



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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

Presbyters:	Rev. David Poultney	022 350 2263
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	453 3310
Parish Stewards:	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
	Dale Meredith	467 2070
	John Hardy	472 7377
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	David: parish@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600
	Katrina: admin@mmsouth.org.nz	
Parish Prayer Convenor:	Elaine Merrett:	489 7663
	elaineross@xtra.co.nz	
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		
Bulletin Coordinator:	Rachael Masterton rmasterton@actrix.co.nz	

PARISH BULLETIN

5th August 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 12th August

9.30 am	Mornington	C Gibson
10.00 am	Mosgiel	R Masterton
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

Dates to remember:

7 August	1.30 pm	Mosgiel MWF, Church Hall
8 August	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting, St Kilda

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 7th August @ 1:30pm our speaker will be Vivienne Galletly, Hospital Chaplain. All very welcome.

DUNEDIN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING to be held at St Kilda Methodist Church on Wednesday 8 August at 7:30pm.

CONGRATULATIONS NATHAN!

Beryl Neutze's grandson Nathan has been selected to represent NZ Basketball at the 2018 FIBA Under-18 Asian Championship in Thailand this month. The team is known as the Junior Tall Blacks.

Prior to this Nathan had an opportunity to play in front of US College coaches and scouts, with a view to securing a scholarship to a US College to study and play basketball. We wish Nathan all the best for these exciting experiences.

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



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Milton Hub Client Support Work: Harry presented at the office looking for help to apply to Work and Income for some financial support. Harry said he had rung WINZ and they had suggested he come to our service to get some support to help him apply online. After talking with Harry it became clear he did not have the technologies needed to apply online, i.e., no computer or cell phone. Harry also did not want to 'waste his time' applying if Work and Income could not help him. The thought of providing 'a mountain of paperwork' was off putting for Harry.

Harry is a 59 year old man who lives on his own. He has no children and no partner. Last month he had a stroke and was hospitalised for some time. Harry said he was on his last week of sick leave entitlement and his medical certificate was for another 2 weeks and would be reviewed. Harry stated he has annual leave but doesn't want to use this as he knows he will have follow up hospital appointments once he goes back to work and will need the leave to cover those absences. Harry is unable to drive and will need to be reassessed before he can get the 'go ahead' to drive again. This was another barrier for Harry in applying for financial support as he would need to travel for an appointment.

Harry was supported in his application and this required the client support worker to ring the WINZ office to find an alternative way for Harry to apply for the benefit. An appointment was made for Harry to

attend and a list of what he needed was emailed to the client support worker before the meeting. The client support worker provided transport for Harry to attend the meeting. Harry was supported at his meeting with Work and Income.

Outcome - Harry was happy his application for financial assistance from Work and Income was successful as he was now able to concentrate on getting better without the pressure of rushing back to work to pay the bills at the expense of his health.

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.

THE LONG DELAYED FAREWELL to REV SIOSIFA POLE at Mosgiel last Sunday was a bitter-sweet occasion. "Bitter" because after a "false start" last December this really was a farewell to a leader who has both given and received from his experience as our Superintendent these last 7 1/2 yrs and we will all miss him. There were a few tears in evidence but many more that were hidden as Siosifa was presented with gifts, among them a beautifully carved waaka, representing the journey we have shared together. But "sweet" as well, as the people called Methodist in Dunedin gathered to celebrate friendships forged in and around Siosifa's ministry, and the knowledge that as he goes to his new position as Acting Director, Taiwi Pacifika Ministry in September he does so much more richly equipped from the growth we have all seen in him in his years in Dunedin.

But so far I have not mentioned Naomi and the family. That is the good part. They will be with us at least to the end of this year - Naomi, Solomon, Sekonaia, Kakala and Naomi Jr - and as if to guarantee a future

relationship they have bought a house in South Dunedin. Congratulations!

"The ties that bind" were much in evidence at Mosgiel last Sunday. *Photos: Siosifa with Stewards Past and Present; and with ministerial colleagues.*





THE PARISH - a reflection

We are in a rare and maybe unprecedented space, having said *bon voyage* to Siosifa P last weekend it is *bon jour* to David P this weekend. Unlike the time-honoured Methodist process providing at least a month to effect all manner of readjustments between presbyters, we have had scarcely time to catch our breath. But no worries. Nothing has been "per usual" in the Parish since Siosifa put his name in for stationing about half way through last year, and since then the unexpected has happened at every turn of a convoluted process - which as Sifa will tell you, with feeling, does not always reflect well on the process and those who administer it.

Yet, here we are. Sifa is going to an important administrative position in Pacifica, Naomi and the family will be with us for who knows how long, and as of today David with this multiplicity of gifts is installed as our Superintendent, with his partner, Darren not far away. Not wanting to be too melodramatic about it, could Charles Wesley (1707-88) have been in future mode with Dunedin Parish in mind when he wrote that marvellous Conference hymn

*But out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford and hides our life above.*

Having said all that, however, it cannot be stated too strongly that we are not a church that depends on the charisma of our leading minister to hold us together and make us grow. The future health or otherwise of the Parish will not depend on the "success" of newcomer David Poultney. For him, to carry such an expectation from us, or of his own making, is surely a burden too heavy to bear. Thank God, we have long since abandoned the personality cult approach to presbyteral ministry, and David's first instinct will be to absorb the culture of the Parish to which he is appointed, get to know the people, and get a grip on how

best he can exercise ministry in this place. He will not be looking to be a stellar leader, but a team player with a specialised role within the team.

Of course, David has one big advantage. His journey in ministry sprang out of this Parish and I can well remember the enthusiasm with which a group of us embraced his candidature and sent him forward for national assessment. He and Darren lived in a smallish house in Pinehill and alternated their church going between Glenaven and Broad Bay. Both communities left their mark on David and he took something of their ethos into the wider ministry, first to Hamilton and then to Nelson.

So now what has changed? Nothing and Everything. For the most part we are the same people, but every component of the parish except St Kilda is less numerous and that much weaker. The recent death of Neil Thompson highlights that even the most dedicated and able of the traditional leaders of the Parish are aging and some will likewise die during David's term of office. Factors like that must be reckoned with. Some of the vigour that David will remember well is less evident now. But the signs are not all negative. Far from it. St Kilda especially shows signs of flexing its muscle and in a characteristically Tongan way. One suspects that even the loss of Siosifa's wise leadership will not hold them back from further building their community, and taking the initiative to expand their amenities. They deserve encouragement, and David can lend his authority to their efforts as they continue to train their young Tongan leadership. The signs are good.

Numerically Mornington is now number two in the Parish, but despite some wear and tear the distinctive ethos of that community is as much to the fore as ever. David will be encouraged by many things, among them the happy unity in the congregation; the pastoral care headed by Baryl Neutze; the ever-fresh and amazingly relevant music brought to every service; a leaders meeting with an agenda of hope and purpose and a womens group that boxes well above its weight in terms of vision and

service; and not forgetting an Open Education programme and Explorers Group, both of which continue to throw open some of the most testing issues of our day.

About Mosgiel and Glenaven I will not comment. Both are residual groups from once flourishing congregations. In David's time they may be expected to further diminish, even die, but who is to say what spark can yet rejuvenate flagging efforts with new life and vigour?

Uppermost among strategic questions is what to do about the aging Sunday School building at Mornington. To strengthen and upgrade it, or pull it down and build anew? It's a pressing question and the answer cannot be delayed much longer. Both alternatives are expensive. A member of the congregation recently did some rough sums and concluded there is not too much difference in overall cost of what would be required. But a deeper and much more profound question involves the profile of Methodism in Dunedin city. Given that the Galloway St site is far from ideal, the notion of leaving a beloved Church and seeking a central city site from which to pitch our denomination's claims in the City attracts no enthusiasm among our leaders, and besides the cost would be prohibitive. 25 years ago I would have advocated an ecumenical future for Mornington, whatever the cost, but that fire is now all but extinguished. The simple reality is that we are what we are, warts and all, and we must work with what we have. Looking around the Church scene in Dunedin, and nationally, this writer is all the more convinced that among the people called Methodist there is the wit and the potential to hone this entity we call the Parish to bear witness to a faith that is viable, intelligible, and inclusive, embodied in a Jesus-led community that is warm and inviting to all. Welcome David Poultney to that community.

Ken Russell