



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)

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## PARISH BULLETIN

28<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> November

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	St Kilda	P Taungapeau

### Dates to remember:

Today	2.30 pm	Dunedin Musical Society Concert - Mornington Church
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**DUNEDIN MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT** at 2.30pm Sunday 28 October at the Mornington Methodist Church. There will be items from the Scottish Fiddle orchestra and voice and piano items. It will be a great concert for about one hour and costs only \$2 for an adult and children are free. All welcome.

**TRUFFLE FUNDRAISER** – the Mornington Toy & Games Library are having their annual fundraiser of yummy truffles, but they will be packaged slightly differently this year. The truffles will be smaller, bite size pieces and packaged in environmentally friendly boxes. A box of 18 truffles sell for \$5.00 per box. If you'd like to order these tasty treats and freeze them for Christmas (or eat them now!) call Rebecca Neaves on 488-4372. Thank you.

**YET ANOTHER HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL** Open Ed meeting was held last week with three student guests from the **National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies** from the University of Otago. **Khin Khin Lwin** from Myanmar spoke with great authority helping to explain some of the complexities of life in that strife-torn country, with particular reference to the situation of women. **Adan Suazo**, while born in Honduras, and the son of Honduran diplomats, has become a citizen of French Canada, and is at the Centre studying justice issues in relation to access to fresh water, and doing particular studies in Glenorchy and Ashburton. **Sabjana Hattotuwa** is from Sri Lanka and for those of us who know nothing more



about that country than what we might learn from the Sri Lankan cricket team, his explanation of the complexities that give rise to so much strife and bloodshed was most enlightening. If these three students are examples of the calibre of students being drawn to Dunedin by the National Centre, we are being hugely enriched by their presence among us. *PHOTO from left* Adan, Khin Khin and Sanjana. Note - profits from the dinner of \$260 will go to West Papua Support, Dunedin.

## MOSGIEL AGM







Client Support Services: John wasn't sure if our service could help. He was looking for some support or suggestions of how he could help his adult daughter Renee become independent and re-establish herself in her own home. Renee currently lives at home. John stated his daughter suffers from depression and anxiety and as much as this is what she wants to do, the process of knowing where and how to begin was overwhelming for her. John also felt it was a lot for him to take on which is why he came to our service.

After speaking with John I let him know we could support Renee with Work and Income entitlements, help find appropriate housing and link Renee in with appropriate supports and services that will help her towards her goal of independence.

While he loves his daughter immensely John was aware how much time and energy is needed to keep his daughter focussed and on track. John stated it was a relief to be able to have someone else (other than himself) to support and guide his daughter to achieve her goal towards independence.

Another appointment was made for John and Renee – to see if Renee wanted the support of the Mission. At this appointment Renee was happy to be supported by the Mission to achieve her goal. John was able to end his need for service knowing his daughter was going to get the support she needed to move forward in her life. John was pleased he came to our service.

**If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit [www.givealittle.co.nz](http://www.givealittle.co.nz) and search for The Methodist Mission.**



## PERSPECTIVES

At Labour weekend, John and I travelled to Christchurch for a couple of reasons – firstly it was time to help some family members prepare their home for sale before they shift into a retirement village, and secondly we were invited to attend the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a church in my previous Anglican parish.

We expected to be busy, but what we didn't expect was John being grabbed immediately to join the basses in a holiday weekend depleted choir, a huge morning tea with lots of 'catch up' conversations, and a special lunch arranged later for us to meet up with both Anglican and Methodist people from our previous congregations!

I'd been thinking that, since we'd moved on we'd also been forgotten, and although we'd quickly felt at home here in Dunedin, there was a sense of loss. The weekend reminded us that we carry our loved ones, both family and friends, with us, no matter where we are living. Whether it was ringing my daughter in Auckland on her birthday as we drove up, or a quick call to an old Christchurch mate to help John load up the trailer, it was, and is the heart connection that matters.

The great gift of travelling on a long car journey is often the companionship, and also the opportunity to talk without any interruptions. We realised that we now know where we belong, we've come home, and we hope our family will also successfully make the difficult transition from their much loved spacious home to a small apartment and emerge knowing that they've made the right decision.

Driving on the motorway through the outskirts of Christchurch we saw hundreds of new houses, all looking identical, and we felt smug about our rather rundown but homely villa overlooking the harbour, but as I've been writing, I've heard an interview with a formerly homeless man who

now has his own home. He sounded so happy as he said something like *'now I can see my family in my own home instead of on the street!'*

Apparently, among the most popular songs at funerals these days is the Monty Python comic song *'Always look on the bright side of life'* from the movie, *The life of Brian*, which is either hilarious or shocking, depending on your perspective.

I realise, as I reflect over the last few days, that it's all been about perspective - loss or gain, sadness or happiness, house or home, journeying or settling, the enduring love of people, wherever they live and the presence of Christ with us on our journey.

Another important word is floating in my mind – belonging. Where do we feel we belong and have our spiritual home? Where can we be ourselves and feel safe?

The easy answer to that would be our church community, but the difficult answer is that, for many people, church is not a safe place.

Lately we've heard heart-rending stories in the media about historical clergy abuse in the Roman Catholic Church, and in my years in ministry, I've also heard stories about clergy or lay-people in positions of power in our own denomination. Too often we have protected the powerful when it's the vulnerable we need to be listening to and caring for.

When we were in Christchurch we caught up with the Anglican situation where a number of people have left the diocese because it no longer fits their theology. We felt very saddened by that. We wondered if we've lost our way as followers of 'The Way' when theological positions become more important than loving? What's happened to the call, and even the command, to keep on loving our neighbours, whatever may befall us or them?

As usual, a well-known hymn writer has already been this way in his hymn *"It all depends on where I'm going"* found in *'Faith Forever Singing'*

*It all depends on where I'm going  
if I reach my anywhere,  
but this I'm surely, surely knowing,  
that I'll never leave God's care;  
it all depends on when I'm travelling,  
maybe now or maybe then,  
but the son of God will lead me  
through each where and why and when.....*

*'It all depends on who comes with me  
if I break or if I bend,  
But this I'm surely, surely knowing,  
God will be there at the end –  
In the laughter and the sadness,  
in the pleasure or the pain,  
by my side and all about me  
God's own Spirit will remain'. ©Colin Gibson*

Marcia Hardy