



# 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
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Siosifa: <a href="mailto:parish@dmm.org.nz">parish@dmm.org.nz</a>	466 4600
	Katrina: <a href="mailto:admin@dmm.org.nz">admin@dmm.org.nz</a>	
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
<b>Mornington:</b>		

## PARISH BULLETIN

5<sup>th</sup> October 2014

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> October

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
11.00 am	St Kilda	Comb. Wesley

### OPEN EDUCATION: THE WISDOM OF THE AGES

The final session of Open Education this year will be held on Wednesday 22 October (one week later than usual), at Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, starting at 7.30pm. As usual it will offer a group of presenters sharing what they do best. And this year is the Year of the Grandparents! Yes, some of our older folk sharing their stories, and talking about how they relate to their grandchildren in this difficult world. Don't miss this session: it will be a great one. Sign in for Judy Russell's delicious pre-session meal or ring her (455-3727). Bring a fellow grand parent: there are plenty of them about in our community.

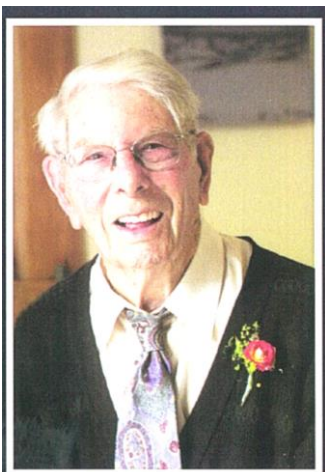
## SHARED LATE MORNING TEA AND LUNCH

All who are present in our Parish Combined service this morning are invited to stay in the hall for a shared morning tea and lunch.

## STORY FROM THE MISSION

### *Little Citizens' Kotuku Room:*

We are so proud of all the Kotuku Room tamariki for their effort and performance in the Maori and Pacific Island festival on Friday 9th September. It was such a wonderful day seeing 21 of our Tamariki up on the stage being supported by all their family/whanau. This was a great turn out of whanau support - 13 parents and family members joined us on the bus to support the children enabling their children to attend and perform even at a time when they were not booked into the centre showing the great value and support they have for their children and the centre. I can't wait to see how their confidence will continue to grow in time for next year's performance as the majority of our children on stage were 3 1/2 years old compared to last year where we were mainly represented by 4 year olds. A big thank you to Sefo a former dad who has continued his support for the centre playing the drums and volunteering his time in preparation for Polyfest.



### WITH SINCERE THANKS

To all Parish members who remembered me and my family at this sad time (the loss of Edred Newton). Our Tongan friends who sang so beautifully at Sam's service. After 20 years of Parkinson's we now know he is at 'Peace'. *Margaret Newton*

**VOICES OF PEACE WITH THE CELLISTS OF OTAGO** - The concert will be at 3pm Sunday 5 October at the Sargood Centre, Logan Park. This concert will star soloists Stephen Diaz, Nick Cornish, Heleen du Plessis, and Dorothy Piper who will present a war painting exhibition. Admission - standard S15, students S10, children S5. All welcome. Please remember that parking nearby is possible only occupy come early.



### **FAITH THINKING EVENT IN OCTOBER**

***The Other Church History: How Christianity went East and South into Asia and Africa from the Beginning until the Present Day***

**Presented by Dr Tim Cooper** (Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago), this course will be held on **Friday October 10, 7-9pm and Saturday October 11, 9-12.30** in Burns 5 (Albany Street), University of Otago. Cost: \$30 for waged and \$20 for unwaged/students.

To register please go to: [www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation](http://www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation) or contact the Summer School & Continuing Education Office, University of Otago, Email: [continuing.education@otago.ac.nz](mailto:continuing.education@otago.ac.nz), Phone: 479 9181.

### **WEEK OF PRAYER for World Peace Annual Interfaith Peace Gathering** **“Join hands, people of faith”**

Organised by the Dunedin Interfaith Council

Date : Thursday 16th October 7.30-9pm

Venue : Quaker Meeting Rooms, 15 Park St, Dunedin

All welcome. Information: Greg Hughson 027 212 1048 or Kristan Mouat 027 4737137

**THE 2014 QUAKER LECTURE, 'Standing in this Place', by David James, Jillian Wychel, Murray Short and Linda Wilson.**

Date: Friday 17 October at 7.15 p.m.

Place: Barnett Lecture Theatre, Great King Street (near Dunedin Hospital).

Entry free. All welcome. Copies of the lecture will be on sale afterwards for \$10 (cash or cheque only).

David James and Jillian Wychel describe their involvement in Treaty education and initiatives in the Whanganui River area, Murray Short compares his personal and professional life experiences, how they interrelate and have shaped his understandings, and Linda Wilson explores working in Crown and professional organisations after Treaty settlement. Together they explore opportunities for Pakeha to work for justice for indigenous people through political and social change in very different ways on a day to day basis.

David James and Jillian Wychel have worked since 1988 as the Rowan Partnership, offering education mainly about Tiriti/Treaty of Waitangi issues to organisations of all kinds.

Murray Short has a background in social services including as a Maori welfare officer and as a manager in a number of public service departments. Since retiring he has been involved with Treaty Education and management development work.

Linda Wilson was up until recently, Principal Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at Otago Polytechnic, where she was Foundation Head of School 1990-2005.

For enquiries please contact Elizabeth Duke at [elizabeth.duke@actrix.co.nz](mailto:elizabeth.duke@actrix.co.nz) , phone 03 467 5367.

## **FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT to raise funds for suicide prevention**

The Life Matters Suicide Prevention Trust is hosting a fun quiz night of trivia questions to raise money for the production of educational leaflets and to fund educational events on issues of mental health and suicide prevention.

Date: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 7pm

Venue: Mosgiel RSA 6 Church St, Mosgiel.

\$30 per team registration, max of 8 people per team.

Amazing Prizes!!

To register a team please contact Nikki Cockburn at

[cockburn.nikki@gmail.com](mailto:cockburn.nikki@gmail.com)

or ring Greg Hughson on 027 212 1048/479 8497

<https://www.facebook.com/events/716046238450852/>

## **SAFE-TALK WORKSHOP (Suicide Alertness for Everyone)**

Are you interested in becoming more confident in dealing with someone's suicidal thought? **SafeTALK** workshops encourage TALK and are based on certain fundamental assumptions about suicide;

- Suicide is a community issue, prevention starts in the community
- Suicide can be prevented
- Suicide is not a mental illness
- Although complex and personal, thoughts of suicide are understandable
- Most people with thoughts of suicide want to live and will indicate this either directly or indirectly

**When:** 6 - 9.30 pm Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**Where:** 34 Prince Albert Rd, St Kilda 9012, Dunedin.

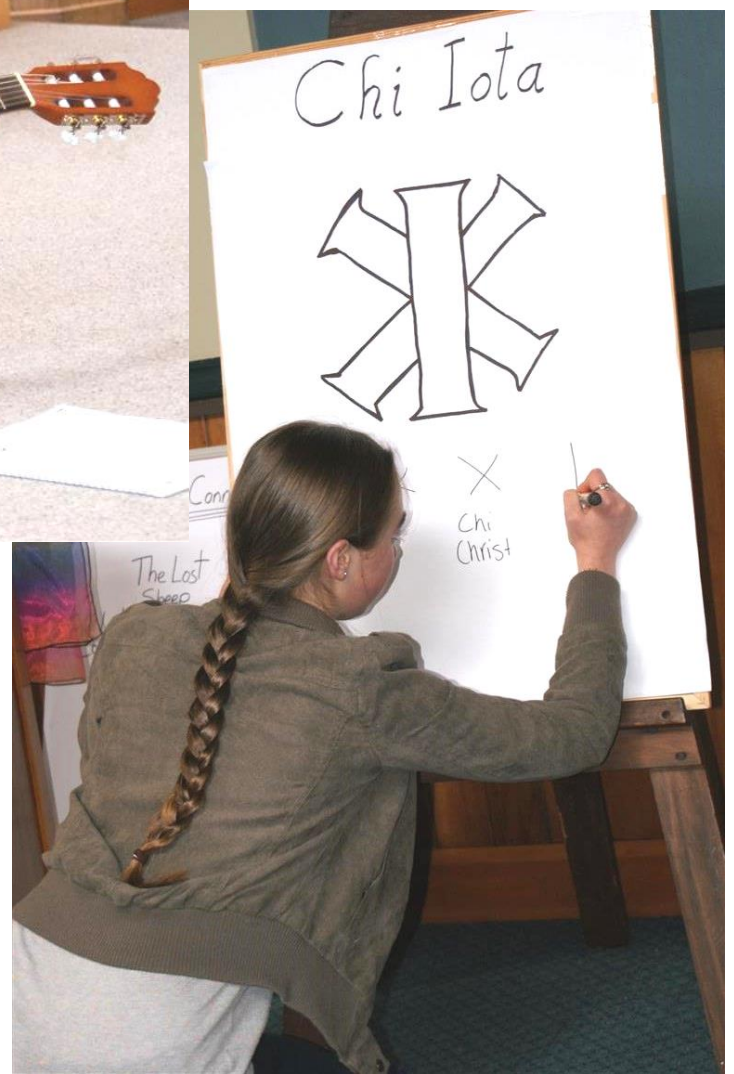
**Presenter: Greg Dobson:** Lifelong career working in the mental health and addictions field, experienced counsellor, current manager of Supporting Families Central Otago and is passionate about reducing local suicide rates.

**COST:** \$25 per person to cover print resource costs

**RSVP by the 1<sup>st</sup> October to:** [lifemattersotago@gmail.com](mailto:lifemattersotago@gmail.com)

## CHI IOTA - THINKING ABOUT THE PARABLES

Last Sunday Y@M gave us yet another vigorous service, this time the product of their studies of the Parables. Eleven of them were faithfully told and then critically examined - a great presentation, and a credit to Leader Ginny Kitchingman and the group. The ancient Greek Symbol, Chi Iota (literally Jesus the Christ) was the centrepiece for the service. Photos show the party thrown by the loving father (Luke 15), Celia Cannon playing an interlude and the cast says a happy "goodbye" to an appreciative congregation at Glenaven.





## WHEREFORE THE LEFT?



It's done and dusted. The election, I mean. And those who think they know me will, correctly, assume I was disappointed with the result. Disappointed? Devastated, more like it.

(A member of one of our central Auckland churches once described yours truly as "the quintessential liberal." It was meant as a compliment, I suspect, as one liberal to another.

But I have since reflected on his words. What did he mean? A sort-of tribute to an intelligent and compassionate approach to the issues of the faith, or implying a blinkered perspective, intolerant of every world view but my own? The former, I trust. But that I am by instinct and conviction a "lefty" I could never deny.)

And so, to the result. Grudgingly, I have to admit that years of pre-conditioning took over. I kidded myself the polls were sometimes wrong. And wasn't David Cunliffe insistent that "momentum was building" for a favourable result? And weren't the Greens cock-a-hoop for 15% of the party vote, predicting proportionate seats in a Labour-led cabinet. And wasn't it likely that given all the angst of the previous three years, a rampant Winston would throw in his lot with the political Left? And so as to remove all possible doubt, wasn't the electorate turned-off, sickened, by the dirty tricks revelations? Yes, of course.

Except, of course, that all of the above proved no more than leftish wishful thinking, the landslide for National a carte blanche for the next 3 years that made a mockery of so much pre-election hype.



So what went wrong, and why? A Party enquiry will search for answers, but that Labour "failed to read the tea leaves" (Jane Clifton in the latest Listener) is self-evident. She and a host of other experienced observers, all equally stunned by the result, are agreed on one thing that Labour and the Left failed to capture the imagination of the very people their policies ostensibly set out to support. By and large the poor didn't grasp it was in their interests to get out and vote. Pacifica opted for the safe and the stable from team Key, and middle class Kiwis, especially the men, said "no thanks" in their droves to what was offered from the Left.

All of which is disillusioning, but it is one of the realities of western-style democratic government that once the people have spoken the nation must live with the consequences. For Labour, it is the pain of a total re-evaluation, and yet another tortuous leadership process, one that David Cunliffe may well survive to lead again. Altogether, not a pleasant prospect. Not much better for the Greens. Theirs the sobering realisation that they may never grow beyond their present 10% of the party vote, and the evidence that their uncompromising stance on favoured issues will likely see them remain an elitist movement dedicated to clean rivers and opposing big oil - but with limited popular appeal. And not the least of it, two of the Left's potentially most prophetic influences for real social justice reform, Harawira and Harre, will have three years in the wilderness to ponder the blunder of hitching their wagon to the lure of German mega-money and the big man's seriously compromised motives.

To be sure there are grave questions to be answered, but for those still with the stamina to keep battling away, another three years of National's flawed trickle-down economic theory will in due course only add urgency to recover an authentic social justice agenda.

And what might that agenda be? Even as I was writing this bit I received in the mail a 28-page publication entitled Gospel Manifesto

2014 released by a Christchurch ecumenical planning group a month before the election. It immediately appeals to me to have value well beyond its original intention. For those, like myself, looking to recover from the election debacle, this anthology usefully reminds of issues that will remain to be fought for regardless of political fortunes before Election17. Five priorities from New Zealand writers are identified to challenge us all. They are

Every Child Counts - Michael O'Brien. Susan St John.

Healthy Homes Lead to Healthy Lives - Sheena Dickson.

Gross Inequality Costs Everyone - Rodney Routledge.

Correcting a Punitive Society - Kim Workman.

Kevin Clements.

Being a Better World Neighbour - Pauline McKay

The word "manifesto" is an honourable one in the history of the struggle for justice, equality, and freedom. Perhaps that is what the Left needs to recover, the passion to oppose the populist, to challenge the privileged and to name the greedy. To put people first, in particular the least resourced. These pages include a mandate for every Lefty who wants to engage with politicians and to keep persisting imperatives for those in elected office.

Election 2014 may have sounded like a death knell for some of us, but it wasn't. Labour may be sorely wounded, but causes demanding the intelligence and compassion of the what Michael Joseph Savage famously described as "applied Christianity" will never go away. Commentator Chris Trotter gave sound advice in the ODT Sept 26 "Where has the election left the Left?" Quoting Jim Anderton, "Build your footpaths where the people walk."

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And while discussing the Left, is anything better for the religious Left? No election to throw up embarrassing numbers, (just as well!) but in last Sunday's discussion at Explorers the rather rueful admission was

made in the course of reports on the recent Progressive Conference at St Luke's Church, Auckland that while progressive interests are widely dispersed through a variety of activities in that Church, they are a somewhat lonely outpost of progressive faith in that city. In answer to a question as to whether the conference had a youth wing, regretfully there was none. Indeed, the Conference was attended almost entirely by those in the senior or well-retired age group. And is it cheeky to assume that this weekend's Sea of Faith Conference in Dunedin will see the same age dispersal?

Don't get me wrong. As an inveterate Lefty I'm all for every good progressive manifestation of the Christian tradition. But as we drove to Glenaven on Sunday morning a young fresh-faced student dashed across upper George St, late for Church in the school building. He and we had to swerve to avoid each other. Beside the fresh face I caught a glimpse of the big floppy bible he was clutching, and I recalled for a moment the remark made at Explorers by those who have attended Elim Church from time to time of scores, hundreds of students intently following hour-long bible sermons, taking notes as they go.

I make no judgments here, merely the observation that for all the passion some of us have for a faith that stands the test of modern scrutiny, a more liberal, more inclusive approach to the Jesus tradition, has as much popular appeal in the Christian world - or less so - as the Left's appeal in politics. It is the search for certainty, not a passion for scrutiny, that is pulling today's youth into churches. Methinks is not a good time to be on the left of anything, and that's a worry.

*Ken Russell*