



# 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
	Joy Clark	455 9534
<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

30<sup>th</sup> August 2015

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> September

9.30 am	Mornington	D Phillipps
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	D Phillipps
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

**MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 @ 1:30pm when Joy Davis will be our speaker talking to us about a recent World Vision Trip to Israel. All welcome.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following children:

- ☺ Juliet Wilson who turns 3 on 30<sup>th</sup> August!
- ☺ Kakala Pole who turns 8 on 1<sup>st</sup> September!

## *Parish Links*

The people from the now-closed Broad Bay Methodist Church have made a substantial gift to Glenaven, their new home in Northeast Valley, as an expression of our "shared vision". It is a beautiful pulpit fall, embroidered by Colleen Kelly, and featuring the Tree of Life, centrally significant when Rod was doing his Plant services. We are very grateful for this delightful gift. As we don't have a pulpit it hangs from the front of the lectern and preaches its own wordless message every time we meet. The appliqué design shows a slim silver trunk with silver leaves, and impressions of other larger leaves in extravagant rainbow colours: red, gold, jade green, pale blue and bright blue, tan and purple. There are also impressions of rain or sunlight falling through the leaves; on the dark background they might be fruit falling, or gold coins, suggesting blessings pouring down. The winding stem has no end, either at the top or the foot, suggesting the tree goes on growing forever, like the spirit of Broad Bay and Glenaven -- or like our neighbouring stream of Lindsay Creek, which joins the Leith at the Botanical Gardens and waters so many wonderful plants and trees along the way. -- HWW

## **WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY - REACHING OUT AND SAVING LIVES.**

Venue: St Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Dunedin

Date: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 7pm-8.30pm followed by supper.

Keynote Speaker: Dr Maree Inder (Otago University, Christchurch)

All welcome. Gold coin donation

Further information: Rev Greg Hughson 479 8497

[greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/883107635070181/>

## **PURSuing PEACE IN A TIME OF PEACE AND A TIME OF WAR**

**Rabbi Fred Morgan**

Professorial Fellow, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne. To be introduced by Vice Chancellor Harlene Hayne.

*Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group and Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy  
Annual Peace Lecture*

Venue : St. David Lecture Theatre, St David Street, University of Otago  
5.30pm - 7pm Wednesday 9th September 2015 (Supper to follow, in the All Saints Anglican Church Hall)

Further information: Rev Greg Hughson 479 8497

[greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1630723803849989/>

## **Life Matters Suicide Bereavement Support Group**

**Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 5.30pm - 7pm.**

**Venue : Room 4, Knox Church Hall, 449 George St, Dunedin.**



*Life Matters*  
SUICIDE PREVENTION TRUST

The Life Matters Suicide Prevention Trust has arranged for a Registered Psychotherapist Sandra Turner, to meet monthly with people bereaved by suicide.

Sandra specialises in relationship counselling, group work, facilitation and supervision. She has experience in supporting those bereaved by suicide. This Support Group is free to anyone in our community and will meet every first Tuesday of the month at 5.30pm except in January.

Light snacks will be provided. However long ago you were bereaved by suicide, you are very welcome to attend. For further information please contact: Sandra Phone 03 482 1605 Mobile 027 6448930 or [sandra.turner@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sandra.turner@xtra.co.nz)

## **PARISH WORKSHOP ON LEADING WORSHIP**

The Dunedin Methodist Parish will host a workshop on Leading Worship in our contemporary world at 9.30 am on Saturday the 5th of September at Wesley Methodist Hall. All the worship leaders and lay preachers are welcome to attend this workshop.

When we gather together....

Some ideas on Sunday Worship

9:30	cuppa
9:45	Opening worship
10:00	The Languages of Worship
11:15	The Liturgy - at work!
<b>12:30-1:30</b>	<b>lunch</b>
1:30 -3:00	Putting it into practise
3:00-3:15	Feedback
3:15-3:30	Closing worship.

Each session will be a mixture of input, discussion and group-work. Your participation is important. We hope that we can resource and encourage one another! Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch.

### **PUBLIC ISSUES FOR PARISH BULLETINS 26 AUGUST 2015**

#### **Postponement of Climate Workshop until 2016**

We have to postpone the Climate workshop due to changes in availability of speakers. We will advise the new date shortly.

#### **Consultation on Family Violence**

The Government is seeking to strengthen the law on family violence. With Let the Children Live and many initiatives in Church communities, the Church has important contributions to make to the Ministry of Justice Consultation. This is open until 18 Sept. Public Issues will circulate information. See

<http://www.justice.govt.nz/consultations/better-family-violence-law/discussion-document>



**UNFORTUNATELY,** no photographic record was ever made of the original Joseph and his “coat of many colours.” Many imaginary versions have been created, and none more wonderful than that of Tim Rice with his lyric, and Andrew Lloyd Webber with his music in the fabulous stage show “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” Be that as it may, our own dreamcoat girls were getting into the act last Sunday - Kakala and Naomi take on the colourful character of Joseph... arguably a better prime minister of Egypt than the one holding that office today!



### **STORY FROM THE MISSION...**

*Little Citizens:* This month we had parent/teacher interviews which were a great opportunity to have in-depth uninterrupted conversations with parents/whānau about their child. Preparation for school, communication, relationships and ‘not falling behind’ were goals parents aspired for their children. The milestones were featured in the above conversations by parents, particularly for the parent who was not wanting her child to fall behind.

An interest was expressed to revisit the milestones by a couple of families. In discussion with one family we both agreed that there had been a big move forward in this child’s language since his 36mth milestones 2-3 months ago. Language had been our (parents and

teachers) focus. On revisiting the milestones, language, 12 out of 12 can now be marked as accessed compared to four previously.

This was a wonderful opportunity to not only validate the programme that we are running but for parents to actively set their child's next learning step. In the interview with the parents of one of our children who will start school next year, Mum said she was happy with her progress. So we asked the child what it was that she wanted to learn when at preschool. She said that she loved numbers and wanted to do more with bigger numbers. So this is a goal for her and we have developed a range of new games, songs and activities on learning bigger numbers.

These interviews also allowed Kylie to connect a mum with Jenny to hopefully attend the Incredible Years programme to support her with her 6 year old, which is a big pressure and worry for Mum.

And in one interview it allowed me to share some resources around teeth cleaning to support a Mum at home for her child to become excited about teeth cleaning and do this independently.



### **SACRED SPACES**

From what the archaeologists and anthropologists tell us, our most distant ancestors inhabited a planet that offered nothing but 'holy ground'. The land, the sea, the air was the domain of the gods, or to put it as Genesis does, it was all the creation of God who 'saw that it was good' and told Moses that 'the whole earth is mine'. A tree, a rock, a lake, a bison, a dolphin or a whale was 'God-space', not to be entered or occupied and certainly not destroyed without asking permission of the deity within. How far we have moved away from that constant awe and dread of the natural world which was their daily environment.

Mountains, lifting high towards the heavens, were often considered sacred, the dwelling places of the gods. Think of Olympus, or Sinai or



Fuji or Aorangi. Jerusalem (Mount Moriah) is sacred to Christians, Muslims and Jews. Most sacred buildings, mosques or churches or temples, have their imitation mountains—we call them steeples or spires or minarets or pagodas or cupolas, rising above the physical world and calling attention to the holy place nearby. At Mornington there is a lantern; at Glenaven a spire.

For the ancient Celtic peoples, the South American civilisations and the Hindus water is just as holy (and we will have to learn to take that attitude ourselves after centuries of careless waste and pollution). The greatest river of India, the Ganges, is regarded as sacred. According to legend, the God Shiva swam there, and still a quarter of a million people bathe every day in the waters believing that it will bring a special blessing to their next life. For Maori, the Wanganui, for Christians the Jordan.

For New Zealanders such 'holy ground' is often to be found at places associated with the dead (whose spirits have left this earth to be united with their God): in cemeteries, in those little roadside shrines that mark deadly accidents, in the *tapus* laid on places of violent death or tragedy. But more often our sacred space is marked out by a building: a church.

Such sacred spaces are the places where we gather to worship, to meditate, to pray, to celebrate or mourn; they are places where our spirits may sing and our minds be filled with wonder. They are places where we gather with our families and friends in close or in open communities called congregations. Some of them are silent spaces; some are filled with noise and chatter and music. Some of them took centuries to build, like the great cathedrals of Europe or the enormous temples of India and Tibet; some just a year or two. Some are richly wrought with works of art; some are downright plain and simple. Some are hard to reach but many more are just down the street.

But there is another kind of sacred space yet. The one you have within yourself. That most private and secret space where your spirit engages with your God. It needs nurturing, it needs protection and constant renovation, for like the buildings we name as sacred it can fall into ruin; like the wide open spaces on this earth it can be invaded and shrink to nothing. But if you give it your love and devotion it will liberate you to the infinite world of the stars and whatever worlds lie beyond them.

Joy Cowley imagines it as a kind of birthplace, where spirit children may be born; holy ground within each of us, where God may touch our lives and bring forth miracles. She calls it our Emmanuel space.

We have within us a virgin place,  
 A holy space which belongs to God alone.  
 We know it by its hunger,  
 We name it by its need.  
 The space which will not be touched  
 By the people we love,  
 Or the things we gather,  
 Or the positions we hold.

We have within us a growing place,  
 An eternal space that exists for Truth,  
 Where the love of God overcomes us,  
 The Emmanuel space where we conceive  
 And become pregnant of the Holy One,  
 And day by day give birth  
 To Christ in the world.    Amen

What's the state of your Emmanuel space? Are you looking after it tenderly?

**Colin Gibson**