



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

2nd September 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 9th September

9.30 am	Mornington	D Poultney
10.00 am	Mosgiel	R Masterton
11.00 am	Glenaven	D Poultney
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

Dates to remember:

4 Sept	1.30 pm	Mosgiel MWF, Mosgiel Church
19 Sept	7.30 pm	Open Education: Mr Bach's Magnificat - Mornington

MOSGIEL FOOD BANK requires the following items: Noodles, Pasta
Sauces and Spreads - jam, honey, marmite, vegemite, peanut butter.

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 4th September 1:30pm in the Church. This is our Friendship Day when all other Mosgiel church groups come to us. Our speaker will be Simone Clair telling us about Pillars - Working for children of Prisoners supporting positive crime free futures. This is part of our SPECIAL PROJECT. EXTRA PLATES PLEASE. ALL VERY WELCOME.

OPEN EDUCATION: MR BACH'S MAGNIFICAT - In 1723 Johann Sebastian Bach moved to Leipzig to take up the post of Music Director. Keen to impress his new congregations and his employers, the Town Council, two months after his appointment he composed the most brilliant setting of Mary's Song, the Magnificat, ever written. Join Emeritus Professor Colin Gibson on Wednesday, 19 September, at 7.30pm in the Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, as he tells the story that lies behind this wonderful piece of music and plays big-screen excerpts from DVD recordings by famous conductors. Your koha of \$5 goes to support Syrian refugee families. Sign in at Mornington or ring 455 3727 to book your place at the tasty pre-session meal laid on by Judy Russell (\$15).



ELAINE & ROSS MERRETT celebrating their 51st Wedding Anniversary at church this morning with chocolate cake.



WEST PAPUA INFORMATION SHEET 3

There is mounting evidence that NOW is the right time for those making the case for West Papua to be freed from the chains of oppression imposed by Indonesia, and restored as an independent nation, which clearly was the intention of the Dutch when in consultation with the United Nations they freely, and with goodwill, passed their former colony into what they clearly intended would be full independence. The way in which Indonesia highjacked that process and occupied West Papua with ensuing oppression and harsh military rule, is well documented. Despite all of this, near neighbours New Zealand and Australia have consistently ignored the desperate situation of indigenous West Papuans under the Indonesian yoke and closed their ears to the voices of other South Pacific nations, particularly Vanuatu, calling for the international recognition of West Papua's democratic rights.

Three developments in recent weeks have encouraged me, hopefully none of them voices crying in the wilderness.

1. The publication last month of Maire Leadbetter's book "See no Evil" - a comprehensive study of the history and progress of West Papua's quest for independence. Some of us attended the recent book launch in the public library and a copy of the book is now in our church library. I commend it to you for borrowing.
2. The circulation of a letter written by an ex-President of our Church, Brian Turner, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Winston Peters, relating to his comments at the June 29 Otago Foreign Policy School, and particularly his closing comment that help is needed "to inform government thinking as we seek to regain our true voice in the world. And there is not a moment to waste." Brian brilliantly appeals to Mr Peters to put his money where his mouth is, as it were, and

use the same logic to get on the side of other Pacific nations determined to bring some justice to the oppressed people of West Papua. It is a lengthy letter and I will gladly forward it to any of our people who request it.

3. The unsolicited letter of the Convener of our West Papua Support, Dunedin, Barbara Frame, to Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on the eve of her departure for the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Summit in Nauru. Again there is no room here for the full letter but just a sentence or two will give the flavour of it. *"Given New Zealand's historic support of Indonesia, usually for pragmatic rather than ethical reasons, for this country to support this resolution would represent a significant departure from our past attitudes and policies. I do however encourage you to support Vanuatu in this matter, Indonesia has never ruled West Papua with the consent of its people. Its rule has been brutal and exploitative, human rights and freedom of information are not respected, and there is ample evidence that West Papuan people wish to take charge of their own lives and affairs. It is time for New Zealand and other countries to recognise this and support their 50-year-old independence struggle."*

Our Prime Minister is sure to face intense questioning on her return from the Forum.

Ken Russell



Otago Branch of NZ Law Society seminar : Early in August Jimmy McLaughlin and Rose Newburn presented a seminar for the local branch of the NZ Law Society. This came out of a conversation with a local Legal Aid lawyer, who was astounded by the range of services MMSouthern offers in prisons. At the seminar we spoke about the prison programmes but also community based support for families through the Youth Transition Home and Little Citizens. Jimmy had just come from a meeting with Animation Research Limited so he had a Virtual Reality Learning headset with him, and one of the lawyers attending had a very interesting tour of the prototype garage environment!

There was a lot of interest in the ENGAGE and Play 30 programme, as at least one of the lawyers present was involved in family as well as criminal law. While there were fewer attendees than anticipated it was a really productive session and we know word of mouth will carry our message further....

We will follow up with more information about the Mission Supporters Club for local law firms as well as sending details of our current suite of programmes, and a reminder about bequests for those law colleagues who work in this area.

Otago Corrections Facility *Foundation Skills*: One of the Foundation Skills 1 students, who has been in the class for 5 weeks, had been observing the others in their final assessments and was getting caught up in their excitement. He wanted to know when he was going to be at that stage, he wanted to be three or four months ahead of where he

was. In chatting with this student I discovered he liked the format in which the work was presented, he liked the small groups and the individualised help. He didn't feel he was stupid as everybody was in the same situation as him. Hearing students talk like this it brings with it the realisation of the challenging circumstances many of the students have faced in their lives and that in doing the Foundation courses they are giving themselves a better chance in life once they have been released.

Invercargill Prison *Skills for Dads*: This was the first time Methodist Mission Southern staff had delivered the programme in Invercargill Prison and over the course of the programme we had a number of participants who were released before they finished. We included them so that they would be able to take away some of the learning, and that would be worthwhile. We have found the group dynamics made a big impact on classroom effectiveness. Because some men were due for release during the programme they would get a bit agitated and unsettled, impacting on the learning, which in turn unsettled the others. Feedback from participants was really positive and the group appreciated the practical parenting suggestions. One participant was particularly committed to learning everything he could before release, so much so, he would sometimes pull others back into line when things got side-tracked. He knew he had limited time in the class to learn what he wanted to learn.

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 Same River Twice” On Returning to Dunedin

It was Heraclitus who wrote “you cannot step into the same river twice. For other waters are ever flowing on to you.” He taught that change is of the very nature of the Universe, maybe a little more prosaically we might say “the past is another country.”

Yet here we are again, Darren and I, are back in Dunedin. We are “in no strange land” and have returned to a group of people many of whom we remember well and fondly. However much has changed for us, for each of you and for the parish as a whole. This might be a familiar riverbank but in truth it is not the same river.

Of course there are obvious continuities. I recently read that Dunedin is a hidden gem, the next big thing in New Zealand tourism and the hills and sea continue; but even then is that completely true? It has become apparent how prone to the encroachment of the sea southern Dunedin is. Of course our handsome architectural heritage continues though Carisbrook (never a lovely structure) is gone and the Forsythe Barr stadium gone up.

We are all that bit older of course and the twelve years between our departure and our return have impacted on us all in various ways, or is it that ministry simply accelerates the greying process?

I left here for Trinity College as a beginner, one to be formed for the task of presbyteral ministry, I return as someone comparatively experienced, even as someone regarded as an expert here and there. I could never have predicted how my presbyteral career has unfolded; from giving a

paper in Oxford University to resourcing worship leaders in Westport. There have been the surprising opportunities of convening the Faith and Order Committee and of serving as a District Superintendent. I never thought I would be one of “those people.” What no one could have predicted when I left for college was the Christchurch earthquakes and their impact on the churches nationwide. In both Hamilton and Nelson I had to help parishes face unwelcome change as a consequence of this.

So we come again to Dunedin, and I come as an experienced presbyter but can take nothing for granted. Each new ministry is a process of learning again, of finding how things are done in a new place and of the particular contours of a community. I am grateful for those who have begun my process of education in this familiar yet new place.

Let us see where the river takes us.

David Poultney