

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
Parish Stewards	Mrs Jan Stewart	473 9141
	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	bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600

PARISH BULLETIN 26 November 2023

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 3 December 2023		
9.30 am	Mornington	RR Mitchell
10:00 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11:00 am	Glenaven	D Phillipps

David Poultney's Study Leave

"I am on Study Leave from the 29th November to the 9th December. I can be reached by cell phone number if need be. I will be preparing material for a talk I am giving at a conference in January".

ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK



The Mission Office will be closed from Midday Friday 22nd December with the Parish team returning to work Monday 15 January 2024.

Would you please ensure that your Orders of Service over this period (the dates 17th December 2023 through to 14th January 2024) are sent no later than **12noon Wednesday 13th December** (bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz).

The final bulletin for 2023 will be Sunday 17th December and the first bulletin for 2024 will be Sunday 21st January.

-- Many thanks, Methodist Mission Parish Team

A heartfelt **thank you** to all the members of the Mornington Women's Fellowship. Your generosity has enriched the lives of the teenagers, young mums, and their precious little ones who reside in our Transition Houses. The thoughtful gifts collected this week are a reflection of your compassion and care. Thank you for your unwavering support, making Christmas brighter for our Transition House residents.

I will of course be sharing photos and stories back to you.

Julie Roberts

Grants and Giving.

Christmas Carols in Mornington

The local churches are getting together on:

Sunday 10th December

at the Presbyterian Church
on Maryhill Terrace

at 4.30pm

for a shared CAROL Service.



Mosgiel Christmas Carols

On Sunday 10th December there will be a Carol Service with Holy Communion followed by afternoon tea. All Welcome.

Mosgiel Service on 10th December

Our friends at St Luke's Anglican Church joined us for Sunday Worship recently, now we are joining them, members of our Mosgiel congregation are warmly invited to the service at St Luke's at 10am.

WANTED: A one or two-bedroom rental for Pamila and Esther Yiang, of Glenaven. At present they are renting in NE Valley, but would like somewhere closer to Pam's work in the Meridian, and Esther's school, Otago Girls' High School.

If you know of a suitable flat or house to let, please contact Pamila by email: Ysjiang127@hotmail.com

Bulletin Points from Parish Council

The Parish Council had a meeting on Tuesday evening, and we have some updates to share with you:

- Now that we've received the funding clearance for strengthening the Mornington Hall, we'll make sure to keep the Parish updated on how things are progressing.
- The Parish Council has also approved an application to the Synod for a maximum of \$35,000 for the replacement of the Mosgiel Hall roof.
- We're looking forward to the Christmas services and encourage you to join us. We'll be reviewing the Joint Services at our next meeting in February.
- Lastly, we recognize the need for the Parish to be more involved in future planning.

★ ★ ★ CHRISTMAS SERVICES ★ ★ ★

★ CHRISTMAS EVE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY 24TH DEC.
11.00AM - GLENAVEN - Rev David Poultney

★ CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30AM - MORNINGTON - Rev Donald Phillipps
10.00AM - MOSGIEL - Rev David Poultney

★ THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER
11.00AM - MORNINGTON - Rev David Poultney

Joint Services

We traditionally have a joint service when there is a fifth Sunday in the month and on other special occasions. Three months ago, the Parish Council discussed this timing and agreed to experiment with having joint services at 11am, preceded by refreshments starting at 10.30am. We have done this once so far.

In December two such services will be hold:

1. A **Christmas Eve at Glenaven**, as a tribute to the significant role Glenaven has played in our Christmas celebration over the years.
2. A joint service at **Mornington on 31st December**. We usually do this the Sunday after Christmas because many of us are out of town and there is a scarcity of preachers available.

The Parish Council will reassess the timings for our Joint Services in February.



Sheep and goats

Today's lectionary readings have a real sheep theme. In Ezekiel

34:11-16 the "Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them", but then in verses 20-24, "See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep ... I will judge between one sheep and another." And in the Gospel reading, Matthew 25:31-46 we have "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit

on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left”.

Both of the readings refer to separating similar animals into two groups, fat sheep from lean sheep, and sheep from goats. The animals are almost the same but there are certain differences that can be used to distinguish between them. The notion of similar sheep reminded me of a news item recently concerning the death of Sir Ian Wilmut in the United Kingdom. Sir Ian Wilmut led the research team at the University of Edinburgh Roslin Institute that cloned ‘Dolly’ the Sheep in 1996. Dolly was ‘created’ by the then novel technique of nuclear transfer from an adult sheep cell. Normally, animals are produced by the combination of a sperm and an egg that develops into an embryo. Dolly was made using three sheep. An egg cell was taken from one ewe and the nucleus removed. The nucleus was taken from a mammary cell of a second ewe and put into the egg cell. This cell was then implanted into a third ‘surrogate’ ewe which gave birth to Dolly. Dolly was a clone of the second sheep because it was derived from the nucleus of the second ewe. Usually half the DNA of an offspring comes from the male parent and half from the female. As Dolly’s DNA was derived entirely from the second ewe they were essentially identical, Dolly was a clone.

This raises some important ethics questions. Is it right for humans to clone animals? Humans have been cloning plants for millennia by taking cuttings. Does it make a difference if it is animals that are cloned? What about the cloning of humans? A potential alternative to transplanting mature nuclei into enucleated egg cells is to modify embryos by using a relatively

new technique called 'CRISPR gene editing'. This technique has the potential to correct the gene defect in an embryo with an inherited disorder. Would it be acceptable to use this technique for couples with such disorders? What if the technique was used to 'improve' humans? Are we assuming the role of creator, or are we humans just using our God-given gifts?

The stories in today's lectionary readings, however, are not about identical clones. They are about animals that are metaphors for people who look similar, but the stories tell us that it is not what they look like but how they behave, that is important and differentiates them.

If the thought of a future consisting of clones we cannot tell apart is disturbing, we can be reassured by another of today's lectionary readings which also refers to sheep.

Psalm 100: "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture."

Richard Cannon