



# 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

14<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> February

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

**MORNINGTON LEADERS MEETING** - First meeting for 2016 will be Tues 16th Feb. 7.30 pm.

**MOSGIEL MID - WEEK SERVICES** start on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February @ 2p.m. in our church followed by afternoon tea. All Parish members welcome.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO NEIL THOMPSON** who had a 'hole in one' on hole 17 at Taieri Lakes Golf Course on Saturday. Well done Neil!

**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - The first Meeting of the year will take place on Wednesday the 24th February, at 12 noon, in the Church Lounge & Sunday School. Please bring along some food to share. This will be followed by a Meeting. Please remember the Fellowship of the Least Coin. See you there.

**HELPING THE HUGHSONS** - The Hughson family has suffered a serious home invasion and are expecting to be in rental accommodation for six months while their house is repaired. On Friday 26 February a meal and family movie night will be held at Mornington Methodist Church, catered by Judy Russell. A koha of \$15 dollars for the meal and \$5 for the movie. All profits will go to Greg and Hilda; please be generous. Ring Judy (4553727) to book your place and establish numbers attending.



**SUPPORT THE METHODIST MISSION NEXT TIME YOU**

**TRAVEL** - Here is a great way you can help support

The Mission's work, simply by doing what you were going to do anyway. Next time you travel, please consider booking your accommodation through [www.kiwikarma.co.nz](http://www.kiwikarma.co.nz)

Only on Kiwi Karma can you easily find, compare and book from over 3,200 places nationwide – from backpackers to luxury lodges. The room rates on Kiwi Karma are comparable to all other travel sites. The big difference is that at no extra cost to you 5-8% of the room rate goes to a charity of your choice.

Check out [www.kiwikarma.co.nz](http://www.kiwikarma.co.nz) and enter the latest competition: <http://kiwikarma.co.nz/competition>

**LENTEN STUDY** - Our Lenten Study for 2016 will start on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm. It is going to be at Mosgiel Methodist Church. The study will be based on a study booklet, entitled, *Give It Up*. All are welcome.

**THE OTAGO COMBINED CHRISTIAN GROUPS (CCG)** has once again produced 6,000 copies of a *Scarfie Guide* to distribute to all new students - containing information about local Churches and Christian groups. We require helpers from your Churches and groups to put our *Scarfie Guides* into 4,000 or so College packs for OUSA on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016**, from 9am in **SMITHELLS GYM** 690 Cumberland St. **Please round up people from your Church or group to assist with College pack packing. We need as many people (of all ages) as possible.** CCG will once again have a daytime and night-time presence in a large CUBE or tent on the Museum Lawn during Orientation week (22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> February), on the corner of Albany and Cumberland Streets. We plan once again to distribute information about local Churches and Christian Groups, along with baking! **Please deliver baking throughout Orientation week to the University Chaplaincy Offices on the eastern end of the new mezzanine floor in the University Union building.**

**For further information please contact:**

Mike Bagge (CCG Co-Chairperson) 027 366 9506 or Greg Hughson (University Chaplain) 027 212 1048

[www.otagoccg.co.nz](http://www.otagoccg.co.nz)

## **NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

- As Siosifa would like to stay on in the Parish and is looking forward to continuing some projects and organising new ones over the next 2 years, we have endorsed this. Next year Siosifa and the Parish will be part of the stationing process to look for a new minister for 2018. We appreciate all that he is doing amongst us.
- After much discussion, it was decided that there was insufficient information for a decision to be made regarding whether the hall might be demolished as well as the church at Wesley. This would allow prospective buyers to see the extent of the property and not worry about issues pertaining to demolition such as asbestos and archaeology. PF&R committee to work on this.

- We want to add more details to the parish website, including location maps.
- Ian Barlett is now the person to contact if you wish to hire the Wesley Hall ph 4772349.
- Rod's phonenumber is taking a long time to be fixed.

**THE LIFE MATTERS SUICIDE PREVENTION TRUST** warmly invites you to attend a panel discussion to hear from people who are passionate about suicide prevention. There will be an opportunity to engage in discussion with the panellists and to ask questions. “Breaking the Silence – Suicide Prevention” Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 7pm. Venue: Haven Hall, 575 Princes St, Dunedin. Supper will be provided after the panel discussion time. Parking is available on Princes St and nearby streets. An optional Gold coin donation please.

Panellists:

Collette Ryan, Nurse Educator | Southern DHB

Grant Cooper, Manager | Otago Mental Health Support Trust

Nils Barth, Constable | Dunedin Police

Jane Stevens, Suicide bereaved mum of Nicky Stevens Iwi | Kai Tahu.  
Ngati Toa - Hokio

Corinda Taylor, Suicide bereaved mum of Ross Taylor Chair | Life Matters Suicide Prevention Trust

Inquiries [lifemattersotago@gmail.com](mailto:lifemattersotago@gmail.com) or Cell 027 212 1048

**YOUTH MINISTRY WORKSHOP** - I am planning to run a workshop on youth adults in youth ministry. I am in conversation with the Tauwiwi National Coordinator for young people, children, and family ministries, Michael Lemanu about this workshop. This workshop is aiming for the month of April. Once a date is confirmed I will inform the parish. At the mean time I would like to encourage the parents and the youth adults to support this initiative in order for our church to maintain our connection with the vision of our church of, “Let the Children Live.” Please contact me if you are thinking to participate in this workshop. My phone contacts, 4664600/ 4552923.

## CHURCHES WELCOME REFUGEES

First Information evening - all welcome. Spread the word!

Place: All Saints' Anglican Church, 786 Cumberland St, North Dunedin.

Date and time: Wednesday, 17th February 2016 at 7.00 pm

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1035422613182447/>

7.00 pm Welcome and Opening Prayer

7.05 pm "Why welcome refugees?" – a Christian perspective Frs Ivica Gregurec and Michael Wallace

7.25 pm "Syria as I know it" Dr Ahmad Taha

7.45 pm Red Cross and Syrian refugees in Dunedin Sue Prince, NZ Red Cross

8.00 pm Questions and answers

8.20 pm Commitment opportunity - to helping with refugee resettlement in Dunedin

8.25 pm Closing prayer

For further information please contact :

Rev'd Ivica Gregurec ACSC Priest Assistant - The Anglican Parish of Dunedin North Chaplain - Ross Home, St Andrew's Home & Hospital, Taieri Court Home

## STORY FROM THE MISSION

*Next Step:* The Graduation for 2015 was well attended with approximately 50 students and guests. Twenty-eight National Certificates were handed out to students for the 2015 year. Lindsay Brown, a prominent Dunedin businessman and member of Dunedin Rotary, spoke as our guest speaker. Lindsay was known to most of our students as he and his fellow Rotarians volunteered their time, expertise and experience giving our students practise formal interviews and feedback about their CV's, covering letters and interviews. After a blessing from one of the adult student's grandfather, everyone had a fantastic meal that had been previously prepared by students, tutors, and staff.





## A BIT OF A CHANGE

Over Christmas and New Year, I enjoyed a family holiday around much of the South Island, notable for wall-to-wall sunshine on the West Coast. That was a bit of a change! It even got me thinking about change.

You're more likely to notice change when you move around and out of your comfort zone. Little things, like one's first wash in the morning that alerts you to the greater hardness or softness of the water. And the sheer power of the midday sun. The earth intercepts only about one half of one billionth of the sun's energy output and most of the ultraviolet radiation is absorbed by the gas molecules of the atmosphere. But it took only a few minutes to inflict a burn on one of our number.

As for West Coast sunsets, being able to stare directly at the slow-motion descent of the sun below the ocean horizon is a special treat when you haven't done so for many years. No wonder sun worship was one of the earliest forms of theism.

It takes a little longer to sense that each place you visit is not only different from one's own patch of earth; it's also different from itself as it once was. In Greymouth I specially recalled my time there nearly 60 years ago. I was doing a long vacation student preaching supply from Trinity College, staying with Bruce and Margaret Gordon. During the weekdays it seemed the most natural thing on the earth (or rather under the earth) to get a readily available job as a trucker in the Liverpool State Mine. Access was only possible by steam train to Rewanui and then by a specially designed haulage system up a near-45° incline to the mine entrance. It took roughly as long to make the daily return trip to the underground coalface as it did to do the job itself. Even so, the mid-shift crib breaks in the dense darkness were always a welcome relief from shoving the loaded trucks. The mine and even the

railway line have long since closed. And last month, the Roa Mine, the last underground coalmine on the Coast was closed. No one will ever do those jobs again on the Coast.

Some other mine memories were revived while staying at Granity north of Westport. We walked around Millerton up on the plateau north of Denniston. Millerton is still a township of sorts, though its “Information Centre” is a derelict cottage whose last resident it seems forgot his gumboots as he left. Among the relics of the former Millerton Mine, the most impressive were the ruins of the concrete bath house— some thirty to forty individual cubicles now at the mercy of cold showers as only the Coast can provide.

Yet the human scale of change is as nothing compared to geological change. Perhaps for most tourists the Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki are a static marvel. We may have seen them as kids and remember the blowholes. Now our grandchildren can enjoy them and may take their own grandchildren to visit. The rocks will barely have changed. But this is all only midpoint in their history. Some thirty million years ago these alternating hard and soft limestone layers of marine creatures and plant sediments were formed on the seabed about 2,000 metres below the surface. Come millions more years in the future, and the Pancake Rocks will be fully eroded back into the sea.

Another prime example of how enormous change can occur in slow motion, bit by bit, is provided by the West Coast glaciers. Zillions of individual snowflakes compressed into ice can carve mountain rock into deep valleys, and the glaciers themselves are in constant adjustment between the volume of the snowfield at the top and that of the meltwater at the bottom. The very word ‘glacial’ is used to suggest deceptive slowness. So, of all the instances and aspects of change that I came across on our holiday, the most evocative was revisiting St James Anglican Church in Franz Josef Village. Many of us will remember the nine penny 1946 New Zealand Peace stamp, with the view of the

glacier through the church window. When built in 1931, it was a stroke of inspiration to insert that big plate glass window behind the cross and altar. Yet few, if any, parishioners could have anticipated then that in time the glacier would recede and be out of sight by 1954. As luck would have it, a temporary advance brought the terminal face once more into view in 1997, only to yield more recently to the longer term retreat in line with global warming.

As I return to another year of church life, observations occupational and geological merge into thoughts theological. That recent image through the altar window remains fixed in my mind (though 'fixed' is not quite the right word). Still a beautiful sight without doubt, but not as stunning as it once was. Every church has its own figurative altar window that conveys its world-view. If it hadn't been inspiring to begin with there wouldn't have been a church. But the vision should not be taken as eternally frozen in time, nor should the church's job description. The insistence on changelessness has become one of the pitfalls of religion. Only idols do not change. A living god is by definition in process, and those who worship such a god cannot be less so.

Two thousand years have passed since the three-decker universe of the early church and we still seem to take pride in the immutability of our faith. Continuity by all means, but indistinguishability becomes sterile. Despite deceptive advances from time to time, hints of revival as it were, there is always and everywhere a bit of a change taking place. A changing world, a changing society, changing individuals one by one, and even a changing god, all demand a changing church. A church that will not consider radical change to its time-honoured tasks runs the risk of being left behind like closed coalmines or glacial moraine, maybe very slowly but inexorably in due course. Cumulative bits of change must eventually bite deep.

David Kitchingman