

# DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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



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

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## PARISH BULLETIN

**1 March 2020**

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8 March 2020

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

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs 5 March	1.30pm	Lenten Studies	Mosgiel Church
Fri 6 March	1.30 pm	World Day of Prayer	Salv. Army Mosgiel
Wed 18 March	7.30 pm	Open Education	Mornington Church
Sun 26 March	4.30 pm	Explorers	Lounge, Mornington Ch
Sun 29 March	7.00 pm	Ecumenical service	Mornington 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](mailto:bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz) This will enable the whole team of administrative staff responsible for the work to access your email.

Please also remember that Thursday 12 noon is the deadline for all Service orders and bulletin notices each week. Thank you.

**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.**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
SERVICE WILL BE HELD**



Friday 6th March 2020  
AT THE SALVATION ARMY  
1 Lanark Street, Mosgiel  
Time 1.30 pm. All Welcome

From the Ladies in Zimbabwe  
RISE TAKE UP YOUR MAT AND WALK

ALL WELCOME. Afternoon tea to follow

## **OPEN EDUCATION: FROM DAMASCUS TO DUNEDIN**

Our first Open Education meeting will be held in Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, on Wednesday 18 March, starting at 7.30pm. We have invited Dr Mai Tamimi to report on the successes and stresses facing the Syrian refugee community as they now settle into a new life in Dunedin. Many will remember Mai's powerful and moving address in the immediate aftermath of the appalling mosque attacks in Christchurch. Since that time she has been dealing with the shock of that massacre superimposed on the adjustments necessary to adapting to life in a new and unfamiliar culture. Come along and support her. Your koha of \$5, together with proceeds from the usual pre-session meal will go towards her work with this displaced community among us. \$15 buys you a seat at the excellent meal prepared by Judy Russell, served at 6pm. Sign in at Mornington, or ring her at 4553727.

**ON FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2020**

**Linda & Bill Feather**

long standing members of  
Mosgiel Church celebrated their

**GOLDEN WEDDING.**

Our congratulations from all at  
Mosgiel Methodist Church.



## **EXPLORERS: THE ASSISTED DYING BILL**

On Sunday 26 March Explorers invite all interested, whether you are members of the Explorers group or not, to attend an open session discussing the forthcoming Assisted Dying Bill, which is to be put to a public referendum at the time of the General Election. This is an opportunity to raise questions and share views in a free and open and unthreatening way. Join us at 4.30pm in the lounge of the Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street. The session runs to 5.30pm.

**A REMINDER** and a warm welcome to the 5th Sunday ecumenical service to be held in the Mornington Methodist church 7 pm on 29th March. Please let people know about this service. We look forward to your presence at this combined Mornington churches service. Rod Mitchell.



## **STORY FROM THE MISSION**

### **Skills for Dads - Corrections**

The final SFD programme for the year went really well. Ten students enrolled in this course are engaged and willing to talk about themselves and how they can be great Dads to their children. They are very engaged and entering all the relevant information in their booklet so that they can take this back with them for future reference. We have had some very interesting discussions on positive strategies bringing up our children in today's world. They will all pass this programme and will go home with a certificate which is very encouraging for them. The average ORS shift for this programme was 8.1

Programme feedback:

Was the information in the course?	New 100% Old 0%
Was the information in the course?	Useful 100% Not useful 0%
Was the information in the course?	Interesting 100% Not interesting 0%
How good was the tutor at keeping you interested?	Very good 90% Fairly good 10%

How useful was the programme? 1 to 5 where 5 is very useful? 100% rated 5.

What part of the programme was most useful:

*Strategies for coping with stress, strategies for managing different situations, the info provided, all of it, the importance of being a positive Dad, being educated in areas I had lost touch with, my children's needs, how to talk to my children.*

How would you describe the programme to someone else:

*A must do, it's excellent, a course worth doing, awesome, creative, you'll learn some helpful things for your children.*

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

**A WELCOME VISITOR AT MORNINGTON,** and pretty much annually, is VERITY DOAK, a good friend of Bev Sutherland. Verity has had wide experience of the Church since her Presbyterian upbringing in Ashburton and in Otago. She moved to Wellington for a job with Treasury, followed by work in Presbyterian Head Office, with particular responsibility for people with intellectual impairment.





Retirement had not made Verity any less busy. From her home in Lower Hutt she is a very active member of the big Hutt City Uniting Church (of six different congregations) besides which she does a lot of volunteering.

She enjoys her occasional return to her southern roots to renew many old friendships.

*Photo: Verity enjoys a moment with Bev and Jess.*

**A FISH & CHIP & SOCIAL EVENING** on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March from 6pm till 8pm. Please bring your own f & c's and bring a friend. All Parish welcome. Cards, bowls etc.

## CONSENT AND THE PRINCIPLE OF DIGNITY

*(From the Latin dignus, meaning “being worthy”)*



Some time ago (once upon a time) a previous government decided it would like to track all of the clients of social services, much in the way health tracks all of the patients of GPs and Hospitals.

It would help, they said, work out what services clients needed, and who was doing the most useful work with clients, and which clients needed the most help. (In health this is the discipline of epidemiology: which deals with the incidence, distribution, and possible control of diseases and other factors relating to health. Epidemiology as a science has been around since the mid 1600's. Social services have nothing like it.)

Large chunks of the sector revolted. I think that's the only reasonable description – there were claims of crypto-fascist intentions, of re-

traumatisation, of all sorts of degradations, on National Radio, mind you – and the proposal and the careers of everyone who had touched it were not-so-gently shelved.

I'm not kidding, the head of the government agency leading the work was fired.

There were two main stated issues – one was “the government will track you personally” anxiety, and the other was the mandated nature of the information collection, which spun out into a conversation about privacy law and the requirement for consent to share personal information.

And in amongst it, two rather senior figures in the sector claimed that social services clients “couldn't consent anyway” because they are generally too vulnerable and often somehow (this bit was vague) skilled enough, and the combination of that vulnerability and lack of skill meant clients couldn't understand what they were consenting to.

I'm sure it was meant with the best of intentions (to protect) although it might have been motivated not a little by the fear of some in the sector of losing control of the “wisdom” underpinning the sector's cherished approach to the work.

But I found it chilling.

The moral imperative to the work of the Mission and agencies like us should surely be some version of: people should be able to live lives of meaning to them, of value to society, of purpose and joy, and with a genuinely equal chance of fulfilment.

Our purpose should therefore assume as a non-negotiable starting point the indivisible, inalienable, undimnable worth of each person.

The only person who can say whether their life has meaning, has purpose and joy, has fulfilment, is surely that person themselves.

(It is the Mission's unwavering experience that when we do ask our clients what they want, they absolutely do know what they want to do and how they want to do it. Their "vulnerability" and the chaos of their lives has nothing to do with their analysis.)

And so the suggestion that we might take away from people at their time of need, the ownership of their own life struck me as worrying.

That it was made more than once by people whose jobs were (then) in leadership of the sector that exists to support people in need made it worse.

It is too easy for the professional middle classes that make up much of the social services sector and public service to take control of other people's lives through our happy assumptions (that often benefit our way of doing things), our unthinking judgements, and our need to be the hero of the piece.

But in doing so we can rob those we say we are trying to help of their sense of worth, of their agency in their own lives.

It is not just the right that can dehumanize people. The left can do it too, albeit that we are "nicer" when we do it, I'm not sure the impact on the people we're supposed to be helping is any different.

Laura Black  
 Kaihautū *Director*  
 Methodist Mission Southern