiveness of that force which we share for life and altruism, and to which I [also] attach the name of God.'

A very similar view is to be found in the life and art of the (very much alive) Mary Horn OP of Teschemakers, near Oamaru. This Dominican nun has devoted some 35 years to her painting and to caring for the ageing Teschemakers buildings and the environment generally. The OP after her name means 'Order of Preachers'; she says the way she preaches is to make art that speaks of the ultimate value of Nature, and to be an environmental activist. When the Waitaki River was threatened by the 'Think Big' Project Aqua, she was in the group at the forefront of the protests. The group used all the media at their disposal to assert the 'right' of the braided river, with its complex ecosystem, 'to be a great river', instead of being, through feats of engineering, diverted, changed (drastically lowered) and controlled. She believed God was present in the Waitaki, that God's presence was like a woman who perpetually gives of herself. To use up and destroy God's gift of water, she said, was tantamount to destroying God.

-- Helen Watson White



24/7 **LABYRINTH** **at First Church**

Set in the grounds of First Church of Otago

- an invitation to prayer,
- to meditation,
- to active stillness in the midst of the city.

**Walking a
Labyrinth**

**Space for prayer
and reflection**

**Time out in the
heart of the city**

A place to journey

**Come and see
Come and walk
Come and pray**

**First Church of Otago,
Dunedin**

**corner of Moray Place
and Burlington Street**

Dunedin Community Christmas Dinner

Are you expecting to be alone on Christmas Day?
Please join us for a delicious
free Christmas dinner and great music.

Venue: Dunedin Town Hall - Dec 25th - 11:30am



Booking and enquiries to: Connect South
Phone: 471 6177 or connectsouth.org.nz/dinner

Booking advised - No alcohol served or permitted

Hosted by Acts of Kindness Charitable Trust

Andrea Hudson Design

