

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



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|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
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PARISH BULLETIN

2nd February 2020

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2020

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|---------|------------|------------|
| 9.30am | Mornington | R Mitchell |
| 10.00am | Mosgiel | D Poultney |
| 11.00am | Glenaven | M Hardy |
| 1.00pm | St Kilda | TBA |

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 4 February – Mosgiel MWF 1.30 pm (Hall lounge)
 Tuesday 4 February – Mornington Leaders Meeting 7.30pm (Mornington Church)
 Saturday 15 February – Farm visit to Weston 11.00 am
 Thursday 5 March – Lenten Studies (Mosgiel Church)

SERVICE ORDERS AND BULLETIN NOTICES 2020 - Will all those who are sending in service orders and/or bulletin notices to the Mission office this year please note that they are to be addressed to bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz This will enable the whole team of administrative staff responsible for the work to access your email. Thank you.

SHIRLEY MURRAY FUNERAL - For those who are able to receive streamed programmes, Shirley Murray's funeral, which was held on Friday at the United Church in Raumati, was streamed live at <https://vimeopro.com/withloveweremember/shirleyerenamurray> and is staying up afterwards at that address for later viewing.

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Tuesday 4th February in hall lounge at 1:30pm when our speaker will be an ambulance officer who will speak to us about their work as this is part of our special project all are welcome.

MORNINGTON LEADERS MEETING Tuesday 4th February 2020 @ 7.30pm.

INVITATION - An invitation to all of the Parish has been extended by the Mitchell family at Weston near Oamaru to join them on the farm on Saturday February 15th 2020.

This family are relatives of Rod, our minister, and have suggested this day for a visit as on farm harvesting activities will be taking place and can be watched with ease. There are facilities on farm for having lunch and afternoon tea. The plan is for those coming to meet at the church at 11 am on the Saturday proceeding to the farm for lunch and then enjoying the farming activities and maybe journeying into Oamaru for some sightseeing before returning home.

If interested in coming please advise Cam Weston on 021 995 130 (for numbers) and bring your lunch and a contribution for a shared afternoon tea. See you at 11 am on the 15th and then to Weston (great place by name)

PROF ALISON PHIPPS is a compelling personality, and on many world stages she has become an educated and articulate voice for the rights of the world's refugee people.

Alison Phipps, who first visited Dunedin in 2017, holds the Unesco Chair of Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. She returned to our city and to the University of Otago last July as the De Carle Distinguished Lecturer, and said the city was making good progress in refugee integration. However, something to be avoided was "overdoing the support or doing things to, or for people, as they arrive". "After dramatic upheavals in their lives people need the chance to live and work normally, to tell normal stories of the week, to go on holiday and come back, rather than to go and to have to keep running." You know you are safe because you are beginning to live a normal life, provisioning for your family, meeting your neighbours, standing with others at a bus stop." she says. It is clearly better than being haunted by memories of former abuse.

"It's early days and there is a long way to go, but the step taken by Dunedin City to welcome refugees was courageous and allows the city to tell new stories about itself, its past and its future," she said.

In a structured discussion with Rev Dr Peter Matheson, Alison ranged far and wide to give a broad view of the vast world of refugee



displacement and a good sized audience stayed chatting, and for supper, at least an hour after the formalities ended, clearly stimulated by a speaker of huge character, integrity and compassion.

Photos: 1. Alison Phipps & Peter Matheson are bisected by the Lampadusa (refugee) cross. 2. A brief moment of ecstasy!

LENTEN STUDIES starts Thursday 5th March @ 1:30pm at Mosgiel Methodist Church. All members of the Parish and friends welcome. – Our study is "CHRIST IS FOR US". It offers the opportunity to explore the Bible readings in a seven-session study. It will help participants understand, appreciate, and engage in meaningful and life-changing spiritual practices and offer gratitude for God's salvation through Jesus Christ. **Followed by a cuppa.**

QUIET DAYS - You are invited to take time apart with God in the lovely environment of St Margaret's Anglican Church and Retreat Centre at 4 Seaview Terrace, Brighton, from 10am to 4pm on the following dates: Friday March 27, April 24, June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25 and October 23. Contact Maureen Harley on 021 107 1401 or 03 456 0573 or maugernnz@gmail.com. There will be a period of sharing followed by silence. Some reflections will be made available. You are invited to use the time and facilities as best works for yourself. Bring your own lunch. A koha will be appreciated. If you are interested, write these dates into your calendar.

GUIDED RETREATS - You are invited to join a guided retreat based on a special time of the Church year, under the guidance of an experienced spiritual leader. These retreats are all held at the St Margaret's Anglican Church and Retreat Centre at 4 Seaview Terrace, Brighton, from 10am to 4pm on the following dates: 29 February (Lent), 30 May (Pentecost), 28 November (Advent). Contact Maureen Harley on 021 107 1401 or 03 456 0573 or [<maugernnz@gmail.com>](mailto:maugernnz@gmail.com). A koha will be appreciated for the work of the leader and the use of the facility. If you are interested, write these dates into your calendar.



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK
The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February

CELEBRATION OF HARMONY 2020 DINNER

6:30pm Tue 4 February

The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints,
14 Fenton Crescent, St Clair, Dunedin

Vegetarian Potluck:

Bring a vegetarian meal
or dessert to share.

Whānau Friendly:

Face painting and other
activities will be provided.

Featuring:

Musical items, guest speakers,
readings and more!

EVERYONE WELCOME

Organised by the Dunedin Interfaith Council



WARM GREETINGS FROM THE THEOLOGY PROGRAMME

There's always something wonderful coming up in the programme. Check out the information below to find out more information about what's in the pipeline.

➤ **New webpage for Home-Educated Year 13 Students**

The Theology Programme welcomes home-schooled Year 13 students to try studying theology. Homeschoolers can take introductory theology papers or study Ancient Greek and Hebrew. Find out more;

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/distance/for-home-educated-students/index.html>

➤ **2020 Theology papers!** The list is now available at:

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/papers/>

It's never too early to register for an upcoming paper. If you've got questions about any of the items mentioned here, please contact us at theology@otago.ac.nz or +64 3 479 8639 .

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Foundation Skills -

Corrections

When did you last have a job interview?

Have you tried getting a job with a criminal record?

Fortunately, thanks to a job expo being held at the prison, inmates can make a start on their job search from the inside. The Mission will run an interview workshop prior to the guys attending what will be the 'speed dating' version of job interviews with prospective employers at OCF.

Looking forward to encouraging and empowering the guys to highlight their wealth of transferable skills to empathetic employers.

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





SHIRLEY ERENA MURRAY R.I.P.

Having tried teaching languages, producing radio programmes, acting as Religious Affairs Coordinator for the New Zealand branch of Amnesty and doing parliamentary research work for the Labour Party, she found herself and her life's work when she took up a ministry of hymn writing at the Presbyterian church of St Andrews on the Terrace, responding to her husband's urgent need for modern hymns that would address the contemporary issues with which the pair of them were passionately concerned.

And she found she was good at it. Her first small publication, privately printed at Wellington and challengingly titled in *Every Corner Sing: New Hymns to Familiar Tunes in Inclusive language*, already contained 'Come now, Lord Jesus, enter our Christmas, be to us no stranger in this new-made manger, 'Come to this Christmas singing! Come to a birthday, bringing gifts from our country's treasure, beauty of shell and stone', 'Faith has set us on a journey past the landmarks that we know', 'Now to your table spread we come, each one, in faith that you alone provide the words of life and death...Here is our common wealth in sharing what is good, as though all humankind around one table stood', 'God of freedom, God of justice, you whose love is strong as death...touch our world of sad oppression with your Spirit's healing breath', 'O God, we bear the imprint of your face: the colours of our skin are your design, and what we have of beauty in our race as man or woman, you alone define,' 'Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be—you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.'

The same little book publishes her first manifesto: *Singing our faith in the present tense means having to stock some corners of the Christian household with new themes. For me, human rights and racism, women and peacemaking all need singing out, and words to sing are hard to find.... Some corners need refurbishing, since the words of the past do not always express the theological emphasis we now value.... I take it for granted that inclusive language is the mode in which Christian people must express belief.*

She went to write words that have rung true for modern Christians throughout the world, creating new classics, and a whole new landscape of hymns for we New Zealanders to sing. I think of ‘Honour the dead’, undoubtedly our greatest Anzac hymn and one that daringly for its time upholds the conscientious objectors we treated so shamefully. I think of ‘Where mountains rise to open skies’, her great hymn for Waitangi Day and the nearest we have to a truly contemporary national anthem: ‘Your people’s heart, your people’s part be in our caring for this land, for faith to flower, for aroha to let each other’s mana stand.’ I think of the universal musician’s anthem, ‘For the music of creation’. And I think of ‘Touch the earth lightly’, the finest hymn for the environment we and the world have, for it is sung even in America while Trump dismantles environmental protections as fast as he can.

And she laid out her own heart of compassion and maternal care for all to see—‘Like a mother you enfold me, hold my life within your own, feed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone’—revealing a faith that faced the world as it really is, singing her song of love into its darkness: ‘Shine through our winter grey, break through depression’s day, live in the little deaths we die in growing: meaning for whom we grope, home of our strongest hope, power and peace through all creation flowing.’

In the end she wrote hundreds of hymns, whose quality and passion are acknowledged throughout the Christian world, and rank her with the best in our heritage of song, Luther and Cowper and Watts and Wesley and Bell (all of them men). She showed us that the languages of science and *te reo* could meet and kiss in religious poetry, poetry that is full beauty and truth. And she urged us never to give up on the faith, even though she was often ashamed of the behaviour of individuals and groups within its institutions: ‘There’s never a time to stop believing, there’s never a time for hope to die, there’s never a time to stop loving, these three things go on.’

Shirley Murray may have been taken into the eternal rest of the loving God she trusted to the end, but her spirit goes marching on. As her friend and fellow hymn writer Marnie Barrell said, ‘She left a legacy of hymns for the Church that is to be.’ Let us continue to sing them.

Colin Gibson