



# 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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## PARISH BULLETIN

19th May 2019

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 26th MAY 2019

9.30 am	Mornington	Rev D Poultney
10.00 am	Mosgiel	H Watson White
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

### DATES TO REMEMBER

22 May	7.00-9.00pm	Faith Thinking 2019
22 May	2.00 pm	Mornington Women's Fellowship
22 May	7.30 pm	Open Education evening
26 May	2.30 pm	Musical Society Concert

**FAITH THINKING 2019 - 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 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)

**ON TUESDAY NIGHT AT MORNINGTON LEADERS MEETING**, it was acknowledged that Colin Gibson had been given the honour of being a 'Life Member' of the Dunedin city choir. So a hearty congratulation to Colin from the parish and from all those he has influenced with music among Methodist churches here in New Zealand and abroad.

**BULLET POINTS FROM THE PARISH MEETING** held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

- Mosgiel Church Roof is now completed. Doors and window sills still to be painted.
- Strengthening of the St Kilda Church is now in progress. The roof has been replaced and they are now waiting for the painting to be done

**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - Our May meeting will take place on Wednesday 22nd May at 2p.m., in the Church Lounge. The Guest Speaker will be Deborah Manning who will speak about the development of the food sharing network she created in 2012. Come along and hear this interesting talk.

**Please remember the Fellowship of the Least Coin.**

## OPEN EDUCATION AND THE WONDER OF JAPANESE GARDENS

Regrettably, Damien van Brandenburg, architect for the new Dunedin harbour-scape, has had to cancel his engagement for the May Open Education session (he will be in China, involved in designing a new university). His talk will be replaced with the showing of an exceptionally beautiful film on Japanese gardens in springtime, presented by Monty Don. It is not only full of wonderful images; it sets out to explain the cultural and religious symbolism of these gardens, with their Buddhist and Zen origins and their expression of the profound Japanese reverence for nature. Something for everyone here, so come along and enjoy a special evening in Mornington Methodist Church this Wednesday at 7.30pm (koha \$5). The usual tasty pre-session \$15 meal catered by Judy Russell at 6pm (ring 455 3727 for your booking).

**MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT** Sunday 2.30pm May 26th at Mornington Methodist Church. Come and hear some beautiful singing and piano playing. John Van Buskirk will be premiering Ship Waltzes by NZ composer Robbie Ellis. These are fun jazzy piano pieces. All welcome. Admission is \$2



## STORIES FROM THE MISSION

**Corrections: *Literacy and Numeracy:*** This month we started the VR project working with our intensive literacy and numeracy students. This has made a big impression on the students involved and on the others who are keen to take part. One of our students who had consistently

refused all education courses throughout his sentence is now not only attending class, but he is taking part in discussion and even starting to volunteer his writing and drawing for the mind map activities. This new way of involving and inspiring learners would seem to be working really well.

**Corrections: *Foundation Skills:*** As part of the Foundation Skills Programmes, students are required to become familiar with various Microsoft programmes. Several of the students are not very confident in using computers and can find the work surrounding these units rather daunting. One new young student was embarking on some exercises concerning making spreadsheets, when it was explained to him what he was going to be doing his first response was “No way, I can’t do that!!” With some encouragement, and perseverance from the student, some of the trepidation slowly began to disappear as he discovered some of the more simple functions of the Excel programme. By the end of his first session on the computers this student had a smile instead of the frown, as he left the classroom he said, “That was so cool, I didn’t know computers could do that. I wish we were back on the computers tomorrow.”

**Client Support Service: *Milton:*** Eric, a single man in his forties, was referred to the Client Support Service for support in advocating for him with health services. Eric felt that he had not been listened to by these services, and said that he was feeling frustrated at both his ongoing problems and not being heard by those who were supposed to be helping him. He believed that this last factor was actually more of a hindrance to his recovery than the health problems themselves.

Throughout the service, Eric demonstrated his existing knowledge of the health system, his self-reliance in terms of organisation and filing of health-related documents, and his perseverance; despite many setbacks he continued to push for the service to which he knew he was

entitled.

Eric's determination paid off, in that he received the consultation he had been seeking, and was able to express his opinions and have them listened to by the professional concerned.

At the end of the service, Eric said that he felt that having the Client Support Service alongside him had assisted in supporting him to remain focused and goal-oriented, rather than allowing himself to be distracted by relatively minor concerns, and he was grateful to have had the presence of another professional to lend weight to his voice.

**Little Citizens: Milton:** This month has been a busy month for the under 2s at MLC particularly settling a new child in. This child has found the transition from home to centre a little scary and is finding it tricky to settle in and in trusting new people. We took things slowly working at building up the relationship and the trust both for mum and the child. Some of the strategies were sending mum several texts and some photos keeping her informed of how her child was doing, and also letting her know if she wasn't coping and it would be a good time to come back. This all helped ease mums mind. By the end of the month we had great success; the child started with minimal distress and was nicely settled on her first full day away from mum and this got better as the week went on. Mum was so grateful and happy for the time put into making this transition work for them. We have had another child (16months) start who has settled in as if she has been here for a long time and has fitted in well with our other toddlers. At the end of March we had a child return from being away for a long period of time, he has not settled back in as quickly as we had hoped, so we are working closely with him in the coming weeks to make him feel welcome and secure in our setting again. Kōwhai, our canary, is helping with this transition as he mesmerised by him.



## **ECOLOGICAL REPENTANCE**

Earlier this week the United Nations visited New Zealand

Ten years ago during Lent 2009 I helped organise the Balclutha to Oamaru portion of a national “walk for the planet” . Hundreds of us marched through Dunedin as an expression of deep concern for the future of our planet. Things have continued to deteriorate since then, as a result of increasing greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. The main greenhouse gases emitted or generated by human activities are carbon dioxide, methane, several halocarbons, and nitrous oxide.

The atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide remained between 260 and 280 parts per million for the 10,000 years between the start of the present interglacial period (the Holocene) and the start of the industrial era two hundred years ago. Since then, it has increased dramatically and is now about 383 parts per million (ppm) and continuing to rise. Our plea during the Walk for the Planet was to keep the concentration of carbon dioxide to below 350 ppm, which continues to be an urgent goal. See <https://350.org/>

Earlier this week United Nations Secretary General António Guterres visited our land. He shared breakfast with teenage school pupils and spoke with them about Climate change. He shared that the United Nations' main international objectives were to reach carbon neutrality here on planet earth by 2050, to stop the construction of new coal plants by 2020 and to start taxing pollution, not people.

"We must stop subsidising fossil fuels, tax payers money should not be used to boost hurricanes, to spread droughts, to bleach corals or melt glaciers."

He said it was up to future climate change policy makers, that is, the teenagers before him, and those currently in power to do it to make positive changes.

NZ has indeed recently committed to becoming Carbon neutral by 2050, but the future of our planet is largely in the hands of the big polluters – China, the USA and India.

We, all via our Government and the UN, need to continue to advocate strongly and passionately (alongside our young people) for policy changes to be made by the big polluters who are literally destroying our planet. There needs to be an urgent change of mindset and practice internationally if our planet is to remain habitable. Climate change is the most serious issue facing our world as a whole.

A hymn we often sing is “Touch the Earth lightly”. The music is by Colin Gibson and words by Shirley Erena Murray (Alleluia Aotearoa 143).

“Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care: gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear. We who endanger, who create hunger, agents of death for all creatures that live, we who would foster clouds of disaster, God of our planet, forestall and forgive”

To forestall something is to prevent or obstruct it, to take action in advance to prevent a disaster. When we sing Shirley and Colin’s hymn we are asking God to forgive us our ecological sins. As people of God we can help forestall ecological disaster through taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Will we be agents of death, or agents of life? Will we work for ecological resurrection and healing or allow the disintegration to continue with disastrous consequences.

In Colossians 1: 16-17 we read that “For by Christ were all things created, both seen and unseen”. Christ’s creativity and healing action is ongoing in creation. Christian people can co-operate with this divine impulse and help restore creation at all levels (See <https://www.arocha.org.nz/> )

The UN's special climate report, released last October states that to prevent catastrophic warming, a global mobilisation not seen since World War 2 is necessary. We have reached the end of normal, in terms of climate stability and predictability. We have exited the window of environmental conditions that allowed humans to evolve.

Climate change is already happening. A warming planet will lead to melting ice in the Arctic and Antarctic. The whiteness of ice causes the sun's rays to reflect back into the sky (the albedo effect). When ice melts and becomes dark ocean, it absorbs heat rather than reflects it so the planet warms faster still.

“Let there be greening, birth from the burning, water that blesses and air that is sweet, health in God's garden, hope in God's children, regeneration that peace will complete” (Shirley Murray).

May we all work together for “resurrection” from the multifaceted ecological deaths and processes currently happening as a result of inherently selfish human-caused (anthropogenic) climate change. This will require significant changes to our life-style. May we, as a species, transition from being agents of death to agents of life and healing.

Rev Greg Hughson - University Chaplain

**A highly recommended book:**

“Creation and Hope Reflections on Ecological Anticipation and Action from Aotearoa-NZ” 2018 Edited by Nicola Hoggard-Creegan and Andrew Shepherd.