



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

9th DECEMBER 2012

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER 2012

9.30am	Mornington	Y@M & C Gibson
9.30 am	Mosgiel	R Masterton
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
11.00 am	Wesley	R Masterton
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
6.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

CHRISTMAS 101

This year's Christmas play, performed by members of Y@M, follows a group of students enrolled in a new course – Christmas 101.

Come along and enjoy the fun.

One performance only – **16 December 9.30 am at Mornington.**

Members of other congregations are warmly invited to join us.

COMBINED MORNINGTON ADVENT SERVICE

St Mary's Anglican church invites its fellow Mornington congregations to celebrate Christmas in a combined service on Sunday 16 December at 6.30pm. The time is chosen to better suit families with younger children. This will be the Rev John Sherlock's final service, as he is leaving for a new posting at Mapua and an opportunity will be taken to farewell him.



SING-ALONG MESSIAH

The City of Dunedin Choir invites you to join a pre-Christmas sing-along of Handel's *Messiah*, at Knox church on Tuesday 11 December, starting at 7.30pm. Conductor Peter Adams, organist David Burchell. You can buy a score on the spot for \$10 or bring your own. Admission \$20, concessions \$15 or \$10. A full practice will be held at Knox tomorrow, Monday 10 December, at 7.30pm.

2012 FOOD BANK DRIVE

Monday 10th December, 6.00 – 9.00pm. Listen for the sirens in your street – please place items in the 'Lions' trailer! Please help to make someone's Christmas that much better. Proceeds to local foodbanks only.



COMBINED MORNINGTON CHURCHES CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 16th Dec. 6:30 – 8 pm. *Carols *Fun *Craft
St. Mary's Church, Cnr Whitby and Lawence Sts, Mornington.
Christmassy supper provided



MORNINGTON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

For those wishing to share Christmas joy with other members on the congregation the Mornington Walking Carol is to take place on 22nd Dec 2012

Leaving the church at 6:30p.m. the choir will visit those within walking distance of the church returning to the church for supper after sharing seasonal cheer through their superb singing. Those intending to sing please advise Cam ph 4545600

ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISITMAS BREAK

The Mission Office will be closed from Friday 21st December until Monday 7th January. Could you please ensure your Orders of Service over this period are sent to Sarah (sarahc@dmm.org.nz) no later than 9.00am Tuesday 18th December.

The final Bulletin for 2012 will be the 23rd December edition and the first Bulletin for 2013 will 17th February.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Raoul Sarup who turns 12 on December 12th



Doreen MacRae's 90th Birthday held in our church hall on 24th November 2012, which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Story from the Mission

My story this month is about “ *an unruly teenager, with no respect, will end up on the street, and probably pregnant*” is what she has been told. She has been stood down from a local high school twice. She is 16 years old . She wants to be a hairdresser, but her Mum says it a ‘*lackeys job pandering to snobby women for shit pay*’ her words.

We showed her how to research using the CareerNZ website, and how to create her own CV online and how to job search to see what qualifications and criteria you will need. Girl went home all excited, I wrote to the Mum asking permission to take the girl with two others into Aoraki Polytechnic School of hairdressing; this was declined.

In the meantime her Mum wanted her to do a work experience course in painting [houses etc]. 16 year old told her Mum that she would do it if she had to, but as soon as she could she would leave home because she wanted to go hairdressing and had already been to a place in town to get the information for

herself, she would be better off living away from home, that way she could get a benefit and that would pay for her student loan [not quite correct].

We discussed some of these issues with the 16 year old in our Youth Group, what it would be like to move out of home and have to be responsible for everything; How would you manage this? Who could you turn to for help? What is in the community to help? Resulting in a good set of resources; i.e. G.P; Work and Income; Bank; Employment agencies, Facebook; Peer mentors; Social Workers; AND Arahina.

The conclusion the young people came to was that it was better to stay at school as long as you can! And at home because your mums cook, feed and clothe you!!!

During this time, 16 year old had made LIFE CHANGING decisions, she no longer got herself into physical altercations with others in or out of school; She no longer used foul language, and her physical appearance has improved. She is clean tidy and is a good nonviolent advocate for others. Her Mum phoned the other day to ask if I could get some information on hairdressing, I referred her to Aoraki Polytechnic, they have an appointment!



Cliffs – Fiscal, Physical and Metaphysical

Hi Jo

Cliffs, for me at least, are right up there among the list of frightening objects. My fear is partly due to one traumatic experience when I needed to respond to a cry for help. An odd reminder of that episode many years ago is a novel phrase to emerge from the United States in recent months:

The fiscal cliff

This is being portrayed like a doomsday event to follow the 31st of December. The US economy will then face immediate tax increases and

spending cuts unless agreement is reached in time to take decisive contrary action. On that issue I'm incapable of analysing the pros and cons of America screeching to a halt or hurtling headlong over the edge. Would that I had done Financial and Fiscal Management 101 so as to be able to at least distinguish one branch of money matters from another! As it is, I am left wondering whether the world had already tumbled over the cliff at the time of the credit crisis or maybe much earlier when money and debt were first invented.

To mention just one example, we have learned just recently of how many Pacific Islanders living in New Zealand have slipped on the grassy ledge at the top of the cliff to be gobbled up by loan sharks lurking in the surf at the bottom. And of one thing I am certain – there is not just one fiscal (and financial) cliff ahead. There are many, and a metaphor of numerous crevasses on a mighty glacier might be more appropriate. But to return to the cliff hanging theme with another example:

Physical cliffs

One's immediate thought is of the perilous variety such as at Lawyers Head, but I want to refer to the threats that can face physical plant, especially from the ravages of earthquakes. Specifically, consider the way the Canterbury earthquakes are making their presence felt in Dunedin, and in the Dunedin Methodist Parish in particular.

It has taken the parish a little while to sense the impending impact from edicts pulsing from the Connexional Office in Christchurch. In essence, the Church's policy on earthquake prone buildings is that after an Initial Evaluation Procedure (IEP) has been conducted on all our buildings any found to be below 34% compliant with the New Building Standard of the Building Act 2004 shall be evacuated until such time as they are brought up to 67% code compliant. We can understand what has driven the Church's decision. On Tuesday this last week, I stood on the flat earth where once was Durham Street Methodist Church. It's a very sad space. But what is at stake throughout the country is the rational assessment of risk management. Not to put too fine a point on the Church's regulations (which we unsuccessfully questioned in a submission in September), they have the potential to cripple the current normal activity of our parish overnight. The curious irony is that some parishes, like ourselves, could be worse off than if they had suffered earthquake damage, since they won't be able to make any claim on insurance.

After hasty but careful consideration, the Parish Council has courageously taken a proactive approach to begin to mount a cliff-face rescue. The bare bones of the decision were summarized in last Sunday's *Parish Bulletin* which stated: "The Parish Council resolved to get detailed engineering reports on all parish buildings as soon as possible." Unlike the IEP programme, these reports will supply valuable extra information on our options and much sooner than we would otherwise obtain. This is an expensive exercise, but it will at least improve our chances of planning for a measured and moderate response to what could so easily have been a trigger for a precipitous decline in the life of the parish. As if that's not enough, here is one more cliff "connection":

Metaphysical cliffs

This type of cliff is a bit more shrouded in mist and mystery but that doesn't make it any less significant. A bit of analysis from a lecture I attended in October might help to place metaphysics in the scheme of things. Douglas Pratt was once a minister in this parish and is now Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Waikato. He suggested there were three bedrock elements of religion: narrative, pragmatic and metaphysical. In the season of Christmas I think we can see these dimensions pretty clearly illustrated:

- The narrative element – e.g. the birth stories of Jesus and visual and musical representations
- The pragmatic – e.g. the festival activity itself and gift giving such as through Christian World Service
- The metaphysical – e.g. the theology of divine incarnation and the corresponding world view of Christianity.

These three constituents are to some extent mutually dependent but they can fluctuate independently. For centuries the metaphysical element of the Christian faith stood out like a headland – rock solid it seemed for ever. But imperceptibly climate can change, seas can rise, and winds erode. And nothing is quite so dangerous as the belief that some things never change.

Three cliffs at a time

Our parish is now quite suddenly in sight of some major challenges. Their convergence and severity are unprecedented. Some of the physical assets which once kept us busy enough in terms of ordinary maintenance requirements could rapidly begin to take on the appearance of liabilities. At the very least they will pose fiscal challenges of an order of magnitude

we could never have foreseen a year or two ago. It may be true at this moment that the “parish is maintaining a healthy financial position” (*Parish Bulletin*, 2 December), but that could be the calm before the storm. The newly pending extra costs of assessment, insurance, and earthquake resistance measures (not to mention substantial lost revenues) will make us think more furiously than we may have ever done in the past. At the same time, while no single event may have signaled a third hazard ahead, we have a broader issue than just finance and buildings to deal with. We have to see where they fit in with our whole *raison d’être* and to be prepared for that itself to come under scrutiny as well.

Cliff-edge emergencies of the literal variety, when a cry might be faintly heard above the screeching wind, are not to be trifled with. Life is at stake. Fear must be faced head-on. Muscle control must be total. Cooperation is vital. And even then no one option is entirely risk free. But a successful outcome for any sort of cliff event is likely to depend primarily on two factors. Who cares enough? And who can concentrate enough?

David Kitchingman

**WORSHIP SERVICES
CHRISTMAS 2012 AND JANUARY 2013**

Christmas Eve, Monday 24 December:

10.30pm – Glenaven, with supper at 10.00pm

Christmas Day, Tuesday 25 December: :

9.30am – Mosgiel (combined with Wesley)

9.30am – Mornington (combined with Glenaven)

Sunday 30th December:

11.00am – All combined at Wesley

Sunday 6th January:

9.30am – Mosgiel

11.00am – Wesley

9.30am – Mornington (combined with Glenaven) or St Mary's Anglican in Mornington.

Sunday 13th January:

9.30am – Mosgiel (combined with Wesley)

9.30am – Mornington (combined with Glenaven) Mornington

Presbyterians and Anglicans may join us.

Sunday 20th January:

9.30am – Mosgiel (combined with Wesley)

11.00am – Glenaven (combined with Mornington) or Presbyterian Church in Mornington.

Sunday 27th January:

9.30am – Mosgiel (combined with Wesley)

11.00am – Glenaven (combined with Mornington)