



# 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:elainecross@xtra.co.nz">elainecross@xtra.co.nz</a>	489 7663
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>		
<b>Mornington:</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
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## PARISH BULLETIN

**10 December 2017**

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 17 December

9.30 am	Mornington	(at St Marys)
10.00 am	Mosgiel	Siosifa Pole & LMT
11.00 am	Glenaven	Colin Gibson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

### Dates to remember:

Today:	Piano recital at Mornington, 2pm
9 December:	Otago District MWF, Mornington, 2pm
12 December:	Mosgiel Leaders Meeting, 7.30pm
13 December:	Mosgiel Mid-Week Service, 2pm
13 December:	Advent Studies, Mosgiel, 7pm
13 December:	Lampedusa Cross Dinner, Mornington, 6pm
15 December:	Holiday period Services due in 12 noon
16 December:	Farewell to the Pole Family, Mornington, 5.30pm

**AFTERNOON CONCERT:** This afternoon at 2 PM three young pianists, advanced pupils of Eli Gray-Smith, will give a recital at Mornington Methodist Church of piano works including sonatas by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. There is no charge for this musical event so come and enjoy the music of the masters and these talented young musicians. Bring your friends.



**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.

**MOSGIEL LEADERS MEETING:** Christmas meeting will be held **Tuesday 12 December, 7.30pm** at 40 Forth Street. Please bring a plate for supper.

**MOSGIEL MID-WEEK SERVICE: Wednesday 13 December, 2pm at 40 Forth Street,** a Christmas Carol service will be held. This is our final service for the year. Thanks to Elaine and all those who organised and supported the Mid-WeekService this year at Mosgiel Church.

**ADVENT STUDIES** will continue on **Wednesday 13 December**, at Mosgiel Methodist Church, starting 7pm. The material is using for the study is entitled, The Voice of the Prophet, by John Cox. He writes, "...it is worth noting at the outset that while the prophets are very often messengers of doom and gloom, berating the people of God and others for their failings and faithlessness, they are also the heralds of hope." Everyone in the Parish is welcome to this series of Advent Studies.

**REMINDER:** if you have a notice for the Parish please email it to Rachael Masterton on [rmasterton@actrix.co.nz](mailto:rmasterton@actrix.co.nz) by Wednesday evening for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.



## A LAMPEDUSA CROSS NIGHT IN AID OF THE VICTIMS OF THE MAJOR EARTHQUAKE IN IRAN AND IRAQ

MORNINGTON METHODIST CHURCH  
Corner Galloway and Whitby street

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13  
Starting at 6PM Koha \$20

A fine meal will be provided by JUDY RUSSELL.

Professor KEVIN CLEMENTS (University of Otago) speaks on  
'Compassion without Boundaries', and Golnoush Madani (Iran) will  
show us pictures of her homeland.

All proceeds will go to relieve the victims of the recent major  
earthquake in northern Iran and Iraq. This is an opportunity to show  
that compassion indeed has no boundaries. Donations welcome.

Contact Judy Russell (455 3727) to book your place

## **ORDERS OR SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK**

The Mission Office will be closed from midday Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and although we reopen on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, I do not return to work until Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Could you please ensure your Orders of Service over this period (between 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec & 15<sup>th</sup> Jan) are sent to me [admin@mmsouth.org.nz](mailto:admin@mmsouth.org.nz) no later than **12 noon Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. The final bulletin for 2017 will be the 17<sup>th</sup> December edition and the first bulletin for 2018 will be 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Thanks everyone, wishing you a very happy Christmas. *Katrina*



**FAREWELL TO THE POLE FAMILY:** A Potluck dinner will be held at Mornington church on Saturday 16 December at 5.30pm. Please bring some food to share and join in the event.

**ST KILDA TONGAN METHODIST CHURCH SENIOR AND YOUTH CHOIRS** are invited to sing at the Otago Museum on Saturday 16th, December, 1pm. You are welcome to come and hear them singing at the Atrium 2.

**PARISH PICNIC** – Advance notice: Will be held 13 January 11am to 5pm at McKerrow Bridge Field, Waiora, bottom of Three Mile Hill, along Silverstream Valley Road Drive to end of tar seal 3 kms (follow balloons from corner). BYO picnic lunch, deck chair, sun umbrella if you have one etc. Excellent flat ground for games, beautiful stream for swimming, clean toilets & treated water for drinking no costs.

**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.



**IT WAS AN IMPORTANT DAY** for us all on Sunday when six people, already well known to many of us, were welcomed into the Mornington Church community. Some have been among us for more than 12 months. Others have "arrived" more recently, but we believe in the principle that participation and involvement constitutes membership, and so when Siosifa Pole extended "the right hand of fellowship" (a time honoured Methodist practice) he was saying WELCOME to Marjorie and Bruce Spittle; Marcia and John Hardy; Paul Barton; Di Cooper.



### **THE EXPLORERS GROUP**

has had a good year, with attendances touching 15 - 16 and very good participation. But it has not been only intensive, heady stuff. On Sunday evening members met with spouses and partners to celebrate a successful



year, simply to enjoy some good-ole conviviality, and to enjoy a splendid "bring & share" meal, facilitated by hosts Murray and Liz Petrie. Just one of the tables seated - Jeanette Gibson; Trish and David Patrick; Helen Watson White; Bruce and Marjorie Spittle.



## STORY FROM THE MISSION

### Prison: *Literacy and Numeracy:*

Two new learners start in the

ILN class; both showed little interest and asked if they could go back to cells. However one of the students already in the class provided motivation to them, and was successful. He described his first day, saying how stupid he thought of the whole thing was. How learning all of this “sh\*\*” was pointless, and how it was a waste of time. But, he told them, just give it a couple of sessions and see how you feel. He then went on to explain why he now likes the course. He enjoys the challenge of the “maths sh\*\*” and loves beating our Tutors at Up words. The two new learners decided to stay to the end of the class, and have remained in attendance since. I genuinely believe that Cody’s words motivated them to stay – something that would likely have been less effective coming from me (tutor vs peer group motivation).

**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.**

## NZ INTERFAITH CALENDARS AVAILABLE

2018 Calendars are available (\$20 each, including postage) from the Religious Diversity Centre. Information is provided about religious festivals of all faiths, throughout the year. Great photos also providing insights into the diversity of religious life in our land. You can order a calendar, or calendars on line via <http://www.rdc.org.nz> If ordering on line is a problem, let me know and I will order for you. Greg Hughson.



## CHRISTMAS CHEER – WELL, HALF A ONE

Looking in the mirror first thing in the morning isn’t always a happy experience - quite often, too often, Ebenezer Scrooge is there. I know he’s saying “Bah!” and “Humbug!” He’s also lurking in the background, somewhere, almost

every time the advertisements come on – but, then, I don't like them any more than he would.

But it's not advertising that's my concern at the moment. It is steadily increasing flow of information about the mis-use and/or over-use of the world's resources. David Attenborough's *Blue Planet II* series, for example, recently described vividly the effect of non-biodegradable plastic on the world's oceans – seemingly vast, and yet threatening the lives of even the greatest of the whales. This week we saw Maori elders placing a *rahui* on the Waitakere National Reserve, in an effort to prevent the further spread of kauri die-off. There is the constant battle being waged by NZ Forest and Bird Society to prevent the unnecessary intrusion of industrial development into pristine areas of native bush. A different sort of dilemma faces us as a country when we see what money is to be made from tourism. It would be good (??) to have the Hillside Rd Workshops up and running again – with more jobs for local people. Another tourist operator want so to open up little used tracks in the Tongariro National Park – with all the potential for collateral damage to that delicate environment. And, of course, there's the overwhelming presence of pollution – affecting rivers and lakes, sea and sky, - natural life in all its variety.

So what is Scrooge's view of all this? He would say that our well-meaning concern for nature is 'humbug'. He belonged to a time when to 'get on' in the world was the first priority. The hemmed-in environment of London was his means for getting on. That's where he belonged, and he took his chances as they came. Did he ever look up? Recently a cricket test was temporarily stopped because of the appalling air pollution that plagues Delhi – that started in his London. From that time there comes a *Punch* cartoon that remains in my memory. A group of London slum-children have been taken by well-meaning friends on their first-ever visit to the country – by train. They have reached their destination and have just stepped onto the

platform. One wide-eyed little boy looks up at his kindly lady and says, "Oh Miss! Look how big the sky is!"

When the ancients raised their eyes to the hills they didn't comment on the castles. They saw the sky – they saw great trees – they saw vast craggy shapes, full of hidden meaning – they saw all these as evidence of God. We still do just the same thing in Aotearoa. We look to the high country, or at the beaches on which there are no footprints, and - whether we call ourselves religious or not - there is something within us that responds to untouched nature. If we can't, or are unwilling to, speak of God at that moment, we may have, at least, the grace to keep silence.

The ancients saw God **in** creation – everything that was made was made by God. Every aspect of creation – from earthquake to cyclone to lilies to the child in the womb – fulfilled the creator's design. That, I suggest, is a very dangerous idea. It gives the unscrupulous religious (and political) leader justification for claiming, as happens to this day, that destructive acts of nature are signs of God's judgement - acts of God. If you want to stress the wrath of God above all things, you'll see nature in this light.

Some of us, these holidays, will have the opportunity to move out of the city into a less crowded and more 'natural' world. Even if we stay home, we still can look up and see the clouds, or a high hill – or on a cloudless night be astonished by the stars. Wherever we are, it's no bad thing to find a sense of proportion – and I wonder whether it might be put this way – that we discover that God's creation is not made for us, but, rather, that we are made for God's creation.

We are its carers, and if we don't take our role seriously, creation will be irreparably damaged. God is **for** creation – are we?

**Donald Phillipps**