



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	974 6172
	Mobile	022 350 2263
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	453 3310
Parish Stewards:	Mrs Jan Stewart	473 9141
	John Hardy	472 7377
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	David: parish@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600
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Parish Prayer Convenor:	Elaine Merrett: elaineross@xtra.co.nz	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor Mornington:	Beryl Neutze	476 7447

PARISH BULLETIN

3rd March 2019

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 10th March

9.30 am	Mornington	Rev D Poultney
10.00 am	Mosgiel	D Phillips
11.00 am	Glenaven	Rev D Poultney
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

Dates to remember:

5 March	1.30pm	Mosgiel MWF Special Project
14 May		Closing date for "Let the Children Live" Funding
22 - 31 March		Neighbours Day

BULLET POINTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

- **LET THE CHILDREN LIVE** - there is funding available of up to \$500.00 for anyone who has a good idea or initiative relevant to the Needs of Children. The Parish Council will support projects put forward. The next closing date is 14 May 2019.
- **NEIGHBOURS DAY** - 2019 celebrates 10 years of Neighbours Day Aotearoa with 10 days of celebrations 22 - 31 March 2019. All congregations are encouraged to look at how they can celebrate Neighbours day in their area.
- **MOSGIEL ROOF REPLACEMENT** - now due to start mid March. Congregations report that they are all underway for the year.
- **DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Dunedin Methodist Parish Oct - Dec 18

Income

Offerings

Glenaven	1,288.99
Mornington	12,847.00
Mosgiel	2,239.00
St Kilda	7,000.00
Glenaven Property	3,900.00
Rental Income	12,961.00
Other Income	3,045.99
	<u>43,281.98</u>

Expenses

Ministry	18,996.10
Ministry Rental	5,600.00
Removal Fund	270.00
Connexional Budget	1,836.00
District Expenses	2,958.00
Property Expenses	4,273.03
Other Expenses	1,834.71
Conference	0.00
	<u>35,767.84</u>

Historic Methodist church getting new roof

BRENDA.HARWOOD
@thestar.co.nz

After nearly 135 years of protecting parishioners, the roof at Mosgiel Methodist Church is being replaced. Contractor Dunedin Roofing is to start work today on replacing the church's original corrugated iron roof, which is now rusty and letting the rain in.

The \$33,000 project, which is being funded through parish funds, will provide the historic wooden church with a new lease of life.

Founded in 1885, the Mosgiel Methodist Church stands proud at the corner of Gordon Rd and Wickliffe St — by Countdown Mosgiel.

Parish Minister Rev David Poultney said the solidly-built church remained in excellent condition, and was well-placed to support its mostly Mosgiel-based congregation into the future.

Rev Poultney joined the Mosgiel Methodist Church in August, 2018, and is working alongside the congregation to expand the church's outreach into the community.

"We are very keen to reach out to the community and bring them into our space," he said.

The spacious church hall houses the Mosgiel Food Bank, which is run from Taieri Christian Care Trust, and many community groups hire out the hall and some for a variety of activities.



Raising the roof . . . Mosgiel Methodist Church parishioners (from left) Shirley Bulger, Betty-Mae Cathro, Fay Richardson, Rachael Masterton, and Parish Minister Rev David Poultney.

PHOTO: BRENDA HARWOOD

that happens on a Sunday morning, but that is just the tip of the iceberg," Rev Poultney said.

Parishioner Betty-Mae Cathro said the congregation was "friendly and very supportive", and was very active in the community.

"We maintain the Methodist tradition of being good, practically-minded people, with a care for our community."

Rev Poultney said the women of the

fellowship sessions, which were a good way to bring people together.

Parishioner Rachael Masterton, who looks after the church's property and finances, is also making plans for Neighbour's Day, which will run from March 22 to 31 this year.

"We see it as being about being a good neighbour to people, which is important in today's society, where we often don't know our neighbours as well as we used

OPEN EDUCATION:

There are now more than 500 refugees from the dreadful Syrian civil war, men, women and children beginning their new life in Dunedin. Dr Mai Tamimi works with them, hearing their stories and helping them adjust to a new culture, and she is our first speaker in the 2019 Open Education programme. Don't miss her compelling talk on Wednesday 20 March, in the Mornington Methodist Church at 7.30pm. Koha \$5. This is preceded by Judy Russell's splendid pre-session meal at 6pm, for which you'll need to sign in at Mornington or ring Judy at 4553727 to book your place at the table. Cost \$15. All proceeds will go to further support the refugee families.

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 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.

CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBER: David and Darren have a new telephone number for their home 974 6172

MOSGIEL MWF: Tuesday 5th March 1:30pm

We will launch the 2nd part of our Special Project Fiji Partners S.E.E.P. { Social Empowerment Education Programme} All welcome.

Contact - Elaine and Ross Merrett, 40 Forth St, Mosgiel, 9024

Phone: 03 4897663 Cell: 021 141 8293 Email: elaineross@xtra.co.nz

MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH NEWS: During the winter months some of our congregation has been meeting each Wednesday afternoon. The meetings have been at the home of Earlene or Wendy. We have had a lot of fun playing cards and games, and enjoyed afternoon tea together. It has proved to be a good time to catch up with all the news of parishioners whom we miss seeing. A good winter social activity!





CLIENT SUPPORT WORKER: *Youth Transition House* The latter part of the year saw rapid change within the YTH - one of our residents secured and moved into a HNZ property, which was a very positive outcome for her. Another resident completed study, and moved north for work in a related field. Two other residents also moved out, one to shared accommodation with her partner, and another to extended family.

COORDINATOR: *Youth Transition House* There is a plan afoot to make a Kitchen garden with some of the residents having a go at growing potatoes, strawberries, herbs and maybe some carrots in buckets and pots. We are also being supported by the East Dunedin Rotary club members who have indicated they will be supplying the House with a couple of no dig gardens in the near future.

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.

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.



CHURCH

Coming home

*'We shall not cease from exploration
And at the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.'*

T S Eliot. Four Quartets

Our community of faith is moving inexorably toward a situation where decisions must be taken concerning the future direction of Mornington Methodist Church. Membership numbers are static. Aging, physical frailty and mobility issues are compounding, and fewer of us are able to sustain the level of active involvement required to maintain the care, upkeep of buildings, rosters, and day to day tasks. It can feel too hard, too complex and financially impossible. Yet doing nothing to resolve these challenges is quite simply not an option.

As a relative newcomer to Methodism and more specifically Mornington Methodist, I don't consider myself entitled to be overly vocal about the future of the buildings, and the direction of our church in general. Many of our number have a life-long association with MM and have invested creativity, spiritual and pastoral commitment, and financial support faithfully over many decades. These members carry the history of this community of faith, and their deep roots will continue to nourish the ongoing

presence of Methodism in Mornington whatever that may look like moving into the future.

Having said that, I offer this comment. When we moved to Dunedin, we had no idea which church we would attend. We needed to find a church home where we could explore issues of faith in an environment which encouraged the asking of such questions. In conversation with a friend, Mornington Methodist was mentioned as a possibility, so we duly arrived at church one morning eighteen years ago.

Our experience was one of welcome, inclusion and diversity, in a place where we could encounter the divine and be enriched by the fellowship and friendship of the congregation; a congregation steeped in the richness of its Methodist tradition, grounded in gospel values expressed in faithful preaching, reflection, meaningful liturgy and beautiful music, contemporary and traditional.

My grandparents, both maternal and paternal, were baptised, and married in the Methodist Church, a fact not insignificant when I consider how 'at home' I feel in this sacred place. I well remember my father quoting John Wesley whenever the opportunity presented itself. We had come home.

Eighteen years on, our opinion has not changed. This does not mean we see everything as perfect, no human institution ever is, even when God and gospel centered. For not only is everyone's perception of the divine different, so is everyone's idea of what the church should be. In spite of, or perhaps because of, difference and diversity, this sacred space continues to be for us a place where we encounter God. Not just through the preaching, the sacraments and liturgy, but through the people. A people whose incarnational faith is expressed in loving and practical ways, yet never intrusive. An outward looking church, Mornington Methodist is welcoming to the wider community, especially

refugees and migrants looking for safe haven in the city of Dunedin.

What does the future hold for this small but vibrant church? How can its life be sustained so it can continue to be the 'light on the hill' in spite of the looming challenges? Perhaps it will involve more community events. If so what might that look like.

The question is, how do we proceed into an unimagined future where the use of technologies as yet unknown will shape the lives of people and institutions including our church in ways we cannot presume to envision. Societal and cultural changes will inevitably happen at a rate that will have our heads spinning.

I'm not convinced the transition to a church for the future can be effected by our generation. We can merely 'tinker around the edges' for we have neither the resources, energy, or clarity of vision around what will be required in the church of the future. This is not a bad thing, nor does it mean we do nothing. We do what is necessary to sustain our community with the resources we have, and care for each other as we always have, whilst keeping a gospel-centred discerning eye on what is realistic for an aging demographic.

Perhaps the most valuable legacy we can leave to future generations is not just a 'fit for purpose' building but also the heritage of a faith community where the personal and communal spiritual journeys of its people are cherished as they explore what it is to be the people of God in this place. A church that is relevant, 'carrying the mystery' for people as they explore what it means to be 'Christian' on their journey through life.

Trish Patrick