



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
Parish Stewards:	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@dmm.org.nz	466 4600
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Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

17th May 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 24th May

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	G Abernethy
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	G Abernethy
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

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:

☺ David Cannon who turns 14 on the 21st May!



MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - The May Meeting will take place on 27 May at 2 p.m. - in the Lounge. Our Guest Speaker will be Liesel Mitchell - Her subject will be - "A Peaceful Clash, dealing with conflict from NZ to South Korea and back". Please remember "The Fellowship of the Least Coin". All welcome to hear this interesting talk.

LAST WEEK MOSGIEL and South Dunedin heard all about what happens when Pumpkin Soup goes wrong - based on the children's book by Helen Cooper called Pumpkin Soup (and Psalm 98). Everyone was then encouraged to take



some soup home for a meal and to think again about the service, and/or take some soup to a friend or neighbour and have a chat with them

SOUTH ISLAND MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Members of the Parish are encouraged to register in this Conference. It is held at East Taieri Presbyterian Church, 12a Cemetery Road, Mosgiel. The theme of the Conference is 'Resilience in Ministry'. It will be from the 19th – 21st of May 2015. Contact phone number for registration: 489 6308 ex. 700

MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH MID-WEEK SERVICE at Maranatha Resthome, Wednesday 20th May, 2pm.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2015

Ecumenical Service

All Saints' Church
786 Cumberland St

7.00pm Sunday
24th May

(Pentecost)

The service is followed by supper;
please bring a plate



Ecumenical Bible Studies on John 4

May 14-23, 12.30pm at Burns Hall First Church,

BYO lunch; tea and coffee provided.

Thursday 14th It is necessary to go through Samaria (Jn 4: 4) Friday 15th Tired of the journey, Jesus sat down facing the well (Jn 4:6) Monday 18th 'I have no husband' (Jn 4:17) Tuesday 19th Then the woman left her water jar (Jn 4:28) Wednesday 20th 'You have no bucket and the well is deep' (Jn 4:11)

Thursday 21st 'The water I give will become a spring welling up to eternal life' (Jn 4:14) Friday 22nd 'Give me to drink' (Jn 4:7) Saturday 23rd Many believed because of the woman's testimony (Jn 4:39)



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been celebrated around the world since 1908. The service and Bible studies will use material prepared by the National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches.

All Welcome

For more information please contact Rev. Anne Thomson
e.anne.thomson@gmail.com ph.4777150

FROM PARISH COUNCIL:

- Joy Clark has accepted our invitation to become a Parish Steward. She replaces George Davis. Welcome to your new role!
- The PF&R committee is working on tender documents to sell the whole Wesley site along with the Methodist Mission Southern.
- The Parish Review report - the parish exec have recommended some changes so it is with the reviewers again.
- Rev Siosifa Pole will be taking Long Leave from 2nd June to 29th July. In his absence, Rev Gordon Abernethy will be working in the parish. He will be paid for half-time, and we expect Mission Resourcing to fund this. Gordon will be in the Mission office each morning. Contact him at home ph **453 3103** or email him: siosifap@dmm.org.nz. Thankyou Gordon!
- The NZ Lay Preachers journal "Word and Worship" will soon be available at your congregation; another good resource for lay people preparing services, so keep an eye out for it.

PIN for Parish Bulletins May 2015**Will Child Poverty be addressed in the Budget on 21 May?**

CPAG have written a letter to the PM John Key, DPM Bill English, Minister Anne Tolley calling for a comprehensive approach to end child poverty. They are joining Action Stations on a petition to show that middle New Zealand wants action to end child poverty.

Go to www.ActionStations to Lets sign on

**THANK YOU**

I would like to acknowledge and thank all those who provide pastoral care to those who are sick, frail, and home alone. Your compassion toward these vulnerable people give them comfort and encouragement. May God bless you on your ongoing support.

STORY FROM THE MISSION...

Arahina: The After School Programme

We had corn on the cob donated by Foodshare, a huge banana box full, which was much appreciated. The children examined it, peeled it, worked out how they would like to cook it, and came up with many ideas. They made corn fritters, first with uncooked corn kernels then realising the corn needed more time to cook, cooked the corn in the microwave first, and then made the fritters, which they enjoyed more. They made corn on the cob with butter, cooked prepared in a pot, and cooked as it is husk and all in the microwave. Most children enjoyed theirs, some did not, and others wanted more. This sparked discussion about taste differences between the different methods of cooking. We talked about popcorn and if this could be made with the kernels cut off the cob and compared it to dry corn kernels in the pantry. Some of the children wanted to take some home, so we found some bags and shared the leftovers out evenly for the children to try with their caregivers at home.



Foodshare have also donated quite a variety of unusual items. Herbs, like parsley and oregano. Chilli peppers, red peppers, and red onions. Vegetables that have been examined and sometimes tried like silver beet, kale, bok choy, and butternut pumpkin. Trying to open the coconut became a team effort and after trying various methods and being sure it had no milk left in it, finally dropped it on the concrete and were delighted that it sprung apart



for them. But the fruit is the main hit, always. The children love the grapes, pears, bananas and pineapple and can never get enough of these items. Baking ingredients like sugar and flour are wonderful in the pantry so when the children want to bake they are not restricted to



experiment and try out new ideas.

Three huge bags full of materials have been donated by a local lady who was cleaning out her garage. These have craft items and different kinds of materials in lots of lovely colours and textures which will be wonderful for winter time crafts when we are restricted by weather.



Who Are We Talking To?

Those who follow social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram et al – are often amazed to discover the country votes the way it does. Forgetting, perhaps that our Facebook connections are self-selected and therefore self-affirming. Forgetting that the average age of a ... what to call them? ... Tweeter? is nothing like the age of the average voter. Those of a centre-left persuasion may buy the Listener and feel affirmed. Those of a centre-right lean may read the National Business Review and likewise see a world they already know.

In preparation for the Government's budget, widely tipped to upend social services and supposedly address child poverty, UNICEF NZ has begun an online campaign to push the government toward a cash injection for our poorest families. No doubt some of us have already signed it. Me being one of them.

But although I fully support the question posed by the campaign, I am deeply pessimistic that anything will come of it for children (although I suppose quite a bit may come of it for those active on the left of politics.) Why?

Well, firstly, the Government's budget was finalised over a month ago. Senior Civil Servants have been prepping the machinery of change since September last year. Derailing that will take more than a petition run a month before budget day.

Something UNICEF is likely to already know.

Secondly, the Government knows what New Zealanders think on this. They know that very few New Zealanders care about the 250,000 children living below the poverty line. It's true: less than a third of the country cares. That third is active, they are vocal, but ... the bulk of Kiwis just don't think there is a real problem (*it's not like India is it?*) and if there is a problem then they think it's easily fixed (*they just need to pull their socks up, stop drinking/smoking/drugs, get a job/haircut/grip*). New Zealanders, it turns out, only care in any numbers about the very worst off kids, maybe the bottom 20% of the 250,000.

Something the Government, and Victoria University's Institute of Policy Studies (who have published their research on this), already know.

Thirdly, UNICEF is pushing for a cash injection into the poorest families to help provide the "fix". This is a strategy favoured by the Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group (as one of a mix of tools). It would make a huge difference. But this Government doesn't like cash injections for the poor. Never have, never will. Plus, the Minister of Finance has already said there'll be only \$1bn of new spending, and of that the pundits are saying \$700m will have to go to health and education just to keep pace with inflation. The Budget will more likely focus on getting support agencies to do a "better job". To wit the recent announcement of a restructure of Child Youth and Family.

Something the Labour Party, the Greens, and UNICEF should already know.

So distressing as it is, this campaign can't be about changing Budget '15. It really can't. But it will bring out the left in unison. It will activate those who care. The problem is, those folks are already

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onside. They're not the ones we need to touch. It's the other 80% of the country that needs to be reached, and that's not going to happen with a petition.

But if we can start talking with the whole of the country about those things that worry us, in language we all share, of a fair go and a decent start, with real stories of what is going on (to fight the myths of bludgers and druggies), and just how good it can be when we do it right ... then, and if we start now, we *might* be able to influence Budget '16 and '17.

It's time to stop preaching to the choir, to turn around, and speak to the masses.

Laura Black