



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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

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## PARISH BULLETIN

**29<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011

9.30am	Mornington	K Russell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	K Russell
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
6.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

### EXPLORERS GROUP

Meets Sunday 29th May at 4-30pm in the Mornington Church Lounge. All interested people are welcome.

### CELLISTS OF OTAGO

Experience the rich, sonorous sound of 12 cellists, under the directorship of Judith Davis today, Sunday the 29th May at 3 p.m. in the Southern Sinfonia Rooms, Carnegie Centre, 110 Moray Place. The soloists are Peter Adams (clarinet), Heleen du Plessis (cello) and Nicholas Cornish (saxophone). Admission is \$10 Adults, and \$5 for students and children. All are welcome.

## HOME GROUP BIBLE STUDY

The Home Group will meet on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30 pm at the home of Ian and Dot Pearce. The Study is entitled "How can we know what God wants me to do?" Study no. 3..."Investigate your options"

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

## HEALTHY CHURCH, MISSIONAL CHURCH WORKSHOP

There will be a workshop run by our District Synod in June for all the parishes. The theme of this workshop is 'Healthy Church, Missional Church' conducting by Nigel Hanscamp (Director of Mission Resourcing). This workshop will be held in Invercargill on the 18th of June. This is a district event and I would like to see good representation from the parish attending this workshop. Thanks, Siosifa Pole (Parish Superintendent).

### Tribute for Joan Robertson

The parish still mourn for the death of Joan Robertson whose funeral was held at Mornington Methodist Church on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2011. Joan is still remember for her involvement both in the congregation and parish levels.

She was helping in the parish website and also heavily involved at Mornington Methodist Church in many activities. Joan was a woman among women who served faithfully her God and her community. A quote from Ken Russell's tribute, "Wherever Joan brought her gifts to bear, in work or worship, in art or garden, among youth or elderly, Joan made friends – extended The bounds of family." Our sympathy and condolences goes to Ian, Lilian, Bernard, Stephen, and the grandchildren. May the presence of the Risen Christ comfort them and give them hope during their time of grieving.



In earthquakes, as in wartime, the common bonding against an "enemy" brings with it a frequent heroism – selflessness in service to the benefit of the community.

But as Sir Peter Gluckman recently reported, that initial heroic phase – once the immediate crisis has passed – does not last, evolving into a honeymoon phase (the return of optimism), then into disillusionment (when

the reality of recovery can first be seen properly) and finally, fingers crossed, a new equilibrium.

In management thinking there is a similar “enthusiasm curve” with 5 phases: ① Let’s give it a whirl! ② But its harder than it looks! ③ It seems to be working ... ④ This is the point of no return: do we *really* want to continue? ⑤ Hey we’re starting to get good at this!

Reading these two ideas together, we can say that the response of a group of people over time to difficulty is firstly to bond, then to drift, then – if they can hold it together through that drifting phase - to collaborate (the forming-storming-norming of the human relations movement).

What this means is that it’s easy when things are difficult – after that very first stage – for the connection between folk to fade, for suspicion and difference to make themselves felt. It’s too hard to keep stretching to an appreciation of the “other” when we’re under such great stress ourselves; we retreat with our tiredness, our stress, and often a good dose of the grumps. These are emotions that are protective of the self, normal, and reasonable.

But boy, can it make the next bit, collaborating, even harder!

There are a couple of real world examples we can see around us right now. There’s John Key having forsworn ever having Roger Douglas in cabinet, having to stare down the barrel of a resurgent Don Brash.

There’s the folk in Christchurch who blasted at Gerry Brownlee in the months following the September earthquake, only to find that he is now the Earthquake Czar for a much more damaged city.

There are those who attended DCC submissions hearings having shouted at and slandered the Councillors last year, pleading for money this year from almost exactly the same group of people.

We look, at these times, for some forgiveness from each other, for an understanding of our being too stretched, and for the gift of tolerance in each other.

But what happens when everyone else is as stretched as we are? When they are seeking our forgiveness, our understanding, and our tolerance?

How then do we proceed? What if Gerry Brownlee is overworked, tired, his house levelled also (which it is). What if absorbing the personalised criticisms of other Cantabrians is beyond him today?

Membership of a community is seldom by choice. Those who live in Christchurch *are* Cantabrians. Those who are subject to racial abuse *are* Maori, Asian, Pasifika and more. MPs can barely get themselves elected, let alone control who else is elected for them to work alongside.

Like it or not, we are stuck with each other – and not just for today but for tomorrow. Remembering that, and the many richnesses of our membership of our given community, is probably the first place to start. Remembering too, that while we cannot change the responses of others, we may always seek to manage our own – with grace and humility – also brings choices. And failing all this, a solid apology can work wonders!!

Let us remember the great richness of being people, together, the things we have in common, the good stories, and eek out a little more humanity within, so that others can more easily express theirs.

***Laura Black***