

# DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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



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## PARISH BULLETIN

8 March 2020

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 15 March 2020

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

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri 13 March	6.00 pm	F&C/Social evening	Mosgiel Church Hall
Wed 18 March	7.30 pm	Open Education	Mornington Church
Sun 22 March	4.30 pm	Explorers	Lounge, Mornington Ch
Sun 29 March	7.00 pm	Ecumenical service	Mornington Church

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

### **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.

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

On Sunday 22 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.

**MORNINGTON MWF** launched their 2020 programme with a lunch meeting last week and a good crowd of ladies (plus two of us of the male sort) turned up for an occasion of good food and right good fellowship. The Sunday school room lends itself well for a buffet occasion, which



was followed by a brief business meeting. MWF is an integral part of Mornington Church life and their meetings are characterised by interesting speakers and challenging themes.



## **Faith, Truth, and Courage: The Story of Rachael Denhollander in the era of #MeToo and #ChurchToo**

Professor David Tombs, Centre for Theology and Public Issues, Theology Programme, University of Otago.

Friday 3 April, 7:00-9:00pm - Burns 7, University of Otago and Saturday 4 April, 9:00am- 12.30pm, 7N10 Richardson Building, University of Otago

## **Going Deeper into 1 Corinthians**

Professor Paul Trebilco, Theology Programme, University of Otago.

7-9pm, Wednesday 22, 29 April, Wednesday 6 May Burns 7, University of Otago

## **Finding Faith in ‘Secular’ Times: What can we learn about Christian witness from the experiences of recent converts to Christianity?**

Dr Lynne Taylor, Somerville Lecturer in Pastoral Theology, Theology Programme, University of Otago

Friday 22 May, 7:00-9:00 pm and Saturday 23 May, 9:00am–12.30pm Dunedin City Baptist Church, 19 Main South Road, Concord, Dunedin

Each Course costs \$20. These courses are jointly organised between the Theology Programme and some Dunedin Churches, and supported by Continuing Education at the University of Otago.

## **STORY FROM THE MISSION**

### **Ōtepoti YTH**

We celebrated Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori with a dinner where we spoke Te Reo Māori that was attended by all residents. Many Supervisors also attended.

We held a YTH Christmas dinner. This was well attended by residents and the majority of Supervisors. Though Whānau were invited, none attended.



There has also been high expectations placed on residents who are now expected to leave the house during the day. Previously 2 particular residents were staying at home in bed all day. Though it was an unwelcome change, residents eventually accepted this. If they did not attend course, they left the house for the day.

We have identified with the Supervisors how we can utilise their skills more. For example, one of the supervisors has experience as a Personal Trainer. So we have arranged for the residents to use the gym at Araiteuru Whare Hauora he is now going to work with interested residents to create an individual fitness plan.

**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**



**LAST WEEKEND** Hilda and I travelled by bus to Christchurch to attend our granddaughter's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. The party was held at "Inflatableworld"(!) on Saturday afternoon. At the same time as we were partying (and bouncing) with our granddaughter and her friends, a *pōwhiri* and official four-and-a-half hour opening was being held for the new Methodist Church Aldersgate Centre Puari Huinga (your gathering place) on the site of the old Durham St Methodist Church. A celebration dinner was held on Saturday night, following the dedication of a garden to the memory of the three men who died whilst removing the old Church organ, the day the earthquake hit. The old Church building was completely destroyed by the Christchurch earthquake. The new building has taken nine years to plan and build. It



is a sleek and modern new design, completely different to the old Church. I highly recommend that you take the time to explore the photos

and text on the new Aldersgate website (<https://aldersgate.org.nz/> ) It is an impressive building.

But even more impressive is the inclusive community-facing theology and ethos made very clear by Christchurch Methodists to the world via their website, and at the worship service we attended.

Here are some words from the new Aldersgate Centre home page: “A unique, modern space for you in the heart of Christchurch. Aldersgate Centre is an initiative of the Durham Street Methodist Church. We are committed to the post-quake Christchurch, and want to do our bit to help build a fairer, more inclusive city. This exciting new community centre is open to all, and we want to especially offer a place of refuge and support for those most at risk of being marginalized or left out. Aldersgate is the home of the Durham Street Methodists and our Streets ministry and other community activities. It also provides a base for others working locally and internationally for social justice, including Christchurch Methodist Mission (Child & Family Social Services) and Christian World Service. We also want to provide a warm and welcoming gathering place with soul – for community or business meetings and family events – open to people of all faiths or none.”

Certainly Hilda and I were made to feel very welcome at the service last Sunday. The service was led by three ordained women Methodist Presbyters, coming from three quite different cultural backgrounds. The worship leader was Rev Philomeno Kinera, the Guest Preacher was Rev Dr Mary Caygill and the Communion Celebrant was the Rev. Setaita Taumoepeau K. Veikune, President of the Methodist Church of NZ Wallace Woodley was the organist and Choir Director. The singing was wonderful, led by an “augmented” choir.

The liturgy, readings, prayers and hymns had been carefully chosen and crafted to set the scene for a potentially deep encounter with God and with each other. Children present were warmly affirmed and included. The sermon from Mary Caygill was a thought provoking “first-Sunday-in-Lent-reflection” on the second Hebrew creation story (Genesis 2 ).

Mary's sermon sought to remind of us all of our human need to co-operate with God in creation, not to dominate and destroy the creation which feeds and nurtures us.

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, from last Sunday at Aldersgate comprised these words:

As we gather in together in this sacred place  
 May we recognise and affirm;  
 The pieces of possibility,  
 The bits of good we bring,  
 Allowing our individual gifts to weave a patchwork of peace.  
 Let there be joy in our coming together this morning  
**And let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.**

The opening hymn was "God of ages, times and seasons" with words by Jocelyn Marshall :

God of ages, times and seasons  
 light that shines through all that lives  
 yours the spirit which empowers  
 yours the caring heart that gives  
 confidence to face the future,  
 strengthens faith when courage wanes,  
 challenges to new endeavours,  
 when we doubt, our hope sustains.

Prior to receiving Holy Communion, the six people who were serving the bread and the wine made a united and conspicuous/dramatic show of cleansing their hands with hand sanitiser. This action could not have been missed by anyone present at the service. Here is a Church taking serious note of the potential for disease (including coronavirus) spread via human contact. I was reminded of the religious sect in South Korea, hundreds of whose members have been infected with coronavirus as a result of being together in religious community. How ironic it would be to be infected with coronavirus (or some other virulent pathogen) whilst receiving the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

It was wonderful to meet with many friends, and to meet some new friends, over morning tea after the service. I have a copy of the order of service if anyone wants to borrow it.

The auditorium of the new Church has hundreds of seats. The Chapel end of the auditorium can be closed off by a large sound proof partition, and seats 80-100 or so people. Currently an electronic organ has been installed, without pipes. Room has been left however for possibly installing tall pipes at some future time. The ceiling of the auditorium is high, creating an almost cathedral-like uplifting sense of space. Windows make the most of natural light, and people walking past can see in to the worship space. (as is the case with the new Catholic Church in South Dunedin.) The large Aldersgate auditorium flows into a lovely spacious and green garden space. There is no cross outside the Church. However, there are many modern street-lights all along Durham Street, in the shape of crosses. One of these (unintentional) crosses is located directly outside the Church. The secular town planners helped us locate Aldersgate, in Christchurch, last Sunday, via the design of their street lighting!

At the opening ceremony on Saturday afternoon, banners expressing goodwill were received from representatives of the local Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Jewish faith communities. These banners (see photo below) are on clear display in the new worship space - a tangible sign of our Methodist-Christian mutual respect for people of all faiths.



If you are ever in Christchurch, you will find your heart strangely warmed at Aldersgate.

Rev Greg Hughson.