



# 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

18<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> September

9.30 am	Mornington	C Gibson – Mornington AGM
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole & Mosgiel LMT
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole & Mosgiel LMT
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

**EXPLORERS GROUP** - Next meeting: Sunday 25 September, Mornington Lounge, 4.30 pm.

**DUNEDIN METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – MORNINGTON** - The September meeting will take place on the 28th at 2 p.m. in the Church Lounge. The Guest Speaker will be Christina Weston - her subject - her work as DCC Youth Representative. All welcome to hear this interesting talk. Please remember Fellowship of the Least Coin. See you there - on a beautiful spring day.

## *Parish Links*

The Wesley Congregation in collaboration with the Reverend Siosifa Pole have decided to hold a special service of celebration at Wesley Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. Although this is not a service of closure, we realise that the building will be taken away from us at some time and as such services can take time to organise we thought that we would have it in anticipation.

It is wonderful having Ian and Joyce back amongst us and we look forward to Eva's return in the near future.

**MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT** Sunday 18 September, 2.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. Featuring Mornington Methodist Church Choir and bagpipe and piano items. All welcome. Cost \$2.

**THE WISDOM TO SURVIVE** - On Tuesday 20 September at 1.30pm in the Dunningham Suite, 4th floor, Dunedin Public Library, a showing of a powerful and important new 1 hour documentary film on climate change, featuring contemporary leaders and activists in the fields of science, economics and spirituality discussing how (and if) we can survive and evolve in the face of climate disruption.

**THANKS** - I would like to convey my thanks to all those who came to the special Parish Council meeting on Wednesday evening 14<sup>th</sup> September to make decision about the selling of the Wesley site. Thanks to Hilda for facilitating the meeting and also to Merrin Bath from Edinburgh Realty Limited for her presence to give answers to people's questions. Although the deal is not final yet but we are in good progress.

## **OPEN EDUCATION: BEHIND BARS**

At 7.30pm on Wednesday. 21 September, at Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, Open Education welcomes as its speaker Phil McCarthy, National Director of the Prison Fellowship of New Zealand. For 10 years he managed the Department of Correction's national prison system, and now leads an organisation dedicated to the transformation, reconciliation and healing of the lives of New Zealand's 10,000 prisoners and their families, both through in-prison support and community-driven reintegration services. Don't miss this outstanding Christian leader talking about a world we know too little about. Koha \$15. The usual excellent pre-session meal provided by Judy Russell (\$15—ring 4553727); all proceeds to the Syrian refugee families now making new lives in Dunedin.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Liam Bennett who turns 13 on 18<sup>th</sup> September!

## **INVITATION TO BLESSING AND OPEN HOME: 2pm-5pm Sat 24th September.**

We (Greg and Hilda) want to sincerely thank everyone who has been so supportive over the last 8 months. Now that repairs to our home have been completed, there will be a brief blessing ceremony led by Rev Siosifa Pole and Father Mark Chamberlain at 2pm on Saturday 24th September at 10 Corstorphine Rd, and an open home (including afternoon tea) through until 5pm. Please feel free to visit at any time between 2pm and 5pm, however briefly. If you are coming for the blessing, we will gather outside our home at 2pm. Please bring a small contribution for afternoon tea - check (if possible) with Cam or Kristen Weston what to bring. (Ph 454 5600)

*Greg and Hilda Hughson. Ph 487 6226*



## STORY FROM THE MISSION

*Little Citizens:* This month Jackie had a parent come and speak to her about her child's friend who had a young baby and was not coping with working and caring for a young child. This parent had concerns for the child and the Mum. The parent later rang Jackie and told her the young parent was coming to the centre for a tour. The young mum came for a tour of the centre being supported by her work boss, who happens to be a past parent of our centre. We organised care for the child and the young parents boss was taking her into Winz to organise benefits and childcare subsidy. It is so nice to see our current parents and past parents stepping in to help a young mum out. As one of them said they too were once a young mum and they received help so she is paying it forward. The young mum and child are doing well at centre and the mum is in contact with our client support worker.

**If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit [www.givealittle.co.nz](http://www.givealittle.co.nz) and search for The Methodist Mission.**



## **RADIO CHURCH**

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)

**8.30am Sunday**

**SIOSIFA** sprang a minor surprise at Mornington last Sunday with “Flora & Fauna Sunday” – not one that many of us can remember as a regular feature of the Church calendar. Nevertheless, it was not entirely a surprise to the Florist for the day, who shall remain nameless. Her arrangement was charming, and entirely appropriate. See the photo – quite a menagerie you’ll agree! Thanks from all of us. The words of the service drew us into flora and fauna in the creative purpose of God.



*All the living creatures and plants, from the smallest  
To the biggest, from the visible to the invisible.  
We remember all the animals and plants that became extinct  
And those on the verge of extinction.  
May their silent voices be heard, and that we take account  
Of their sacredness in declaring the glory of God.  
We join the crawling creatures, the flying birds,  
And fish in the sea, in praising you, O God.  
The singing tui, the mooing cow, and the giggling whale  
All join together in the chorus of praise.  
Sing the whole family of the earth!  
A flora and fauna song of praise!*



**SMALL IS SO BEAUTIFUL!** Rod Mitchell has reminded us of the infinite magnitude of the universe in which we humans occupy the meereest blink of time, but we also need to be reminded of the infinite smallness at the heart of the universe—all that vast complexity made out of the infinitely tiny ‘building blocks’ of matter.

Yes, say the scientists, the world, the whole universe we live in, is wonderfully present in every minutest detail of itself. We are, quite literally, the stuff of stars; and Creator-God’s very presence may be seen and felt in the smallest being, in the tiniest quantity of reality we human beings can possibly imagine.

‘We fly forgotten as a dream, born by the ever-rolling stream of time’, says Isaac Watts (and science and experience agree); yet he affirms that such short-lived beings as ourselves have an eternal home within God.

There is a wonderful story in which a father takes his small child outside to see the universe, by which the parent means the infinite magnitude of the stars winking and blinking in the night sky. But the child’s eye is at ground level. ‘Can you see?’ asks the dad. And the child responds, ‘I could see, even though it was almost dark. I saw a snail from the universe creeping over a stone. I saw a blade of grass swaying in the wind of the universe. There was a flower called a thistle. And there was dad staring at the sky. “Yes, dad,” I whispered, “I see it.”

‘See!’ call our artists and poets and musicians. ‘See the incredible beauty of the infinitely small universe!’

William Blake, the poet, tells us to ‘see the world in a grain of sand, and heaven in a wild flower.’ Remember that for Blake (a city man) the sand he was thinking of would be the sand that filled the hourglass, and so symbolized the passing of time.



The Jesuit priest, Gerard Manley Hopkins, can see the grandeur of God shining in the rainbow colours of a pool of spilt oil; 'nature is never spent', he declares, 'there lives the dearest freshness deep down things.'

In little birds flying backwards and forwards to feed their young—as they are starting to do in our neighbourhoods right now—Jesus sees nothing less than the natural loving providence of God. In the sheer beauty of the wild lilies and grasses growing round the margins of his local lakeside, Jesus perceives a glory that surpasses the royal splendours of the fabulous King Solomon.

'Small things make the big things grow', sings Shirley Murray, 'grains of yeast inside the dough, puffs that fill a big balloon, notes that make a happy tune.' (Have you ever looked at the little ink dots that represent notes and all the sound of music?) Her images of grains of yeast at work, or the notes that make the tune are in keeping with the findings of scientists exploring the infinite consequences of the Big Bang—as well as the mystery of music and its working on the human heart.

The characters in A. A. Milne's unforgettable world of animals, are deeply concerned over the disappearance of Small, the very small beetle. (An echo of Jesus' parables of a lost coin, of a single straying sheep, of the infinite value of a single child?) For all their wayward foolishness Milne's characters finally discover the tiny lost beetle lodged on Pooh's back—and are as overjoyed as any father greeting his long-lost prodigal son.

Remember, says the scientist, every grain of sand is a little miracle of atoms and sub-atomic particles, the consequence of the infinitely slow processes of sun and wind and water wearing down stone and rock. Every grain of sand is a microcosm of the universe itself. Time like an ever-rolling stream, bears the natural world as well as all creatural life,

away, to be forgotten like a dream. How precious then becomes that brief glory and beauty of life—in animal, insect, flower—or human.

I exhort you to see and appreciate the universe in a grain of sand and a heaven in a wild flower. To be astonished at the smallness as well as the greatness of the universe. To be caring and respectful towards the tiny, the vulnerable, the insignificant, the marginalized. And if you do nothing else after this service is over, go outside and take in the little explosions of growth and beauty, the radiant colours, the scents, the sheer energy of life, which is at its maximum right now.

In the story I referred to earlier, when the sky-gazing father and the ground-observant little child return home, mum gives them sandwiches and hot chocolate. And then she asks the usual mum sort of question: ‘How was the universe?’ asked my mother. ‘It was beautiful’, I said, ‘and funny.’

**Colin Gibson**