

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



Find us on Facebook: **Dunedin Methodist Parish**

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PARISH BULLETIN

8th December 2019

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER 2019

9.30am	Mornington	R Mitchell & C Gibson
10.00am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00am	Glenaven	Helen Watson White
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday 14th December – Christmas Carols at Taieri Court 2pm
 Tuesday 17th December – Mosgiel Social Event 7pm (Mosgiel Church)

ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Mission Office will be closed from midday Monday 23rd December with the Administration team returning to work Monday 13th January 2020. Could you please ensure that your Orders of Service over this period (the dates 15th Dec through to 12th Jan) are sent (bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz) no later than **12noon Thursday 12th December.**

The final bulletin for 2019 will be the 15th December edition and the first bulletin for 2020 will be 19th January.

Many thanks, Methodist Mission Administration Team



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note: Berly Neutze's new address and phone is; 22 Michie Street, Belleknowes. Phone 477 7377. Cell phone remains the same 027 4047404.

MOSGIEL we are singing Christmas Carols at Taieri Court on Saturday 14th December at 2pm.

MOSGIEL CHURCH FAMILY you are invite to our Christmas social event Tuesday 17th December 7pm to 9pm in the church. Please bring a party plate.

MORNINGTON MWF had one of its more enjoyable programmes last week when it invited some home-grown talent to show its wares. Sisters Robyn Abernethy and Lynley Kloogh have been singing together a long time but since their embrace of Sweet Adelines they have really enjoyed "singing a new song." And needless to say, success at two world conventions with the big Christchurch City Chorus has only increased enthusiasm for their art. Introduced by a very proud



mother, Anne, they sang two songs in the Adelines mode "Christmas" and "Christmas in the Picture Book." Thankyou Robyn and Lynley!

Celia Cannon has grown up a lot since being the youngest member of YAM but she is still the smiley girl we all remember. Now 15, Celia has embraced ballet, and it occupies a major part of her life, sometimes as much as five hours a day. Introduced by her mother Ginny, Celia demonstrated different routines involved in her development, giving us a pretty good idea of what a demanding art ballet actually is. Thankyou Celia! One of our ladies described her performance as "stunning", and it was.



STORIES FROM THE MISSION



Client Support

Jill was referred to Support and Advocacy via Milton Community Health Trust. Jill was struggling financially and finding it difficult to communicate her needs. She lived on her own and had very limited contact with family, and reported feeling very isolated and overwhelmed.

Jill did not know what community supports or community groups were available to her in Milton. She was apprehensive about joining any groups or contacting services from negative past experiences in these settings.

The need for service for Jill was to support her to connect with services that could help her manage her finances and to explore groups that she is comfortable to connect with. With her agreement a referral was made to budget advice. Jill, with support also accessed online buy /sell sites and contacted second hand dealers in Dunedin. Jill was intending to down size and financially benefit from selling items.

Jill also connected with Project Bruce at the Hub and attended a newly formed community group. She reported this was a positive experience and she found the group to be very welcoming.

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



I'm shocked, *shocked*, to find gambling is going on in here ...

A lot of people, of course, don't actually like the film *Casablanca*. I can accept that the stylised masculinity, the noir dialogue, the utter failure to pass the Bechdel Test*, the hopeless romanticism, the downbeat (spoiler alert) ending, and the endless trench coats, are boring for some people.

But even those who have resolutely refrained from watching the thing, will know some of the quotes and their breathless cynicism – *round up the usual suspects*, you played it for her you can play it for me, *he's much like other men only more so*, this is the start of a beautiful friendship, and of course the *hill of beans* finale.

My personal favourite is the exchange between the genially corrupt French chief of police and the chief croupier at the local casino – ordered by the Germans to close the joint, Renault proclaims his shock at discovering illegal gambling as he pockets his winnings ... the actor, Claude Rains, delivers the thing with tremendous élan; it is very funny.

Like with most fiction, however, it is rather less entertaining to see the same bald dishonesty delivered by those who pretend to power in real life.

The recent furore about gangs and lock 'em up and harass, disrupt, and punish is a case in point.

There's a bunch of problems with this position, let's start with how big the gangs are. I see in this week's ODT that there are just on a couple of hundred known gang members in Otago Southland across 16 gangs – that's, like, eight people per gang. Two hundred from a population north of 360,000 people. That's TINY.

Let's also look at how bad the gangs are. Dr Jarrod Gilbert from Canterbury University (who has made this his life's work) says that few gang chapters profile the same – the drug dealing, meth-peddling lot tend to be a tiny proportion of the whole.

(I'm not saying gangs are good, but I am saying: there's a continuum, and many are less worse than the worst.)

Let's also look at what causes gang membership to thrive: poverty with a bit of racism and a sprinkling of high incarceration rates.

That's it. Gang membership is predominantly an economic problem. Beginning, middle, and end. And this is not new knowledge – Muldoon had figured it out in the 1970s.

We could also talk about oh, I don't know, cutting benefits for solo mums if their child isn't inoculated, or if the father isn't named. There are easy solutions to both (B4 School Checks, Whānau Ora), but these aren't embraced. And for fairness, I could also bang on about the recent food in schools programme (precious little of the money actually gets to the child) or the toothlessness of the Climate Change law, but I am sure you get my point!!

Casablanca was made as propaganda, to encourage an America not yet fighting in what became World War II to take up arms on behalf of a moral contest (that's what was presented in the film, anyway).

I think this is right: the corruption of proclaiming a knowingly false proposition (e.g. if we do punitive thing a, bad thing b will decline) should be seen as a moral problem.

When we unhook policy (our choices) from reality (how things actually work), we create considerable room for (often on the left) lost opportunities (both the thing itself and the other things not having that resource spent on them because it is tied up in the first thing) and (often on the right) further damage (to individuals, to whānau, to communities).

Both of these are, I think, immoral choices. And whether presented with charm and élan or not, they should be resisted mightily.

As we prepare in the season of advent for Christmas, for the New Year, for – more prosaically here at the Mission – a general election in 2020, I ask that we all think on the morality of wasted opportunities and harmful approaches.

Laura Black

* To pass, a movie has to have at least two women in it, who talk to each other, about something besides a man. You'd be **amazed** how few movies meet the test. Or perhaps not ...

Services at Mornington for December 2019–January 2020

Date	Time	Venue	Leaders
1 December (1st Advent)	9.30 am	St. Marys	
8 December (2nd Advent)	9.30 am	Mornington (with St Mary's congregation)	Rod Mitchell
8 December (2nd Advent)	7 pm	Mornington (combined Mornington churches' Carol Service)	Rod Mitchell and choirs
15 December (3rd Advent)	9.30 am	Mornington (Choir's Christmas Music programme)	Rod Mitchell and Colin Gibson
22 December (4th Advent)	9.30 am	Mornington	Donald Phillips
24 December	10.30 pm	Glenaven (Christmas Eve)	David Poultney and Rod Mitchell
25 December	10 am	Mornington (combined with Glenaven)	Rod Mitchell
29 December	10 am	Mosgiel (combined Parish)	David Poultney
5th January	9.30 am	Mornington	David Poultney
12 January	9.30 am	St. Mary's	
19 January	9.30 am	Mornington Presbyterian	
26 January	9.30 am	Mornington	