



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
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

18th October 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 25th 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
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

ROYAL DUNEDIN MALE CHOIR @ East Taieri Church @ 2pm Sunday 18th October. No charge, with afternoon tea to follow.



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

EXPLORERS GROUP: Meeting today, Sunday 18 October, at Mornington at 4.30 pm. All welcome. Donald Phillipps will lead the session.

PARISH PRAYER MEETING - A prayer meeting will be held at Wesley church on the 21st of October 2015, 7pm. Members of the Prayer Group are invited as well as anyone in the parish. This is the beginning of the preparation for the Advent studies during the Advent Season.



MOSGIEL MID-WEEK SERVICE - The Mosgiel Mid-Week Service will move from Maranatha resthome to the church hall. We will start our first Mid-week service in the hall next week, 21st of October, 2pm. All are welcome.

PARISH STRATEGIES - The Parish executives are working with the whole parish in setting up strategies that will encourage growth and vibrant. We already started to implement some of the strategies and that's exciting but we need to do more. We would welcome ideas and thoughts from the wider parish to be part of this conversation. Please send your thoughts either to Siosifa Pole or Rod Mitchell.

A TIME OUT - On Saturday, 14 November, there will be an opportunity to engage in a reflective Retreat, directed by John Franklin, Anglican priest, former chaplain to the Bishop of Dunedin and an experienced spiritual director. This retreat has been organized for the Methodist Parish and will be held at St Margaret's House, Brighton, from 10am to 3pm. Numbers are limited to 15, transport can be arranged, and there will be no charge to participants. Contact Colin Gibson (453 6662 or colin.gibson@clear.net.nz) to register. Registrations close on Sunday 1 November. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Wesleydale Trust.

MORNINGTON TOY & GAMES LIBRARY TRUFFLES FUNDRAISER: Where has the year gone!? In two months you'll be worrying about what to take to the many Christmas functions you need to attend - well.....your problems are solved! The toy library is having its annual **Truffles** fundraiser. These yummy treats are sold at \$6.00 per dozen - they freeze well, so don't worry about ordering *several* dozen. We are making the truffles on Nov 13 & 14, so the orders have to be in by October 31. I'll bring the ordered truffles to church on November 15 for you to collect (or deliver them to your home). If you are interested in supporting the toy library by ordering some truffles, contact Rebecca Neaves on 488-4372 (or e-mail me at: a.r.neaves@yahoo.co.nz). Many thanks, and a jolly "ho ho ho".

SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS - advice that most members of [Y@M](#) are shortly to move on, whether to university, careers, whatever, and that it will shortly be time to disband [Y@M](#) in its present form, has been greeted with a mixture of sadness and resignation. It's hard to know just what the future holds for youth initiatives at Mornington, but there was warm approval for Colin Gibson's spontaneous gesture at the recent AGM when on behalf of all of us he presented flowers to GINNY KITCHINGMAN, the 'leader extraordinaire' of [Y@M](#) - whose commitment, imagination and remarkable rapport with teenage kids has left them with a legacy from our Church that surely they will never forget. Only a gesture, but fragrant with profound appreciation for years of dedicated leadership that has blessed us all. Thanks Ginny!!!!!!



Parish Links

Music is a real part of Wesley, whether it is on Sunday or throughout the week. Starting on Sunday, three wonderful ladies, Joyce, Anne and Dorothy faithfully travel to Wesley from near and far to provide our little group with beautiful music. We really appreciate and thank God for their devotion. They lift our singing at Wesley Chapel to greater heights with praise and thanksgiving to God. Once a month we make a joyful sound with the St. Kilda congregation and are treated to anthem by their choir. Music at Wesley doesn't end on Sunday. During the week if you walk past the hall you will hear many different sounds, from modern dance music to the haunting notes of the highland bagpipe. Did you know that the Rev. Gordon Watson played the first cruise ship out this week after being very sick for the last few months?

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.

PUBLIC ISSUES FOR PARISH BULLETINS OCTOBER 2015

Methodist Church in Solidarity with Pacific Churches and Leaders on Climate Justice?

REGIONAL church leaders want the international community to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

At a regional workshop in Auckland, New Zealand, members of the Pacific Conference of Churches and the World Council of Churches in Australia and New Zealand support the 2015 Pacific Leaders' Declarations

The leaders said a global temperature rise of 2 degrees Celsius would not safeguard Pacific islands from sea level rise.

Responsibility for climate justice comes from earth as our common home. It means support for displaced populations, livelihoods for future generations, the wellbeing of the planet, public good, and transitions to decarbonised economies.

We would like a statement to go to the World Council of Churches from the Methodist Church, with an indication of support from parishes. Please could your parish respond with a yes or no, to betsan@publicquestions.org.nz

The full Climate statement at

www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/index

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Early Years Hub:

Plunket Car Seat Service is now at the Hub on Thursdays from 9.15am until 12noon.

Tonia Scoullar is a Registered Child

restraint technician and is here to answer any questions parents may have, help with checking car seats and boosters in cars and making everyone aware of the new regulations around child safety in cars. The M.E.A.L cooking classes continue to be popular especially with the



Crèche available. The donations of knitted items are continuing to flow in with the Methodist Women's Fellowship making up another 40 Welcome Packs. These packs go to families with new babies and as well as being given out at the Hub are also collected by the Well Child, Plunket and NICU Nurses for the families they work with. We also have 2 new playgroups started!



THE DILEMMA

There is a quandary that all social service leaders eventually face which is best captured by the old 14th century saying that *“he who sups with the devil should have a long spoon”*.

I hear some in Te Haahi describe this current government as “Pharaoh”. Those who have seen ministers release beneficiaries’ private information in order to win a news cycle, those who’ve seen support for our most vulnerable reduced – it seems – to regular, post-cabinet, beneficiary bashing. Those who saw the tax cuts for the rich, and further tightening of the health and education budgets. The refusal to acknowledge the now quarter million children living in poverty. The backdating of security laws to permit previously illegal spying. The abrogation of democracy in Canterbury.

But, and it’s a big “but” – so big there are three parts - but:

- They are the government (part 1). If the Mission wants to do something that is in anyway funded, we’re going to need to have them on side. And having them on side means we get to share with them the voices of those we work with.
- They are the government (part 2). Democratically elected by the will of the people. Just because the Mission may have a different view

on what is right and proper, are we to pretend the will of the people has no weight?

- They are people too (this is often the hardest “but”). The Mission’s warm heart, catholic spirit, and open mind cannot just be expressed with those we work with – some of whom are admitted criminals – but should also be extended to Cabinet Ministers.

And so we are left with what I think of as “The Dilemma”. On the one hand we can be right about everything (oh, how I wish) but utterly ineffectual because we are not actually *doing* anything and we are not in conversation with power. This is the “rage against the night” strategy.

On the other hand we can try to fit into the government’s boxes and risk being complicit in any number of things we find awful. This is the “poodle” strategy.

As it happens, this last couple of months I have had to face this issue twice, attending a fiery meeting of the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services discussing government plans for funding the sector, and separately meeting with a very senior cabinet minister to brief them on the work being done by this Mission.

At our meeting, several members of the Council were dead set on not even talking with government until funding was expanded to encompass all children in need. Which is right and proper and pure. And yet.

There is no dispute that the neediest children are in urgent NEED. Is it not our job to work with them? Are we really proposing to take those children hostage in an attempt to save more? Exactly *how* does us throwing our toys out of the cot help those children?

You see the problem. But I think, I hope, there is a way through; a third strategy. I call it the “*better to light a candle than curse the darkness*” strategy.

It is the strategy used by the Maori Party. In government, keeping ministers focussed on their people, able to affect some policy changes, never *not* talking, and getting concessions that no opposition party has been able to achieve.

There are of course some tricks to this.

You have to know who you are and what matters; what you will bend on and what you will not. You have to be smarter than Pharaoh, organise well, and stay connected to what matters.

And you have to be prepared to worry – quite a lot, as the Mission’s Board and senior staff do – that in trying to be both contractor and critic, you haven’t inadvertently poodled. So that when it comes time to face a senior Minister of the Crown, the Mission can be ethical, *and* do some good.

Laura Black