



# 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	453 3310
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
	Dale Meredith	467 2070
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<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

**11 February 2018**

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

9.30 am	Mornington	C Gibson
10.00 am	Mosgiel	LMT & G Davis
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

**ROD MITCHELL** – Has a change of address and new temporary phone number. Address: 152 Eglinton Road, Mornington, Dunedin. New Phone: 453-3310 (Temporary until we are connected to the fibre optic line.)

### Dates to remember:

13 February:	Scarfie Guides helpers required, from 9.00am
14 February:	Parish Council, Mornington, 7.30pm
19 February:	Orientation Week CCG Tent
20 February:	Mosgiel Leaders Meeting, Church Lounge, 7.30pm
21 February:	Lenten Studies start, Mosgiel Church, 7.30pm
23-25 Feb:	Synod meeting, Camp Columba
28 February:	Mornington MWF first meeting and luncheon,

### OTAGO COMBINED CHRISTIAN GROUPS - NOTICE

Once again we require helpers (people of all ages) to put our *Scarfie Guides* (with info about your Church) into 4,000 College packs for OUSA on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018**, from 9am in Smithell's Gym, 690 Cumberland Street. Please encourage and round up people from your Church or group to assist. We need as many people, OF ALL AGES, as possible. Put this in your diaries now. Lunch will be provided. This will be the eighteenth time that we have served OUSA in this way. OUSA is extremely grateful to us for doing this task for them. It is a great witness, and a good opportunity to meet up at the start of the year, make new friends and work together. For further information please contact Mike Bagge ph 027 366 9506.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** to be held on **Wednesday 14 February** at Mornington Methodist Church at 7:30pm.

**ORIENTATION WEEK** - During the University of Otago Orientation week, the CCG has a tent at the Museum Lawn and the local churches have a roster to take part in this ministry. The Methodist Church is rostered for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February and you are welcome to participate. Let me and Greg know if you want to be involved.

**MOSGIEL LEADER'S MEETING** to be held on **Tuesday 20 February** in the Church lounge at 7:30pm.

**LENTEN STUDY** will start on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of February, 7pm in Mosgiel Church. This study will be based on a study booklet entitled, *Dethroning Mammon* by Justin Welby.

**REMINDER:** Synod meets 23-25 February, at Camp Columba, just out of Gore. Cost \$50 for the weekend or \$15 for Saturday. Will start approx 4pm Friday and go to about lunch time on the Sunday. Please let Rachael know if you are interested in coming - [rmasterton@actrix.co.nz](mailto:rmasterton@actrix.co.nz)

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** This worldwide movement of informed prayer involves people from 170 countries, also many denominations, who together observe a common day of prayer each year. Through World Day of Prayer we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ. Our logo has the cross in the centre formed by praying figures from the four corners of the earth. All are joined together within the circle of the world and enfolded in God's Love.

This year our service is from Suriname.  
ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD!



Join us to enjoy this happy time with stories and singing from Suriname. Suriname lies in the north-eastern part of South America. Wear your bright colours. We look forward to seeing you there. Fellowship and afternoon tea to follow. All welcome.

## PRAYER REQUEST

Please continue to pray for those who are unwell in the Parish. Also pray for the people of Taiwan who are devastated by the strong earthquake that cost people's lives and also their livelihood.

**WONDERFUL EVENING** of fellowship and entertainment at the Annual Dunedin United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week dinner on Wednesday evening at the Mormon Church, St Clair. St Kilda choir was singing to represent our Parish as well as other groups representing their communities. We shared delicious vegetarian dishes from various cultures. Children were having face-painting and also enjoying the evening. And we also had a good speaker from South Sudan who shared his 14 years of experience working for the United Nations in helping people whose lives were affected by wars and natural disasters. Our Parish had a good representation in this occasion and I would like to thank Rev Greg Hughson, The MC of the evening, for his openness and sensitivity toward those who were there this evening.



## STORIES FROM THE MISSION

**Little Citizens:** *Kiwi room:* We have started 2018 with a rapidly increasing roll in the Kiwi Room, and a heat wave – two great issues to contend with. The increased roll, currently with up to 17 Under Twos, has meant we have been busy settling new children into the environment: learning about them, their interests and care routines, and getting to know their whānau. Some of the children have settled quickly and easily, and are comfortable moving to explore the indoor

and outdoor environments. Some children require 1:1 contact to support their sense of security and belonging, and this requires planning for placement and roles of staff. However, the increase in child numbers also means we have 3 teachers regularly in the Kiwi Room, and sometimes 4, and with the extra staff we are able manage very well.

With the heat we are very conscious of the well-being of the children in our care. We are careful to sunscreen thoroughly, encourage the children to wear their sunhats – an ongoing goal for the infants and young toddlers. We avoid being outside during the middle of the day, and we ensure children are offered water, and are drinking. All our children are in nappies, and we closely monitor nappy changes, so we are able to note if a child may need to drink more water. And we are enjoying lots of water play outdoors to keep cool!

**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.**



**WHERE DO I START TO MAKE CONNECTIONS THIS WEEK?** A number of issues come to mind. We were shocked by the recent news items about the mountain of plastic bags revealed by the West Coast storms and high tides, after 25 years buried in a disused dump. We had already been aware of the Pacific Ocean islands of plastic, but discussions with a visiting relation, who's a keen, UK based sailor, revealed that every ocean has the same problem. It seemed a good time to talk again about

recycling, but then I read an excellent item on the same topic in the February *Touchstone*, written by Kathryn Walters so I hope you will find time to look at it.

David Kitchingman's thoughtful article last week on *'Faith and Feeling'* tied in well with my own thoughts and feelings as I prepared the Covenant services for Mosgiel and St Kilda. When I was candidating for the ministry in 1998 a selection of Wesley's sermons was required reading. As a new convert to Methodism, I expected to be bored -after all they were around 200 years old – but I found them to be a revelation, containing much contemporary relevance.

Like David, last week, I can't easily accept some of Wesley's theology. However the famous lines in the Catholic Spirit (Sermon 39) inspired me then and they continue to do so.

*"And when he left there, [Jehu] met Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him, and he greeted him, and said to him, "Is your heart right, as my heart is with your heart?"\* And Jehonadab answered: "It is." [Jehu said], "If it is, give me your hand." (2 Kings 10:15)*

Earlier in this sermon, at verse 4, we find words which many of us could recite by heart. *"But even though a difference in opinions or modes of worship may prevent an entire external union, yet need it prevent our union in affection? Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without doubt, we may".*

It's now ten years ago since we first met my English cousin and his wife, as we lived quite close to them when we worked in Dorset. At that time I found him difficult to communicate with, especially after he made it quite clear that he couldn't understand how an educated, apparently

intelligent woman could possibly believe in God! Trying hard to follow Wesley's example, I asked mildly "what do you believe in?"

The triumphant answer was "I believe in Science!" At that point, from memory, we changed the topic.

However, the man who stayed with us last week was a very different person. He seemed to have mellowed considerably – maybe I had too – and we were sorry to see them leave after discovering we had much in common, particularly in our political and environmental views.

He was even very interested to learn about the difference between Anglicans and Methodists, since he'd grown up in an Anglican family. He also agreed with me when I mentioned that, as I get older, I find myself being less interested in beliefs and more interested in what Wesley called our 'union in affection'.

This brings me to a third 'connection' – the celebrations this year at Waitangi. In previous years we had dreaded the annual angry confrontations between protesters and the government of the day.

What a change this year! I don't expect our new prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, read Wesley's sermons as part of her preparations for the role, but I'm sure she would find much there to agree with. I particularly resonated with her comment to media when she said: "...speaking openly and frankly wasn't a sign of failure" and that protest was welcome at Waitangi.

Furthermore, her commitment to turn talk into action resonates with what we have long called 'the social Gospel'.

Responsible environmental practices, and open hearted listening to others – is there a connection? I think there is. Hearts and minds and

opinions are not easily changed through waving banners and shouting slogans. Our own actions and example will always be more powerful.

Jesus' words, about removing the log in our own eye before trying to remove the speck in another's come to mind!

Marcia Hardy