



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
	Ross Merrett	489 7663
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	David: parish@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600
	Katrina: admin@mmsouth.org.nz	
Parish Prayer Convenor:	Elaine Merrett: elaineross@xtra.co.nz	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor Mornington:	Beryl Neutze	476 7447

PARISH BULLETIN

21st July 2019

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 28th July 2019

9.30 am	Mornington	M Hardy
10.00 am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

24 July	2.00 pm	Mornington Women's Fellowship
26-27 July	9 am-12.30 pm	Finding Faith in Secular Times
8-22 August	Coming Up	Is God Green – and What About Us?

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our July Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 24 July at 2.00 pm** in the Church Lounge. Laura Black will bring us up to date with her topic 'What's New at the Mission?' Please remember your small change for the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

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.

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

COMING UP – GOING DEEPER INTO THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Dr Deborah Bower, Director, SoulScape

Friday 6 September, 7:00pm – 9:00pm and Saturday 7 September, 9:00am-12.30pm

Elim Church, 67 Harrow Street, Dunedin

Each Course costs \$20. Please register online at www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation



AN UNEXPECTED PLEASURE - at Mornington last Sunday was the presence of **Rev Prince Devanandan and his wife Remani.** (photo)

Prince is Director of Mission and Ecumenical for our Church and works out of the complex of church offices at Penrose, Auckland, (with Siosifa Pole).



Prince was invited to be our guest preacher and gave an illustrated summary of his recent tour of Methodist and ecumenical work in the Solomon Islands. It is some time since we received a first hand report of the work in what was once our primary overseas mission field. It was good to hear once familiar and beloved names mentioned again and to see obvious signs of progress and development.

But Prince left us in no doubt of continuing need for assistance with education and medical projects from the NZ Church and from individual Methodists.

These needs are well focussed in two articles in Touchstone (p 11 current issue).

Write to Prince at Private Bag 11903, Ellerslie, Auckland or by email at prined@methodist.org.nz .



Client Support: *Youth Transition House:* This month, the residents took the opportunity to improve their ability to take the lead in their own lives, and make small steps towards full independence, in the decisions they made in regard to their day to day lives. Accommodation possibilities in Dunedin are limited, however this has not affected the residents' resilience, and determination to keep looking for something suitable and sustainable. They have demonstrated a willingness to adapt their initial preferences (such as one-bedroom flats) when given new information e.g. rental costs, benefit & extra support amounts; developing their ability to critically evaluate situations and make informed choices.

Milton Little Citizens: A busy month this month, the confidence of our youngest tamariki is growing by the week. They now feel comfortable to join in with the older tamariki especially during kapa haka time and other music sessions, they love trying out new dance moves, exploring poi, rākau and just having lots and lots of fun! We have also had some big physical achievements, one of our tamariki after months of trying, testing and revisiting has figured out the balance bike and can now whizz around with great confidence, even tackling the hill in the playground. Another child has discovered crawling which has opened up her world immensely and she is loving her new found freedom.

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.



***For though I am weak yet am I strong.
Struck down I stand up.***

The above words are a working paraphrase of St Paul's marvellous paradox of strength in vulnerability (ref. 1 Cor 1: 27 for a more literal read.)

While not pursuing the analogy to ridiculous lengths, I give it to you as a Kiwi cricket follower's appreciation of the performance of the our Team in the 2019 Cricket World Cup, in particular the two final matches.

Population-wise the numbers show a staggering disproportion. New Zealand (4.3 million) beat India (1.1 billion) and came within a minutae of the fine print of the CWC rules of drawing with England (49.1 million.) To reinforce the logic of this comparison, India is rated as the world's most "cricket-mad country on earth, " its stars such as Dhoni and Kohli rating god-like status with life-styles to match.

And of course, England is the birth place of cricket, and the final was played at the very home of cricket where everything British about the noble game was represented in the famous Long Room with its hallowed memorabilia, not forgetting the cloud of MCC faithful in their red and orange striped caps and blazers. Truly it was all there for England on the day, the Kiwis faced by an overwhelming momentum of British patriotism, coupled with a tsanami-like will to win. Given such a maelstrom, it is one of the most truly remarkable achievements in NZ sport that our team only conceded after successive draws and recourse

to the rule book for the final victory the Lords faithful were baying and praying for.

But the David/Goliath rationale can take us only so far. We cannot hide from the fact that when bat comes to ball, it is eleven players' vs eleven. Much of the national pride from the heroics of our team at CWC is based on the fact we competed on equal terms against teams like India and England, and despite fielding players of lesser renown and arguably lesser ability. Yes, there were Williamson, Taylor and Boult, all of whom had made their reputations on the world stage but the NZ team list by comparison with the big power nation was half filled with "nobodies." But how those nobodies did the business!

For supreme batsman ship and an uncanny ability to read the game, how about the humble demeanour of universally admired skipper Kane Williamson? For a seriously underrated bowler exceeding all expectations, how about Matt Henry? For a fast bowling new boy, unsettling the best among the powerful, how about Lockie Ferguson? For an opening bat, struggling with poor form, but never failing to exert an encouraging influence on his team mates with his incredible fielding, how about Martin Guptill? And that's not an exhaustive list. Such was the extraordinary resilience of a team that consistently confounded the critics. Weak, yet strong when it mattered.

You may respond that only a besotted cricket fan, and one vaccinated with the hypodermic of biblical imagery could write of cricket in such terms. You are right and I plead guilty. But in the wake of a seeming endless succession of late nights and the bleary aftermath with its toll on marital equilibrium, spare me the right to indulge on just this one occasion. And can you doubt that the noble game of cricket has made its converts in these remarkable latter days?

The vulnerability paradox of weakness/strength, death/life has endless applications for those with eyes to see and faith to perceive. Without it we would be consigned to despair and cynicism. What is the weapon of those who despite all of the evidence to the contrary believe that the Donald Trumps of this world will not have the last say in human affairs?

As only one example I think of the four black Democrat congresswomen attacked by the odious president in one of his worst-ever tweets - that they should go back to where they came from, to the crime infested neighbourhoods with which he, the great powerful white man, associates all black women of their ethnicity. So how should they respond? You know it. With firm unbending dignity they have eyeballed him with their unquestioned legitimacy, their right to speak truth, to challenge lies when they are uttered. Their vulnerability is all the more apparent at the hands of a president who will stop at nothing to destroy them, but in today's America they stand tall, and sooner or later they and those like them will surely reclaim the country.

St Paul had no monopoly on the inspiration inherent in vulnerability. It is at the heart of the Christ who carried his cross to crucifixion and defeat, but on the third day, and since, he lives.

Ken Russell