



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

3rd June 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 10th June

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole
10.00 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

Dates to remember:

4 Jun	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Our People Our Heritage – Mornington Hall
5 Jun	1.30 pm	Mosgiel MWF, Hall

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 5th June 1:30pm in the hall. Our speaker will be from across the road from our hall, **Mr Paul Reet** who will speak to us about his work there. His talk he has entitled **MENTAL HEALTH & WELL BEING**. All those interested are very welcome.

OUR PEOPLE OUR HERITAGE

On Queens Birthday, join us to generate some ideas about how we can capture and share some of the amazing stories of our people and places. Let's celebrate our heritage, share our faith and remember what makes each of us special in the eyes of God. We have people, places of worship, creative works of music, art and craft, memorials. We have supported many great projects over the years and, together, joined in many activities expressing our faith in action. Let's find fun and effective ways to share, to create a legacy of who we are and what we are about, for the future. Anyone interested from across the wider Parish is welcome. Let's do it! Contact Dale Meredith 467 2070 for more information. Monday 4 June 2-4pm, Mornington Church Hall.

MORNING-TEA ROSTER - Mornington Church are in need of more Volunteers to take a turn at doing the Morning-tea each Sunday. If you are able to help please contact Helen Messervy Ph.476 2850 as soon as possible. This invitation does of course include the men of our congregation. Thank you.

WE ARE DESPERATE for **yellow, orange, gold, brown, silver, red** and **black** plastic bottle tops for an art installation in July, so if you have any of these (even one or two!) please do pop them in an envelope and give to Hilda or Greg Hughson. We'll send them in the internal mail to Tessa Mills, NZ Marine Studies Centre, Portobello.

WHAT A PLEASURE to share the company of VINCE NEAVES and his family at Mornington on a recent Sunday. The glad occasion was to celebrate Vince's graduation a day before with a Master's degree MInSt (Master of International Studies.)

Vince is remembered as a talented but rather shy member of Y@M. But what a pleasure to hear him speak of his special



interests in his chosen field to masters level. As an undergraduate he studied politics and sociology with an emphasis on international relations. Moving on to Masters he has focused on the Horn of Africa and the study of water politics as it plays out in that troubled area.

Asked what is his current interest on the international scene Vince was in no doubt - "China's changing demographic, and its impact on the world in coming years."

Vince is currently job hunting. His dream would be to get into foreign affairs but as a stepping stone any government department would be a step in the right direction. GO WELL, VINCE. PHOTO Vince (centre) with his family Alastair, Rebecca, Jake and suitably attired Dr Colin Gibson.

PRAYER REQUEST - I believe in the power of prayer like many of you in the Parish. Please continue to pray for those who are sick and frail, who are isolated during this cold weather. Please also pray for the future of our Parish and its leadership in this period of transition.



IT CAN BE SURPRISING how a newspaper headline can send your mind down the wrong track! A heading for a recent ODT article had me imagining all sorts of unknown possibilities. Associated with the 150 years celebrations of the Roxburgh Church, the headline read: – “Surprises in Church History”. What surprises had the Teviot parish discovered, I wondered. Could there have been a murder inside or just outside the church, which had never been spoken about? Or maybe they had discovered a time-capsule no one had known about, which contained some surprising secrets. I approached the article with much interest, waiting for the moment when the surprises would be unveiled. What I was treated to, was a new spire added in 1919 and a stained glass window added after the Second World War. Hardly a surprise. Both these items would be well known to any church member or member of the local community. The headline had set me up and I was left

disappointed. This disappointment stirred me to amuse myself by writing about it.

And, on reflection, it was more than disappointment I experienced. I was extremely embarrassed that after 150 years these were the surprises the church had to offer from its life in this particular community. Yet I must not be too hard on the writer of the article; I wonder what interesting surprises I could write about from the various churches with which I have been associated. Maybe I would not be able to offer anything better, although I hope I wouldn't use the word "surprises" to describe the obvious.

"Surprise" is such an exciting word, offering much promise. It requires careful use; perhaps humour does it best. Consider these jokes, which invoke a true sense of surprise:

A husband once remarked... People ask us the secret of our long marriage. It's really very simple. Two evenings a week we take time to go out to a restaurant. A quiet dinner, soft music, some candlelight, a slow walk home. (Pause) She goes Tuesday; I go Fridays.

A minister, who was not very popular with his congregation, announced from the pulpit Sunday, "The Lord Jesus has told me He has work for me elsewhere and that I am to pick up and move to another church." The congregation rose spontaneously and sang, "What a friend we have in Jesus..."

Both these Jokes, give authentic meaning to the word surprise.

I'm left pondering the ODT article, wondering: does such a headline suggest the church is just a joke – and not a very good one at that? How might we be inspired to think differently? What surprises are we discovering, here in our parish that would be worthy of a headline in a future ODT article: "Surprises in Dunedin Methodist Parish"?