



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
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Pastoral Convenor Mornington:	Beryl Neutze	476 7447

PARISH BULLETIN

11th August 2019

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 18th August 2019

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

13 August	7.30 pm	Refugee Integration - Prof Alison Phipps
18 August	2.30 pm	Dunedin Musical Society Concert
15, 22 August	7-9 pm	Is God Green – and What About Us?
6-7 September	Coming Up	Going Deeper into the Acts of the Apostles

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING to be held at Mornington Methodist Church on Wednesday 14 August at 7:30pm.

If you have any items of business you wish the Council to deal with, please send them to the Secretary,

Fay Richardson, at malk_com@hotmail.com

DUNEDIN MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT

2.30pm, Sunday, 18 August, at Mornington Methodist Church.

Items include piano, piano trio, singer, and another chamber group. Come and hear some beautiful music.

All welcome. Adults \$2, children free.

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 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

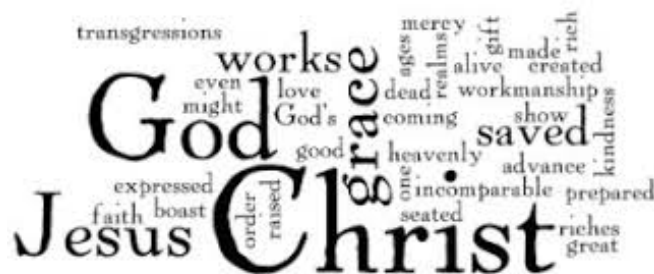
Dr Deborah Bower, Director, SoulScape

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



REFUGEE INTEGRATION AND THE ARTS OF HOSPITALITY

You are invited to attend a lecture at Mornington on Tuesday 13th August. Our speaker is Professor Alison Phipps of the University of Glasgow. Her topic is Refugee Integration and the Arts of Hospitality. She will reflect on the role of faith communities in Europe, particularly in Scotland, in welcoming refugees.

The lecture starts at 7.30pm, refreshments will be served from 6.30pm. This is part of a series of lectures Professor Phipps is giving as a visiting academic at the University of Otago

De Carle
Distinguished Lecture Four



Centre for
Global Migrations
A UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO RESEARCH THEME

Refugee integration and the arts of hospitality

Professor Alison Phipps

University of Glasgow



This talk will reflect on the role played by faith communities in the welcome of refugees to Europe, and especially to Scotland over the past 10 years. It will share stories from individual countries but also from the city of Glasgow, known for its campaigning offer of hospitality and protection, and from personal hosting. It will also consider the reluctance of congregations and communities to act until a point of crisis had been

reached and the compatibility of faith-based teachings, prayer and obedience to teachings with the practical realities of societies in the grip of fear. Using poetry, liturgy and story, the talk will take the form of a journey out into the public square and back into the recesses of the spirit.

Professor Alison Phipps is the UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. She is the University of Otago's 2019 De Carle Distinguished Lecturer.

This talk is hosted by the Centre for Global Migrations, Mornington Methodist Church and the Dunedin Interfaith Council.

Tuesday 13 August 2019, 7:30pm
Mornington Methodist Church
Corner of Galloway and Whitby Streets, Mornington

Free of charge | All welcome



DUNEDIN
INTERFAITH
COUNCIL

Client Support Service: I received a referral this month for a lady in regard to supporting her in navigating health and welfare systems. I met twice with the lady and her partner, supported them in accessing the information they needed, and assisted them in turning a potentially overwhelming cluster of tasks and options into a more manageable, prioritised, list. The lady told me that she appreciated that unlike some other agencies with whom she was in contact, the Client Support Service made no demands of her time, nor decisions on her behalf.

Milton Little Citizens

Dancing continues to be a big hit with our youngest tamariki here at Milton Little Citizens, we are hearing lots more singing coming through too as well as the tamariki exploring different objects to make sounds with. We have some budding artists emerging as they explore using their senses with different art media; paints, pens and pencils to name a few. They enjoy seeing the marks they can make on paper and other objects, especially their hands! Deconstruction has been a huge urge/schema of play this month with our tamariki - lots of towers being built then knocked down again, as well as lots of puzzles being undone. Deconstruction is a natural urge/schema of play and more often than not comes before tamariki learn to construction. We had a great turn out for our Matariki dinner, where all whānau were invited. It was a great way to meet some of the extended whānau of our tamariki and for our tamariki to share with whānau their space here at Milton Little Citizens, helping build on their sense of belonging. They also shared some of the waiata we have been learning at kapa haka and some of the dance moves they have been practicing. Many comments from whānau where about how confident the tamariki are here in our space.

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.



TREASURE

In his memorable Mary-and-Martha service at Mornington on 21 July, David Poultney quoted a verse from the thirteenth-century Persian mystic and poet, Rumi:

*There is a force within
that gives you life –
Seek that.*

*In your body there lies
a priceless jewel –
Seek that.*

*Oh, wandering Sufi,
If you are in search
of the greatest treasure,
don't look outside,
Look within, and seek that.*

The reason a person needs to be told to look for treasure somewhere, rather than somewhere else, is that treasure doesn't often declare itself openly. Think how many classic stories have a hoard of buried treasure – or a precious ring, or something else of supreme value – hidden at their heart. It may be sunk so deep in a wrecked ship, or be so hidden in earth, or perhaps the map showing its whereabouts is so obscure, that it is entirely possible you could walk (or sail) right over it and not see this precious thing or collection of things.

The act of seeing – or more often not seeing – is an indication of the object's rare quality; your sense of sight has to be educated, informed, to be able to grasp what it is. There is another line from Rumi's wise writings that becomes almost funny as he makes this point:

'You wander from room to room, hunting for the diamond necklace, that is already around your neck.'

This utterance from Rumi, an Islamic theologian, is very like the sort of thing you find in the Hebrew scriptures, in books like *Ecclesiastes* (7: 1– 'A good name is better than precious ointment') or *Proverbs* (15: 16 – 'Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it'). These First-Testament writings were of course known to Jesus, who develops ideas about treasure, and the ability to see its value, in several of his stories, including this one beginning at Luke 12:16:

*There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, 'What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?' So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich **in the sight of God.**' (Jerusalem Bible)*

So there are different kinds of treasure: there's treasure you've heard about, but can't find because you are looking in the wrong place; treasure that you already have, but don't recognize as such; something that is abstract (hidden, intangible) that may have a value greater than something that is tangible and obviously costly. Usually in the Bible, the most valuable thing or things will be invisible to ordinary people, valued only by wise ones who have been educated in ways of seeing. The man in the story *stores up treasure for himself* of the most obvious kind: food (grain) to eat in the future, 'goods' or possessions unspecified, such as most of us have in our cupboards – at the back,

underneath other stuff – or in the cellar or attic if we have one, on top of the wardrobe or under the bed.

Despite Janet Frame's children in *Owls Do Cry* finding 'treasure' at the rubbish dump, and me finding treasure at op-shops on a regular basis, there is undeniably another kind of treasure that makes this stuff seem like dross by comparison.

For instance there's time spent with children – any children, but especially your own – and the things that they say and do; time spent with animals you know well, and who know you; there's time spent by the sea – any sea, any beach, but perhaps a special one; time spent working at a job you love, and so on and so on. Beyond value. But these are all fairly tangible, fairly nameable things, and you already know about them, unless (as the Bible keeps saying) you're a fool.

Seeing we are looking at hidden treasure, the most valuable of all, it might take a bit longer to make a list of those qualities that make us, every one, '**rich in the sight of God.**' Have a go – don't be shy. Deep within, you are made of pure gold.

Helen Watson White