



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Find us on Facebook: **Dunedin Methodist Parish**

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PARISH BULLETIN

18 March 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 25th March

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	S Pole & Mosgiel LMT (Harvest Festival)
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBC

Dates to remember:

Today:	1.30pm	Musical Society concert, Mornington Church
21 March:	7.00pm	Lenten Studies continue, Mosgiel Church
21 March	2.00pm	Mosgiel mid-week service, 40 Forth Street
25 March	10.00am	Harvest Festival – Mosgiel
25 March	4.30pm	Explorers Group - Mornington
28 March	2pm	Mornington MWF - Mornington Church
28 March	7.30pm,	Open Education - Mornington Church
30 March	9.30am	Mornington Churches Good Friday Walkabout

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT 18 March 1.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. Please note the time is 1.30pm. Sandra Crawshaw, pianist and Highland Harmony, male barbershop group will be performing. This will be a very good concert. All welcome. Cost \$2

MOSGIEL MID WEEK SERVICE: Wednesday 21st March, 2pm @ 40 Forth Street, Mosgiel. All welcome

MOSGIEL HARVEST FESTIVAL: Sunday 25th March. Please bring produce either on Saturday from 3pm or Sunday morning. If you don't have produce you may like to bring something for the food bank.

EXPLORERS MEET POPE FRANCIS: The Explorers group will meet for their first session this year on Sunday 25 March at 4.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. All welcome, as they say—and we mean it! Our topic is Meeting Pope Francis. Intrigued? Come along and find out what it's all about.

OPEN EDUCATION BEGINS AGAIN - On Wednesday March 28 (note the later date), at Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, commencing at 7.30pm, we welcome our first speaker for the 2018 programme of Open Education, David Tombs, Howard Patterson Professor of Theology and Public Issues at the University of Otago. David's topic is the curse of domestic violence and abuse in New Zealand society. This is your opportunity to hear a first-class speaker discussing a social issue which concerns us all. Invite a friend or bring a group. Koha \$5 or a larger donation to the Women's Refuge. Before the talk, at 6pm, Judy Russell will provide a top quality meal at a very reasonable price (\$15). Sign in for the meal at Mornington Methodist, or ring 455 3727 to book your place at the table.

MORNINGTON MWF: The March meeting will take place on the **28th March at 2 p.m.** in the Church Lounge. The Guest Speaker will be Prof Colin Gibson, his subject being " Beatrix Potter goes to Church". If you are a fan of Peter Rabbit & friends - come along & hear if they went to Church also. All welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY MORNINGTON CHURCHES' WALKABOUT: The arrangements for the Good Friday walk for Mornington churches are as follows: We gather at the Presbyterian Church, Maryhill Terrace, at 9.30am, then make our way to St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Benhar Street, at 9.50am, then to St Mary's Anglican Church, Whitby Street, at 10.20am, finishing our walk at the Methodist Church at approximately 10.45am, where, after a short service we will share hot cross buns and morning tea/coffee.

FAITH THINKING 2018

These courses are jointly organised between the Department of Theology and Religion and some Dunedin Churches, and supported by Continuing Education at the University of Otago.

WHEN DID WE SEE YOU NAKED? THE BIBLE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Professor David Tombs, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago. Friday 20 April 7:00pm – 9:00pm, Saturday 21 April 9:00am – 12:30pm, All Saints Church Hall, 786 Cumberland Street

Each Course costs \$20. Please register online at www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation



REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN for the South Island Ministry Conference – 15th & 16th May 2018. You can register online at:

<http://www.etchurch.co.nz/conference>

We look forward to seeing you there.

CONFERENCE FOCUS We aim for this to be a place of *real people* sharing their story, both the joy & the pain. *Experienced* people in ministry sharing from their journey. *Great opportunities* for kicking around crunch issues and sharing good ideas. Heaps of *fun and encouragement*. *Worshipping together* & encouraging one another in prayer & fellowship.

- *Wide range of workshops that are small enough for in depth discussion*
- *Great opportunity for team building – bring others from your church*
- *Celebration Dinner – appreciating all you give in serving Christ*
- *All Welcome – this is not just for Ministers and Pastors – invite your teams*
- *Manna Christian Stores Bookstall*

WHERE East Taieri Church • 12a Cemetery Road - Mosgiel

Phone: 489 6308 x 722

Email: manager@etchurch.co.nz

WHEN Tues-Wed 15,16 May 2018

PLEASE NOTE: The Workshops will be spread out over ET Church and The Hub so jackets & umbrellas may be required

A DUNEDIN INTERFAITH COUNCIL PUBLIC LECTURE supported by the Centre for Theology and Public Issues and the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Otago University. **“Finding faith in a secular world: How interfaith engagement is revolutionising religion”**. **Dr Maureen Sier** www.interfaithscotland.org Director of Interfaith, Scotland - an outstanding interfaith specialist. The lecture will be followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Date and time: Saturday 24th March 2018, 2pm-3pm followed by afternoon tea (please bring a contribution)

Venue: Dunedin Quaker Centre, 15 Park Street (near the 24 hr dairy)

Cost: Koha/donation please towards Maureen’s travel expenses



Dr Maureen Sier is an inter-faith activist and international speaker who serves as the Director of Interfaith Scotland. Interfaith Scotland is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting good practice in interfaith dialogue, education, engagement and training nationally and internationally. Dr Sier was the keynote speaker at New Zealand’s National Interfaith Forum in 2009. For further information please contact Rev Greg Hughson, University Chaplain greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz ph 03 479 8497 www.dunedininterfaith.net.nz



STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Clutha Client Support Work: An elderly man was referred to the client support service for support to explore his options in getting glasses and new dentures. After meeting with John he explained that his dentures broke after he sneezed. His dentures landed on the concrete and broke. John did not realise he could apply to Work and Income for

financial support to pay for new ones, and has been making do with his broken dentures for 9 months. John says he has been unable to eat properly and has had to be more selective in the foods he can eat. John misses being able to eat salad and some of his favourite meats. He is also having trouble with ulcers on his gums because of the broken dentures.

The Client Support Worker then supported John to call Work and Income for an appointment to seek financial support. Quotes were given and Work and Income accepted John's application for new dentures.

John is waiting for an appointment at the Dental School and is looking forward to getting new dentures and being able to eat what he likes.

The Early Years Hub: Been a busy few weeks at The Hub, with 2018 off with a bang. We have been receiving lots of donations, and it is fantastic to see these goods going to families in need within the community. In particular I would like to highlight how great it has been to see some of the new Syrian refugee families making use of our free tables, we have been able to help set up baby furniture and clothing for some of the new expectant mothers who are also now a part the Friday 'Wild Things Kotuku Playgroup'. Such a delight to have them as a part of our Hub community.

Prison Literacy & Numeracy: One learner has completed his Step Up units but wants to continue coming to the class as he wants to explore a deeper understanding of the concepts covered during the course. For instance, reading more about Maori culture. Also the same learner wrote in his comments in the unit assessments, "I struggled to get the gist of this at first but when I understood it, I was stoked." Another comment from the same learner, "This was another enjoyable assessment as it was hands on and fun!"

THEOLOGY OPEN LECTURE - Professor John Barclay, Lightfoot Professor of Divinity, Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University
“Early Christianity and the Survival of the Poor”

Tuesday 20 March, 5.15-6.30pm

Archway 4 Lecture Theatre, University of Otago. **ALL WELCOME!**

Note also:

Research Seminar by Professor Barclay: “Reciprocity and Risk at the Economic Margins: Some Early Christian Examples”

Friday 16 March, 3.00-4.15pm. Venue TBC

Professor Barclay is one of the foremost New Testament scholars in the world today. His many books include *Paul and the Gift* (2017); *Pauline Churches and Diaspora Jews* (2011); *Against Apion: Translation and Commentary* (2006); *Jews in the Mediterranean Diaspora from Alexander to Trajan (323 BCE – 117 CE)* (1996); *Colossians and Philemon* (1997); *Obeying the Truth: A Study of Paul’s Ethics in Galatians* (1988).



LAST YEAR THE U.K. celebrated 50 years since the passing of the law decriminalising homosexual acts between men. (There had never

been a similar law regarding women.) In NZ we had to endure a further 19 years until the passage of the Homosexual Law Reform Bill in 1986. Until then Malcolm and I were criminals who could have been jailed for loving one another. Further reforms in subsequent years have brought emancipation for gay and lesbian people in this country. You can imagine how much I value these changes which were bitterly opposed by many, particularly by religious authorities. Maybe you signed the petition against law reform promoted by the Salvation Army?

I have recently returned from a visit to Malaysia, a predominantly Moslem country where allegations of sodomy were used to jail a potential prime minister. Last month in neighbouring Indonesia, the world’s biggest Muslim-majority nation, police forcibly cut the hair of a group of transgender women and made them wear “male” clothing

amid a crackdown on the LGBT community. They were held in jail for “re-education” until they acted like “real men”.

The editorial of the NZ Listener for March 10 comments on the refusal of an Iranian delegation to shake the hand of a female MP and of two male MPs who, in solidarity with their colleague, refused to shake the hands of the visitors. It states that “it is our duty as hosts to ensure that people’s boundaries are respected,” but goes on to say that “equally, we’re entitled to make it clear what our boundaries are. Discrimination against women will be viewed as disrespectful in New Zealand! In the same way as we deplore it on the grounds of race or sexual orientation. We do not need to be confrontational about it, but we do need to be clear.”

The Dunedin Methodist Parish rightly welcomes and supports the Moslem refugee families making new homes in our community. Some are coming from societies where gay men are publicly executed by being thrown from the tops of buildings, where women may not drive or work or have legal recourse when they are assaulted. If the simple act of shaking a woman’s hand is unacceptable, how do we as Christian friends respond to other cultural and religious practices with which we disagree?

Perhaps our parish has already answered this question. We have chosen to accept as our next Presbyter and Parish Superintendent a gay man in a long-term relationship. Our welcome to and support for David and Darren will be our opportunity to announce to our friends and to the wider community our belief in the equality and human rights of all people, male and female, young and old, black and white, gay and straight. In the words of our beloved Colin Gibson,

“We’re the family of God who finds nothing strange or odd, who delights in individuality,
Be we bald or richly blessed, be we shaggy, shaved or tressed, we’re the family of God, Yes, you and me.”

Euan Thomson