



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)

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	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	453 3310
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## PARISH BULLETIN

**20<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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

### DATES TO REMEMBER

20 October (today)	Dunedin Musical Society Concert
23 October (Wednesday)	Mornington Methodist Womens Fellowship
11 Nov – 14 Dec	Pre-Christmas Summer School

## DAVID'S LONG SERVICE LEAVE

David Poultney is on long service leave and will be back at work on 25<sup>th</sup> October. In his absence the Rev Dr Rod Mitchell is available for funerals and to deal with any pressing pastoral situation specifically requiring the input of a presbyter.



**DUNEDIN MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT** today, 2.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. Items from Rare Byrds, who play wonderful early musical and they wear beautiful period costumes, Alexander Sun a brilliant young pianist, Judy Davis playing lovely cello music accompanied by Donald Cullington. Please come to this very enjoyable concert which takes about one hour. Adults \$2. Children free.

## MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Wednesday 23th October at 2pm at the home of Eldon and Andrea Mosley, 89 Grendon Street, Maori Hill.**

To celebrate spring the Women's fellowship are meeting for afternoon tea at 2pm at the Mosley home. All church members are invited to join us.



There will be a car pool arrangement with people meeting at the church at 1.30 pm. Please join us to chat about the joys of spring.

## PRE-CHRISTMAS SUMMER SCHOOL PAPER:

**Theology and the Environment (CHTH224/324).**

In light of climate change, ocean acidification, and our over-use of plastics, to name a few ecological issues, this timely course investigates what Christian theology has to say about care for the environment. The course invites students to look at how theology can speak to these pressing issues. The will taught by Dr. Andrew Shepherd.

Find out more here:

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/summerschool/study/otago714604.html>

Each Course costs \$20. Please register online

at [www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation](http://www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation)

## STORY FROM THE MISSION

### Client Support Services



Nigel, a former client, got back in touch with the service in regard to a further need for service; navigating family court processes. While he had managed on his own for the majority of the period prior to getting in contact, he felt that as things drew to a close he would benefit from support.

Nigel was able to articulate exactly what he wanted support with, and the outcome he was hoping for. Throughout the service these remained clear, and Nigel demonstrated his own ability to reflect on both past and present actions in order to plan for and achieve his goal.

At the conclusion of the service, Nigel explained that more than any direct assistance, the knowledge that he had the support of the CSW and a physical presence in tense situations alongside him gave him the confidence to express himself.

### **Dunedin Little Citizens:**

The preschool has been busy as the kaiako and tamariki practiced and prepared for their Polyfest performance on Thursday 12th September. The children did an amazing job as they headed onto the stage to perform their compilation of songs in Te Reo and Samoan accompanied with some sign language. The children showed an amazing ability to learn new languages in such a short time where some of the stars were our students of whom English is their second language. As always it was an amazing turn out with 21 family/whānau accompanying the 26 children who performed.

**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**

**ANOTHER GREAT NIGHT in the Open Education series** featured three post-graduate students from the University's Centre for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution.

**Sam Oado** spoke about about gender oppression in Kenya, and programmes aimed at empowering women to break the cultural shackles of generations.

Jeremy Simons spoke about restorative justice in the Phillipines and the transformation it makes in the lives of offenders and victims alike.

**Mino Cleverley**, a New Zealand Samoan married to a native-born Samoan, spoke about the realities of Samoan family relationships, and the threat that dramatic sea-level rise is impacting on low-level coastal communities. None who heard his address can ever doubt what those now-familiar words "climate change" mean to so many Pacific communities, how much dread and anxiety those words engender.

This was the last Open Ed for the year. Planning is already well advanced for next year's programme. Profit from the dinner was \$225 and \$110 door takings. Allocation of this total has yet to be decided.

SINCERE THANKS to all who have contributed to the success of this year's programmes was proposed by Colin Gibson, who of course omitted to mention his own inestimable initiatives in organising stimulating programmes and chairing proceedings.

Photo (from left) Mino Cleverley; Jeremy Simons; Sam Oado; Colin Gibson.



As you read this I expect to be sitting in St Andrews Uniting Church with a congregation of Presbyterians, Methodists and others led by my friend Janet Marsh, once minister here at Broad Bay. Janet was in Dunedin last month and it was good to catch up and hear about some of the activities of her growing congregation.

One programme they began about 18 months ago is a local branch of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. This is a national organisation to help grandparents who are thrust into the unexpected role of caring for

their grandchildren. There are numerous reasons for this none of which are good. The grandparents meet every fortnight for afternoon tea to share information and concerns. They speak well of excellent service from the local Oranga Tamariki workers. Janet is part of the small, committed team within St Andrews who offer tangible support: physical, mental, emotional, and financial. Things that other people take for granted: going out for a meal or taking the car in for repairs are often seen as luxuries or insurmountable obstacles – this is where the group can help – and does.

On the international scene, St Andrews also initiated an education programme in Yangon, Myanmar. The Hope Children's Centre gives children who live, quite literally, on the city garbage dump, the opportunity to learn to read and write. Bathing facilities, a school uniform, school bag, and a daily meal are provided to about fifty children who would otherwise receive no education. They recently helped fund a water purifier. This will benefit the whole garbage dump community.



It's good to read in our weekly bulletins stories from Methodist Mission South about their ongoing work to support young people in need in our



own region, most recently their assistance to residents of Youth Transition House moving from education to job-seeking.

It seems shameful that as many as 25% of New Zealand children are living in poverty. I applaud the efforts of our government to increase the incomes of our poorer families and to provide meals for school children who would otherwise go without. No one should be hungry in this food exporting country.

I feel ashamed that we have created seas that are awash with plastic, rivers that are unsafe to drink from or even swim in, and air that is so polluted it may change the world's climate for the foreseeable future, all to add to the riches of previous generations. Thank God that young people around the globe are challenging the status quo. It was inspiring to march to the Octagon with the thousands of young climate activists and to hear their demands. Hopefully the world's governments will listen too and act before it is too late.

Inspiring too, to attend the finale of The Big Sing, the secondary schools choir competition held this year in Dunedin at the end of August and attended by over 600 pupils from around the country. The international judges praised the standard and the commitment of the 26 choirs and their dedicated directors. It was a delightful concert made even more enjoyable by the enthusiastic support the competing schools gave to each other. They were all winners.

The same weekend, in "The Mix", the ODT reported on the "Class of 2009" the head boys and girls of all the high schools south of the Waitaki and their achievements ten years on. There were so many successes in so many fields of endeavour. Many are now working overseas. I hope some may return in time and bring their knowledge and energy home.

Euan Thomson