



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

8 April 2012

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 15 April 2012

9.30am	Mornington	Explorers
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S. Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	Explorers
11.00 am	Wesley	S. Pole
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
6.00pm	Broad Bay	H Watson White

15 APRIL BROAD BAY

A change to the preaching plan: The service at Broad Bay on 15 April will be taken by Helen Watson White, not Siosifa Pole as originally indicated.

MOSGIEL MID WEEK SERVICE

Wednesday 18 April at 2pm. All Welcome.

(note change of date).

PARISH EASTER STUDY: FINDING A VOICE

Session 4, *'Poisonous words and profane responses'* will be held the Tuesday after Easter, **Tuesday, April 10th** at 7.30 pm in the Mornington Methodist Church. Extracts from the movie, *The King's Speech*, are used as a starting point for Bible study. Session 5 to complete the series will be held on April 17th and will be lead for us by Siosifa. Everyone from throughout the parish is very welcome to attend; it would be great if you could make it to one of these.

MONSTER Garage Sale
14 April 2012 9am - 1pm
Salvation Army Hall
43 North Rd
North East Valley
Fundraiser for the 150th anniversary
of the
City of Dunedin Choir

Featuring: Sausage Sizzle, Cake Stall, Crafts, Books, Electronic goods,
 Household items, Plants, Books, Bargains galore!

OPEN EDUCATION

We grumble about too much rain; on the Palestinian West Bank wells are drying up, orchards are failing and families are left desperate for lack of water while Israeli settlers build swimming pools. On Wednesday, April 18, Michael Earle, the Church and Donor Relations Co-Ordinator for Christian World Service will present CWS's new project, Water for Life, and a new theme song, 'Water for Life' will receive its premiere. Don't miss this session of the Open Education Programme, held at the Methodist Church, Galloway Street, on Wednesday April 18 at 7.30pm (\$5 charge for supper). As usual Judy Russell will provide an excellent meal, starting at 6pm (profits to CWS), for a charge of \$15. Book a seat by ringing Judy (455 3727).

Free Volunteers for 1 week only!

Dear Dunedin Churches,

Aaron Thomson here (Student Life)

I have been working with Otago University Students Association (OUSA) and the Dunedin City Council to run a 7 day volunteering week over 16th - 22nd April.

I believe this could be a great way for our churches to meet and develop meaningful connections with students in our city. Simply put: OUSA volunteering week will potentially supply 22,000 students that could come and volunteer for your Church, cleaning windows, painting fences/exterior of buildings, gardening, trimming hedges, mowing lawns, fundraising collections, helping run an event during that week or any other 'one off' task that doesn't involve climbing on roofs or dangerous equipment like chainsaws. You can list tasks online for the upcoming volunteering week now by going to www.scarfiecard.co.nz and signing up for a profile (use your group/Church or organisation name for your username).

Our feedback from last years pilot indicated tasks for larger groups are easier to fill than small tasks. So if you have a few small tasks combine them into a larger task. So get the appropriate person in your Church to seize the moment and get some things done around the place!

We look forward to making OUSA volunteering week 16th-22 April 2012 successful!

Kind regards Scarfie Card, Dunedin City Council and OUSA

Aaron Thomson

Team Leader

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Somehow it doesn't seem right; doesn't make any sense. I just can't connect this sublime morning stillness, the cloudless blue sky, the sunlight flooding the peaceful scene, the patterned beauty of fallen leaves,

the red and yellow flare of dahlias and chrysanthemums, this perfect autumn morning, with what I know is happening in the distant world as I write this article, this Connections article.

Hard to make the connections. Do you find it so, too?

You see, tomorrow will be Good Friday. *Good Friday?* Yes, hot cross buns fresh out of the bakery, with their sugar gloss and the white iced cross. Yes, bargains everywhere, fifty per cent off this and thirty per cent off that. (Easter comes cheap these days. Or at least cheaper.) Yes, the Warehouse stuffed with chocolate eggs, chocolate rabbits, chocolate buttons, chocolate white, dark or ordinary, eggs hollow and eggs stuffed. A perfect plentitude of chocolate wrapped in golden paper, or bagged in bargain bags, or chocolate packed inside chocolate. Chocolate in red wrapping hidden in Giant White Shark boxes, or disguised as a Giant Rugby Ball or a Giant White Bunny surrounded by the forest creatures of another land altogether.

How to connect this with the staggering man led through a jeering crowd on his way to Golgotha?

And Easter Day itself, with the cruise ships in, their thousand or more passengers pouring down the gangways at Port Chalmers in search of diversion. All aboard the Taieri Gorge Railway, or take your bus for the Cadbury Tours (more chocolate) or Larnach Castle with its ghosts. 'Easter is the last big fling for us before the quieter winter season,' says the Dunedin Visitor Centre manager. Speights Brewery is unable to run tours because of trading regulations, but soon that will be an inconvenience of bygone days, if the MP for Central Otago has her way. She's campaigning for 'normal' trading hours over the weekend.

Can you see three crosses in all this frenzy and bustle? Can you find your way to a quiet place in that faraway garden on an eastern Easter morning?

The newspapers remind us that it's Easter, but what is the news? 'Chocolate for breakfast—it's just sensational,' reads the headline. 'Fuel up for the long weekend,' intone the supermarkets. 'Baby sharks arrive for Easter,' but these are harmless (and real) carpet sharks; the bigger ones are cruising all around us. More dead human beings lying where they fell in Syrian streets, because the snipers are ready to pick off any attempt to recover them. A woman suicide bomber stands up in a packed room in Somalia (where's that?) and pushes the button on the explosive belt wrapped around her body.

How to connect, how to make any kind of connection?

And I write in the sad knowledge that at this very moment one of my dearest friends, a relative by marriage, is approaching the end of his life, as a cancer tumour burrows into his body. Will he manage to struggle to church this weekend? A church he has loved all his life, a church community which now is gathering round him in quiet sympathy and will certainly mention him in its prayers. Yes, the choir there will sing an Easter anthem celebrating the Risen One, and the congregation will sing 'Christ, the Lord is risen today, alleluia!' And there, as here in Dunedin, we will receive a blessing that reminds us of the grace of God and the love of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, before we go out into the still, clear air and feel the warmth of the sun on our Easter bodies. Connections? Connections? And yet, and yet... **Colin Gibson**