



# 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

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 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	TBA
6.00pm	Broad Bay	No Service

### PENTECOST SUNDAY

Next Sunday (12<sup>th</sup> June), which is Pentecost Sunday, if members of the parish can wear something of a red colour to symbolize Pentecost Sunday and the flame of the Spirit.

### MORNINGTON MWF

The next Meeting - being the Annual Meeting will take place on Monday the 13th June - in the Church Lounge, at 2p.m.

The Speaker will be the Rev Donald Phillipps - "Cape Reinga and back". Please note our Annual Collection - "Social Services Collection" & also remember The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

## HOME GROUP BIBLE STUDY

The Home Group will meet on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 7,30 pm at the home of Ian & Dot Pearce. The study is entitled “ How can we know what God wants us to do?” Study no. 4 ...” Discuss it with others” Tel...Ian...453 6312 or Geoff...473 0193.

## MOSGIEL NOTICES

- Today we farewell **Ngarita Belsey** a very faithful member of the MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH since 1958. Our love and prayers go with her as she shifts to Geraldine to be close to her daughter.
- **Mosgiel Methodist Women's Fellowship** meets on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 1:30 pm. Julie Butler from the Alzheimer's Society will be speaking to us. All welcome.
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2pm. **Mid ~ Week Service.**
- Next Sunday is **PENTECOST Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE** can we all bring a small party plate for morning tea. “THE BIRTH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT” and if possible wear something RED.
- Thank you to **Y@M** for their service last Sunday it really made us think about GENESIS WELL DONE TO ALL WHO TOOK PART.
- Four of our members are now helping with the children at **Arahina House** and the after school programme. We pray the children will be encouraged by the support they receive. Many thanks Elaine.

## Ecumenical Pentecost service – Sunday 12 June, 7 pm – St Joseph's Cathedral.

Join the inner city churches in celebrating the coming of the Spirit and our unity in Christ.

Also a reminder that we will meet together on Tuesday 14 June at 1.30pm

## **OPEN EDUCATION**

This month's Open Education programme brings the dynamic Director of our Dunedin Methodist Mission, Laura Black, to talk about our social service work in a post-Budget world. Don't miss this opportunity to get an informed analysis of the changing world in which social services will have to be delivered and the Mission's strategies for helping those who need them. Mornington Church, Galloway Street, on Wednesday 15 June, at 7.30pm.

And don't miss out on Judy Russell's superb pre-talk meal starting at 6pm (any profits go to the Mission). Sign in at Mornington or phone Judy (455 3727) to book your place at the table. The meal costs \$15, the talk \$5.

## **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' conducted 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).

## **MORNINGTON NOTICES**

After the Church Service at Mornington on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June the Rev. Greg Hughson will plant a Kowhai tree in the grounds of the church. Purchased by the Women's Fellowship this tree for peace marks the culmination of the Decade to Overcome Violence.

Greg recently attended the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation held in Kingston Jamaica which recognized the work done during the Decade to Overcome Violence and encourage Churches to renew their commitment to non-violence, peace and justice.

## BOOK SALE

On Saturday 11th and 18th of June, from 1 to 5, there will be a sale of an extensive range of books and other items (including Anglican-related material) left over after the closure of the Christian bookshop, OC Books. These sales will be held at 127 Glenpark Ave in Maryhill, Dunedin. No eftpos available, but cash and cheques will be accepted. If you're interested, but can't make it on either of these days, please ring 453 4015 to arrange to come at another time.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 25 MAY 2011

- The Parish Council authorised the Parish Stewards to compensate its ordained ministers for services rendered to the Parish.
- The Parish will continue with stationing in 2011 to seek an additional 0.25 ministry.
- George Davis has agreed to convene a Task Group responsible for establishing a Lay Ministry Team to assist with Parish ministry.
- The Parish will seek a Pastoral Convener to assist Siosifa with coordinating pastoral care across the Parish.
- Parish income for the January - March 2011 quarter was \$1,530 more than expenditure.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Matthew Gray who celebrates a Birthday on 9<sup>th</sup> June.



It is no exaggeration to say that my recent Testimony offered during morning worship has excited a wide range of positive comment - including mention in one of Ken's sermons. For this reason I thought it would be helpful to venture further by way of expressing convictions that a 4-5 minute allocation did not allow for.

Psychic (or spiritual) suffering is so terribly hard to understand in its essential NATURE and PURPOSE. Has mine had a "purpose" or has it just been a case of bad luck to have had an accident triggering memories of a much more serious event 30 years before? Well, both I would say. There does seem to be so much that is random and cruel - as with the Christchurch earthquakes and the Japanese catastrophe. And the more random and cruel the events, the harder it is to seriously consider that there is a God or Christ "managing things." IS His eye on the sparrow....or on me, on you? Haven't we all in the quiet times asked this question? I certainly have.

Well, in my Testimony I remember saying that as I looked out over the Mornington congregation I saw Jesus in you...in your rich concern, immediate offers of prayer....and home cooked biscuits!

I think I have read too much theology over the years - e.g. the many books dealing with the figure of Jesus Christ from every conceivable angle. As I glance over those books on my shelves I feel no spark of interest. I don't wish to look at them again. I wish to give up speculating, and to SEE Jesus, to shake Jesus by the hand, to hug Jesus - especially today in the form of some of the great women in the congregation. Now Judy gives a great hug!! Seriously, through this whole terrifying experience, I have somehow re-discovered women. The former Catholic monk is running full-tilt in the opposite direction! Interestingly, a prominent American psychotherapist pointed out that in a personal chart she completed for me, the feminine was pretty much absent. She said that I needed to address this issue urgently! I have been trying to do that one way and another in the domestic sphere - as with our weekly honouring of the Madonna in the form of a very special statue we have at home.

Maybe I have among other things been too greedy for things spiritual. As one counsellor put it bluntly: "God's remedy for spiritual gluttony and other obstacles to maturity is the Dark Night experience...For God sets them in this Night only to prove them and to humble them, and to reform their desires, so that they go on, not nurturing in themselves a sinful gluttony in spiritual things." (St. John of the Cross)

When this journey is over, I am sure you will be dealing with an Aelred focussed on realism and actions that matter.

All the way of my long journey, it has been Mother Julian of Norwich (a 14th century English hermit) who has given me the deeper help I have needed - especially in the words

ALL SHALL BE WELL,  
AND ALL SHALL BE WELL,  
AND ALL MANNER OF THINGS  
SHALL BE WELL.....[for me as well!]

Why? Because there IS a justice and a balance of things in the universe. In other words, in some difficult-to-understand sense, the universe in its incomprehensible vastness, knows us as INDIVIDUAL CREATIONS.

I keep myself focussed on what is GOOD - "WELL" (in other words, God/Jesus Christ right there in front of me!) I do this many, many times a day, and correspondingly deny a place to thoughts, ideas, impulses which are negative and destructive. By the same token, as my counsellor clearly advises, don't use Mother Julian's words to block out thoughts which, though unpleasant, need to be engaged with in some way.

Fr. Thomas Merton was much impressed by Julian's realism, citing her admission that there is no intellectual solution to the problem of evil (and pain, for that matter), BUT THAT WE MUST TRUST THAT ALL WILL BE WELL. In her theology God and Christ are "our MOTHER." Julian insists that the Trinity is our Mother "in whom we are enclosed." (Ch. 54 of her book REVELATIONS OF DIVINE LOVE)

So my deep thanks go to the mothers of our Church. You are sweet, gracious, humble, and in the best sense of the word, truly great.

***Russell Edmunds***



