



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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

<b>Presbyter:</b>	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Dr Richard Cannon	477 5030
	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
<b>Tongan Steward:</b>	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Siosifa: <a href="mailto:parish@dmm.org.nz">parish@dmm.org.nz</a>	466 4600
	Sarah: <a href="mailto:sarahc@dmm.org.nz">sarahc@dmm.org.nz</a>	

## PARISH BULLETIN

14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2012

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2012

9.30am	Mornington	S Pole / Lay Ministry Team
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole / Lay Ministry Team
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
6.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

### MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT

Today at 2.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. Piano Items, featuring Sandra Crawshaw and Women Composers. Cost \$2.00.



**JULIET LINDA WILSON**, youngest daughter of Nathan and Linda Wilson. Will be baptised this afternoon at Linda & Nathan's home at Owaka. The service will be led by Ken Russell and the Mornington Church community with whom Linda, Nathan and first child Annabelle have a strong affiliation, will be represented by Grandparents Andrea and Eldon Mosley, Colin & Jeanette Gibson and Cradle Roll convener Neil McCulloch.



## **MONDAY 15 OCT 7 PM – OVERSEAS ADVENTURES**

Jasmine and Annabelle Weston will share their recent overseas adventures. Jasmine had a year in the USA as an exchange student, and Annabelle spent some weeks in Fiji as part of a church mission group. Come along to Mornington Methodist Church on Monday 15 October at 7 pm to hear some of their interesting stories, see photos of their trips, and enjoy supper together afterwards.

## **LEADERS' MEETING**

Tuesday 16th October 2012, in Lounge at 7.30pm. Please attend if you can or give apologies to George Davis.

## **MOSGIEL MID ~ WEEK SERVICE**

This month will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 2:00 pm. Followed by afternoon tea. All very welcome.

## **BECOMING LIFE WISE WITH OPEN EDUCATION**

The Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, invites you to join a conversation on life experience as several 80 year-olds (and more) discuss what they have seen and learned in their lifetimes. An Open Education programme of the Dunedin Methodist Parish, on Wednesday 17 October, starting at 7.30pm (the charge of \$5 includes supper).

A pre-session meal catered by Judy Russell commences at 6pm (\$15). Book your place in advance by ringing Judy (455 3727): we can guarantee that the food won't be as mature (did someone say 'old'?) as the speakers!

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE 14<sup>TH</sup>-21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

Annual Dunedin Community Interfaith Peace gathering. People of all faiths are warmly invited to attend. Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 7.30-8.30pm followed by supper. Venue: Friends Meeting House 15 Park Street, Dunedin. All welcome.



## BETH MAJOR

Beth is going into Woodhaugh Rest-home for 2 weeks on Wednesday 24th October to give Lewis a break. He will be spending time in the North Island with family. Beth will be pleased to see visitors.

## PASTORAL CARE OF OLDER PEOPLE WORKSHOP

Rev. Anne Russell-Brighty is again running her workshops on the Pastoral Care of Older People in Dunedin on November 2/3 and 23/24. As the population ages there are increasing numbers of elders both in and outside of our churches. Anne's course draws on both her own experience and the wisdom of those who attend her courses. The programme has been very well-received e.g.

*"I found this course stimulating, affirming and challenging",*

*"Thank you for your time, care, preparation and empathetic method of delivery. I look forward to the next stage of the journey."*

*"The experiences of others in dealing with certain issues were very much appreciated."* For further information contact [trishp@selwyncare.org.nz](mailto:trishp@selwyncare.org.nz)

Or <http://www.selwyncare.org.nz/145/courses/-/workshops-available.pdf>

## KNITTING REMINDER

We're having another collection of booties and bonnets for the Methodist Mission HUB. We would like to collect them before October 24 so that they can be placed into attractive gift parcels. If collection is required please contact Marion 4767767.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To Caitlyn Elkins who turns 9 on the 16<sup>th</sup> October.

## THANK YOU

It is with humble heart that I would like to convey my thanks to the parish for your incredible hospitality and friendship during the visit of the Vice-President, Mrs Olive Tanielu. Your support signifies our space in the wider Methodist family of New Zealand. We are a vital part of the Connexion. May God will continue to give us strength as we continue to commit ourselves to his service.

**A FULL CHURCH at Wesley last Sunday** was witness to the presentation of flowers to JOYCE PATTON commemorating 65 years of very fine and faithful service as Organist/Pianist at Caversham 1947 – 78 and since at Wesley. Joyce spoke movingly of the debt she owed to the Church for the opportunities she has been given, and the friendships made during her long service.

In the photo are George Davis (Parish Steward), Daphne Harmer (Wesley Congregation), Velonika Fakava (Tongan Congregation), Joyce, Judy Davis (Long time friend from Caversham days, who played a cello item “When I’m sixty-four” by way of tribute).



### **Story from the Mission**

I connected with a young Mum who enrolled her 8 month old son at Little Citizens nursery. The wee man was booked for 45 hours per week while Mum attended a Polytech course. After 6 or so weeks and no payment for childcare fees, and no Winz subsidy in place the bill was starting to climb rapidly.

I called Mum in to meet with me. I explained my role and offered support to help manage her account and get the Winz subsidy in place. Through conversation it became apparent Mum had very little family support or connections and was only attending Polytech for 18 hours a week. She was unable to pay the overdue account up front and was at risk of losing her space through our cancellation of care policy.

We arranged with Pip a set amount to pay weekly, some to cover the current care arrangement and some to start reducing the debt that had been incurred. We reduced the hours of care to 20 hours a week which became more affordable and fitted in with her Polytech hours. All the Winz paperwork was filled out and signed and Mum seemed to have a much better understanding of the processes around her enrolment at Little Citizens and her expectations. Mum understood the cancellation of care policy and why it is in place and assured me she would keep to her end of the contract by paying a set weekly amount until the debt was cleared.

When I asked her what things would look like if she did not have care for her son for her to attend Polytech, she said she would have to give it up as she had no-one else to help support her and that she would just have to sit at home all day with him.

I gave her encouragement for attending Polytech and trying to provide herself and child with a career opportunity and acknowledged how hard it can get at times on your own. I offered her support by way of food parcels and a referral to budget advice if she required it. The first week she paid the set amount.

Sadly we have not seen her or her son return to nursery, no further payments have been received and her care was cancelled, and she has not answered any of my calls. At times this can be the frustrating elements of this role; even though we give “enough support and challenge” it is up to the individual to part take in the support offered.





## **The Way Forward: a leap (of faith) into the dark?**

In the last while I have been attracted to writings which tell about how we determine our future. Possibly my concern about the future of the Methodist Church of New Zealand and its present leadership has prompted me along this path. The historical path of religious certainty and determinism (the converse of free will) where God dictated and Man followed was overthrown by a world where power was gradually vested in various religious, scientific and economic theories. Governance was not found in the statements of priests or monarchs but in an elite who use the political sciences and civic bureaucracies to control the society. During the late twentieth century governmental and quasi-governmental groups and later “conferencing” became the new tools to shape the way ahead for our society. In “Governing the Future” writer Derek Wallace (2012) states that as we are part of our present and future all we can accept is to *influence* our future, a largely pre-determined future that is already in the process of formation.

A casual meeting with an ex-student Richard Blaikie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Enterprise and Professor of Physics (of a Mornington family) at the university led to a brief and general exchange about education, and my remark that present education seemed process-driven. Richard’s response was to claim a clear place for proper process, and that “the world had changed,” a truism which is hard to counter. This made me think about the alternatives that we have for a future. We cannot change the past, and even with tremendous will and effort we cannot return to what we perceive as a simpler past (though it may not have ever been so).

So it is for the Methodist Church of New Zealand. Older folk may linger in the memories of a golden past with Sunday Schools packed with eager faces of the young, Bible Classes which looked forward with relish to the annual Easter Camps, and packed churches, but the present reality for

the Dunedin Parish, at least, is not that. So what possible scenarios exist for the Methodist Church? 1. Carry on as at present and let changing population demographics dictate which churches will survive, expand or collapse. 2. Have a vision which allows for the support of churches losing attendance. This might be accomplished by amalgamation, or joint ventures and activities. 3. Become really imaginative and seek a new vision. The Methodist church began in a British society challenged by deeply dividing social change during the early Industrial Age, and we are now at the point where we have ever-deepening rifts in New Zealand society and a need for churches to stand up and place themselves in the road of personal and societal disaster. But a new sacrificial vision may cost us as an identifiable entity and mean loss. However, this difficult path may be the only vital one for the survival of the church.

The symbolism of the galloping Wesley going out to the fields of an industrialising Britain is intensely attractive to Methodists, but as Richard Blaikie rightly states, the world has changed. We may not gallop or even preach on street corners, but we must fulfil a needed function. What is it in our modern world which is worth keeping or worth fighting for? I hold there are still people of strong principles who recognise when societal and political matters are wrong, even immoral. These wrongs need challenging – perhaps that is our role. Greed and its partner in hand, hunger, need addressing; lies told at whatever level of society need rebutting, for without challenge they rot the fabric of our beliefs – that glue of trust which keeps our society functioning on a day by day basis; violence particularly against the vulnerable – the old, the weak, women and children cannot go unrestrained (NZ has some of the worst world statistics here); injustice needs challenging and whistle-blowers ought to be afforded protection for revealing injustice and corruption. It is unremarkable that this list of wrongs contains the same challenges faced by John Wesley. It is also a given that challenges against wrongs will often carry a great personal cost.

But since we are part of this evolving process we must recognise that which is worth saving and influence the power-brokers of our church and nation to recognise the same virtues (how old-fashioned! Please forgive me). *Trust* once lost is never replaced by other than a begrudging acceptance, therefore trust and its basis truth must be paramount. *Sharing* the talents (tangible and intangible) and being generous particularly to the needy is important. As are love, hope, caring and open fairness. Now I guess this is all reminiscent of the first apostle Paul wrote

to the people of Corinth. He wrote of the need for faith, hope and charity, and the greatest of these being charity.

So what is in this for each of us, because that is where we must start? We may not be able as individuals within a parish to create a Christian revolution, but we are definitely part of a process of change. That process should promote the Word of God, and should be aimed at a shared vision for the future. My vision is for a society based on trust and truth, where all talents are shared, and where the love of God is clearly evident. It may not be heaven, but it is much more to be accepted than the alternatives.

***George Davis***