



# 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**

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

## PARISH BULLETIN

24th March 2019

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> March

10.00 am	Mornington	D Poultney
	Mosgiel	Combined at Mornington
	Glenaven	Combined at Mornington
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

### Dates to remember:

26 March	7.00 pm	Mosgiel Leaders Meeting
27 March	2.00 pm	Mornington Women's Fellowship
29-30 March		Faith Thinking Events 2019
31 March	2.30 pm	Dunedin Musical Society Concert
7 April	2.00 pm	Share the Journey
3 May	7.00-9.00pm	Practical Meditation – simple step-by-step Guide

**COMBINED SERVICE** on 31<sup>st</sup> March at Mornington Church, **10.00 am.**

**FAITH THINKING 2019** - These courses are jointly organised between the Theology Programme and some Dunedin Churches, and supported by Continuing Education at the University of Otago.

**The Cross and Resurrection of Christ: What does it mean to say that Christ died for us?**

Professor Murray Rae, Theology Programme, University of Otago

**Friday 29 March, 7:00-9:00pm**

**Saturday 30 March, 9:00am-12.30**

**Elim Church, 67 Harrow Street, Dunedin**

**TASTER FOR BIBLICAL GREEK**

Dr Katie Marcar, Teaching Fellow in Biblical Studies, Theology Programme, University of Otago

**Wednesday 3 April, 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Wednesday 10 April, 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Wednesday 17 April, 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Burns 7, Arts/Burns Building, Albany Street, University of Otago**

THIS IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT A DISTANCE

Please contact [Theology@otago.ac.nz](mailto:Theology@otago.ac.nz) for details

**THE INNER WORLD AND ITS WORKINGS:**

**Attention to our inner life of Prayer with the help of Ignatian Spirituality**

Father Mark Chamberlain, University Chaplain and Priest, Holy Name Parish

**Wednesday 8 May, 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Wednesday 15 May, 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Wednesday 22 May, 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Burns 7, Arts/Burns Building, Albany Street, University of Otago**

Each Course costs \$20. Please register online at [www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation](http://www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation)

## **MOSGIEL LEADERS MEETING**

This will be held in the Church lounge on **Tuesday 26 March at 7pm**

## **MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Our March Meeting will take place on the 27th March at 2 p.m. in the Church Lounge. The Guest Speaker will be Mrs Betty Duncan and her subject: "Grandfather's Norwegian whale ship diary. All welcome to come along and hear this very interesting story.

Please remember the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

## **DUNEDIN MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT**

Held 2.30pm Sunday 31 March at Mornington Methodist Church.

Featuring the group The Three Altos who play alto saxophones and with them are piano and bass. It will be a good concert. All welcome. Adults \$2 and children free.

**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.

**PRIVATE BOARD ACCOMMODATION** - 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.

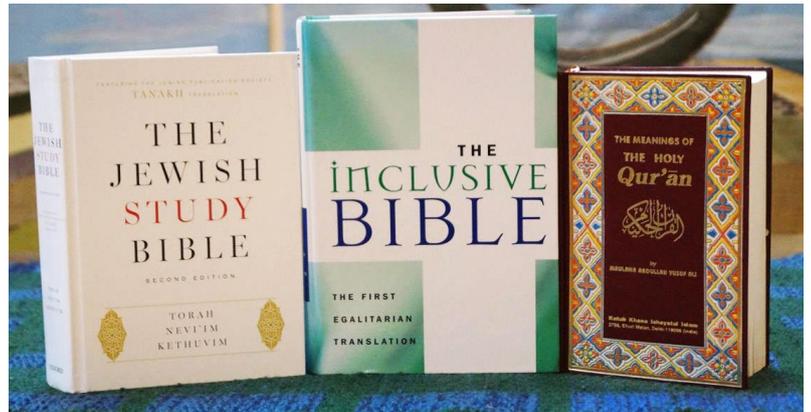
The Kopi family have asked us, their Dunedin Church family, to help find a place for Kirstie to stay. Ideally this will be private board with a Christian family, within walking distance of Logan Park School Money is available to pay for private board.

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.

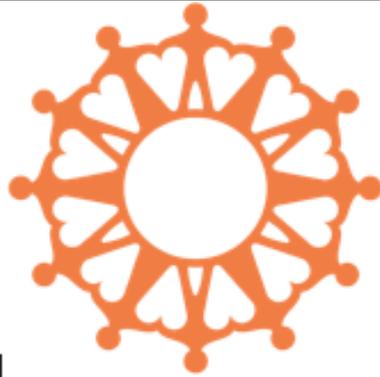
### ONE GOD - THREE BOOKS

A service held only two days following the horrific massacre of Muslim worshippers in the Christchurch mosques was always going to demand a measure of



improvisation. David Poultney managed it very well by featuring three books in the Abrahamic tradition, each representing significant faith communities within New Zealand, and each left bereft and saddened by the tragic massacre. Colin Gibson held the book of the Jewish Scriptures, Hilda Hughson the Christian Bible and Paul Gourlie the Karan of Islam. It proved an effective way of bringing home what has been apparent through the last unforgettable week, that despite enormous diversity of ethnicity, faith and culture, New Zealanders are ONE PEOPLE.





**Share the  
Journey** ✨  
#sharejourney

**You are invited to** a global campaign to **walk a million kilometres** in an **act of solidarity with migrants and refugees** who are forced to leave their homes because of war, persecution, natural disaster and poverty. Our solidarity walk is also **an occasion for us to walk aside those who are new to our community** including migrants and former refugees in Dunedin and hear some of their story.

Simply come along on Sunday, 7th April at 2pm to walk and chat with some of our new residents. Following the walk along John Wilson Drive, there will be games on at Hancock Park (sack races, tug of war, lolly scramble) and a free sausage sizzle. After the walk we will combine kilometres walked and submit these to the global campaign.

**Date:** Sunday, 7th April  
**Time:** 2.00pm  
**Where:** Meet beside the Dinosaur Park ready to walk 1, 2 or 4 kilometres along John Wilson Drive.  
**Cost:** Free

For more information see our Facebook Page: **Dunedin Churches Welcome Refugees** or contact Amy: [amy@cdd.org.nz](mailto:amy@cdd.org.nz)

## **NEW COURSE – 8 Sessions**

**Starting May 3<sup>rd</sup> 7-9pm**

Come and share in this wonderful opportunity. If radical spirituality is in the hands of the people over 60 years of age, here is the opportunity to make a contribution to building a better world. Our focus will be on practice, using the best practices from as many religious traditions as we have access to. We will be drawing on material found in the book: *Practical Meditation – A simple step-by-step Guide* by Giovanni Dienstmann.

**Contact Rod Mitchel 4533310 or Colin Gibson 4536662**

## LIVES LOST IN CHRISTCHURCH

On Sunday 17th March at our service we lit 49 candles to remember those lives lost in the shooting which occurred at the two Mosques in Christchurch on Friday 15th March. This was a meaningful act as our congregation lit the candles and felt for the families of lives lost. This followed a minutes silence which was followed by a prayer written by Elaine for the occasion.



**AT A RECENT SERVICE,** Rod Mitchell talked about the controversial figure of St Paul, drawing our attention to the curious mixture of the imaginative poet and the misogynist-lawgiver in the man. Rod's main proof of Paul's divided personality was drawn from the apostle's remarks in his letters to Christian communities on the subject of human love and the 'proper' place of women in society and congregational life. He suggested that I Corinthians (that famous passage about faith, hope and love) showed the warm-hearted poet in Paul, with its images drawn from music and domestic life, while Paul's dictums about unmarried, married and widowed women betrayed a harsh and superior male view, unlikely to attract either modern women or hymn-writers.

Well, those sayings can be versified (whether one would want to sing them or not) as follows:

Women, keep your hats on, hide those lovely flowing locks,  
 For pretty curls on pretty girls give guys electric shocks.  
 Better slip a ring on, just as quickly as you can,  
 To stop lust's fire from torching your inflammable man.

Women, God is number one, and hubbie's number two,  
 So you get to be number three—they're both ahead of you.  
 Never think to rule the roost or tell them what to do;  
 They have all the authority, and all the wisdom too.

When you're hitched, whatever Mister Big may think or say,  
 Just listen up all meek and mild, your job is to obey.  
 You were formed from Adam to provide a loving mate,  
 But then you went and spoiled it all by listening to the Snake.

Women, when you go to church, not a word from you;  
 Leave all the squawking to the men—your place is in the pew.  
 Every job is taken, there is nothing left to do  
 But raise the kids, and kneel and pray, and sing a hymn or two.

Not a pretty sight, and hard to imagine that the same man who thought that way actually wrote so beautifully about human love. But Paul has had his defenders, even among feminist critics.

For one thing, many biblical scholars suspect that all the stuff about the subservience of women was added by a later writer (a not uncommon practice). For another, it is evident from the New Testament texts that Paul was actually acquainted with, worked side by side with and respected many women. Women like Phoebe, deacon of Cenchreae (Romans 16); Prisca, Nympha, Mary, Lydia, named by the apostle as heads of house churches; Tryphaena, Tryphosa and Persis. In Acts 18 Prisca and her husband are said to have helped Paul found the church in Ephesus and the pair taught Apollos, an eloquent preacher from Alexandria, to whom they 'explained the Way of God...more

accurately.' Euodia and Syntyche are honoured as co-workers at Philippi who have 'struggled beside' Paul, 'in the work of the gospel'. And in Romans 16 Paul sends greetings to Andronicus and Junia, 'my relatives who were in prison with me.' He continues, 'They are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.' Mere names to us now, but a glimpse of the many women who followed the Way, and are credited by Paul with working alongside himself.

As the MeToo movement emerges in America, a new generation of women challenging the oppressive, arrogant and frequently brutal behaviour of powerful men, as Asian and African women begin to claim higher roles in their societies, as Maori and Pacifica women begin to give voice to their anger and frustration at their long subordination within their respective cultures, as pakeha women press for full equality and freedom of opportunity in New Zealand political, business, artistic and social life, religious communities need to take a long look at some of their barnacle-choked texts and attitudes. Fundamentalists have allowed Paul the legalist to dominate their thinking and our behaviour for too long. Paul the poet, who declared that 'in Christ there is neither male nor female,' must be heard again.

At the recent Waitangi Day celebrations, we were given contradictory visions of New Zealand society in action. On one meeting-ground, Jacinda Adern, our Prime Minister, sizzled and handed out sausages while her husband held the baby; on another meeting-ground so-called Bishop Tamaki roared in with his black-clad gang of male motor-cyclists and set up his tent, eager to be given permission to 'make men' of our prison population. I wonder what Paul would have made of it all?

**Colin Gibson**