



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

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

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<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Mrs Jan Stewart	473 9141
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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

24<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> March

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

### Dates to remember:

27 Feb	12.30 pm	Mornington MWF meeting – Church Lounge
1 Mar	1.30 pm	WDP Ecumenical service – East Taieri Presbyterian
1 Mar	7.30 pm	WDP night of prayers – St Francis Xavier

**NEWSLETTER INVITE** - Every two months Methodist Mission Southern distributes a newsletter to people who've supported projects in the past. It includes some of the good news stories you see in your Parish Bulletin, an outline of some new projects as well some practical ways readers can help with those new projects.

If you would like to receive this newsletter regularly, all you need to do is send an email to [rosen@mmsouth.org.nz](mailto:rosen@mmsouth.org.nz) If you'd like a printed copy rather than an email just let us know – you could phone the Main Office at Teviot Street - 466 4600 – Katrina will put you on the list to receive a print copy in the mail. Large print is also available.

**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.

**PRIVATE BOARD ACCOMMODATION:** needed for Kirstie Aroha Kopi from PNG

The Kopi family from PNG were members of our Mornington Church when Idau came here to do his Master's degree many years ago. During their time here, Kirstie was born, in 2003. Our Church gave Kirstie her middle name. She was baptised here. She is now 16 and is planning to come to Dunedin to study at Logan Park School, in a few week's time - later in March.

The Kopi family have asked us, their Dunedin Church family, to help find a place for Kirstie to stay. Ideally this will be private board with a

Christian family, within walking distance of Logan Park School Money is available to pay for private board.

Please contact Greg or Hilda Hughson - 487 6226 if you can help or know of somewhere Kirstie can stay.

Please share this with friends across Dunedin.

### **A MESSAGE FROM REV SIOSIFA: To all Dunedin Methodist Parish members from Rev Siosifa Pole and family in Auckland**

Naomi, me and the girls arrived safely in Auckland. Thank you all for your prayers and support over the years.

We can't thank enough the Parish and its members for your support.

We wish you all God's blessing.

Love from us from the summer weather of Auckland.

### **MORNINGTON NEWS**

A reminder that thanks to a generous donation the Leaders' Meeting can help fund your travel to or from any church occasion held in our church or hall (e.g. by taxi or by means of a friend's car). See Mary Thompson or Colin Gibson, with a taxi invoice or petrol chit if available. Yes, that includes attending Sunday morning services.

Bookings of the church or hall and kitchen are now made with Barbara Weavers (453 0344); thank you Rebecca Neaves our previous booking person. A daily calendar showing confirmed bookings of our facilities is kept up to date on the lounge notice board.

We need more people to act as foyers stewards welcoming us to worship, and as morning tea servers (men and women welcome). If you can help out, please let Helen Messervy know.

We are exploring an appropriate way to exhibit the large tapa cloth given us by Naomi Pole, as a thank-you gift for the fellowship she has enjoyed here at Mornington. Naomi and the girls have now rejoined Siosifa in Auckland, where he directs the Pacific Sector of our National Mission Resourcing Department. Their home contact address is 22A Penney Avenue, Mt Roskill, Auckland 1041, phone (09) 6262 728.

Thanks Colin Gibson

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** David and Darren have now moved to 55 Tedder Street, St Kilda. Their landline number remains unchanged. They would like to thank John Hardy, Rachael Masterton, Sailosi Pole and the young men he recruited to help. They made the move a smooth and happy one -Thank you



**CORRECTIONS:** *Driver Licence Programme:* Feedback from Adrian (the Licences Programme Coordinator for the Police) “It was another successful course. There were a couple of boys who didn’t commit but the five that stuck it out all passed their test on Monday. Which means that as far as the boys’ courses go we are still sitting at 100% pass rate. This is fantastic and I’m sure no one would have expected those results.”

**A NIGHT OF PRAYERS** and fellowship for World Day of Prayer to be held at St Francis Xavier on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30 pm. All welcome to come along on the night.

**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.



**THAT OXFAM REPORT**

“Inequality is Deepening!”

“26 Billionaires Worth More Than Half the Planet!”

“World’s Richest Get Richer While the Poorest Get Poorer!”

***“There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.”***

Let me set out my stall on inequality: I do not think that inequality deserves the attention it gets. I believe that poverty is far more significant an issue, and one to which we should be devoting the attention and effort that inequality receives.

My thesis is this: resolving inequality does not generally help the poor. It helps the middle classes. It does this by shifting the tax burden from the middle to the upper, and it does this by bringing public services and spending to the middle.

The Living Wage is a good example: for the target group (a family with two adults and two children, one parent working full time the other working part-time, living in Auckland) the increase in their wages will be offset by the decrease in Working for Families payments, which are covered by taxes mostly paid by the middle class. All other things being equal, the middle class will likely demand a tax cut off those savings.

Having got that off my chest, let's turn to Oxfam and those headlines.

Very early this year, Oxfam released its annual *Public Good or Private Wealth* report, which claimed that in the last year 2,200 billionaires worldwide saw their wealth grow by 12% and the poorest half (3.8 billion people) saw its wealth fall by 11%.

Oxfam claimed that 26 billionaires had the same wealth as the bottom half of the world's population.

But like the Spirit Level before it, there are some problems with the maths. (For a reader on what's worrying about the Spirit Level, have a look at the Guardian from 2010

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2010/jul/08/spirit-level-book-critique>).

Firstly, wealth is a really difficult measure. A lot of rich people (even Donald Trump for a while) have negative wealth – their debts temporarily or by design overwhelm their assets. Middle class people have student loans and mortgages, credit card debts, which they will pay off from the cashflow of a good income, but which in a snapshot, lowers their wealth.

So they're going to be ok; they are definitely not by any reasonable definition, poor. Except for Oxfam's report in which they are.

It shows in the source data Oxfam used: the bottom 10% for wealth contains a substantial number (roughly 160 million people) of North Americans and Europeans, whereas the next 10% has almost none.

The second problem is measuring the wealth of the "bottom half". For starters, a shrinkage in half the world's wealth of 11% would have meant a worldwide recession so far in advance of the GFC in 2008, we would ALL have noticed it.

It is because the report doesn't use purchasing power as its basis (which matters – a cup of rice in NZ costs a lot more in absolute currency than a cup of rice in India), but *exchange rates*. Which fluctuate a lot but which may not affect the purchasing power of lower income people by much.

So that in 2018 the US dollar appreciated against the Nigerian Naira, the South African Rand, and the Indian Rupee, immediately made Americans (with low debt) richer, and Nigerians, South Africans, and Indians a whole lot poorer. It is also really difficult to measure "wealth" via ownership in communities where access to productive land isn't via title and ownership.

The upshot is, the Oxfam report doesn't really lead us to anywhere useful. Far more useful, I think, are things like MSD's hardship indicators which include access to:

- Clean drinking water
- Sanitation and waste disposal
- Adequate food / nutrition
- Hot running water
- Suitable clothes and shoes
- Adequate housing – shelter / warmth
- Dental and medical care as required
- Mains electricity or equivalent
- Household durable goods: food storage and cooking, sleeping, cleaning and maintenance, having people around, .....
- Transport (for employment, supplies, 'helping', children ....., leisure)
- ICT including a computer in the household and broadband internet access
- Social engagement that involves financial cost
- Financial resources to cope with unexpected essential expenses

And which are, collectively, an excellent way to define whether a family is experiencing poverty, while giving us enough to go on that we can focus assistance on the missing bits.

A focus on poverty will lead to us actually doing something that will help the poor.

A focus on inequality, and dramatic but misleading statistics, won't.

Laura Black

**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.**