



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

23rd September 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 30th September

	Mornington	Combined at Glenaven
	Mosgiel	Combined at Glenaven
10.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

Dates to remember:

Today	4.30 pm	Explorers meeting – Mornington Church
Today	7.00 pm	Women's Suffrage Service – All Saint's Church
26 Sept	2.00 pm	Mornington MWF – Church Lounge
30 Sept	10.00 am	Combined Service – Glenaven
30 Sept	6.30 pm	Ecumenical service – St Fancis Xavier Church

EXPLORERS EXPLORING DEMOCRACY - Our next meeting takes place this Today at the usual location, Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, starting at 4.30pm. We will have as a special presenter Professor Richard Jackson, Director of the University of Otago's National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, who will be opening up a discussion of 'Modern Threats to Democracy'.

Please come if you are able to do so, and invite any friends who may be interested in this important subject and prominent public speaker. Our meetings are completely open; you don't have to be a member of the group to join us or contribute to the discussion.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE 125 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE – There will be an ecumenical service to celebrate this significant anniversary at All Saint's Church, 786 Cumberland Street this evening at 7pm; all welcome.

FIFTH SUNDAY - Colin Gibson will be leading a combined service on 30th September at Glenaven at 10am. You are encouraged to bring a plate to share over Morning Tea afterwards. I am advised it would be best to bring food which do not require reheating.

ON SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER at 6.30 pm the Anglican, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Mornington are sharing in an ecumenical service at St Francis Xavier Church, 36 Mitchell Avenue; all welcome.

VISIT TO WINDERMERE ALPACA AND LLAMA STUD - On Sunday 7th Oct you with family are invited to visit the above stud just south of Milton to meet some beasts of burden from South America. Both species live in different paddocks and have individuals who are comfortable being hand fed. So come and get up and close with them but be aware they can spit if alarmed. The tour is limited to 20 so if you wish to come please advise Cam Weston on 021 995 130 or 454 5600. The cost is \$15/adult and school age children free. Please bring cash.

Transport plan is to share transport from Dunedin. We will meet at the Tall spired Presbyterian church in Milton at 1:30p.m. on Sunday Oct 7 and then proceed to the farm which is about 10 km from Milton. After the tour we can have a hot drink at the farm so please bring a nibble if you wish and coffee/tea will be available. Please come and learn about the creatures from far off lands.



POLICE: The Mission was approached by the Police to trial our Learner Drivers License

Programme with a group of female offenders. This was held over 2 days (a weekend) at the Mission. Andrew facilitated the programme which was also well supported by 2 police officers attending the programme to support the participants.

The feedback from Emily Plew, the lead police officer who initiated the programme, was: *"Thank you so much for your awesome tutoring over the weekend. It was such a great weekend and the girls really did so well. The feedback from the girls was that they were all really happy with the weekend and especially loved the games that were played and asked for more of them."*

The girls (apart from one) sat their theory test today and everyone passed except two. Both of them had two goes at the test but failed both times. I think that a mixture of nerves, not reading the questions correctly and perhaps needing to spend a bit more time testing themselves. But they were in good spirits and we will get them through hopefully within the next week. Christine, thank you for everything you have done to make this weekend such a success. The feedback from the girls was really positive and I am positive that this is just the start of these courses."

The police are keen to replicate the programme again with another group of offenders. Based on the feedback from Emily, we will slightly

adjust the programme to include a section on managing test anxiety.

Again, outstanding work from Andrew, facilitating the programme.

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.

COLIN GIBSON ON OTAGO ACCESS RADIO - As reported in this month's Touchstone, earlier this year John Thornley (Wesley Broadway Palmerston Nth) recorded discussions with Colin Gibson for broadcast via Manawatu Access Radio. The first of these discussions (on the "Theology of the Trinity") will be replayed on our own local Otago Access Radio next Sunday 30 September 8.30am in the Radio Church slot - 105.4 FM or you can listen via www.oar.org.nz Highly recommended listening!

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION – UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
Information session about theology courses for people who are interested in studying Theology with the Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Otago will be held on Tuesday 25 September, 3.30pm, Humanities Common Room – Room 1W9 - Arts Building, University of Otago, Albany Street (Go up the stairs beside Burns 2). This will be a chance to hear about the many courses and programmes the Department offers. All welcome!

Christian theology and science - The University has a Pre-Christmas Summer School from Nov 12-Dec 15, 2018. The Department of Theology and Religion is offering a paper on Christian Theology and Science (CHTH235/335). The paper will be taught over five weeks by means of 1 x 3-hour and 1 x 2-hour class each week. Distance students can participate through the Zoom videoconference facility. Lectures will also be recorded and available for later viewing. Prerequisite: at 200-level is any two 100-level papers in any subject. At 300-level: any two 200-level papers in any subject.

For further information contact theology@otago.ac.nz or 03 479 8901

FAITH THINKING - Working Effectively in Culturally Diverse Situations: Building your cultural awareness. Presented by Dr Sheryl Silzer, Wycliffe Bible Translators. Monday 8 October, 7:00-9:00pm, Tuesday 9 October, 7:00-9:00pm, Burns 7, University of Otago. Cost for this course is \$10. For further information and to enrol go to www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation/what-we-offer/otago692057.html. Please pay on the night.

PROMOTED AS A MAD IDEA, ten "ideas" people from Mornington gathered around tables at the Church last Saturday to pursue what some might consider an impossible goal.

Faith with a Future. Methodism with a Life to Come.

The attendance might have been disappointing but there was no shortage of ideas. The net result, a consensus that within our community there are many more ideas people, sufficient indeed to produce by Pentecost NEXT YEAR a printed publication of articles, essays, poems, stories, pictures on hopeful aspects of our faith as we confront the unknown (and scary) future. And to put a timeline on such a bold and imaginative idea, contributions will need to be submitted to editor Colin Gibson by Christmas Eve THIS YEAR.

So the gauntlet is thrown down - how can YOU respond to this challenge? You're invited to be imaginative, innovative and faith-full, commit to paper what comes most naturally to you, YOUR FAITH FOR THE FUTURE. There's plenty of time, but don't leave it too long. Over to you!



Photo: from left Marion, Margaret, David K, Richard, Donald, David P. Rod. Colin. Ken (photographer and reporter)



ACTIVE HOPE

Is there life after death? There certainly is a continuing life for ideas that have found their moment.

Before her death in 2011, Revd Helene Mann had already given us many wise ideas and resources to use in the Celtic-Style Eucharist, or communion service, at St Paul's Cathedral. The word Eucharist meaning thanksgiving, I am thankful for them every time I walk into her library in the Chapter Room -- and often when I'm nowhere near it -- as her books, kindly gifted to the Cathedral by her husband, nutritionist Prof Jim Mann, give guidance of an everyday kind for living in our times.

After Helene died, her co-ordinator role was taken over by local Anglican and environmental activist Pat Scott, for whose research I also continue to be thankful (in Greek, grateful = *eukharistos*). One of the best books Pat introduced to us was *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy*, by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. On the website Goodreads, one reader gives it four stars, with this response:

"We're headed for disaster. Soil is being depleted. Oil is running out. Oceans are getting fished out. Species are dying off. Even the climate is changing. What can we do?" [30 or 40 years ago, would we ever have imagined life on Earth could be summarised in a few short, brutal sentences -- and this was only 2012!] But that 'What can we do?' is not a rhetorical question; in *Active Hope* it does receive an answer. The summary continues:

"We have a choice of three stories to follow: we can continue gobbling up the earth's resources (Business as Usual); we can despondently bury our heads in the sand (the Great Unraveling); or we can become conduits for positive change (the Great Turning)... Macy and Johnstone don't tell

us what to do. They offer tools to help us decide what we can do, and perhaps more important, they suggest how we can develop attitudes that will enable us bring about the Great Turning without slipping back into one of the other two stories."

The authors offer what they call Active Hope, which is not the same as simple optimism -- the ghost of Pollyanna can rest easy, however, as I for one was *glad* to discover this idea: "Active Hope is a practice. Like tai chi or gardening, it is something we do rather than have. It is a process we can apply to any situation, and it involves three key steps. First, we take in a clear view of reality; second, we identify what we hope for in terms of the direction we'd like things to move in, or the values we'd like to see expressed; and third, we take steps to move ourselves or our situation in that direction. Since Active Hope doesn't require our optimism, we can apply it even in areas where we feel hopeless. The guiding impetus is intention; we choose what we aim to bring about, act for, or express. Rather than weighing our chances and proceeding only when we feel hopeful, we focus on our intention and let it be our guide... We don't wait until we are sure of success. We don't limit our choices to the outcomes that seem likely. With Active Hope, we consciously choose to draw out our best responses, so that we might surprise even ourselves by what we bring forth...

We live at a time when the living body of our Earth is under attack and when the attacker is not an alien force but our own industrial-growth society. At the same time, an extraordinary recovery process is under way, a vital creative response we call the Great Turning. What helps us face the mess we're in is the knowledge that each of us has something to offer, a contribution to make. In rising to the challenge of playing our best role, we discover something precious that both enriches our lives and adds to the healing of our world. We grow, and offer, our gift of active hope."

SOME THOUGHTS ON HOPE

1) From the King James Bible, 1 Corinthians 13:13:
And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but
the greatest of these is charity.

2) From Oscar Wilde, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*:
The Governor was strong upon the Regulations Act:
The Doctor said that Death was but a scientific fact:
And twice a day the Chaplain called,
And left a little tract... (III.3)
Something was dead in each of us,
And what was dead was Hope. (III.31)

3) From painter Grandma Moses, *My Life's History*:
What a strange thing is memory, and hope; one looks
backward, the other forward.

4) From G Chesterton, *Heretics*, Chapter 12:
Charity: the power of defending that which we know
to be indefensible. Hope: the power of being cheerful
in circumstances which we know to be desperate.

5) From Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure* III:1:
The miserable have no other medicine
But only hope.