



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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

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

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<b>Parish Prayer Convenor:</b>	Elaine Merrett: <a href="mailto:elaineross@xtra.co.nz">elaineross@xtra.co.nz</a>	489 7663
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## PARISH BULLETIN

10<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> February

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

### Dates to remember:

12 Feb	7.00 pm	ANZRATH prayer evening – St Patrick's Church, Sth Dn
12 Feb	9.00 am	Helpers needed on campus – University of Otago
13 Feb	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting – Mosgiel Church
22-24 Feb		Otago Southland Synod – Camp Columba
27 Feb	12.30 pm	Mornington MWF meeting – Church Lounge

**INVITATION – Prayer and reflection evening for victims of trafficking:**

In this country ANZRATH (Aotearoa NZ Religious Against Trafficking of Humans) is part of a global network to draw attention to the issue in our own country.

This year we are inviting those in Christian Churches who are interested, to join us in attending a prayer and reflection evening for victims of human trafficking at St Patrick's Church, South Dunedin at 7.00 pm Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

St Vakhita was a Sudanese child who was kidnapped, sold several times, tortured and ill treated and finally protected by the Canofsiian Sister's in Italy and freed. She became a sister herself and lived in Italy, dying in 1947. She is the patron of all those who are enslaved or trafficked.

Feel very welcome to bring others who wish to come. We would love to have you among us, to feel happy, to participate in the prayer and discussion, to understand more about the ugly practice of trafficking and to find ways to act against it. There will be a light supper to close the evening.

**HELPERS OF ALL AGES NEEDED ON CAMPUS TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

An opportunity to serve the Otago University Students Association and first year students by packing various items into 4,500 packs from 9am on Tuesday 12th February. A great opportunity also to meet new friends and to work together. OUSA will supply (Pizza) lunch. Helpers of ALL AGES are encouraged to attend and participate :) Please come if you can and bring others from your Church or Christian Group. Smithells Gymn is located at 665 Cumberland St.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1996969803720106/>

Information: Greg Hughson, University Chaplain

[greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz)

## **BAKING AND FRUIT NEEDED FOR OTAGO COMBINED CHRISTIAN GROUPS TENT DURING ORIENTATION WEEK**

The Otago Combined Christian Groups tent will be on the Union Lawn during Orientation week, from Mon 18<sup>th</sup> - Wed 20<sup>th</sup> February. We would greatly appreciate home baking (in plastic ice cream containers) and fruit (in cardboard boxes) to distribute to students during Orientation week. Donations of baking and fruit can be delivered to the Upper Room Chaplaincy office, eastern end of the Mezzanine floor in the University Union building, from 9am Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February, or directly to the CCG tent during the week. Inquiries: Greg Hughson, University Chaplain [greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz)

**DUNEDIN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** to be held at Mosgiel Methodist Church on **Wednesday 13 February 2019** at 7:30pm.

## **RELIGION AND VIOLENCE - a mini study series, led by Professor Peter Matheson - all welcome - please come and bring your friends**

The news is dominated by stories of violence, often religiously fuelled.

- Does religion propagate violence?
- Would the world be a better place without religion?
- Does religion have a role in combatting violence and bringing peace?

Knox Church is pleased to have Peter Matheson lead a three part mini study series on Religion and Violence in February. We will meet in the Knox Church Gathering Area 7:30pm on **Wednesday 13, 20 and 27 February 2019** Everyone is very welcome.

For further information please contact Peter Matheson [peter.m@compassnet.co.nz](mailto:peter.m@compassnet.co.nz)

**OTAGO SOUTHLAND SYNOD** 22-24 February 2019 at Camp Columba (Pukerau, just before Gore). Everyone welcome - there will be some Church business as well as educational/thought-provoking sessions. We start late Friday afternoon and finish with an early lunch on Sunday. \$50 per person for the whole weekend (as it's subsidised by Synod). Dorm sharing - bring your own bedding - or you can stay in Gore (at your own cost). We'd prefer people to come for the whole time but day visitors are welcome at \$20 per person.

Please let Rachael know by 10 Feb if you are wanting to come (email to [rmasterton@actrix.co.nz](mailto:rmasterton@actrix.co.nz) or phone 4764867). Car pooling will be organised.

**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - Our first Meeting of the year will take place on the 27th February at 12.30 p.m. (please note the time) in the Church Lounge/Sunday School. As we will be starting with a luncheon please bring along a plate of food to share. The Guest Speaker Mr Colin Morrison will join us at 2 p.m. to tell us about his work as Prison Chaplain at Otago Corrections Facility. Of the many jobs he has had, he says this is the "most satisfying". He undertook theological training at Laidlaw College & later graduated with a Master of Ministry degree from the University of Otago. Please remember The Fellowship of the Least Coin.



## STORIES FROM THE MISSION

**Client Support Service:** A Mum (Tania) was referred to our service as she was looking for counselling for her teenager. Due to living rurally she was finding it hard to find a counsellor that was suitable to her

daughter's needs. After our initial appointment it became obvious her daughter did not fit the usual criteria needed to access a free counsellor (drugs, alcohol or mental health etc.). Tania stated she did have access to funding that allowed her to pay for a private counsellor. We made a second appointment and I let Tania know I would ring around and try to locate a counsellor who travels. After a few phone calls and emails I arrived at our next appointment with no luck in finding a counsellor who travelled. I informed Tania of my lack of progress however let her know I was still following up with people who had yet to get back to me. As Tania was a busy Mum who worked part time, she felt there was no point making another home visit - rather she asked I contact her once I had found a counsellor. I let Tania know I would do this. Three weeks later I was able to ring Tania to inform her I found a counsellor who was willing to travel. Tania was happy for me to refer her and her daughter, and I passed on the details for contact. Since that first engagement, they have organised to meet and have planned sessions for the year ahead. A follow up call to Tania is that she is happy to finally get some counselling for her daughter and is happy to end her need for service.

#### Next Step Training: Foundation Skills (Prison):

During the short coffee breaks of each course it is sometimes possible to see past students and they are often keen to catch up with the Tutors, see how we are and talk about what they have been up to. One such student came to tell me, very proudly, he was now involved in a secure online learning course and had used knowledge he had gained from at least three of the units of work he had done in the Foundation Skills – one of which was Excel, something he thought he would never use!

**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.**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
ECUMENICAL SERVICE TO BE HELD**



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019  
OAK LOUNGE EAST TAIERI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Time 1.30 pm. All Welcome

This worldwide movement of informed prayer involves people from 170 countries also many denominations, who together observe a common day of prayer each year.

Through World Day of Prayer:  
We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ.

This year, our service is from Slovenia which is located in Central Europe and is one of the smallest countries in that region.

The theme is:

**COME – EVERYTHING IS READY**

Join us, to enjoy this happy time, with stories & singing from SLOVENIA.

Say, Good Morning! To your friend or neighbor

In Slovenian: DOBER DAN!

ALL WELCOME. Followed by afternoon tea.



**CELEBRATING SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES**

This year the University of Otago is celebrating 150 years since it was established by people of deep Christian faith in 1869. The year will be full of opportunities to celebrate. For example, everyone is invited to a community picnic on the University Clocktower Lawn from 5.30pm this coming Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Please come along. Also, significantly, I am chairing a committee which is responsible for planning a 150 year University of Otago celebration Church service to be held at Knox Church, at 10am on Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our “spiritually enthusiastic” and ever growing largely Christian Pacific Islands Community on campus have

many events planned. Hence, last Monday I was invited, as University Chaplain, to share a reflection and prayer at the launch of our Pacific Islands Community 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations for the year. The venue for my reflection and prayer was our University Centre for Innovation on campus, a place where the latest scientific research is tested. I chose to read from Psalm 19 vs 1-7. Senior academics from the University were present as well as 40 or so Pacific Islands senior students and University staff. Psalm 19 is a reflection on God's Glory in Creation. It includes these words:

"God made a home in the sky for the sun; it comes out in the morning like a happy bridegroom, like an athlete eager to run a race. It starts at one end of the sky and goes across to the other. Nothing can hide from its heat. The law of the LORD is perfect; it gives new strength. The commands of the LORD are trustworthy, giving wisdom to those who lack it."

Last Monday was a beautiful sunny day, so I began by celebrating the creation of the Universe. I reflected on the origin of the sunshine, pouring in through the windows. I reflected also on the creation and expansion of time, space and light 13.7 billion years ago, and on the power of sunlight to enable photosynthesis in plants, without which carbon in our atmosphere could not be transformed into the plant carbohydrates we depend upon for life.

I went on to reflect on the faith of the Rev Dr Thomas Burns, a Presbyterian minister who helped establish the University of Otago in 1869. He was a man who could discern God's Glory in Creation. A firm and devout churchman, he also possessed farming skills from his childhood upbringing back in Scotland. He was also a man who knew that the Law of his Lord was perfect, giving him the ethical grounding, spiritual strength and insight needed to lead our University as Chancellor until his death in 1871.

Like the Psalmist, Thomas Burns knew from personal experience that “the Lord’s commands are trustworthy and that God gives wisdom to those who lack it.”

A large portrait of Thomas Burns continues to hang on the wall of our University Council room, where very important decisions continue to be made, in his presence, under his gaze.

Our University continues to seek to bestow “wisdom to those who lack it.” (Psalm 19 vs 7). Our motto is “*Sapere aude - dare to be wise*”

Throughout this year and on into the future we will celebrate that our University, established by deeply committed Christian people who drew on God’s wisdom, continues to be a place where wisdom is nurtured.

Next Sunday, 17 February Hilda and I will have been married for 40 years. We were married in Hamilton on 17 February 1979. This is another very special occasion to be celebrated! For 19 of these years, almost half of our married life, I have served as Chaplain to the University of Otago. It has been, and continues to be a privilege to be invited to reflect on scripture and to pray, within a largely secular institution. I believe that the Rev Dr Thomas Burns would be happy that there is still a humble Chaplaincy team, serving in the University he helped establish.

May the year ahead contain elements of celebration for us all.

Rev Greg Hughson University Chaplain