



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Bulletin Coordinator:	Rachael Masterton	rmasterton@actrix.co.nz

PARISH BULLETIN

17 December 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 24th December

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

WORSHIP FOR Christmas Day

9.30 am	Mornington	H Watson White
10.00 am	Mosgiel	S Pole



Dates to remember:

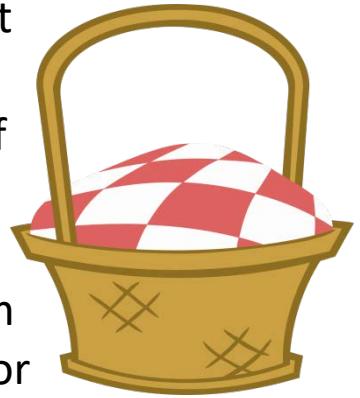
- 20 December: Final Advent Studies night at Mosgiel, 7pm
- 22 December: Christmas Carol Singing – Mornington 6.30pm
- 13 January: Parish Picnic, McKerrow Bridge Field, from 11am
- 21 January: Next Bulletin out

ADVENT STUDIES will continue on **Wednesday 20 December**, at Mosgiel Methodist Church, starting 7pm. The material is using for the study is entitled, The Voice of the Prophet, by John Cox. Everyone in the Parish is welcome to this series of Advent Studies.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING: For the final time, come and join Siosifa and his musical family in the mobile choir on Friday December 22nd leaving Mornington church at 6:30p.m. The walking choir will wend its way around the Mornington/Mary Hill area visiting places we've been before and maybe some new. Carols will be those selected by the Poles and preferred dress is with a Christmas theme. Come and grace lawns, backyards and footpaths while enjoying the company of your church fellows. All welcome and with a contribution to supper we can join in a well-earned cuppa and nibble to end an enjoyable night. If you are able to join this choir please advise Cam on 454-5600 and plan on being at the church about 6:20pm on the 22nd.



PARISH PICNIC – Will be held 13 January from 11am at McKerrow Bridge Field, Waiora, bottom of Three Mile Hill, along Silverstream Valley Road Drive to end of tarseal 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 cost.



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.

PUBLIC ISSUES FOR PARISH BULLETINS Sunday 17th December 2017
Our church people did so much to encourage people to enrol and vote in the September election, and this has meant we have changes to celebrate – changes on child poverty, on climate change, fresh water, housing – to mention a few. Christmas is the perfect time to be recognizing we are on the road to reducing and ultimately stopping child poverty in New Zealand. The key decisions for this to happen are to agree on a measure, which could include 60% of the median income, and a hardship or deprivation measure. Currently there are 17 criteria for hardship, such as having 2 pairs of shoes, a warm dry house, being able to pay a \$500 emergency bill. Then setting targets for achieving the goals of poverty reduction with reporting on progress and achievements to achieving the goals.

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



IT WAS A GREAT NIGHT on Wednesday as Mornington Church gathered its resources for a big effort midst the busy Christmas rush to raise some cash to assist the rehabilitation of desperately poor Iranian and Iraqi people suffering devastation at the hands of a huge earthquake two or three weeks ago. As a fund raiser, the dinner/lecture event was a great success and we can report that after expenses were deducted a sum of \$1247 has been forwarded through Christian World Service and their related aid agencies to reach the victims as soon as possible.

THANKS ARE DUE to people too numerous to mention here, and a huge effort was required to convert the church into a dining room setting - cook, assistants, servers, table erector, decorators, money handlers, sound and screen technicians, dishwashers and above all a team of very generous contributors, all gave their best efforts to make for a splendid success. THANKYOU ONE AND ALL.

AND THEN THERE WERE OUR SPEAKERS - Golnoush Madani, an Iranian Ph.D student from the Dental School who spoke of her homeland with the aid of pictures - its archaeological and architectural wonders, and the suffering of its people in the face of all manner of adversities.

And Professor Kevin Clements of the Dept of Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies who spoke on "Enlarging Boundaries of Compassion in an Age of Ruthless Power." It is sufficient to say his address was a powerful indictment of the "popularity" enjoyed by a proliferation of celebrity, autocratic, neo-fascist political leaders holding power in various parts of the world today, and the consequent demands these pressures make on the world's resources of compassion. He identified the Mornington faith community as such a resource.

Picture Shows Parham Hosseini, Golnoush Madani, Kevin & Valerie Clements.





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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.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION - On behalf of the Parish, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Katrina Rawson for her patience and professionalism in organising and printing the Parish Orders of Service and bulletins this year. We wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

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 Hirdson Design





STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Prison: *Foundation Skills:* The students of the Foundation skills classes at the Otago

Correctional Facility have been busy with their units of work; three have nearly finished and are pushing for a Christmas Graduation. However, the real highlight came from one of the younger students, this young man has been trying to gain his NCEA 1 for four years and for one reason or another his attempts have been thwarted. By working hard in the Foundation Skills 1 class he recently gained enough credits to successfully earn his NCEA 1. This young man was so thrilled with himself! In our conversations about his future plans he had freely talked about going back to a life of crime on his release as it was “good money”, however since he has gained his qualification he wants to study harder and get the qualifications he needs to go onto some form of tertiary study so he can earn “legal money”.

Little Citizens: *Kotuku/Tui Room:* The children in the Kotuku group are learning about different ways to be creative and expressive, this is a very diverse area of learning that encompasses not only verbal language but non-verbal language for those children with diverse learning needs where their communication is not at the same level as that of their peers.

Two groups of children have had the opportunity to visit the art gallery provoking different ideas as to what art is and what it means to individuals. The teachers have been providing opportunities for the children to experiment and explore different mediums of art in which to create and transform their ideas while also providing open ended props and resources to allow the children to use their imaginations in order to express their feelings and ideas, this has seen the children exploring sound as they turned old vacuum hoses into telephones and

old plastic piping in the dirt pit into cauldrons to mix their magic potions to turn everyone into frogs and to turn everything white.

The Tui group are learning about all the different ways that they can play and learn alongside each other and as part of a group. Alongside of this is the constant social competency coaching and role modelling that the teachers do to support children to develop self-regulation skills when dealing with disappointment, conflict or over excitement.

Therefore there is a big emphasis on learning about how you feel and how what you do make others feel. Getting outside and negotiating whose turn it is on the play equipment provides wonderful learning opportunities for the children to practice skills learnt in a safe and supportive environment.



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.



MARY—THE ALTERNATIVE TRUTH

We have got used to hearing about the alternative truth, ever since Donald Trump's spokesman, flying in the face of photographic evidence, declared that Trump's inauguration parade was larger than Obama's had been. Challenged by reporters, he brazenly declared that President Trump was much more popular than the President he had succeeded: and that this was the 'alternative truth' to what was being shown on the media (the truth thousands of Americans had been shown by the news channels).

Now it is easy to jump to condemn such false claims (lies was the word we once used), because don't we all know that the truth is the truth? Anything else is not the truth. But experience tells us it is not as simple as that, that the world we live in is not a black and white, true or false one.

Yes, there are lies, damned lies and statistics, but what about fiction, the creative narrative we call a novel? Or that very modern cross-over between historical fact and invention, the docu-drama? And when it comes to the truth about ourselves or any other human, what can be said other than that we all have both a public appearance, a *persona*, and an inner, private life we share with almost no-one—sometimes not even with ourselves! And Shakespeare has reminded us that on the stage of life we play many roles in our dealings with others, as well as during our progression through the ‘seven ages’ of human life.

What are we to make of this business of truth and untruth and their alternative? I was recently struck by a saying Rod Mitchell threw up on the screen during a service of worship. ‘Our actions show what we are; our words show what we dream we might be.’ And it is helpful to bring this thought to that magnificent poem Luke puts into the mouth of Mary, when she shares the news of her pregnancy with her cousin Elizabeth, wife of the temple priest Zechariah, and Elizabeth tells her that her own baby (the future John the Baptist) has moved within her womb.

My soul magnifies the Lord
 And my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
 Because he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid.
 For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed
 Because he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is
 his name,
 And his mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear
 him.
 He has shown might with his arm,
 He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.
 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted
 the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

We can be sure that the real Mary never said anything as eloquent as that! An illiterate woman in a small country village, such language would have been beyond her, and whoever wrote it down on the spot, if she did say it? (Could you recall what you said when you first fell pregnant?) In fact, almost all the Magnificat is a direct transplant from the equivalent speech of Hannah, mother of Samuel, in the Old Testament. As Fred Kaan, famous Dutch-born hymnwriter and United Reformed Church minister, has said, ‘If there had been some Zealot copyright lawyer around at the time he could have taken her to court for committing plagiarism. Almost all her song is quotation from the Old Testament. She makes herself a mouthpiece of the whole people of God. There are only two original lines in the Magnificat, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord,’ and ‘Henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.’ And Mary’s own words, as distinct from those she ‘recalls’ and quotes are *future*-orientated—she ‘remembers forward.’ How could it be otherwise? She was pregnant, for God’s sake!’

No, Mary’s Magnificat, as it has come to be called, is an ‘alternative truth’, a dream of what might be, put into her mouth by Luke, as ancient historians were accustomed to do—with no imputation that such words were a ‘lie’. They have gone on to inspire generations of social activists and political reformers and philosophers and religious mystics; they have sustained the suffering poor, persecuted religious minorities, so-called heretics, and the simple faith of millions, that God is good and merciful beyond all human measurements of goodness and mercy. As we draw closer to Christmas and the fondly remembered birth of Mary’s baby, may we feel able to join in the words of Mary’s ecstasy of joy, making them our truth for today.

Colin Gibson





SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Christmas Day Services (25th December 2017)

Mornington and Glenaven Churchs combined
At Mornington Church, 10am (H.W. White)
Mosgiel Church, 10am (S. Pole)

Sunday 31st December 2017

Parish Combined service at
Glenaven Church, 10am (R. Mitchell & S. Pole)

Sunday 7th January, 2018

Parish Combined Communion service
At Mornington Church, 10am (S. Pole)

Sunday 14th January, 2018

Mornington and Glenaven churches combined
With other local churches at Mornington Anglican Church, 9.30am
Mosgiel Church, 10am (R. Masterton)

Sunday 21st January, 2018

Mornington and Glenaven Churches combined
With other local churches at Presbyterian Church, 9.30am
Mosgiel Church, 10am (G. Abernethy)

Sunday 28th of January, 2018

Mornington and Glenaven Churches combined
With other local churches at Mornington Methodist, 9.30 (D. Phillipps)
Mosgiel Church, 10am (E. Merrett)