



# 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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<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>		
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## PARISH BULLETIN

30th June 2019

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	H Watson White
11.00 am	Glenaven	D Poultney
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

### DATES TO REMEMBER

30 June	4.30 pm	Combined Service—Community Church
2 July	1.30 pm	Mosgiel Women's Fellowship
26-27 July	Coming Up	Finding Faith in Secular Times

**THANK YOU TO THOSE** who participated in David's first year review.

### **Copies of David's Sermons and Services**

Two requests which came out of the evening were for more copies of the sermon to be printed and for copies of David's full working text - including meditations - to be made available. This can be done but to meet the demand entirely by printing comes at a cost. Paper copies of the full text and sermon will be made available but for those of you who would appreciate them and are happy with them being emailed to you please let David know. You will be emailed week by week - apart from those rare weeks when David is not preaching.

**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.

### **MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Tuesday 2nd July 1:30pm in the Hall lounge. This is our AGM led by Rev Shirley Ungemuth. All welcome.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> July, 7-9pm Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 9am-12.30pm**, Dunedin City Baptist Church, 19 Main South Road, Concord, Dunedin.

**COMING UP – IS GOD GREEN-AND WHAT ABOUT US?:** An exploration of human responsibility in the care of the Earth. Rev Dr Selwyn Jeoman, Presbyterian Minister **Thursdays 8, 15 and 22 August, 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm**, 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)



## UPDATE FROM THE MISSION

As was foreshadowed over a year ago, the Mission's Early Years Hub closed at the end of last week. Further funding was not able to be found – despite all the Wellbeing rhetoric!! – but we have been able to support all the groups to find new homes for their activities. This brings to a close eight years of service in South Dunedin, with more than 80,000 visits from mums and whānau of young children. In the time the Hub was at the Mission, multiple parent support activities were birthed, including a Korean playgroup, an international play group, the cooking classes, a support group for parents with mental health issues, and of course the clothing table and first visit packs which included so many gorgeous, hand-knitted, booties, hats and other items of clothing from our wonderful Methodist women!! The Hub made a huge difference and your support was a significant part of that. **Thank you all so much.**

Our second bit of news is that following a review of the time and effort, but especially the coordination, of how we do marketing – the Mission has grown from \$2m a year of turnover just four years ago to an estimated \$5.8m in 2019-2020 – we have increased our investment in this activity, and we have brought some of the functions together and swapped around some of the tasks. We will also be getting some help to look at our gifting programme through June and July. Sadly, as a result, Rose Newburn will stop being the Mission Supporters' Club Coordinator and we'll have a new person starting in a couple of month's time who will take this on and I will introduce him/her to you just as soon as we know who that is!

Laura Black

## SHONA'S DANCE OF LIFE

Dr Shona Dunlop MacTavish (12.4.1920 - 18.6.2019), in the last decade of her very long life, liked to come to Glenaven with daughter Terry, and on one memorable occasion took part in a dance Terry devised as part of the service.

Descended from one of the city's best-known Presbyterian families (both her father and grandfather being closely associated with Knox Theological Hall), Shona was truly ecumenical in her faith and inclusive in her approach to teaching and practising dance. She was much-travelled in her work, first as a member of the



Bodenwieser troupe – which fled the Nazis in Vienna for South America and Australia – and then as a co-missionary with her husband in China, Taiwan and South Africa under Apartheid. Having experienced dance in many other cultures, she set up her own dance school in Dunedin while a widow with three young children, choreographing her own distinctive works on social and political themes, at a time when such breadth of vision and freedom of spirit was hardly comprehended within New Zealand society, let alone embraced in church. In doing that wonderful work for so many years she broadened all our minds, and we shall treasure her memory. – HWW

## STORIES FROM THE MISSION

**Corrections:** *Literacy and Numeracy:* One of the students said that we have a lot of patience, and make it easier to do the courses. He said that he had tried learning before, but the tutors were not able to cope with his frustration when he found the work tough, and with his ADHD. He commented that we do a great job at working with him no matter what, and deliver the learning at a level and pace that works for him. This ties in with the range of professional development that we have been involved in the last few months – this has included Talking Troubles workshop, neurodiversity workshop, and a range of innovative ways of engagement with the VR development. I am getting many requests upon completion to do more courses run by us for this reason.



**Client Support Service** *Little Citizens Dunedin*: Mihi, a single mum of two daughters under 5, was introduced to the Client Support Service through enrolling her children in Little Citizens. Following on from the introductory visit, Mihi made contact with the service when she was experiencing issues in her dealing with a government department. Mihi was able to advocate for herself and her whānau, but asked for support in meeting her daughters' immediate practical needs. Mihi was thankful that the Service was able to act and reduce her immediate stresses, which then allowed her to focus on what she needed to address. The end result was that the department concerned accepted that they had made an incorrect decision, and things got back on track for the family.

**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.**



Why do we need to explore the elements of water, earth, Fire, and air? Brian Swimme in his wonderful little book “The universe is a green dragon – A Cosmic Creation Story” states, ‘If we are to be truly human we need to become the gifts that these elements have to offer us as human beings’. So in this article I will give a brief overview of his argument and may well follow up in future articles a little more detail and practical steps we need to take to embrace his suggestion. Each of these elements has a unique power and gift which helps humans

appreciate who and what they are required to be as creatures in this unfolding drama.

“To become fully mature as human persons,” writes Swimme, “we must bring to life within ourselves the dynamics that fashioned the cosmos. We must become these dynamics and primordial powers in new human form. That is our task: to create the human form of the power of the cosmos. The same dynamics that created the galaxies created the stars and the oceans. The power that build the universe are ultimately mysterious, issuing forth from and operating out of mystery. They are the most awesome and numinous reality in the universe. Humans are these dynamics, brought into self-awareness, becoming now fully aware of our creative work. We already have these powers in the form of stars, mountains, atoms, and elephants, but we do not yet have them in human form. Having only just arrived on this planet, we are still learning what it means to become fully human.”

But we do know as Christians, this is important for us; we remember Jesus’ claim that he came to give us life in all its fullness.

Fullness is a difficult concept for us western science focused people. As Swimme reports, “We western educated people tend to define something in terms of the parts it can be broken down into. But that’s only half the story. Mineral water can be broken down into its parts, and we can learn something from that. But mineral water as an entity shows itself in ways that its parts cannot. Breaking water itself into its parts of hydrogen and oxygen gives us some knowledge of water, but water as an integral entity reveals things about itself that its parts do not. Learning by analysis has been emphasized over the last two centuries, but we also learn by examining things as wholes.” In their fullness.

Yes we need to explore the elements of water, air, fire, and earth as parts of a whole but equally appreciate each in its own right as a significant part of who we are as human beings. This would be my hope of what a new lectionary could offer our faith journey as we creatively move forward to face the challenges of our evolving universe.

Rod Mitchell

