

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

26th September 2021

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 3rd October 2021

9.30 am	Mornington	David Poultney
10.00am	Mosgiel	Elaine Merrett
11.00am	Glenaven	Rod Mitchell
	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

10 October – Mosgiel Church AGM
 17 October – Mornington Church AGM after morning service
 21 October – Welcome to the Methodist Mission Administration Office

POSTPONEMENT

The proposed visit to the **Watkins Memorial at Karitane** will take place at a later date once Covid restrictions allow the choir to practice and public gathering is more acceptable. A revised date will be advised when practical. Thanking you for your tolerance. Cam Weston

MORNINGTON CHURCH AGM

The Mornington church AGM is planned for Sunday October 17th after the morning service.

MOSGIEL CHURCH AGM

Mosgiel AGM Sunday 10th October Followed by lunch @ Topiary Cafe please sign list if you wish to go.

STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Waihopai YTH



One of the Rangatahi in the YTH

Transition house who has had some physical and mental issues in the past has connected with a mentor through Nga Kete Kym to support him through some changes and possibly employment pathway. Within the fortnight, an opportunity for work experience on a Dairy Farm with possibility of full time work presented itself. He took up the opportunity. The farm owner was impressed with his ability to get the work done in a good timely manner. The farm owner has offered a permanent part time role from the 1 August 2021. Full support will be given by the farm owner and farm manager to the Rangatahi. He is extremely enthusiastic about the prospect of working. MSD are involved assisting with Mana in Mahi expansion to help people who are disadvantaged in the labour market move into long term work. This Rangatahi received financial support through MSD with return to work grant. He will have ongoing support through the Mana in Mahi programme.

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



We've Moved OFFICE

We have a new home and would love for you to come and check it out!

Please join us to help celebrate with some drinks and nibbles.

Ground Floor, Auripo House
258 Stuart Street

Thursday 21st October
3.30pm - 5.30pm

To confirm your attendance and inform us of any dietary requirements please contact Liz on:

Tel: 466 4600 - admin@mmsouth.org.nz

RSVP - Thursday 14th October



FAITH THINKING

August-November 2021

***Short Courses jointly offered by the
Theology Programme, University of Otago
and some Dunedin Churches in
conjunction with Continuing Education at
the University of Otago.***

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE

AT www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation



FAITH THINKING ON ZOOM Wednesday October 13, 7.00-8.15pm

“Decolonising our Faith: Indigenising our faith in the soil of Aotearoa New Zealand”

Dr Wayne Te Kaawa, Theology Programme, University of Otago

COST: Free but please register to receive the Zoom link

FAITH THINKING ON ZOOM Tuesday November 2, 7.00-8.15pm

“Health and Healing: Theological and Pastoral Considerations”

Dr Graham Redding, Lecturer in Chaplaincy Studies, Theology Programme,
University of Otago

COST: Free but please register to receive the Zoom link



I have recently been rereading two very good books which give quite different views of the role of Jesus. The first book is called “Jesus, Symbol of God”, by Roger Haight, who places great importance on Jesus coming to be our saviour. He does an excellent job of reviewing the various theories of salvation that have been offered over the centuries, giving us a clear sense of each one’s contribution and limitations. Yet I never quite got away from the old sense of Jesus being a rescuer of some sort, and of ourselves, as humans, being totally flawed.

So I began rereading an older book by Grace Jantzen called “Becoming Divine: Towards a Feminist Philosophy of Religion”. While the title may not be the most inviting, I found her ideas totally refreshing. She too explored the theme of Jesus’ salvation, but within a totally new frame which I found mind-blowing and much more satisfying. In chapter seven, titled ‘They shall flourish as a garden’, she introduces her notion of salvation, focussing on female imagery rather than the male imagery that she declares only leads to silence, muteness and mimicry. She makes a sharp distinction between a salvation focus on either Death or Life, and with women the vehicle for birthing new life, she wants to shift focus from after-death models to life-bearing models.

So what might this do for our understanding of Jesus and our reading of the Bible? First, it places importance on John 10: 8 – 10, with weight on verse 10. “8: All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9: I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

Salvation as more abundant life is the focus of John’s gospel. What a lovely shift of emphasis! And if we go back to the first chapters of Genesis we find

that one of the very early gifts of God is God breathing into humanity the breath of Life, not the breath of Death. So Jesus' coming is about demonstrating what life is all about in its fullest expression – saving us from a death-focus, that we might truly live here and now.

How to flourish as human beings, like a well-tended garden, is what so much of the Bible is trying to teach us. Jesus' parables are a great starting place to gain confidence in this refocus. Or explore the various "I am" statements in John's gospel to gain another good sense of life being the focus of salvation – not death! The great prayer of the writer of Ephesians 3 (verses 19-20) expresses the desire that 'you.....may be filled with all the fullness of God', and continues exulting in a God 'who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think". What a lovely refocus on flourishing as human beings.

Rod Mitchell.



Be kind

**Unite
against
COVID-19**

New Zealand Government