



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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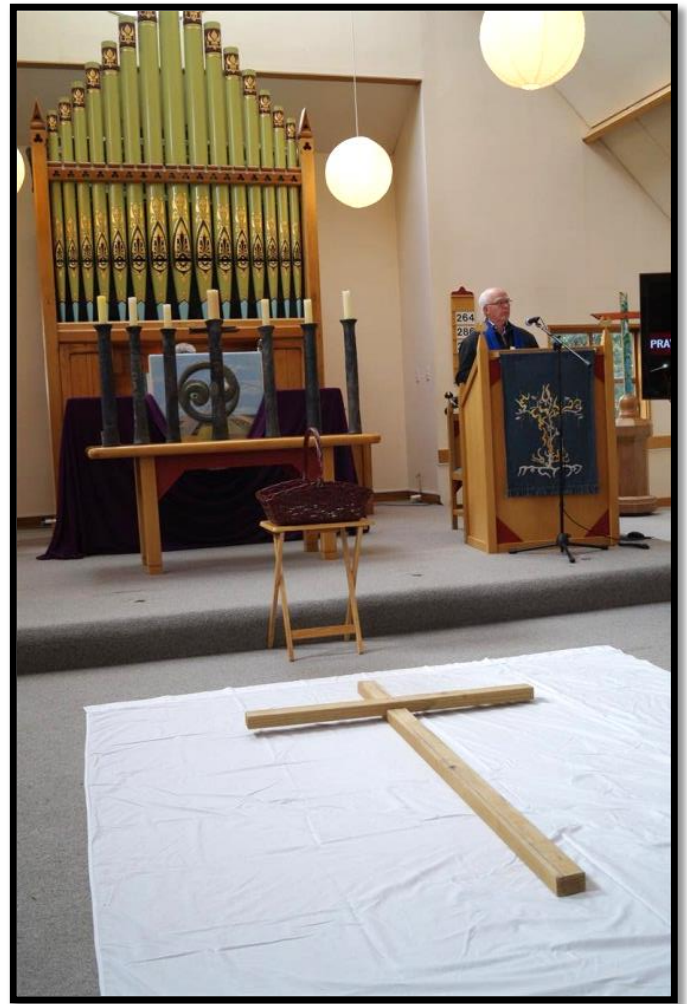
PARISH BULLETIN

8th April 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 15th April

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole
10.00 am	Mosgiel	R Masterton
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBC

THANKS - For all those who were involved in the Walk of the Cross around Dunedin, representing our Parish. I know that members of the Mornington and Mosgiel churches took part in this event on Friday. Maybe some other members of the Parish joined the South Dunedin and North East Valley Walk of the Cross. My family joined the Mosgiel churches this year and it was a great witness to the power of the cross that brings us together in our diversity.

EASTER IMAGES 2018



PUBLIC ISSUES FOR PARISH NEWSLETTERS & BULLETINS 8 APRIL 2018

Our prison population is higher than it's ever been with 10,700 currently in prison.

There are plans to spend over 1 \$billion on 3000 new prison beds at Waikeria prison. At the same time, the Prime Minister plans to reduce the prison population by 30% (over 10 years). She referred to the mass imprisonment of Māori as a symptom of a failed system.

Minister of Justice Andrew Little says prisons and Parishes are ready for action on no new prison building, and Public is a waste of money and a waste of lives and reform is on the way. Sometimes supports reducing the prison population.

Public Questions website

http://www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/index3

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH WEBSITE ENQUIRY

Name: David & Joanna Godfrey

Phone: 021 239 0055

Email: David@godfreyz.co.uk

Hello. We are a married couple in our mid-twenties from the UK and we have been travelling around New Zealand on a working holiday visa. Joanna is starting a job in Dunedin next week and David is still looking for employment.

We are looking for somewhere to stay while we sort accommodation. If anyone has a room to rent, either short term or long term, please could you contact us. Tel: 021 239 0055. Happy Easter,
David and Joanna Godfrey



STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Little Citizens: With the increase in our licenced numbers for infants and toddlers in the Kiwi Room, we have had 12 new enrolments in recent weeks, including three 6 month old babies. This has been a huge challenge for teachers in the Kiwi Room. We have had to settle children into an environment that is new, strange and unsettling for them. Babies often settle quickly into this new environment, but 3 of our 12-20 month old new children have struggled with separating from their Mums, and settling into the Kiwi Room. We have worked with whānau to establish relationships, and develop a sense of belonging and whanaungatanga for them in our room. We have made changes to our daily programme, holding a second mat time to settle and prepare children for lunch and a period of transition, also giving teachers time to tidy up and complete last nappy changes.



Little Citizens' Client Support Work: A parent came to talk about some problems she was facing with stretched finances and social isolation. She also thought she'd benefit from learning more about her child's development and ways she could encourage his learning. We worked through options, and she agreed to a referral to Family Start. Her whānau worker will be able to support with child development information, and to build her confidence as a parent and form new relationships.



ST KILDA, DUNEDIN AND OAMARU COMBINED EASTER CAMP



MOSGIEL CHURCHES WALK OF THE CROSS



THE WAY OF SEASONS AND US

Fresh from the season of Easter - the Good News. Or are you high from choc' bunnies and eggs/ or the excitement of the invasion of the city, maybe getting away from the city has refreshed you?

Now there's autumn to enjoy, while nature and we prepare for the harsher time, the keeping a low profile time, the slumber time! We can stop many things but we can't stop the seasons so best to make the most, and autumn is that time when we get the pleasure of a colour change in the foliage and the sunrises and sunsets.

Harvesting time for the farmer and perhaps for the home gardener, the farmer to his late cut for hay or silage – the sort of tasks we city fellows know little about. But it is a time also when the keen photographer takes a trip to Central O' looking for a harvest of images, so easily taken on today's digital.

Or maybe we escape over water, where within in a day or two, we can change seasons. Spare a thought for our early settlers, ninety days travel – if they were lucky with the weather – then arriving in a new land with very different seasons.

Seasons – our Easter sprung from a seasonal festival – the pagan festival of Eostre, the Saxon goddess of the dawn and spring, the time to celebrate new birth, and no doubt how to make birth, and the new surge in growth. Doesn't quite work in with our autumn season!

Christianity did its best to take over and adapt the pagan rituals, but a number still remain in a modern form – easter bunnies – from the moon-hare, hot cross buns from the sacred cakes or 'bouns' offered to the goddess. But of course with the cross, many of us think of it as a Christian addition though it also has a pagan link.

Well, just as Christianity took over pagan festivals so commercialism/ materialism, sport and other 'attractions' are taking over the Christian festivals.

This Easter has had, to my observation an overdose of intrusions by a little god or two to the Easter festival - an overdose of 'important' events.

Important for the dollars they bring into the community that supposedly 'trickle down' so we all benefit.

Are the 'attractions' outside the Church the reason for the increased number of people who, according to statistics, are not now affiliated with a church? There is also an increasing number of church buildings being closed which indicates there are fewer attending. It's hard going being a Christian.

* * *

They struggled through the crowds that moved in the opposite direction to them. Neither of them were pushy people so they went gently, they believed everyone has a right to choose the way they go, he and his companion believed their way was the correct way.

Life did seem at times to be getting more difficult, they felt as they walked and talked together. They now felt they were on an incline, some coming the other way were actually slipping and sliding and there seemed to be less of a crowd.

They looked ahead over and through the 'otherwayers' (as they called them) noticing more space and seeing others going the same direction as they were, so encouraged they moved toward them. The light was improving, up ahead there appeared faint rays, and every so often a brighter ray like a beacon would stream into the haze.

Soon they were shoulder to shoulder with those going their way, they felt more energy being in a team, being able to converse between dodging the 'otherwayers'. And now that they could see the faces coming toward them they were more sure than ever that they were going the right way. Now they realized the reason for being born, the reason for living – but God it takes an effort.

Gordon Abernethy