



# 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

29<sup>th</sup> May 2016

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> June

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

**SYMPATHY** - On behalf of the Wesley Methodist congregation and the whole of the Dunedin Methodist Parish I would like to convey our sympathy and condolences to the family of Ivy Jean Reggett for her death on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2016. It is our prayer that God's peace and comfort be with you during this time of your mourning and grieving.

**JOY COWLEY WORKSHOP** *Approaches to Chirstian Living*. Saturday June 25, 2016 10am-3pm. Cost \$10. Optional lunch \$10. Venue: Opoho Presbyterian church. Register with Tui Bevan by June 18: [mark.bevan@gmail.com](mailto:mark.bevan@gmail.com) or 03 473 8677.

(Hilda has more details)

## PARISH FUTURE

Last Saturday 17 of us discussed the question: **What might we consider changing to reshape Methodist ministry in our Parish for the future?**

Although we came up with 10 main points, we resolved to work on a Mission Statement for our parish by June 25th. Previously we had aims and strategies as follows:

### AIMS OF THE PARISH:

- Dunedin Methodist Parish seeks to establish the nourishment of the Spirit. Dunedin Methodist Parish seeks to work in partnership with the Spirit of God.
- Promotes understanding of God's Spirit as reflected in Jesus.
- This community addresses diversity, openness and inclusivity.
- Seeks a sustainable model of church that will continue into the future,

### STRATEGIES:

- Passionate worship
- Outreach for wholeness
- Pastoral care and radical hospitality
- Learning
- Music.

We supported applying to the PAC Trust for funds to buy a secondhand people mover vehicle for the parish.

A fuller report is available from Hilda ph 4876226 or [hildahughson@gmail.com](mailto:hildahughson@gmail.com)

**BIBLE WITH ATTITUDE** - It will start on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of June, Mosgiel Methodist Church, 1.30 to 3.30pm. Those who want to take part in this training please contact us. Thanks, Rod and Siosifa

**THE FIRST MEETING** of a joint committee to further relationships between St Mary's Anglican and Mornington Methodist congregations was held last Sunday, followed by some good Sunday night "nosh." By any standards, it was a good meeting. We have nothing to report, as yet, but as a meeting aimed to let the six from each congregation get to know each other, listen to each of the twelve personal stories, and share some dreams and aspirations of closer ties between the two Whitby St churches - it was a jolly good start. We made plans to meet again in June at St Mary's, and arrangements will be made soon.



PHOTO - left to right –Front: Colin, Hilda, Jan, Helen, Alyson  
Back: Anne, Barrie, Felicity, Jan, John, Ken. Absent: Siosifa.

**PARISH GAMES EVENING****Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>****at 7-9pm in the Wesley hall.**

Fun for the whole family and friends! Come and join in an evening of board and card games, or indoor bowls and team games, then supper. (Hilda Hughson ph 4876226)

**RADIO CHURCH****8.30am Sunday**

a weekly service presented by Dunedin Inner City Ministers' Assoc  
 Otago Access Radio 105.4FM & 1575AM and online [www.oar.org.nz](http://www.oar.org.nz)

**CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE (CWS)** has a special event in June, the 'Refugee Ration Challenge', to raise funds to support and empower refugees in camps in Jordan and Lebanon.

For five days, ending on 20 June, World Refugee Day, volunteers are committed to living on the rations supplied to a person in the camps.

Elizabeth Duke (from Dunedin Quakers) has volunteered, and invites support at her page –

<https://operationrefugee.everydayhero.com/nz/elizabeth>

There is more information about the challenge and why it's needed at [www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz](http://www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz) This is also the site through which others can volunteer.

## Parish Links

On Wesley Day the Glenaven congregation ranged in age from a baby under one to Terry's mother Shona, who is well into her nineties. What is more, Terry and Shona danced together, swirling bright scarves, during our singing (and piano-playing) of the spiritual, *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*. Both women have danced at Glenaven before, along with Cr Jinty MacTavish (Shona's grand-daughter and Terry's niece). Terry, who has herself taught theatre arts at Queen's High School for over 40 years, told us about her mother's promotion of dance in church. Shona Dunlop MacTavish, whose late husband was a Presbyterian missionary in China and Africa, developed a career in dance-teaching after his death, as she brought up their three children on her own. She specialized in liturgical dance, and I was also taught by her -- at a course she took at an SCM camp in the 1960s. After these group sessions, three of us students were inspired to choreograph a dance in the Dundas St Church, to music by Miriam Makeba.

Kakala and Naomi Pole -- well taught by their mother -- have also danced for us, and this time the whole congregation, including the Pole family, were encouraged to join in at the end, many of us (with some added Morningtons) going on to enjoy a pot-luck lunch after, with much baby-hugging, laughter and talk. -- HWW



## STORIES FROM THE MISSION

methodist  
themission

*Incredible Years:* The Incredible Years course is just over half way now and parents are really starting to notice the difference that positive parenting is making to their children and the whole atmosphere of their homes. One parent said that her daughter is responding to the extra time her mum is

spending with her by following her mum's directions without complaining, which she was not doing before, and by offering to help her mum with jobs around the home. Another mum said that she has successfully used a sticker chart to help her daughter to get dressed independently in the mornings, and she no longer has to nag her daughter to get ready. We are looking forward to hearing how children and families have responded to more predictable routines at home, which was the subject of our last session before the holidays.

*Little Citizens Kotuku Room:* It has been wonderful watching the children's faces as we introduce the new equipment purchased through the science and technology fundraising. It has seen an increase in parent engagement – an example is where one dad spends some time each morning constructing and designing with his child. It has also seen more discussions with parents about the learning role of the equipment and where it can be purchased.



### **REFLECTION FOR WESLEY DAY**

Reading John Wesley, you can't escape his fundamental drive: to save human beings -- all human beings --

from the consequences of sin, which in Wesley's 18th century was hell and damnation. The preachers he sent out, on the model of Jesus sending out his disciples, were doing what modern parents are told to do: letting their children, (or anybody) know that there will be consequences for any antisocial, violent or otherwise selfish behaviour. Trying to "turn them around", point them in another way.

In this matter of expected punishment for sin, the age of Christ and the age of John Wesley, although separated by 1700 years, were somewhat similar. Yet while Wesley's age and ours are separated by only 350-odd years, there is a huge difference between the 18th and 21st century.

This is largely because of the industrial revolution, with gigantic advances in science and technology, most recently in information sharing.

In the countries where Wesley's form of revivalism was active, and among present-day Christians, the proportion of people who still believe in heaven and hell has shrunk markedly -- or they may believe in heaven but not hell, not judgement. I think there is still a concept of sin, but apart from a crime context it is not the idea of an ordinary individual doing things that are world-shatteringly bad, rather a corporate version of wrong. Some things like deforestation that multinational companies do can be called large-scale sins; plus some things that states do, or movements driven by political ideology or in some cases things the whole of humanity does in the way of headlong destructiveness and waste. Often in church it is these big things we want to confess to, wrongs done in our name.

Who is there nowadays to point out where the whole of humanity is going wrong, and to warn of the inevitable consequences? Who is it now that tries to buck up people who've got complacent in their life of privilege, don't want to think about the consequences of their wrongdoing, and don't want to change? If people are needing to be saved, HOW are they going to be saved, and what are they going to be saved FROM?

Recently I found on Facebook - found a lot of all info - a message from an environmental advocate in the US called Gus Speth (James Gustave Speth b1942). His words resonated with me, so in Facebook language I LIKED them and SHARED them, and I'll repeat them here. In the timeless, placeless Facebook world I don't know when or where he said it, but this is what he said:

"I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of

good science we could address those problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy...and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation -- and we scientists don't know how to do that."

I found the humility of that statement quite moving. We live in a time when scientists are more usually saying *We can now do this, we can now do that* -- and I've lapped up these success stories in many different fields of science, because they are often the only positive stories in the news. I love that the NZ Natural History Unit was developed in Dunedin, with a mission to inform us of the intricacies of the environment we are privileged to live in.

We are well served, also, by our two Allied Press papers that carve an independent way through the jungle of information available, often giving us positive stories about advances in research in the health and social sciences, or about conservation successes -- students cleaning up the harbourside, people starting up vege plots in school or pre-school, the steady spread of community gardens. Alongside this cheering record are the many negative stories about the environment that assault us daily: factual reporting and opinion pieces about the causes and effects of flooding in Sth Dunedin, fires in Canada or Canterbury, the degradation of rivers, or the devastation in Oceania whenever a cyclone blasts through.

Raising awareness is the first step in being able to address the challenges we face, but is it enough to save the world? AND is it in fact the planet that needs saving -- or just the human beings, who have made such a mess of it and can't seem to save themselves?

-- Helen Watson White