

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



Find us on Facebook: Dunedin Methodist Parish

Presbyters	Rev David Poultney	974 6172
	Mobile phone	022 350 2263
	Office phone	466 3023
	Office email	parish@mmsouth.org.nz
	Rev Dr Rod Mitchell	027 647 7003
		roddieg@xtra.co.nz
Parish Stewards	Mrs Jan Stewart	473 9141
	John Hardy	472 7377
	Ross Merrett	489 7663
Tongan Steward	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
		elaineross@xtra.co.nz
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	477 7377
Mornington		
Parish Office		466 4600
		bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz

PARISH BULLETIN

28th February 2021

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 7 March 2021

9.30am	Mornington	D Poultney
10.00am	Mosgiel	G Hughson
11.00am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tues 2nd Mar @ 1.30pm – Mosgiel Methodist Womens Fellowship in Church Hall
 Thurs 4th Mar @ 2pm – Lenten Studies, Mosgiel Methodist Church Hall

FRIENDS OF THE CHAPLAINCY - The Otago Tertiary Chaplains provide pastoral care, spiritual support, and educational resourcing to approximately 30,000 students and 4,800 staff at the University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic. If you would like more information about their work, or would like to join the **Friends of the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy**, please visit: <https://www.otago-tertiary-chaplaincy.nz/friends-of-the-chaplaincy>

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 2nd March 1.30pm in our church Hall when our speaker will be Jenny Leith speaking about their trip to Morocco just before lock down. ALL WELCOME.

LENTEN STUDIES - Each THURSDAY @ 2pm in the MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH HALL All very welcome PLEASE COME TO SUPPORT DAVID as he puts a lot of effort into our studies which helps us to centre on EASTER.

CO-SUPERINTENDENTS INDUCTED - Memories of the induction service for David Poultney and Rachel Masterton as co Superintendents of the Otago-Southland District are still warm from a memorable service led by the President of our Church, Rev Andrew Doubleday of Christchurch.

The service was memorable for a number of reasons. One was the style of leadership by the President himself. An unashamed evangelical in a Church that has not always been tolerant of evangelicals in the modern era, Andrew brought a warm and inviting informality to a service that might otherwise have been coldly formal.

He "bounced around" a lot - as one critic put it - but for others it was that warm informality of moving around the sanctuary and speaking off-the-cuff that endeared him and his message, and did so much to engender an inviting atmosphere to the occasion. (Andrew has enjoyed a long and well received ministry at Opawa Church, twenty-plus years, and for a time withdrew from Methodist ministry, only to return when

he was able to reconcile the issues that had concerned him. His subsequent election to the presidency is a cause for joy among those of us that embrace a more liberal approach to faith.)

That David and Rachel will share the superintendency role added significance to the service. Both had supporters/sponsors alongside as they spoke their affirmations of commitment and the service embodied the traditional Methodist linking of clergy/lay responsibility in leadership. We all wish David and Rachel well in their term of office.

Lastly, the music of the service was of a high order, with strong and enthusiastic singing. The Mornington choir sang an anthem that brought back memories for President Andrew from his time as a member here - a testimony to Colin's remarkable memory of detail for people and events from our past. And I have a warm memory of the St Kilda Youth Choir's anthem blending their own pacifica style with a melody that carried a strong likeness to a well-known negro spiritual. I loved it. Altogether a service full of precious meaning and ongoing significance

Kenneth Russell

(the promised second part of West Papua Update will appear next week)





STORY FROM THE MISSION

Corrections *Foundation Skills*

A writing task with one of my learners recently moved from the classroom to the Beehive. After writing to the Prime Minister as an exercise in expressing his opinion (about Covid 19 Management), there was a moment when he realised that perhaps this letter was good enough to actually send! I encouraged him to do so. This prompted a hand written letter to then be typed out and printed out for posting. Corrections Officers were enlisted to find a mailing address (which they did) and suddenly his views were making their way to the Beehive. We look forward to a response.



Dunedin Little Citizens

Little Citizens
Early Learning Centre

Sunny days this month have made for lots of outside time where the tamariki have been enjoying water play. Our new grass in the playground is growing well and new sandpit looks great and the tamariki are thoroughly enjoying it. Next week we should be able to remove the fencing around the new grass so we can start utilising the playground fully again.

The Kiwi room tamariki have received a Pikler triangle x2 and bridge this week from a semi local company from Oamaru and are very much enjoying the new addition to our class room. It is a fantastic piece of equipment for our tamariki to work on their motor skills as well as active movement, thinking and reasoning and problem solving.

We have also been experimenting with messy play and colours which the older (and some of the younger) tamariki have been very enthusiastic about. We have a number of new tamariki who have started and are starting with us in the coming week and we continue to work on our transition programme for those 2 year olds moving into the Tui room.

The tamariki have enjoyed the warmer weather and have celebrated Waitangi Day with the Tui room participating in some koru art. The Kōtuku room tamariki explored the meaning of te tiriti and worked with Amanda to develop our own class treaty.



INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS OR COLLECTIVE MOVEMENT?

One clear feature of the 20th century has been the decline in numbers of adherents or members of mainline churches. It has shown in the New Zealand landscape by the growth in abandoned or re-purposed churches which once stood as proud community symbols of a lively faith. This is not just a local phenomenon, but can be found in most western nations, while in ex-colonies of the same imperial nations, the opposite is occurring. One might ask why churches still have fuller attendance in many Pacific nations, and indeed in the Tongan branch of the NZ Methodist church, in Africa, in South America and in South East Asia.

Part of the answer is to be found in newness, or novelty- though it would be trite or simplistic to see it only that way. Another major cause is the use of native leaders in most countries. If we look back in history, there

were other periods when the mainline established churches – the European Roman Catholic and Protestant churches faced decline. The myth that all Protestant churches in England and Scotland, for example had regular and high attendance rates, does not bear examination. Indeed, it was in a period when the Church of England was undergoing decline in the 1780s that early Methodism appeared. It was the passion and promises of individuals - the early Wesleyan preachers- that made groups of people form associations then a connexion within the new rules of those who called themselves “Methodists”. And while comfort was to be derived from the support or “fellowship” of like-minded individuals, it was the leadership of these early visionaries which caught the hearts and minds of followers.

The Methodist Church of New Zealand and many principally pakeha congregations seem to be undergoing a period of withering. For too long the faithful of the church have looked to the national body for leadership, and with few exceptions lately it seems to be lacking. So then, what to do about it from a congregational perspective?

I believe in this age the same woes that beset European societies in the eighteenth century are still with us. John Wesley lived through almost all that period – from 1793 to 1791. It was a period of warlike nationalism and the beginnings of coal-based industrialism. Soldiers kept order from barracks in most towns, the rich grew extremely rich on the growth in the burgeoning slave trade, large cities like Manchester sprang up, children were sent to work early and many deprived of decent parenting, unemployment was rife and the parish workhouses were full, education was only for the privileged. In this heavy and tortured environment Wesley began his mission to save the people from what was later graphically described by Charles Dickens in *Oliver Twist*.

So what has changed? Well education in this country is more widespread and of better quality for most, but the spectre of over-crowded prisons, of segments of society facing poverty, difficult access to health care, a

situation where families with a single earner income cannot afford to get into a decent home has arisen, children of Pacifica and Maori families are between 5% and 8% more likely to be in poverty than their pakeha neighbours. The Oranga Tamariki report has led Children's Commissioner Judge Andrew Becroft to urge the Government to transfer the powers of the Oranga Tamariki to the Maori people. While I don't know if this is the silver bullet to address the woes of looking after Maori children it is a start. But what the report demonstrates is a heart-felt cry over the brokenness of a system to look after children at risk.

Behind all this systemic failure is a reflection that for too long Kiwis, including Methodists have relied in the main on governmental agencies to bail us out of trouble. It has been too long that we have thought that the government or indeed church leaders have the responsibility to get us out of difficulty.

No, we have to do it ourselves. If church congregations wither, we must look to ourselves. If neighbours are in trouble, do we not help? Congregations must show their own leadership. A community church is like a fruit tree – if a branch withers and bears no fruit, cut it off. Other branches will take its place. Nurture positive and kind behaviours which encourage others to join the group. Discourage negativity, encourage welcome-ness. Develop new activities – particularly those which reflect a Christian attitude. Other neighbouring churches still pursue sponsorship of educational and developmental activities in various parts of the world. Look outwards to see where we can help.

It is only by individual decisions that we can affect change in our society. We must begin with ourselves.

G F Davis - 4 February 2021

VANUATU



“Build on a Strong Foundation”

A Service prepared by
World Day of Prayer Committee of Vanuatu

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 5 March 2021

You are invited to join in worship and fellowship at your local church.

Place **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MOSGIEL ALL WELCOME**

Time **1-30pm. AFTERNOON TER
TO FOLLOW.**

Offerings will be used to support projects in Vanuatu and New Zealand, as well
as to contribute towards local and international World Day of Prayer.