



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)

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	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	453 3310
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
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## PARISH BULLETIN

**18 February 2018**

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	H Watson White
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

### Dates to remember:

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, 12noon
2 March:	World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service, Mosgiel, 1.30pm

**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.

**MORNINGTON MWF:** The first Meeting for the year of Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship, will be a luncheon, to be held at the church on **Wednesday 28th February at 12 noon**. Please bring a plate of suitable food to share. The programme committee will provide the sweets. After lunch, Greg and Hilda Hughson have kindly agreed to give an illustrated talk and reflection on their 2017 trip to the UK and Europe. All are welcome to come and learn about Greg and Hilda's tales of their travels.

**TONGA CYCLONE GITA APPEAL** - This is a message from the President Of our Church, Rev Prince Devanandan, "I appeal to all to donate by way of a special offering in the church services on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018 towards relief work in Tonga. In addition, please send non-perishable packets and canned food and blankets to Lotofale'ia Tongan Methodist Church, 34 Orly Avenue, Mangere, Auckland by 28 of February 2018. Please uphold the people affected and their loved ones in your prayers." Our Parish's donation will go to Lynley and we will send it to the Connexional office to send together with donations from other parts of the church.

**TRANSPORT FOR SYNOD** – Anyone that would like transport to the Synod meeting next week at Camp Columba can contact me. Siosifa

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
ECUMENICAL SERVICE TO BE HELD**



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018  
MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH  
Time 1.30 pm. All Welcome

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.

This year, our service is from Suriname which lies in the North-eastern part of South America. The theme is:

**ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD**

Join us, to enjoy this happy time, with stories & singing from Suriname.  
"Wear your bright colours."

Say a warm greeting in Sranan Tongue:  
"A heri grontapu di Gado meki bun Doro Doro."  
ALL WELCOME. Followed by afternoon tea.

**PUBLIC ISSUES FOR PARISH NEWSLETTERS & BULLETINS  
FEBRUARY 2018**

*God, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations,  
Psalm 90:1.*

Public Issues has prepared information on 'just migration' of Pacific people in anticipation of Church leaders meeting with the Prime Minister and Minister for Climate Change. Humanitarian responses to climate-induced migration include providing special visas to assist with migration

However rising seas mean less land for agriculture and loss of fresh water supplies and this effects whole communities, not just individuals.

Migration because of climate change needs to take account of communities and consider how language and culture can be maintained in moving to new, or strange lands. The church already supports Pacific Island language communities. What more can be done to support 'just' climate migration?

We pray for just solutions with Pacific Peoples.

The *Climate Conversations* Resource is available as hard copy from Betsan or on the Public Questions website:

[http://www.methodist.org.nz/public\\_questions\\_network/index3](http://www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/index3)



**From CREATION to REVELATION** was the ambitious title of Richard' Cannon's service at Mornington last week. And if that were not enough, the bullet points by which the service progressed were equally ambitious -

THE BIG BANG \* EVOLUTION \* REFORMATION \* REVOLUTION were each placed within the biblical framework, and heroes of each stage of the journey were identified and illustrated on the big screen. Surprising to some, but not others, was to hear Jesus numbered among the true revolutionaries of the great story.

Thanks Richard for a truly innovative service. One cannot underestimate the satisfaction for any preacher to be supported by one's entire family, as was Richard. Photo, from left, David, Celia, Richard, Fiona, Ginny.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT** - COME AND HEAR *Rev Dr Robert Stringer*, formerly of the Methodist Church of NZ and now with the United Church of Australia in Melbourne, discussing the challenges facing the indigenous people of West Papua, and the brave response of the Papuan Church, rising to the challenge. These are issues that seldom capture the attention of the contemporary media and for the most part are avoided by politicians in New Zealand and Australia.

*When* - Sunday evening, March 4, 7pm

*Where* - Mornington Church, Galloway St

*Preceded by* a catered meal in the Church Lounge,

5.30 pm, \$15 per head.

This initiative is supported by Mornington Leaders Meeting and the Parish Council. All profits after expenses will be directed to the West Papuan Women's Office in Melbourne (Papuan, Indonesian and Australian women working together to support liberation and social justice groups on the ground in W/Papua.)

COME AND HEAR A STORY THAT WILL SHOCK YOU

AND ENCOURAGE YOU.

Sign up for the dinner today or ring Judy at 455-3727.

**CONGRATULATIONS** - The whole Parish joins in congratulating Donald and Barbara Phillipps on their celebration last week of 60 years of marriage. This year also marks Donald's 50th year of ministry—a still active ministry, since his retirement has not prevented him from continuing to take services, advise at a very senior level, and explore and record the history and heritage of the Methodist Church of Aotearoa/New Zealand. Well done, both of you!



**SYMPATHY** - On behalf of Mosgiel Church and the Dunedin Methodist Parish, I would like to convey my deepest sympathy and condolences to Eva Eaton for the the death of your great grandson. It was very hard time for you and your family to go through. Our prayers are you with you during this sad time.

## NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- The Connexional office will be managing the appeal for Tonga. If you would like to contribute, please put your contribution in an envelope labelled 'Tonga'. Cheques can be made out to *Dunediin Methodist Parish*. All this money will be banked by Lynley, then sent through to Christchurch. The Methodist Social Services in Tonga will distribute the aid.
- Laura Black's report to Parish Council included a HUGE THANKYOU to the folk in the Parish who have supported them setting up the Youth Transition House. They have their first referrals. The house still needs a **lawnmower, large food storage containers** (for flour etc), plastic containers with lids that clip on and off for **lunch boxes**, and 'there can *never* be enough **towels**'. When I visited on their open day, I was told **simple board games, adult colouring books** and **pencils** would also be appreciated. They hope to make the shed into a creative space too, including the opportunity to do artwork, so paints etc will be needed there later.
- END OF LIFE CHOICE BILL - As many of us will be aware, our Parliament is currently debating a bill put forward by David Seymour (Act Party) intended to reform current legislation surrounding euthanasia, or assisted dying. The Inter Churches Bioethics Council has circulated a submission opposing the proposed legislation in its current form. If you wish to see that submission you can contact Fay Richardson ([malk\\_com@hotmail.com](mailto:malk_com@hotmail.com)) or Colin Gibson ([colin.gibson22@icloud.com](mailto:colin.gibson22@icloud.com)) for an electronic copy. Private citizens' personal submissions will be accepted by the relevant Parliamentary committee, the ICBC Justice Select Committee, by Tuesday of this week. There may be a later opportunity for personal submissions from New Zealand citizens, if the bill proceeds further.



## **OUR LENTEN JOURNEY AND COVENANT PRAYER**

Last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday and we are now in the season of Lent. Over the next six weeks we will journey with Jesus towards the Cross. I suggest that you consider reading the Gospel of John during Lent. This Gospel, written sixty or so years after Jesus' death, provides us with many sacred insights into the experience and trauma of Jesus leading up to his crucifixion. John tells us that Jesus went up to Jerusalem just before the Passover celebrations began. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves and others sitting at tables exchanging money. He was not impressed. The last public action of Jesus' life according to John, was to angrily expel the money changers from the temple courts. When asked whether he had the authority to act in this dramatic way, Jesus referred to his imminent death and resurrection. (John 2:19) John highlights for us that it is only after his resurrection, that the authority of Jesus can be understood. The aggressive action of Jesus and his puzzling metaphorical statements must have infuriated the businessmen he castigated. Traditionally this story has been used to legitimate righteous anger. There are indeed times when as Christians, we are justified in actively "overturning the tables of economic exploitation" and challenging the inappropriate use of sacred space.

Jesus declares that "just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him" (John 3:14-15) Such statements are written in to the story as later theological interpretations. This is not to say however, that this was not indeed Jesus' own self understanding. According to John, more than any other Gospel writer, Jesus was very aware of the inevitability of his



death, and the reason for his death. Jesus, according to John, “came to live, die and rise again so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16) . All of this happened, John proclaims, primarily as an act of God’s love for the world, rather than out of God’s desire to condemn (John 3:18) Jesus compared his imminent death with a kernel of wheat, which needs to fall to the ground and die in order to produce many seeds (John 12:24) Jesus death was indeed the seed which led to the birth of our Church, an incredibly diverse international family which now has billions of members all around the planet.

The death of Jesus (John 19:30) and his burial (John 19:42) complete the tragedy. It was all over. As readers of John’s gospel however, John gives us many hints that this may not indeed be the case. Often, we are given access by the narrator of John’s gospel to the post-resurrection perspective. This can sometimes prevent us from appreciating the true depth of the horrific torture and abuse Jesus suffered, including nakedness, sexual violation and humiliation.

The traditional Methodist covenant prayer connects us to the mindset of Christ throughout his ministry, but especially as he approached his death on Calvary. Let’s make our covenant prayer our Lenten prayer this year, and always.

“I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you , or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal”

Greg Hughson