



Methodist Parish

Finding good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyter:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
Parish Stewards:	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Dr Richard Cannon	477 5030
	Mrs Fay Richardson	489 5485
Tongan Steward:	Mr Palanite Taungapeau	456 3144
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@dmm.org.nz	466 4600
	Sarah: sarahc@dmm.org.nz	

PARISH BULLETIN

17th April 2011

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 24th April 2011

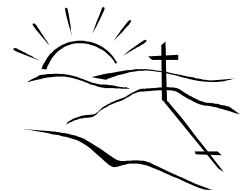
9.30am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00pm	St Kilda	S Ikahihifo
6.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

BULLETIN FOR 24TH APRIL

As the Mission Office will be closed on Good Friday, the Bulletins will be prepared earlier in the week. Therefore any notices for this Bulletin must be in to Sarah by midday **Wednesday 20th April**. Thank you.

BROAD BAY NEWS

- There will be no service at Broad Bay on Sunday 17 April.
- Easter sunrise service on the Broad Bay beach, 7am, Easter Sunday 24 April. If the weather is bad we will have the service in the church. Followed by breakfast of fish and fresh-brewed coffee. Cost: \$5 per person. Enquiries to Olive Bain 478 0657 or Jenny Winter 478 0491.



MORNINGTON WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SPECIAL PROJECT presentation will take place on Sunday 17 April. You will find an envelope enclosed in the Bulletin & donations need to be in the collection plate or to a Member of Fellowship - by 9 May. Thank you.

This year, for the Special Project, the Association of Presbyterian Women and Methodist Women's Fellowship are supporting rehabilitation in Haiti, through Christian World Service's global network, ACT (Action by Christian Churches Together) Alliance, and Habitat for Humanity in New Zealand - a Christian not-for-profit organisation building, renovating and selling simple, decent homes on an affordable basis for disadvantaged families.



HOME GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday 19th April, at 7.30pm at the Home of Ian & Dot Pearce.

A four week study on "Learning to walk by Faith". Based on the stories of Ruth and Hannah.

Tel Ian..453 6312 or Geoff..473 0193

OPEN EDUCATION IN A QUIET GARDEN

Through April, our Open Education programme in association with the Rev Robyn Kerr offers a time for quiet reflection in Robyn's Harbour Haven Quiet Garden at 117 Doon Street, Waverley.

Open on Thursdays from 9.30-5.00pm or by arrangement (phone 454 3244). A terraced garden with a harbour view, places to sit, a conservatory and a room for rest. If you would like prayer, a meditation or a leading into silence and reflection just ask when you ring.

Drinks available through the day; a donation of \$5 is suggested (lunch is extra). If transport is a problem ring Colin Gibson (453 6662). Harbour Haven is affiliated with the international Quiet Garden Movement, its website is www.quietgarden.co.uk



MOSGIEL MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

21ST April at 7pm in Mosgiel Methodist Church lead by Rev Siosifa Pole.
All Parish Churches are invited to join in this very meaningful service.

GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION

On Good Friday morning, people from the congregations of all four Mornington churches will make an Easter walk, starting at 9.30 am at the St Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church, Benhar Street, reaching the Mornington Presbyterian Church, Maryhill Terrace, at 10.am, St Mary's Anglican Church at 10.30am, and finishing at Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, at 11am, where after a short service the Methodist Church will host the other churches for Easter buns and a cup of tea or coffee. Do join us if you are able, to offer a community witness to our common faith.



MOSGIEL WALK OF THE CROSS

Good Friday The Walk of the Cross starts 8:45 am. From Holy Cross and proceeds to St Lukes for 10: am. Service. Morning tea to follow Please bring a bag of Hot Cross Buns. Guest Preacher is Mark Buckle pastor at Fernhill Fellowship. There will be no Pentecost Service this year due to lack of support last year.

COMBINED DUNEDIN CHURCHES RESURRECTION SERVICE

7pm Sunday 1st May, The Dunedin Town Hall.

Over the last three years, Churches in Dunedin have been coming together on the first Sunday evening after Easter to worship and celebrate the risen Lord Jesus. Our desire is to produce a service where as many as possible in Dunedin churches come together to celebrate our risen Lord Jesus.

Our goal in putting this service together is to create a service which seeks to connect with as many different church traditions and age groupings as possible. We are working hard at doing this. A range of different churches are already involved in a combined churches worship team, and also a combined churches children's choir is planned.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS FORUM

The next meeting of the Dunedin Methodist PQF will be 7pm Monday 2 May at the Middleton Road Community Centre. Come in through the main carpark entrance (on Middleton Road). Bring your favourite Social Justice “hobby-horse” and some nibbles to share!



MOSGIEL MID WEEK SERVICES

Starting again on Wednesday 11th May at 2pm. Followed by afternoon tea. Enquiries to Elaine 489 7663.

BEDTIME BEANIES PROJECT Knitters required

The New Brighton Union Church is part of a 'Recovery of Community' network in Christchurch. Chimneys are down, power prices are high and many children are living in damaged and damp homes. One of the aims of this group is to provide affected children with a 'Bedtime Beanie' for warmth at night. The beanies can be made in any pattern but need to be knitted with soft wool and completed by the end of May. The group suggests that *'each hat could have a little note pinned to it as to where it comes from and your name.'* A beanie pattern is available from Marion Kitchingman 476-7767. Please contact Marion on completion of your beanie and it will be collected.



GOOD EFFORT FOR CHRISTCHURCH

The Parish Dinner for Christchurch last weekend was an enjoyable event for all concerned.

About 60 attended, including helpers, and profits amounted \$1422 after dinner expenses of \$589 were deducted. THANKS to all who entered into the spirit of the occasion. The diners made a collective decision that the \$1422 would be given to the families of the three men killed in Durham St Church while endeavouring to remove the pipe organ following severe damage to the Church during the first quake. The money is being sent to Christchurch Mission with that request. A significant boost to the result was from receipt of a cheque for \$350 US from a friend of Ken & Judy

Russell in Springston IL. who touched by news of the damage to Christchurch increased her monthly tithe to her own (Methodist) Church to reach out to New Zealand friends. Picture shows Ken handing over cheque to David Kitchingman (dinner treasurer) and Mary Thompson (Mornington treasurer.) The American friend wishes to remain anonymous.



"DEM BONES, DRY BONES"

Mornington children had great fun last Sunday interpreting Ezekiel's vision of the Valley of Dry bones. (Ezek.37: 1 - 14) In the picture, Naomi Pole, Matthew & Christopher Gray, and David Cannon display their rather life-like bones to the congregation "Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones. Now hear the word of the Lord."



TAX CREDIT

If you are on the stewardship roll you should shortly receive a receipt for your donations to the Parish over the last tax year. These donations qualify for a personal tax credit. You can claim one third of your donations, up to a maximum of one third of your taxable income, back from the Inland Revenue Department (IRD). To claim this tax credit you will need to complete an IR526 form by filling in your personal details, including your IRD number, attaching your donation receipt(s), and posting it to the IRD. You may choose, as do several members of our Parish, to donate your tax credit to the Church. If you wish to do this, simply request the appropriate form and envelope from your Stewardship Recorder. If you send a copy of your completed IR526 form to the Parish Treasurer, Lynley Kloogh, she will be able to give you a receipt for this tax credit donation. Thank you for your continued financial support of the Parish.



A Little Japanese Tea Ceremony

Joe Bennett has taken a nip at the ankles of The Church. In his 'Sleeping Dogs' column in the Otago Daily Times (March 10, 2011) he wrote that he *was more than usually annoyed at senior church people getting in on official ceremonies and offering thanks upstairs* after the earthquake. He also pointed out the fallacy of belief in a loving and omnipotent god who has been *particularly severe on churches while leaving the casino standing*. Predictably, there have been yelps from all quarters in response. I'm not sure who is on shakier ground – Joe Bennett or God's representatives? But I will let sleeping dogs lie while I unleash a few thoughts of my own about ceremonies.

Ritual can be a great source of comfort when you are feeling helpless. Before I sat down with that wonderful solace, a nice cup of tea, to join the community of television viewers and the summer crowd gathered in Hagley Park, Christchurch, for the commemoration of events set in motion by the

February 22nd earthquake, I lit two candles. During the two-minute silence I stood alone in my living room with my eyes on the flames, one for Christchurch, and one for Japan. At times the golden flares lengthened and grew steady, glowing brightly as if with hope; at other times the flames caught an unseen shift of air, a slight breeze, perhaps, and they wobbled and staggered a little as if trying hard to stay upright against powerful forces. Although the candles sat close together on the mantelpiece they burned differently, occasionally in unison, but mostly they flickered and glowed, dimmed and danced in their own individual candle ways.

Further along the mantelpiece my father's eyes gazed out at me from a framed photograph. I thought of his post-war prejudice for anything Japanese, and I wondered what he would have made of his daughter lighting candles, weeping simultaneously for Japan and Christchurch, mingling tea and tears as she felt for the loss of so many lives, and for our beautiful, broken landscapes in foreign and familiar parts of the world? I'd like to think that if my father were still alive he'd be 'over it' by now, that his bigotry, sprung so profoundly from fear, would have morphed into something more mellow and tolerant. But who knows?

What matters is that everything changes, all the time – attitudes, theology, politics, tectonic plates – all shift, with or against our will. Nothing stays the same forever because we live in a dynamic world. Sometimes changes jolt and shake, upsetting our stasis, or our sense of how things ought to be. Sometimes they occur almost imperceptibly without our being aware of the shifting process until we look back and compare the 'then' with the 'now'. But, however it happens, we have to learn to tolerate and accommodate the changes. A very different proposition from accepting them, I hasten to add. There will be few individuals who have never felt the sting of bigotry or never expressed some kind of personal prejudice themselves. Sexism, racism, and ageism along with a multitude of other 'isms' flourish in our communities and feed intolerance. Solutions are difficult and closed minds notoriously tricky to prise open.

Ritual can help. It has a way of bringing together the fearful or the dissenting; and it offers the potential for inclusive and positive connection, of being present to the moment in whatever ways we can. The robust organisation of the Christchurch commemoration ceremony with its framework of comforting words and wisdom from dignitaries and community leaders alike, provided an opportunity for all to meet and stand strong, to feel embraced and revitalised for whatever lies ahead.

Other groups too, meet for ordinary or extraordinary business often with a set agenda, and follow the ritual conventions of addressing the chair in order to reach a resolution. All sorts of rituals are woven into our lives, some so familiar and safe that we follow the steps routinely. The simple act of pouring boiling water onto tea leaves, letting it steep, and sipping the hot brew, alone or with company helps us to go forward feeling revived. At best we may feel enlightened.

In Japan, 'the way of tea' is an ancient and transformative practice that encourages self-cultivation, serenity and harmony with nature – a huge and present irony for those so cruelly assaulted by natural forces in the recent tragedy. However, ritual is a way of restoring order to chaos, of *doing* something in the face of helplessness. Outdoors or indoors, in a park or a parish hall, a living room, a marae or on a tatami mat – anywhere, if we are open to it – ritual has the transformative power to centre our thoughts and ease a heavy heart in turbulent and uncertain times. Joe Bennett may have no time for ceremonies that include *giving thanks upstairs* but I wonder what he would say to a nice cup of tea? One sugar or two, Joe?

Elizabeth Brooke-Carr