



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Parish Prayer		
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PARISH BULLETIN

23rd June 2019

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 30th June 2019

9.30 am	Mornington	Combined
10.00 am	Mosgiel	Combined
11.00 am	Glenaven	David Poultney
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

26 June	2.00 pm	Mornington Women's Fellowship
30 June	10.00 am	Combined Service at Glenaven Church
30 June	4.30 pm	Combined Service—Community Church
26-27 July	Coming Up	Finding Faith in Secular Times

MUSICAL SOCIETY RECITAL today 2.30pm at the Mornington Methodist Church. Today there are two male choirs singing and also cello and piano items. This will be an enjoyable recital.

Cost is \$2 for adults, children are free. All welcome.

DAVID'S FIRST YEAR REVIEW

One year into a new appointment the District Superintendent visits a parish to see how things are going for both parish and presbyter. Peter Taylor will be in Dunedin on Tuesday and is meeting David over a meal, then he is leading an **open meeting at Mornington at 7.00 pm.**

Samples of the kind of questions he will ask are available in each of our churches today. Everyone is welcome, if you cannot attend and have something you wish to say please talk to one of our parish stewards; John Hardy, Jan Stewart or Ross Merrett

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:

Our June Meeting will take place on the 26th June at 2 p.m., in the Church Lounge. The Rev. David Poultney will give us a short Devotional message before chairing the Annual General Meeting. This will be followed by the Monthly Meeting. Please remember the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

COMBINED SERVICE - SUNDAY 30TH JUNE

On the fifth Sunday of a month – when it happens – our English language congregations worship together. Our service next Sunday is at 10.00 at Glenaven Church on Chambers Street. It will be a special service to celebrate Matariki and to reflect that winter is both part of the cycle of the year and a season in our lives.

You are encouraged to bring a plate to share at the morning tea.

COMBINED SERVICE - Invitation and Reminder from the Mornington Presbyterian Church Community for a Combined Service on the 5th Sunday, 30th June. We are planning to host people from our churches for a combined service at 4:30 p.m. on 30 June. A light supper will be provided.

COMING UP – FINDING FAITH IN “SECULAR TIMES” - What can we learn about Christian witness from the experiences of recent converts to Christianity?

Dr Lynne Taylor, Sommerville Lecturer in Pastoral Theology, Theology Programme, University of Otago, *Friday 26th July, 7-9pm Saturday 27th July 9am-12.30pm*, Dunedin City Baptist Church, 19 Main South Road, Concord, Dunedin. Each Course costs \$20. Please register online at www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation



WEST PAPUA: THE PACIFIC CAN NO LONGER IGNORE

**Meet Rosa Moiwend, West Papuan
activist, human rights defender and
researcher**



Our Pacific neighbor West Papua has the worst deforestation, mineral exploitation and human rights abuse problems in the region.

New Zealand has ignored West Papua's struggle for decades. We must act now.

Monday, 24th June, 12.00 to 1.00 pm
Castle D Seminar Room, University of Otago
65 Albany Street, Dunedin

Hosted by West Papua Support Dunedin and National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.

KINDNESS

Rev Dr Trevor Hoggart, retiring Director of Mission Resourcing, speaking from considerable experience of friction within congregations or the larger Church, leaves his position with a message for us all.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another” - Ephesians 4.32

Kindness doesn't get the same amount of attention that we give to the more dynamic aspects of the New Life we have in Christ, but it is as vital ingredient for the smooth running of the Church as oil is essential to an engine,.Kindness should lie behind all our dealings, discussions and disagreements, for no large diverse body of people can escape the need for debate, argument and compromise, but without kindness, our relationships sour and soon the body seizes up and refuses to move in any direction.

I have witnessed too many strained relationships between local churches and “the connexion”, or between local congregations sharing the same building, or between opposing theological views. That such relationships can be difficult at times is self-evident, but once kindness has been drained from the system, we all get stuck, entrenched behind our barricades, ready to make assumptions for the worse about those we perceive as being against us.

In Ephesians 4:22-32 we see that our New Life in Christ is supposed to make a real, visible difference to our behaviour with other parties within the Church. Speaking the truth in love is an essential foundation for any relationship – that means having the courage to say respectfully what we truly think, rather than put on an act of apparent compliance with the status quo only to undermine everything behind the scenes. We are told not to let the sun go down on our anger, because allowing division to fester only makes it worse. Speak with kindness and compassion with the intention of helping the other party and thereby of helping the whole Church.

Kindness seems to be disappearing fast around the world in political debate. The others are just idiots—or so they would have you believe. Kindness is as rare as hen's teeth in the twittersphere. Surely, we can try to put a little kindness back into the world – starting with the Church?

STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Client Support Service: *Youth Transition House:* This month saw another resident find a stable place to move in to. This resident had experienced significant turbulence in her life prior to moving in to the House, and had had to build her independence and rediscover her strength before she was able to take the next step to building a better future.

She credited the House with providing her with a sense of stability, and the Client Support Service in its practical, non-judgemental support, which was available whenever she needed it. She said she was excited about now moving out on her own, and appreciated the availability of follow-up support, even though she felt she it would not be needed.

Client Support Service: *Milton:* A former client of the service in Milton made a point of dropping in to relay the news that her previous goals had now been fully achieved, and she was in the final stages of moving for a fresh start which looked to be more perfect than she had imagined she could find. She credited the service with helping her to broaden her aspirations, which had led to this new opportunity.

Corrections: *Skills for Dads/Story Reading Dads – Invercargill:* This Skills for Dads was a smaller class in Invercargill, giving the opportunity for more depth in discussions, and more relationship building across the group. One familiar face – Sam - had been in a Story-reading Dads class at OCF, and he was telling his classmates about someone else from that group who wrote stories for his daughter. So, instead of reading a book, Bert wrote one and then read it, copying it out into a blank book with pages left for his daughter to illustrate the story. The daughter absolutely loved the book, and Bert is now released from prison, and doing very well.

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.



Kaaren Mathias is a New Zealander nurse living with her husband, children, a cat and a dog in a small town in North India where she works in mental health. In a recent issue of *Tui Motu*, she described her feelings as she sat surrounded by the gloss and chrome of the airport in Dubai, having travelled to an international conference there. What she had to say is such a trenchant reminder of the connections that sustain us and the whole natural world that I thought she should be allowed to speak in this series of articles on our theme.

She says, 'I found myself reading a recently released global assessment report on biodiversity and our planet's ecosystem. The report describes the catastrophic and rapid decline in species diversity and the "fraying and thinning" of the web of the natural world that sustains us. It made me feel nauseous and overwhelmed at the fragility of the future, and staggered at the huge losses in biomass and diversity of all species described.

Meanwhile, around me were bottles of amber perfume, aisles of technological trinkets and miles of polished marble floors. Oil-fired air-conditioning (how strange that burning coal makes cold?) ensured I was oblivious to the desert heat glowering outside. Dubai may have a larger environmental impact than other cities on this fragile planet, but we're all complicit. I came and went from Dubai by plane.

Looking around, it seemed as if every pyramid of chocolate and each glistening showcase of watches was as polluting as the shoals of plastic rubbish that swarm down hillsides and redeploy on street corners in my home in Northern India. The message of global inter-connectedness is key. The edifices of global finance, commodified health, social inequality and the existence of places like Duty Free in Dubai lead (through a series of tangled and perverse pathways) to the extinction of a frog species in Costa Rica and to toxins found in olives bought at Pak'n'Save.

The disconnect between our actions and their distant consequences is one of the reasons it is hard to do things differently. A purchase of a couple of cheap T-shirts today will pull on the tangled threads of the global web in different ways. Could it give a vote of support to cotton-growers to be heavy-handed with herbicides which lead to an impoverished habitat and, eventually, erode genetic diversity for a spider species? Could my purchase add to the vote of 1,000 other purchases that encourage the T-shirt factory manager in Dhaka to maintain harsh or unsafe labour conditions? Or could it provide income to sewing machinists who have no other choices?

These are not easy thoughts or conversations. None of us like to feel complicit in the systematic destruction of the ecological web that sustains us. But we all are. The more I know, the more ethically fraught my choices on travelling, consuming and just living become. It is no longer enough to be a well-intentioned and mostly eco-ethical person. To halt this cataclysmic decline in the environment we have to do more than taking cloth bags to the supermarket.

There are strategies and careful structures behind the scenes to ensure the pre-eminence of global capitalism and consequential environmental destruction. We cannot **afford** to be naive. We can ponder aloud with our children, friends and random strangers about how we can all live in ways that minimise environmental damage. We can give our vote to leaders who will action policy for the Earth. And we can try to live as radically as we can. Like that young carpenter, the preacher guy who, before the time of oil-cooled glassy airport terminals in hot deserts, warmly promoted the idea of loving our neighbour—humans and other species—as we love ourselves.

Colin Gibson