



# 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

13<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> March

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

**MOSGIEL MID-WEEK SERVICE** - On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2pm. All are welcome.

**TOUCHSTONE COPIES** - In the last meeting of the Parish Executives, we concerned about the extra numbers of Touchstones that are left over in congregations. I would like each congregation to confirm with me the right numbers of Touchstones that you need.

**OPEN EDUCATION BEGINS ITS YEAR WITH A REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES IN OUR COUNTRY** - On Wednesday, March 16, at Mornington Methodist, starting at 7.30pm, Jimmy Mclauchlan, Business Development Leader from our Dunedin Mission, talks about the current state of social services in New Zealand, including the conditions placed on vulnerable clients, new challenges for social providers and the prospect of the privatisation of social services, all in the context of the Dunedin Methodist Mission's work in Dunedin. Catch up on what has happened and may happen for the poor and disadvantaged of our society. This talk might leave you appalled or angry; it will not leave you unmoved or indifferent. Entry \$5.

As usual, Judy Russell caters a pre-session meal at 6pm, for a koha of \$15. Sign in or book a place with Judy (455 3727). Proceeds from both events will go to towards the Mission's work.

### **PUBLIC ISSUES FOR PARISH BULLETINS 13 MARCH 2016**

**Resource Legislation Amendments:** concerns decisions about land, water, and development, for example housing. Changes are to solve Auckland housing crisis, but not with building affordable houses. It tips the balance for development at the expense of environmental safeguards. Minister Nick Smith is Minister for Housing and Environment

- Reduces entry points for public participation
- Collaborative Planning – good *but* appointed by Councils, not nominated by interested parties. Church groups might find it hard to be included.
- Template and streamlined process, increased Ministerial over-rides on resource decisions and Plans
- Increased Iwi engagement and provides for one Iwi rep. on Collaborative groups – but what about representation all Iwi in Regional Council regions?

Comments, questions please, before 14 March.



**'DUNEDIN CHURCHES WELCOME REFUGEES' MEETING - Tuesday, 15 March 7-8:30pm at St. Patrick's Community Centre, 42 Macandrew Rd, South Dunedin.**

This month we will hear from Dyna Seng, a former Cambodian refugee who now lectures at the University of Otago. Dyna will share about his journey as a refugee 30 years ago and what he found helpful in this vulnerable time upon arriving in Dunedin. We will also have a time of reflection on our roles as Christians in this crisis and a Red Cross representative to explain the refugee arrival process and answer any of our questions. This is being organised by members of the Dunedin Refugee Steering Group. For further info please contact Amy Armstrong: [amya@cdd.org.nz](mailto:amya@cdd.org.nz) / (03)474-5755

<https://www.facebook.com/events/109892069397121/>

An April meeting will also be held at Mornington Methodist Church, corner of Galloway and Whitby Streets, Mornington Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm. Please contact Greg Hughson [greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz) for further information about this gathering.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/529498350553199/>



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Kate Mosley who turned 3 on 2<sup>nd</sup> March!

**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** – The guest speaker at our next meeting on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 2 pm will be Mrs Corinda Taylor, who is the chairperson for Life Matters Suicide Prevention Trust.

**PASTORAL CARE:** All Leaders of the Mornington Pastoral Care Group are kindly invited to an afternoon-tea at Andrea and Elden Mosleys home, 4 Fenton Crescent on Sunday 10th April at 2pm. We will review our groups and make changes as required and will talk about our ongoing role within the church. Please come and bring your ideas on both these subjects. If you are not able to attend please let Beryl or Andrea know.

### **ONCE FAMILIAR FACES**

around Mornington Church, Fred & Averil Gerry, showed up last Sunday and received a warm welcome. In their youth, they could not have lived closer to the Church - 8 and 9 Galloway St. Neither needed a



limousine or taxi to get to the Church on time for their wedding in 1960! As a boy Fred pumped the organ before it was electrified, and Averil, a talented pianist, accompanied the choir on many occasions. Their memories are legion of a Church that was busy and full of enterprise. Fred's father, John, is of beloved memory as a long standing steward. Asked about ministers in their time they spoke of Dave Williams, Howard Harkness, Bert Cochrane and Andrew Johnston. Fred & Averil live at Tutukaka, out of Whangarei. and lead very active lives in retirement with gardening and music prominent. Picture shows Fred & Averil with old friends Shirley Parslow & Ron Jarvis.

## STORY FROM THE MISSION

*Client Support Worker:* It is interesting to note most people have the ability to know the solution to their problem, but are unsure how to negotiate the pathway. Prior to Christmas, Sharon engaged with a family assisting them to negotiate the legal system so they could support a young person to stay out of prison.



This was a huge task, and placed particular stress on both parents and siblings. At the initial meeting they discussed how having a son in jail impacted on their lives, both emotionally and socially. Sharon asked “What would take to keep him out of jail?” Has anyone asked him this question? How would he see his life if he was to stay out of jail, what would he have to do?

Sharon made contact with this family after the Christmas break, to find that their son was making progress; he was working part time, had a CaD’s worker, and had stopped associating with his former girlfriend and her friends.

At his request the family had stopped lending him money, which reduced his access to the substances which led to his offending. This is an example of a family who have the tools to help their son, but needed to know where and how to start.

**LENTEN STUDY** will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> due to the Open Education being on the same evening.



**WHILE PARTICIPATING** in the shared Mornington Methodist and St Mary’s Anglican service in January I listened to the sermon by Rev. Siosifa Pole based on the

passage from *Luke 3:16* in which he began with the comments:

“Building good relationship is needed today. Relationship is vital to any connection or communication. If the relationship is broken or



damaged then obviously connection and communication can be affected. But if the relationship is good then connection and communication will be strong. A healthy family depends on a healthy relationship among the members. I suppose that would apply as well to the church. A healthy church depends on a healthy relationship among members. Despite the challenges we face, if relationship is in good shape then I believe the church can be stable and flourish. Building good relationship is vital in ministry, especially in a time that diversity becomes a barrier. Having good relationship is not just about being kind to one another but about being honest with ourselves and the type of ministries that God has for us in his mission. How is your relationship with others? What way/ ways to maintain good relationship? Can we maintain good relationship?

These comments, although probably referring in the first instance to the Mornington Methodist Church and its members, caused me to ask myself what is the relationship between the Anglican and Methodist faiths and more specifically, both within St Marys and between our two churches here in Mornington? How many of the issues identified by Rev Pole in his sermon are applicable to us? I would like to think that relationships at least among members of St Marys are good, but what is the state of the relationship between the members of our two parishes? Can it be made better and how could we do this?

In subsequent discussion of this issue with several members of the St Marys Committee, I was reminded that historically the Methodist movement grew out of the Anglican Church in the 1780's. Since then there have been many attempts to restore the relationship, culminating for us in New Zealand in the formal agreement known as 'The Anglican Methodist Covenant'. So, as is the common practice these days, I Googled this topic and came up with a very extensive list of references which I can't even attempt to summarise here. However, it would seem that at least in New Zealand, discussions on formal and informal links between Anglicans and Methodists at local and national

levels had begun in the 1970's, if not earlier, and led to the adoption of a formal covenant document in 2009.

As part of this document, some of the 'landmarks on the journey' were acknowledged including:

1. Acceptance of each church as part of the one, holy and apostolic Church.
2. That the ministry of each of our churches is a real ministry of Word and Sacrament.
3. The apostolic content in the ordained ministry of each of our churches.
4. That each church exercises a ministry of episkope (i.e. hierarchical oversight and administration).
5. The commitment of our churches to seek a unification of ministries.
6. A mutual recognition of baptisms and church membership
7. That baptised members of each church are free to receive the Eucharist in each other's churches.

The covenant includes formal statements addressing all these and other issues such as acknowledging each faith's response in New Zealand to the Treaty of Waitangi.

Although it has lofty ideals, in reality this Covenant for all sorts of theological and other reasons still does not seem to have had much impact on the parish life of either church around the country.

So, I return to my original question - what can we do at least at the local level to enhance the existing relationship between the members of the Anglican and Methodist churches here in Mornington ?

I suggest that in practical terms we could better share:

1. More joint formal services
2. Existing activities catering for different age groups such as fellowship and music activities
3. Make best use of those buildings that have been certified as meeting the earthquake requirements of the DCC building code.
4. Pastoral care within the Mornington district.

5. Christian education.

6. Assistance to any refugees and their families settling in Mornington.

What other ways can you think of that might enhance this relationship between members of our two parishes?

Barrie Peake      Warden St Mary's Mornington

*POSTSCRIPT You may well say - what is the urgency for all of the above? The obvious answer is that both of our congregations face the problem of aging, particularly ours at St Mary's. There is little sign of growth from the bottom, and that's a concern.*

*But in discussion with Ken, he has underscored a dimension that has escaped me in my Anglican complacency, and that is his use of the word "imperative." Ken was heavily involved in the failed Church Union negotiations of the late 60's, 70's and 80's when the divisions of the Church were often referred to as a "scandal", a "sin" against the God-given unity of the Church of Jesus Christ, the Church for which Jesus gave his life, "that all might be one, as you Father and I are one, that the world may believe." (John 17:20). Is the sin or scandal of division any less today?*

*So maybe here's the urgency that should be motivating us at the present time. It is not that a closer relationship is an OPTION that may or may not suit us at this time. Not at all. It's an IMPERATIVE of the gospel we have in common, the gospel that confronts and challenges us every Sunday morning when we sit in our pews at opposite ends of Whitby St.*

*There's been a suggestion that some of us may meet over a meal at Pentecost. What better time.*

*Maybe these words are a reminder of an urgency that should be leading and directing us as we consider the future shape of our relationship.*

(This material is based entirely on my own views and after discussions with Ken Russell. It is not necessarily the view of other members of the St Mary's parish or the Dunedin Anglican Diocese)