



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	545 7181
	Mobile	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: elaineross@xtra.co.nz	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor Mornington:	Beryl Neutze	476 7447

PARISH BULLETIN

11th November 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 18th November

9.30 am	Mornington	Explorers Group
10.00 am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11.00 am	Glenaven	Explorers Group
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

Dates to remember:

14 Nov	7.30 pm	Dn Parish Council meeting – Mornington
18 Nov	Following church	Mosgiel Leaders meeting
28 Nov	2.00 pm	Mornington MWF meeting – Church Lounge

WENDY'S HANDMADE CARDS sold at church for \$2:50 - the money goes to Methodist Women's Fellowship Special Project.

DUNEDIN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING to be held at Mornington Methodist Church on **Wednesday 14 November 2018** at 7:30pm

MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH LEADERS MEETING Sunday 18th November following the service.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - The last Meeting of the year will take place on Wednesday 28th November - in the Church Lounge at 2 p.m. The Guest Speaker will be Mrs Leah Taylor & her subject is "From Delft to the Danube". Come along & hear this interesting talk - with a bit of Christmas also. Please bring a small plate of "Party Food" for all to enjoy.



THE ADVENTURE OF ADVENT

Halloween last week, Guy Fawkes this week, Remembrance Sunday today, 11th November! Each a festival, each important in their own right, but not to everyone. Each can go with a bang, fireworks for the first two – helped along by pressure from the sellers, and gun shots for the third. How do you rate them in order of importance?

Now add Christmas - to come – Christmas crackers!

Goodness, you couldn't fail to know Christmas is coming!

How early can those that make money out of Christmas, get to telling us to be in early, to buy their so called *Christmas specials*.

Christmas is coming – the countdown – the advent calendar - got yours yet? Remember when, in younger days, we made our own. Now you can spend a week's pay or more on one that comes with the goods and what a choice – the Beauty Advent Calendar, the Beer and Wine Advent Calendar, the Food Advent Calendar, the Clothes Advent Calendar, but wait there's more!

High jacked again by the commercial world.

The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin *adventurus* meaning about to happen, made up from *venire* – about to come, and *advenire* –to come. (courtesy of Google)

So Advent is a time for us to look forward and meditate on what is to come.

You will know the excitement of the countdown to Christmas! If you have children about you the excitement is still there, *'can't wait for Christmas'* - perhaps more so because of the commercialisation thrown continually at us – *'I want that!'*

But the real ADVENT?

Advent, to the Christian, is certainly a time of anticipation during the countdown to the celebration of the birth of Christ.

But it is more than that, it is in the remembering and the meditation of the miracle of Christmas that Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated. It is in the light of Christmas that our Christian life makes any sense.

Advent is the time between the fulfilled promise of Christ's coming, his first coming, and the yet-to-be-fulfilled promise of his second coming.

Karl Barth wrote these words: *"Unfulfilled promise and fulfilled promise are related to each other, as are dawn and sunrise. Both promise and in fact the same promise. If anywhere at all, then it is precisely in the light of the coming of Christ that faith has become Advent faith, the expectation of future revelation. But faith knows for whom and for what it is waiting. It is fulfilled faith because it lays hold on the fulfilled promise."*

The promise for Israel and the promise for the church is Jesus Christ; he has come, he is here, and he will come again. This is the essence of Advent.

"I can't wait for Christmas!" Many a young one, and not so young one has said this, I think we all remember having said that at some time. But as we, as I get older, I feel something of the Christmas feeling, something of the atmosphere of Christmas is diminishing.

Is this just an old fellow's feeling? Has Christmas been high jacked by commercialism? Spending more than is necessary on ourselves and family does not make Christmas.

Is the Church losing the adventure of Christmas? Is it because there are fewer children, hence no pageant with the Sunday School singing and playing out

the Christmas story? No children – no pageant! Something lost. Or are we lost?

In the meantime, while we wait, while we hope, the world keeps turning, and millions of not-so-privileged people wait and hope for something better in the lives they live. But some cannot wait, they are tired of waiting so they walk away, walk in hope. Walk to escape the mess of their country, a country of no hope, with its inequalities, its brutalities, and its oppression.

So they walk in hope toward another country they know little about, except it's said there is freedom there. Though in many cases that country doesn't want them and they could end up in camps behind wire, degraded again, perhaps slightly better off, perhaps with shelter and food, but no job no freedom, little hope, possibly even the threat of being sent back to where they came from. Those that are being turned away knowing and believing the Christmas story must feel let down; after all, this is the season of goodwill! Let us not forget.

And this Remembrance Sunday let us not forget – those that fought and gave their lives – those that fought and suffered for the rest of their lives - those who were locked up or forced to labour even to lose their life because their conscience told them to not go to war, and not forgetting the many at home who suffered – some for years following.

The beneficiaries of war are the investors, and the manufacturers of missiles, armaments, and machines of war.

So this Advent Season look forward in hope and joy, but also do -
Remember those who are struggling to live a life of peace and joy.
Remember those who are turned away because 'there is no room.'
Remember those who strive to help the suffering ones.

Remember those who are peace-makers.

Remember Christ this Christmas, and always.

Remember Jesus promised us peace and joy.

Remember goodwill to all!

Remember to travel through Advent and through the year in faith.

Gordon Abernethy