



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

29th July 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 5th August

9.30 am	Mornington	D Poultney
10.00 am	Mosgiel	D Phillipps
11.00 am	Glenaven	D Poultney
11.30 am	St Kilda	M Hardy

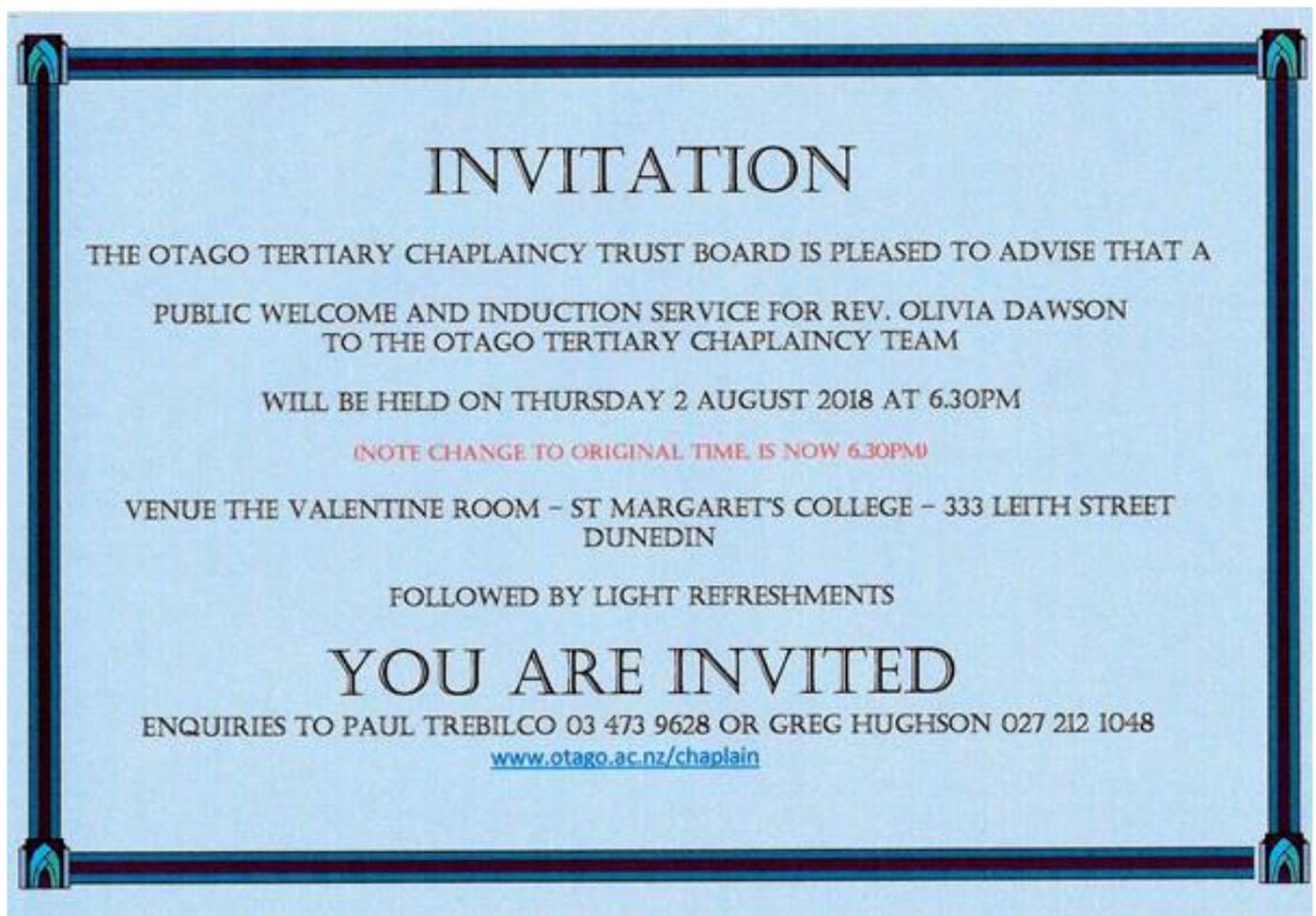
Dates to remember:

4 August 7.00pm Induction Service for David Poultney, Mornington

THE INDUCTION SERVICE FOR OUR NEW MINISTER

At 7pm on Saturday evening, 4 August, at Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, the Parish will hold its Induction service for our new minister, the Rev David Poultney. This is an important and significant service in the life of the Parish, and we encourage everyone who can to attend. There will be choir singing and the service will be led by Rev Peter Taylor, Synod Superintendent for Otago Southland Synod. The preacher will be the Rev Andrew Doubleday, Superintendent of the Evangelical Network and Presbyterian at Opawa Community Church in Christchurch. Please 'bring a plate' for a light supper after the service, and an opportunity to meet each other as a Parish.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TO ORIGINAL TIME – Now 6.30 pm



INVITATION

THE OTAGO TERTIARY CHAPLAINCY TRUST BOARD IS PLEASED TO ADVISE THAT A
PUBLIC WELCOME AND INDUCTION SERVICE FOR REV. OLIVIA DAWSON
TO THE OTAGO TERTIARY CHAPLAINCY TEAM

WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 2 AUGUST 2018 AT 6.30PM

(NOTE CHANGE TO ORIGINAL TIME, IS NOW 6.30PM)

VENUE THE VALENTINE ROOM - ST MARGARET'S COLLEGE - 333 LEITH STREET
DUNEDIN

FOLLOWED BY LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

YOU ARE INVITED

ENQUIRIES TO PAUL TREBILCO 03 473 9628 OR GREG HUGHSON 027 212 1048
www.otago.ac.nz/chaplain

OPEN LECTURE - 15th ANNUAL PEACE LECTURE

Can we think our way to peace? **Dr Rachael Kohn** of *The Spirit of Things*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation. **St David Lecture Theatre, Monday 20 August, 6.15-7.30pm**

Supper to follow at All Saints' Anglican Church Hall, 786 Cumberland St.

Please share this event via Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/events/673980249629904/>

Further information: Rev Greg Hughson University Chaplain
greg.hughson@otago.c.nz 03 479 8497

THANK YOU - I would like to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to the leadership and everyone in the Dunedin Methodist Parish for your support in my ministry and my family in the last seven and half years. There is no word to describe our appreciation. May God continue to bless the ministry of the Parish as you work together with the new appointment.

GRATITUDE - I would like to thank Katrina Rawson of the Mission for the years that she was instrumental in formatting and printing our Parish orders of service, bulletins, articles, and Preaching Plans. Her expertise reflected on the works she has done. Thanks for her understanding and patience when things were getting late on the due time.

TO MY FAMILY - I would like to convey deep gratitude to Naomi, Solomon, Sekonaia, Kakala, and Naomi Jr for your companionship in my ministry in the last seven and half years. It was your support that gave me strength in challenging moments. Glory be to God.

Siosifa

THE ARRIVAL OF FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN at the Mornington services present a challenge to involve them in the worship experience. How best to respond to this opportunity is up for discussion at the next Leaders Meeting on Aug 7. Meantime worship leaders are fast learning to be ready to accommodate children in the order of service, and marvellous imaginative stories have proven welcome additions to the last two Mornington services - welcomed as much by adults as children. An example was Colin Gibson's story of "Augustus and his Smile" - Augustus being a tiger who thought he'd lost his smile, and only after a fruitless search for it among the forest creatures saw his own face reflected in a puddle - smile and all! It was a wonderfully evocative story, aided and abetted by the presence of a very large soft toy tiger that charmed us all. *Photo courtesy of Greg Hughson conveys the contagion of the whole occasion.*





STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Putaiiao Tamariki: One of the parents of PUTAIAO Tamariki children today at the whanau celebration stood up and did a haka on his own as a thank you!! A parent had also bought the volunteer a special gift as child always said how good she was. Parents and children are very sad it's all over.

Corrections: We have had some great successes in Intensive Literacy and Numeracy (ILN) lately. Two students went from a step 1 to a step 3 which is a huge initial jump to make and now makes building on their success to get to Step 4 or above more within their reach. Another great ILN moment recently was when delivering a lesson on percentages, a student was ecstatic about understanding how to work out the percentage of a number. He commented about how clever he felt knowing this.

If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission.



AN EVERYDAY WORLD

Arthur Mee's *Golden Pathway*, an eight-volume anthology for children, had a section of poetry which began, as I recall from an age ago, with these lines from Robert Louis Stevenson –

The world is so full of a number of things,
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings

How I wish that were true!

You may remember Carl Sagan, the popular scientist who captivated television audiences of the 1970s and '80s. He once said: "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." The trouble with this bit of common-sense is that it doesn't satisfy the skeptics who, if they have nothing else to offer insist "There's no proof, there's no proof!"

Nor does it stop the host of enthusiasts for extra-terrestrial interference in human history from putting forward unbelievable claims to explain events and trends within human society. I have been reading about a gathering in Pasadena, California, last week, under the title of AlienCon, offering its thousands of attendees the chance to consider whether there is government involvement in secret dealings with aliens, whether we are alone in the universe - or, quite simply, what are our origins.

Increasingly our world is struggling to cope with the mass of information poured out daily by the media. Some with inquiring minds have the ability, as it were, to sort out the wheat from the chaff. They can honestly put aside matters beyond their skill to explain. But there are others, and there have always been others, since the beginning of human culture, who have looked for extraordinary answers.

A thousand years ago it was God, or a whole pantheon of gods, who were believed to be responsible for the inexplicable. When we talk about the birth of Jesus, we still turn to God and angels and wise men - and there are people who say, "This is ridiculous?" Isn't it! But this recent conference did explore spirituality and the mystery of life in an increasingly secular, data-driven culture – and it did offer some seekers an origin story. The Good News at the heart of Jesus' message has very little to do with the unusual, and nothing to do with the paranormal. There's a lovely story about the time Jesus was speaking to the crowd who, he said, always wanted signs and wonders. He had no time for those who wanted miracles – he much preferred the sensible farmer who looked at the sky and from the shape of the clouds or the direction of the wind could, for example, fairly accurately predict the weather for the next day or so. Nothing extraordinary about that – just long experience turned into common-sense precaution.

Today's equivalent of that old farmer is the scientist who reads the evidence of years of collected data, backed up by increasing examples from around the world of 'extreme weather events' as they are called. All that evidence supports the fact of global warming, and it is alarming, even totally irresponsible, for a world leader such as the President of the United States to assert otherwise.

Throughout our Parish Siosifa has consistently reminded us of the threat that global warming presents to his Tongan people, and our near neighbours. To do nothing by way of preparation for the effects of rising sea levels is not an option. Is it enough if we only adjust building standards for the South Dunedin area – surely not? It is crass stupidity to spend time wondering whether aliens were responsible for the extinction of dinosaurs or the building of the pyramids. There's work to be done **now** to prepare for climate change.

Back to Jesus of Nazraeth, and to an emphasis that (I believe) we are too inclined to overlook. The heart of the Gospel is the death and resurrection of Jesus – it is not the birth in Bethlehem. We have been so dazzled by the merchandise of Christmas that we overlook the miracle of Easter, which took place in the darkness of a tomb.

In between those two events lies the life of a peasant teacher, walking the roads and sharing a simple message about an everyday God of love. He told this in story-form and ordinary people knew what he was talking about. We belong in that same everyday world. It needs minding, now.

Donald Phillipps