



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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

<b>Presbyters:</b>	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
<b>Tongan Steward:</b>	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
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<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
<b>Mornington:</b>		

## PARISH BULLETIN

15<sup>th</sup> June 2014

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> June

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

### OPEN EDUCATION THIS WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE

Ralph Vaughan Williams was one of the great English composers for the Christian Church. We still regularly sing his hymns, 'For all the saints', 'Come down O love divine', 'I heard the voice of Jesus say' and many more. On Wednesday at 7.30pm at the Mornington Methodist Church, Colin Gibson presents the first half of his life story, using DVD and CD recordings and live performances from organist, choir and the audience to illustrate and celebrate Vaughan Williams' musical heritage. A memorable night out: bring a friend. Judy Russell offers a top-class 'thoroughly English' meal at 6pm. \$5 for the talk, \$15 for the meal. Ring Judy (455 3727) to book your place.

*Quakers*

The Religious Society of Friends - Aotearoa/New Zealand

*Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri*

Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa/New Zealand

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**Lest We Forget – Statement from the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers),  
Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa New Zealand, Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri, May 2014**

On the eve of commemorations of World War I, Quakers in Aotearoa New Zealand are concerned that history is not reinvented to glorify war.

We remember the loss of life, the destruction of the environment, the courage of soldiers, dissenters and conscientious objectors; we remember all those who still suffer the ongoing trauma of war.

We also note the increasing use of scarce resources for war. In Aotearoa New Zealand over ten million dollars a day is being spent to maintain our armed forces in a state of 'combat readiness' (1).

We actively support alternative processes for resolving conflict and violence both within and between nations.

We reaffirm our words of 1987:

“We totally oppose all wars, all preparation for war, all use of weapons and coercion by force, and all military alliances; no end could ever justify such means.

We equally and actively oppose all that leads to violence among people and nations, and violence to other species and to our planet. This has been our testimony to the whole world for over three centuries.

The primary reason for this stand is our conviction that there is that of God in every one which makes each person too precious to damage or destroy.

Refusal to fight with weapons is not surrender. We are not passive when threatened by the greedy, the cruel, the tyrant, or the unjust.

We may disagree with the views and actions of the politician or the soldier who opts for a military solution, but we still respect and cherish the person.

What we call for in this statement is a commitment to make the building of peace a priority and to make opposition to war absolute.

We challenge New Zealanders to stand up and be counted on what is no less than the affirmation of life and the destiny of humankind.”

(From Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa New Zealand, Statement on Peace, 1987)

(1) 'Some comparative facts and figures from the 2014 Budget', Peace Movement Aotearoa, 16 May 2014

### **STORY FROM THE MISSION**

*From Little Citizens:* We had a child whose health declined dramatically over a period of a few weeks. An active three year old who was always on the move to a child who would run a few metres and suddenly have to lie down flat to rest, to eventually having to be carried everywhere by his parents. The health professionals insisted there was nothing wrong with him; this was a difficult and very worrying time for the parents. The family stayed strong and continued returning to the health professionals. This can take a lot of courage so well done to them. As a centre we supported and encouraged the family where we could, with the care of the younger sibling, but also so in our shared knowledge of the child and seeking medical attention. It was discovered the child had an infection on the spine, while it will be a long recovery he will make a full recovery.

**PENTECOST** - *the GAMESHOW* hit St Mary's Anglican Church, Mornington, last Sunday with all the excitement and enthusiasm. The fast-moving show compered by a hyped Ginny Kitchingman and a troupe of smiling, laughing [Y@Msters](#) took a combined congregation by pentecostal storm, and provided a really nice contrast with the well crafted liturgy led by the Regional Dean Jan Clark and her ministry team. It was a Pentecost highlight for all who were there. It is impossible in a few photos to give an adequate picture of a service so full of colour, movement, imagination and improvisation, but that the Spirit was present there is not the slightest doubt. Like many familiar game shows, there was a spinning wheel and multiple-choice questions, and finally [Y@M](#) brought us to the truth of the Pentecost experience, wondrously, joyously *inclusive*. Photos show - 1. A pentecost question "What does this mean?" 2. The Pentecost commission "Your young men shall have visions and your old men will have parties/dream dreams/grow beards/have heart attacks?" 3. The Blue Team report their Good News mission. 4. The 3 Judges give a Spirit-filled decision. THANKS Ginny. THANKS [Y@M](#)





**MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT** Sunday 15 June, 2:30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. Hear talented young pianists Modi and Boen Deng playing concertos with teacher Tom McGrath using two pianos. Also some lovely vocal works. All are welcome to this concert. Adults \$2, Children free.



**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** The June Meeting will take place on Wednesday the 25th June, in the Church Lounge at 2 p.m. This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting, chaired by Dr. Rev. Rod Mitchell who will also be our Guest Speaker. An additional Collection will take place for :- Otago Methodist Women's Fellowship District's Social Service Project. Please remember your small change for the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

**OTAGO DISTRICT METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held in the Mosgiel Methodist Church  
Saturday **5 July 2014**  
at **2pm**



Afternoon Tea will be served after the meeting  
One plate of food per carload please

Collection for Social Services - going to the Family Support Fund



In last week's Bulletin, Rod Mitchell wrote: 'I am inviting us to continue to explore how a bigger evolutionary story, that still values and embraces the best from within the Bible, can

provide an integral framework to help Christians engage creatively with not only 'The Big Three'—Islam, the Jewish faith, Buddhism—but with other religious traditions as well.'

In two week's time, a National Interfaith Forum, organised by representatives of eight faith communities in a group chaired by our own Greg Hughson, will be held at the Dunedin Temple of the Church of Latter Day Saints. Over three days there will be workshops and address, one of them by visiting distinguished English Methodist the Reverend Lord Leslie Griffiths, another by our own Professor Doug Pratt. The Mornington choir will contribute to the music for the occasion. The faiths present include Baha'i, Islam, Buddhism, Hare Krishna, Mormon, Brahma Kismari, and Christians of various denominations. Prominent peace-makers include Elizabeth Duke and Jocelyn and George Armstrong.

But, as I found, talking about interfaith relationships is different from trying to write interfaith songs. One of them needed no writing. 'God is the One whom we seek together' was written in 1978 as a contribution to a competition promoted by the Dunedin Council of Churches seeking texts suitable for multi-faith worship. We still sing it occasionally from *Alleluia Aotearoa*.

Its theme is the centrality of the 'Godpoint', 'the One' as the focus of spiritual search in all religions. The unity of God is a central tenet of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths; it is also found in the Baha'i faith and elements of Buddhism. God is further described in the text as ultimate Life, Truth, Mystery, Love, Joy and Eternity—terms to which most religions would subscribe. Members of other faith communities are acknowledged as fellow seekers, walking a common road, a common Way. John 14:6, 'I am the way, the truth, the life,' has contributed to the hymn text, but such ideas are found in many other sacred scriptures, and I wrote out the exclusive claim attributed to Jesus in the Bible (the Jesus Seminar of Christian scholars doesn't consider it be an authentic saying).

When Greg suggested a further song, I found myself struggling to put into words a text that could be sung by an even broader range of faith

communities. The first half of the eventual text came most easily, when I happened to see—in another context altogether—an image of two hands reaching out to touch fingers. It was Michelangelo's painting on the roof of the Sistine Chapel of God creating Adam. That gave me 'Hold hands, people of faith, sister and brother, hands of the world reaching out, one to another. All of us seeking in our own way the One to whom we pray.' Parallel lines, simple variations on that idea, quickly followed: 'Share minds, people of faith, seek to discover. Minds of the world, reaching out, shall we uncover—all of us seeking in our own way—the Truth for which we pray. Speak souls, people of faith, one Soul of the world, binding us all each to the other to the other; all of us seeking in our own way your unity, this day.' But the real challenge lay ahead. How to find agreed words or phrases referring to the divine, that Being all faiths recognize as the ultimate end of the human spiritual quest. I started bravely with 'rose, wind and flame, Word, Life and Way, love', but soon saw how heavily Christian such terms were. I tried to find other images truer to the genius of other faiths: I knew that the name of God was not to be spoken or written in some faiths, I had read that 'Om' is a mantra and mystical Sanskrit sound of Hindu origin. 'Rose' was replaced by the Lotus (or *Padma*), precious symbol for Indian faiths and Buddhists of the final purification of body, speech and mind leading to escape from this world into the infinite, for the lotus grows up from the mud (*samsara*), appearing cleanly above the muddy waters (*purification*) to finally produce a beautiful flower (*enlightenment*). Here is the chorus line in its final form: it will be sung in a growing multiplicity of voices, ending in a dense chord that will be left to die away into the silence. 'Lotus, Light and Wind, spoken Word, unspoken Name, Life and Way, O sacred Sound, purest Love, our being's Ground, Alpha, Omega, our end, ever-present, loving Friend.' I hope that such a song may, in Rod's words, 'help Christians engage creatively with many other religious traditions.'

**Colin Gibson**