



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
	Joy Clark	455 9534
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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

11th October 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 18th October

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

GAMES GATHERING - Come along for a fun Parish Games Evening :-) Games for all ages and abilities, including board games and indoor bowls. Time: 7pm
Date: Saturday 17th October Venue: Wesley Hall.
Bring: small plate of finger food for supper.



Friends, neighbours, wider family members all warmly welcome!

Contact Hilda Hughson for more information.

4876226; 0273437770 hildahughson@gmail.com

EXPLORERS GROUP: The next meeting will be on Sunday 18 October at Mornington at 4.30 pm. Note that this is a week earlier than it would be normally, in order to avoid Labour Weekend. Donald Phillipps will lead a session, postponed from last month, on the topic: 'Methodism - Church or Movement - or both'.

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT at the Mornington Methodist church 2.30pm Sunday 18 October. Come and hear some lovely singing. Featuring a work by Schubert with soprano, clarinet and piano, also lots of lively singing by the Sunny Side Up choir. All welcome. Cost \$2

COMMUNITY DINNER WITH GUEST SPEAKERS, Peter and Helen Dunn from Windsor Community Church, Invercargill, sharing of their participation in an archaeological dig at Tell el Hammam in modern Jordan. Was this the site of ancient Sodom? 'Where story and history meet in the ground.'

6pm, Sunday 18th October. Everyone Welcome.

Tickets \$25 each, available from Mornington Presbyterian Church, 16 Maryhill Terrace, PH 4535357, email office@morningtonpres.org.nz

MORNINGTON CONGREGATION AGM - Minutes of the September AGM meeting of the Mornington Congregation are now available. They will be sent as email attachments to all members of the Leaders Meeting; any other member of the congregation may have a copy on request to our Secretary, Hilda Hughson (hildahughson@gmail.com).

SYRIA REFUGEES PARISH PROJECT - In the next two Sundays I would like to appeal to the whole Parish for a donation towards the Syria Refugee crises. We have this donation as a Parish project and whatever money we collect will go to CWS from the Parish. There are appeal forms available with the bulletins for those who would like to contribute to fill in for tax purposes. The last Sunday for this appeal will be the 25th of October. Colin Gibson and myself are co-ordinating this outreach on behalf of our Parish. Thanks, Siosifa

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE 11th - 18th October 2015

The International Week of Prayer for World Peace runs internationally every October. In 1974, the first Chairperson, Edward Carpenter, former Dean of Westminster, established the guiding principle of the week in the words "The peace of the world must be prayer for by the faiths of the world". In Dunedin we will celebrate with an interfaith peace gathering again, for the twentieth year. Please join us and bring your friends. Wednesday 14 October, 7.30pm at the Quaker Meeting House, 15 Park Street.

The gathering will be facilitated by Reverend Greg Hughson, University Chaplain greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

NEW ZEALAND LAND WARS PETITION

Over the past two years, a number of 150th commemorations have been held for the battles and those who fell during the Waikato Land Wars.

Moved by their experience visiting the battle sites at Orakau and Rangiaowahia last year, two students of Otorohanga College launched a petition to establish a National Day commemorating those who lost their lives in the Land Wars, both Maori and Colonial. It is to be presented to the Government on 8 December.

‘We cannot forget the sacrifice of the soldiers, warriors and families who suffered.’

Please join in supporting this significant petition:

<http://www.otocoll.school.nz/landwarspetition.html>

Contact Dale Meredith 467 2070, or go to:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/72303304/college-students-petition-for-a-national-holiday-to-recognise-land-wars>

SHE HAS ENDEARED HERSELF in every way to the Mornington Church community since she has been a pharmacy student at University, but as with most students the time has come for ESTHER OH to move on. Esther has secured a pharmacy position in Nelson, which is good for her and for her parents, Rev and Mrs Martin Oh of the Stoke/Richmond Parish, but a big loss for us. Esther's flute has brought an extra dimension to the music at Mornington, not to mention the warmth of her smile, and her friendly demeanour. We marked her last Sunday with us by presenting her with a signed albatross picture by Dunedin artist Gillian Pope. Esther will be warmly remembered by us all as she moves to the next stage of her life. She will return briefly later this year for graduation.



DUNEDIN LIGHT PARTY

Venue: Forsyth Barr Stadium

Date: Saturday 31 October 2015

Time: 5pm - 8.30 pm



The Dunedin Light Party is designed as a children/family event to offer a positive alternative to Halloween to the families of this city. No Halloween themed costumes or makeup is permitted. Organising body – Acts of Kindness Charitable Trust.

If you cannot help physically, we would appreciate you considering a financial contribution. Volunteer roles available: Face painters, Prayer, Helpers to set up and pack down, Preschool area helpers, Craft helpers, Bouncy castle supervisors, Clowns/Jugglers, Decorations helpers.

Please contact dunedinlightparty@gmail.com by 20 October 2015



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Caitlyn Elkins who turns 12 on 16th October!

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Client Support Work: Selena approached Arahina Client Support Services because this winter had been hard on her budget making the power bills very high. She had noticed that friends' homes, who live in Housing New Zealand houses, were warmer and wondered if she might qualify for one of these houses. Working with Selena, she reengaged in budgeting services, gained support for applying for a HNZ home, and now has her name down on the waiting list for when the next suitable house becomes available. She has also checked out what she qualifies for from Work and Income New Zealand, in the way of monetary assistance, when she shifts. Selena is pleased with the outcome and this reflected in her ORS scores shifting from 17 at the first meeting to being over 30. She is proud of her achievements and just needing that little bit of support to find the right people to talk with, and the right direction to take has helped her to change.



OPEN EDUCATION

The final Open Education session for the year brings Sherrema Bower, one of the University Chaplaincy team, to talk about her remarkable spiritual journey from Pentecostalism in Flint, Missouri, to the Quakers in Dunedin. A rare opportunity to hear about a faith community we know little of and the place of women within that community's structures, from someone who has experienced it all herself. Sherrema talks at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28 October (note the date) at the Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, about how women navigate a patriarchal structure and may have their voices heard and giftings received by their faith community. A pre-session meal will be offered by Judy Russell at 6pm: please sign in at Mornington or ring Judy (4553727) to secure your place. The meal costs \$15 and there is a koha of \$5 for the talk, but profits from both occasions will go to the CWS Syrian Refugee Appeal, so be as generous as possible.

THANK YOU - I would like to express my sincere thanks to those who baked for the students of the University of Otago during their exams. Surely, your generosity has helped some stressful students in the midst of their exams. Greg and members of the Combined Christian Group are really appreciative of your act of kindness.



MY COMPUTER has undergone a "procedure" at the computer hospital after a week of indifferent and inconsistent performance that

frustrated me, and a number of my email acquaintances. I'll not bore you with the diagnosis of the source of my problems, whether mine or the computer doctor's. They were not necessarily the same. Sufficient to say that the free installation of a brand new programme, namely Windows 10, a week ago, was not the good news for me that the clever people at Microsoft might have envisaged for their latest innovation. Quite the opposite, in fact. But that is by the way. The good news is that after a day in hospital, and repairs & adjustments to the most intimate bits and pieces of the said computer - and apparently nothing to do with my alleged problems with Windows 10 - my beloved PC has been returned to me with a clean bill of health. For which I say - the Lord be praised.

But with only an hour or two to prepare a Connections article, I am constrained by the necessity to write with a brevity that long suffering readers will agree does not come naturally!

There is an issue that I and others have raised over a period of months that appears to have quite grave implications for the health of the Church. For reference, return, if you can, to back numbers of *Touchstone* where the issue has been flagged in letters and articles under the heading "candidature and de facto relationships."

Does it sound like an issue that should concern the average Meth-o in parish churches like Mosgiel, or Glenaven, or St Kilda - or why-kick-a-moocow? Probably not. But bear with me.

First, some simple facts. In 2013, and again in 2014, our Church declined to accept through the normal procedures for training for the ordained ministry a young man (30 - 40 age group) on the grounds that he is not legally married. It needs to be added, however, that the same man is living with a partner, a woman with whom he has a loving and stable relationship, a relationship that is acknowledged and honoured within the church community of which he is a part. It also needs to be said that he is held in sufficient repute to hold district and connexional roles of leadership.

There is a rising tide of condemnation against this man's rejection on a number of grounds. First, because it is against the law of the land. The 1993 Human Rights Act affirms it is wrong to discriminate on relationship status, especially considering our Church has committed to order its life on the provisions of the same Act. Second, on grounds of consistency. Over a period of time our Church has not raised relationship status as a barrier to accepting a number of candidates living in same-sex relationships, men and women. A number of presbyters now in senior leadership positions were accepted, trained and ordained in this full knowledge, and they and their partners are fully integrated and well honoured in the ongoing life of the Church. The question is - why now decline a man in a heterosexual relationship?

Word is, the decision to reject came from a group of highly placed individuals close to the candidature process and on the instigation of Mission Resourcing. Yet, since concerns were raised not one person has stood up to own the decisions. The recourse to silence is a well known resort on the part of guilt-stricken institutions of every ilk, churches included, and while we may be disappointed to find the same failure to acknowledge responsibility, we should not be surprised.

Latest move in the saga is to form a presidential work group to study the issues, though attempts to ascertain the terms of reference, the time frame for reporting, and the personnel have so far proved

fruitless. The suspicion is that as on other occasions when presidents have been asked to set up study committees, the real point of the issues has been lost in delay, obfuscation, and sheer fatigue.

Meantime, however, the one most cogently unresolved issue looks like being indefinitely unresolved - the injustice done to the candidate himself. Indeed, while hastening to say that candidate selection is not the responsibility of Trinity College, the newly appointed Principal, Dr Nasili Vaka'uta. in his recent address at Mornington, admitted he shares the same deep concern.

The message in all of this is clear. A young man of whom those who know him say he is eminently suited for training for the ministry of our church, is being denied that training by a decision that was both unjust and inconsistent. In other words - wrong. Paraphrasing St Paul, an injustice done to one member of the Church is an injustice done to, and by, every other member. A Church that from time to time calls for justice on every issue of injustice under the sun should not shy away from rank injustice within its own house. What was it Jesus said about specks and planks that irritate the eye?

Before the Church sanctions yet another work group to deploy a dozen wise women and men to explore in a hundred hours with a million words the possible implications of two wrong decisions already made, let there be sufficient flexibility of process to reverse the decision while there is time and allow for natural justice to run its course with the person concerned.

To get back to my computer. A new programme, however sophisticated, was never going to cure the ills of an old machine. To be fit to run Windows 10, the deficiencies of the computer itself had to be addressed. It may cost a bit, but in the end I had to do it.

Ken Russell