



# 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>	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>Parish Prayer Convenor</b>	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
<b>Mornington:</b>		

## PARISH BULLETIN

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> May

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

**WORKSHOP ON LEADING WORSHIP** - I have invited Mission Resourcing to run a workshop on Leading Worship in 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This workshop is planning for either the Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2015. Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders are invited to send me ideas and thoughts that you would like to include in this workshop. Once I received your thoughts I will send it to Mission Resourcing to include in their preparation. Thanks, Siosifa Pole.

**PROPERTY, FINANCE, & RESOURCING COMMITTEE** - meeting Wed 6<sup>th</sup> of May, in the Mission's office, 7.30 pm.

**2-DAY ASIST SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING** – Dunedin Sept 27-28 (Sat/Sun). The workshop runs from 8.30am – 5pm both days. For more information please refer to our website [www.suicideprevention.org.nz](http://www.suicideprevention.org.nz)

**MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May @ 1:30pm in the Church Hall. Lyn Hippolite will speak to us about "Driving Miss Daisy". All welcome.

### **CONGRATULATIONS DAVID**

Dunedin Methodists will be proud to learn that David Taylor, son of Leah and Les Taylor, members of the Mornington Methodist congregation, has been appointed New Zealand's High Commissioner to the European Union (EU) and will be stationed in Brussels, where he will lead one of the top New Zealand diplomatic missions. We can imagine how proud his parents are and congratulate both them and their distinguished son.

### **OPEN EDUCATION 20 MAY**

What really happened at the first Easter? The gospel accounts don't agree about many of the details. Donald Phillipps, a distinguished historian of the New Zealand Methodist Church, takes a look at the evidence of the texts. Enjoy an interesting evening with Donald prefaced by a scrumptious meal provided by Judy Russell. Mornington Methodist Church, Wednesday 20 May, meal at 6pm, the talk at 7.30pm. Ring Judy to book your place (455 3727). From the proceeds we hope to complete a gift of \$1000 to the child and family support services provided at the Mission's Hub.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

- ☺ Alicia Horsfall who turns 7 on the 6<sup>th</sup> May!
- ☺ Kirstie Kopi who turns 12 on the 6<sup>th</sup> May!



**URGENT URGENT URGENT****DUNEDIN PARISH SUPPORTS CWS APPEAL FOR NEPAL**

Christian World Service has launched an appeal to provide relief supplies in Nepal. The magnitude 7.8 earthquake has caused widespread damage throughout most of the country. The death toll is approaching 2,000 people and continues to rise. Many people are remaining outside as large aftershocks continue. Rural areas were particularly badly hit and it will take some time for a full picture to emerge.

CWS is working with ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) of which it is a part. Members are based in Kathmandu and other parts of the country. They are mobilising life-saving relief: shelter, food, water, blankets and medications. They are working with the Nepalese government, the UN system and church partners to coordinate their response.

"We are confident in our partners who have been working in Nepal for many years. They are mounting a large scale operation to make sure those that need it most get the help they need," says Pauline McKay National Director. "We ask church people to remember the people of Nepal and if they can please donate to this urgent appeal," she adds.

Donations to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal for emergency relief can be made: on line at [www.cws.org.nz/donate](http://www.cws.org.nz/donate), sent to PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140 or by calling 0800 74 73 72. For further information contact: CWS National Director, Pauline McKay. Phone: 021 289 1225 or 03 366 9274

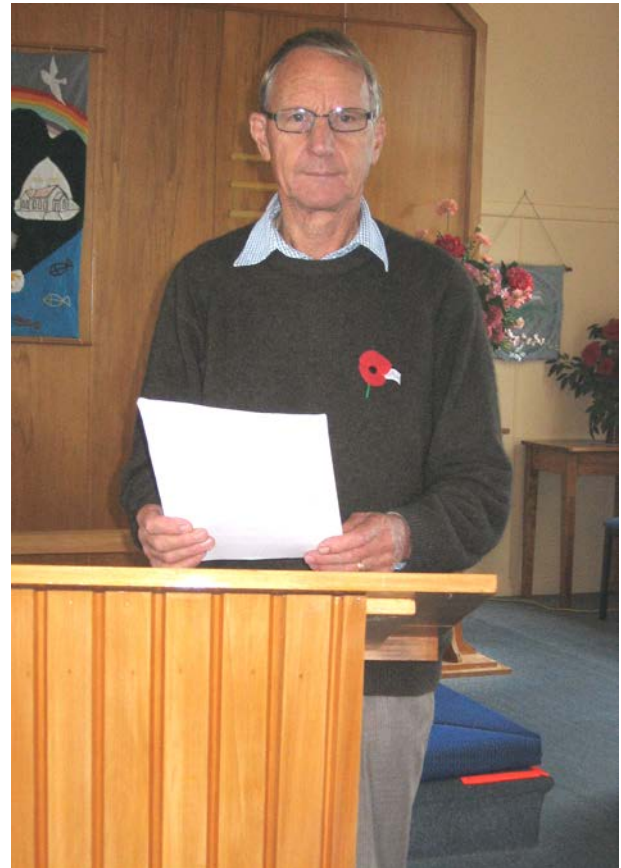
*Note: CWS is a member of ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), a global coalition of more than 140 churches and church-related organisations that work together in humanitarian assistance, advocacy and development in more than 140 countries.*



**A WREATH OF HAND-KNITTED POPPIES** was the focus of attention last Sunday at Mornington, the work of Margaret Connor, Helen Messervy and Avis Foote. The wreath commemorates the service in World War 1 of 37 soldiers from Mornington Church as recorded on the memorial plaque recovered from the old Church and now a permanent feature in the

present building. Of the 37, 12 were killed in action and 13 returned home with wounds. The memory of the 12 who were killed is marked with small silver crosses sewn into the 12 top surrounding poppies - which may be difficult to see in the photo supplied.





**IN KEEPING WITH** Rev Siosifa's ANZAC service last Sunday, Ross Merrett read a brief history on all the names on our Memorial gate post in Mosgiel and Earlene Owens made the wreath for it.

## **FAITH THINKING**

*Forgiveness, Freedom and Faith: An Exploration of Christian Forgiveness as an experience of Freedom*

Presented by Prof David Tombs (Centre for Theology and Public Issues, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago)

**Friday May 8, 7-9pm - Burns 2 (Albany Street), University of Otago.**

**Saturday May 9, 9am-12.30 - The Gathering Place, Knox Church, George Street**

(The session on Fri May 8 will include showing the film 'Forgiveness')

The Course costs \$20.

For further information go

to: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/news/otago055227.html>

**PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT [www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation](http://www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation)**

## STORY FROM THE MISSION...

### *From Youth Training*

A student enrolled with our Youth course in July 2014. In his first 5½ months with us he achieved NC in Business Admin & Computing and his NCEA 1. He came back this year and achieved NCEA 2 and NCES within the first two months. This means that he has completed all four National Certificates in just under 8 months. This is an extraordinary achievement for a young man who had finished school with nothing on his NZQA record.



**WHISTLEBLOWERS.** Admire them or loathe them, the whistleblowers of history have taken risks with their own safety and

well-being for what they perceive to be the public good. Amidst the plethora of information around the commemoration of the Gallipoli landings was light shone on the role of the war correspondents assigned to cover the 1915 Dardanelles campaign. Theirs was a dangerous enough job, but as the weeks went by after the landings and it became apparent to everyone on the ground that the Anzacs were incurring huge and unacceptable losses, their difficulties multiplied. The reality was that they did their work under a heavy blanket of censorship, a condition of their deployment to which they had all assented, but which they quickly came to resent. It was a process unashamedly dedicated to keeping the bad news from a general public conditioned only for the triumph of the young men thrown on to a foreign battlefield, and the popular expectation of an early return. The admirable mini-series *Gallipoli* dealt openly with the professional dilemma of the correspondents, longing to tell the truth of a costly and seriously flawed campaign, but knowing only too well that every word they wrote would be intercepted, heavily black-inked or sanitised for public consumption.

In the event, it was the secret (and some would say) "underhand" initiative of two of these correspondents Briton Ashmead-Bartlett and Aussie Keith Murdoch who conspired to beat the censors, and despite attempts to thwart their plan, got the real facts of the Gallipoli debacle to the world media and to a blissfully ignorant British Government. Their "news" was so stunning the campaign commander Gen Sir Ian Hamilton was summarily removed from his post, and the successful evacuation of the entire military force followed in December '15.

That Ashmead-Bartlett and Murdoch were whistleblowers can hardly be denied. Who knows whether they were conscience-stricken at having broken a solemn agreement, but the fact remains their actions prompted a withdrawal from an unwinnable war, and an evacuation that saved the lives of thousands of Brits and Anzacs. Writing in 1975, military author Phillip Knightley wrote appreciably of the two correspondents that they succeeded in getting out a fresh eye-witness account of what was happening at Gallipoli, (not the lies of the official propagandists) and "if the war correspondents in France had only been as enterprising, the war might not have continued on its ghastly course."

Google and Wikipedia provide a wealth of info on the whistleblowers of history from 1777. Their long list has an American dominance and it omits Ashmead-Bartlett & Murdoch. Most of the famous names of whistleblowing are there - Donald Ellsberg (Pentagon Papers) Karen Silkwood (nuclear power safety) Samuel Provance (Abu Ghraib revelations) Bradley Manning (classified US airstrikes) and Edward Snowden (NSA surveillance secrets). But these are but a few among many. Omitted also are the whistleblowers of the New Zealand scene, Nicky Hager and all. And not forgetting Julia, a brave young voice raised about the questionable moral code practiced in the repressive West Coast community of Gloriavale.

Whistleblower stories have a fascination, people in all manner of professions and occupations morally or ethically unable to contain the lies, subterfuge, or commercially sensitive information zealously guarded by their bosses - and in the perceived public interest taking the risk of breaking ranks. Whistleblowers are the anti-heroes of society - traitors to those whose selfish vested interests they expose, but angels of justice to those whose lives are liberated by the lifting of cones of silence, deceit and hypocrisy. Whistleblowers by their very nature display behaviours guaranteed to polarise public opinion, flawed heroes who somehow live the notion (or is it a heresy?), "let us sin that grace may abound."

By this definition the quintessential whistleblower is Judas, the more so as in recent years speculation as to his better motives in "betraying" Jesus have grown by leaps and bounds. Reputable scholars have cast doubt on the "devil" reputation so prevalent in Christian tradition, giving credence to a range of interpretations portraying the erstwhile disciple as a calculating man driven by messianic aspirations for his leader, and led, as the situation in Passover Jerusalem worsened, to force Jesus' hand and drive him to apply his power over the hated Romans. Judas didn't need a whistle. A kiss would do, and Jesus was exposed, made vulnerable to whatever his enemies had in store for him.

Many whistleblowers have suffered grievously for what they did, and Judas is no exception. Whether disillusioned friend or deluded supporter, you be the judge as to whether he warranted such vilification. Never knighthoods, and seldom rewards, lie in wait for the whistleblowers of this world, but among the candlebearers of truth they deserve the special place of honour that subsequent history usually accords.

*Ken Russell*