



# 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 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:elaineross@xtra.co.nz">elaineross@xtra.co.nz</a>	489 7663
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>		
<b>Mornington:</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
<b>Bulletin Coordinator:</b>	Rachael Masterton <a href="mailto:rmasterton@actrix.co.nz">rmasterton@actrix.co.nz</a>	

## PARISH BULLETIN

1<sup>st</sup> April 2018

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> April

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	M Hardy
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBC

**MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April @ 1:30 pm in the hall lounge. Mrs Ann Williams & Mrs Betty Riach will be our guest speakers, telling us about Heritage Roses & some of the history behind them.. All very welcome.

**THANKS** - I just want to convey my thanks to all those who participated in the Lenten studies during the Lent Season. We did six studies in six weeks and it was a huge effort. May we all feel inspired and motivated to do what God wants us to do during Easter Season.

**WEDNESDAY 04 APRIL - 'Planets, Life, and Meaning in an Incredible Universe'**. A public lecture by **Jennifer Wiseman**.

Co-hosted with New Zealand Christians in Science NZCIS. With thanks to the Stuart Residence Halls Council for their generous support for Dr Wiseman's visit.

Dr Wiseman is an astronomer, and a Fellow and former President of the American Scientific Affiliation. Dr Wiseman discovered periodic comet 114P/Wiseman-Skiff while working as a research assistant in 1987. After research fellowships at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and the Johns Hopkins University, she joined NASA in 2003. She is currently a senior astrophysicist at the Goddard Space Flight Center, where she previously headed the Laboratory for Exoplanets and Stellar Astrophysics.

Weds 4 April, 5.15pm-6.30pm, Castle 2 Lecture Theatre, University of Otago

Professor David Tombs - Centre for Theology and Public Issues

Rev Greg Hughson - member of local NZ Christians in Science Committee & University Chaplain

**ON SUNDAY 25TH** Mosgiel celebrated Harvest Festival with produce going to our FOOD BANK. Thank you to all who brought along produce to help our display & support the FOOD BANK.





**REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN** for the South Island Ministry Conference – 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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



## STORY FROM THE MISSION

**Ōtepoti YTH:** It's been a busy month at the YT House. All the gutters and windows have been cleaned the grass mowed and the beds have arrived. The back fence has been repaired and we have managed to keep one of the apple trees .The Open Home on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January was well attended with more than 60 people coming along. There were representatives from all our referral agencies, other NGOs and members of the Methodist Parish. We have since had visits from Oranga Tamariki Case Workers, people keen to volunteer and Case Managers from Work and Income. Everyone has been keen to find out about our criteria and how to refer. The House has been well equipped from the many generous donations we have received. We have three freezers, so have had a conversation with Kiwi Harvest and they will be supplying us with some food staples like bread, vegies and whatever else may be available throughout the year and there is a plan to buy in bulk whenever possible with the help of Dianne at the Little Citizens Kitchen.



**DID GLORY LIGHT HIS YOUTHFUL  
FACE..... ?**

How often, over the course of your life, have you had a truly exceptional moment or experience when you felt transported to a higher plane? It might have been triggered by an event, a sunset or sunrise, a piece of music or a work of art, a moment of sheer joy which continues to thrill to your soul when recalled. One such moment happened as a friend and I, traveling to



Gore in the wee small hours, were treated to a glorious sight south of Clinton. It was a beautiful night, the Milky Way particularly clear and the stars more numerous and brighter than usual. Suddenly, the heavens were transformed into a huge vaulted cosmic cathedral. Aurora Australis soared, swooped and danced around this heavenly space. We stopped, got out of the car. Not a sound broke the 'stilly night'. Even the animals in the fields uttered not a sound as if, like us, they wanted to capture in their memories, this awe-inspiring moment. Truly a transcendent experience.

The dictionary defines 'transcendent' as, going beyond normal or physical human experience....not limited by the material universe. Obviously an Aurora is of the material universe, but its affect transcended a 'normal' experience. For me, it was a 'God' moment.

I sometimes recall this experience especially during Lent and wonder if Jesus, during the course of his short life, had many such experiences. His baptism, desert, mountain top and transfiguration experiences would qualify as such. However, I keep being drawn back to his experience in the garden where his agony, fear, and deep distress were blurted out as he prayed that 'this cup might pass from him'. He didn't want to die.

At what point in his short life did he first become aware that his life was not going to end well? Would his transcendent moments have been sufficient to nourish his soul as he faced the horror to come? And...

Did glory light his youthful face  
as breathlessly he gazed with joy upon the royal hues  
of gay Anemones?

And did he ponder  
wondering if he could bear to  
close his eyes for a last time  
upon the grandeur and the

sweet of sunset on the sea  
and dew upon the Cedar trees?.....

The poet, assuming Jesus' awareness of his untimely death, is reflecting on what might have been in Jesus' mind as he pondered the beauty of creation and the sweetness of life. It caught my attention. The poetically crafted language invoked the sights, smells and sounds of nature capturing the feelings one has when confronted with jaw dropping beauty. If Jesus had foreknowledge his life would end in a terrible and untimely way, it is comforting to think he experienced times when he was able to transcend the dark place this knowledge would have occupied in his consciousness.

None the less, life would have been hard, uncomfortable and full of risk because he chose the 'road less traveled', living counter-intuitively to family, culture, contemporaries, his faith community and authorities. A few weeks ago, Marcia reminded us of the 'angry Jesus' when he banished the money changers from the temple because they were fleecing people as they prepared to offer their sacred rituals. Jesus' humanity meant he knew the fullness of life in all its messy dysfunction and glorious moments.....

.....And was it then while beauty blessed his mind  
and health gave vigour to his limbs  
and grace his spirit crowned.....  
that Jesus young and strong and glad  
spoke to his own heart thus –  
what greater love could be than his, who,  
for his friends will die?

Jesus death was political..he put his life on the line repeatedly when he stood firmly against Roman oppression and other forms of injustice.

My caveat to myself when reading this poem, crafted in the language of romance and gentility, is the danger of sentimentalising and sanitising Jesus life and horrific death.

I need to keep in mind the less than transcendent reality of his daily life, a life lived on the edge, and his death, crucifixion without glory.

The Jesus way was the way 'less traveled'. A way of risk culminating in violent death leaving his Mother and followers in overwhelming grief, fear and despair. Nothing very sentimental or romantic here.

Yet

Easter Sunday saw transcendence birth new hope. We don't know what really happened, but something did. The post resurrection church took a long long time to regroup and become a dynamic institution. Different beliefs caused strife and tension in the nascent church and the world was often indifferent, sometimes hostile to its influence. But it survived by fair and sometimes foul means... the Church by any definition is an imperfect organisation, but that does not invalidate it. In some form or other, I believe it will continue to survive.

Transcendent moments, or God moments, are gifts which sometimes we recognise only retrospectively.

Rather like Jacob who was compelled to acknowledge that 'Surely God was in this place and I didn't know it'

This Easter Sunday may we continue to take hope, inspired by those transcendent moments when God breaks into the dailiness of our living, nourishing our interior lives and providing the impetus to do what needs to be done, to enable rebirth of the Church in the face of steady decline.

Trish Patrick

Excerpts from poem by C. Baird.