



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)

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| <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: <a href="mailto:elaineross@xtra.co.nz">elaineross@xtra.co.nz</a> | 489 7663 |
| <b>Pastoral Convenor</b>      | Beryl Neutze   | 476 7447 |
| <b>Mornington:</b>            |  |          |

## PARISH BULLETIN

13<sup>th</sup> November 2016

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

|          |            |                |
|----------|------------|----------------|
| 9.30 am  | Mornington | H Watson White |
| 9.30 am  | Mosgiel    | S Pole         |
| 11.00 am | Glenaven   | H Watson White |
| 11.00 am | Wesley     | S Pole         |
| 1.00 pm  | St Kilda   | TBA            |

**PARISH SERVICES ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER** - Because of the Wesley Church Service of celebration at 1pm on this Sunday, the Parish will have only two services in morning. Only the Mosgiel and the Mornington Churches will have their service at 9.30am. That will allow other churches to get ready for our Parish service at 1pm.

**MID- WEEK SERVICE** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2pm This will be a Carol Service so come along and sing your favourite Carols afternoon tea to follow ALL WELCOME.



**EAST TAIERI CHURCH**  
www.etchurch.co.nz

**MOSGIEL MEMORIAL RSA**

**Christmas Lunch**

At the Mosgiel RSA

**Doors open at 11.45am and food will be served at 12 o'clock**

**Christmas carols will be sung and there will be surprises for all!**

**Food and drinks will be free.....just bring yourselves along and enjoy the lunch!**

**(Please note no alcohol will be served)**

**GARAGE SALE** - Just a reminder for the Garage Sale at Wesley Church next Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> of November, 10am – 2pm. The purpose of this garage sale is to sell Fa'a Patekalani's (from Papua) stuff that is stored at Wesley Church before the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. We need some people to help set up the tables on Friday evening in the hall. Please come if you are free. Please call us if you are willing to help. Greg Hughson (4876226), Siosifa Pole (4552923)

**WESLEY CONGREGATION MEETING** - There will be a meeting with the Wesley congregation on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of November after the service to make decisions about the future of the congregation in light of the Celebration Service on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. I invite all the members of the Wesley congregation to please attend this meeting.

**PRAYER REQUEST** - Please pray for the members of the Wesley congregation for direction and assurance about their future. For those who are available to contact them, please do so to make them feel supported at this time.

**NOT LONG BACK** from SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL convention in Las Vegas, sisters Lynley Kloogh and Robyn Abernethy are still basking in the glow of the experience, not least of which was being part of a very successful Christchurch City Chorus that was judged FIFTH in the world, and then by the popular choice of the audience (about 9000!!) they won the MOST ENTERTAINING award. The experience has left both Lynley and Robyn wanting more, so who can say what potential is left in these Kiwi girls to win acclaim on the world stage? And as for Vegas??!! Lynley seemed only capable of superlatives - "like moving to another planet" she said - on one hand massive light pollution, but on the other hand, scrupulously clean and tidy, the ultimate tourist destination. Regrets - being so close to the Grand Canyon and the



Hoover Dam and having no time to visit. Didn't ask whether they visited the Trump Casino - not the right question, I suspect. Lynley and Robyn were given flowers - congratulations, and welcome home! Photo - Robyn (left) and Lynley with their medals.

**ADVENT STUDY SERIES** - Will start on November 30<sup>th</sup> at Mosgiel Church, 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **PARISH FUTURE INITIATIVES**

Over a series of afternoon sessions, a dedicated parish group have met to develop a future vision for our Parish. One outcome was the following mission statement and aims.

The Dunedin Methodist Parish seeks  
to nurture the Spirit of God in all,  
to stimulate and challenge the mind,  
to practise love and justice and care for people and all creation.

### **Aims**

1. To thrive on the nourishment of the Spirit.
2. To promote the experience and understanding of God as reflected in Jesus
3. To foster openness, diversity and inclusiveness
4. To develop a model of church that enables it to carry out its mission within its contemporary setting.

The next stage is to engage with congregations to prioritise the working out of these aims in practice. We have quite a list, so you will be asked to discuss them in small groups (as part of the morning worship service), and choose what you and your congregation discern is right for the future of the Methodist presence in your area. We want this to be workable, with commitment from people, and a timeframe for action.

We also note that we will be writing a Parish Profile for stationing next year, and this will greatly help that process.

Mornington Nov 20

Glenaven Nov 13

Mosgiel Nov 27

## TO CELEBRATE PSYCHOLOGY WEEK (21-27<sup>th</sup> November)

The Otago Southland Branch of the New Zealand Psychological Society invites you to a public lecture on

**Living Life Well**, Featuring:

**Damian Newell** (Dunedin City Councillor, The Breeze radio announcer) as MC

**Dr Denise Quinlan** - Living life well: what that looks like for you

**Dr Kumari Valentine** - I ♥ my #mind: using psychology & technology for wellbeing

**Kate Brookie** – The role of a healthy diet in psychological wellbeing

**Dr Damian Scarf** - Let's Stay Together: Building and Maintaining Group Memberships Improves Mental Health and Wellbeing

Also featuring science project highlights from the 2016 Aurora Science fair

When: **Wednesday 23rd November** 5:30pm-7:00pm

Where: **Hutton Theatre**, Otago Museum, Dunedin

## STORY FROM THE MISSION

*Incredible years programme:* On the Incredible Years programme, parents have learned about the value of keeping their instructions clear and simple so that children understand exactly what their parents want them to do. One parent said she is a lot less stressed after thinking about this, because when she speaks slowly and calmly to her daughter, the little girl is much more likely to do as she is asked. Another mother said that instead of just telling her children 'clear up!', at which they often complained or refused, she gave each child a specific task to do and found that they did as they were asked and tidied the room.

We had a great story from a mother who used 'proximal praise', a technique we learned about a few weeks ago, to praise one of her sons



who was sitting at the dinner table eating nicely, while ignoring the misbehaviour of her other son who had jumped down and was playing instead of eating. After a few minutes of hearing his brother being praised and given attention, the other boy quietly sat back up at the table and started eating! The mother commented on how different this positive approach was from her previous one of shouting at her son to sit up for dinner and ignoring the son who was already at the table. Everyone remained calm and relaxed and her partner said 'Wow, it really worked!'

**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.**



**DOES HALLOWEEN** have anything to say to us about building (or diminishing) community?

On one night every year for the last four years we have carefully prepared our house to give the impression that we are not at home. What, you might ask, has caused this annual precaution? Let me give you some clues. About four years ago when the day of Halloween came around, we innocently answered the door to some young people wearing not very creative Halloween costumes and looking too old to be participating in what has become a children's dress-up, lolly-begging outing. Sadly, we had forgotten the significance of the date and were unprepared for the request of a "treat". With much apology, we sent the young people on their way. In response our agitated guests, delivered a series of eggs onto the back of our car and the side of our house. Naturally, this experience did not endear us to future Halloween celebrations. So we have chosen to avoid any unpleasant encounters by going into lockdown mode. I am sure many people could give us advice as to how better one might respond to a situation like this.

Now that, Halloween for this year has come and gone without incident, I am prompted to wonder about the origins and history of this celebration. Here is what I have gleaned from one account of the origins of Halloween.

As far as we can tell, Halloween comes to us from the old Celtic celebration held at the end of summer, marking that time when the spirits were beginning to stir more actively. According to popular lore, the spirits come out at night: as summer wanes, the days get shorter, the winter nights get longer and the goblins have more 'dark' time to work their mischief. To appease the spirits in leading up to the longer haunting time, pagans offered treats ensuring they were kept safe from the spirits' tricks. Of course, among the Celts, as always, there were those cunning citizens who were not above a little deceit; so some took to disguising themselves as evil spirits. In that disguise, people hoped the real spirits would leave them alone; and also, their disguise enabled them to go around stealing the treats people left for the real spirits. That's where we get the "trick or treat" tradition.

It was this kind of pagan rite that Christians met when they came to Ireland. As was their wise custom, they did not do away with Halloween altogether, but rather they baptised it; that is, they picked out what was true and edged out the superstitions. After all, the Christians figured, there is a spirit world – the angels, the saints in heaven – so maybe it was a good opportunity to draw these pagans into remembering all the spirits, but as kindly friends, as members of the mystical body, the communion of saints, as all of God's people, both living and dead, now united with us in his love. So the pagan custom of appeasing the spirits became the Christian holy time of remembering them; that is to say, to re–member, to re-join them in a vast holy community. Thus, All Hallows Eve emerged. The word hallow means holy, as in "hallowed be thy name". The celebration became a time of holy connection rather than an unholy time of fear. (The egg

throwing incident we experienced four years ago, seems a long way away from a hallowing and holy time!)

Once the notion of remembering the holy ones now deceased was in place, it became relatively easy to introduce, in the fourth century, the feast of those spirits who weren't moving around, but were interceding for us. And so emerged the feast of All Saints placed at the end of summer, the day after All Hallows Eve.

This whole mix ultimately reminded everyone of what incredible connections we have – a reminder especially needed in those days of rampant individualism: everyone on earth, in heaven and on earth, are all part of one family of God. We are indeed what Jesus said: Vine and branches. At their heart, the feasts Halloween and All Saints, say we are all connected. We are never alone. We interact. We form one vast communion of saints and these feast days remind us of this great truth.

Like Christmas, Halloween, has been co-opted by the marketplace and has lost much of its spiritual power. How many, when sending their children out to “trick or treat” think of the faith connections of this celebration? When I turn my gaze close to home and consider our own actions in closing the curtains and refusing to answer the door each 31 October, I see our disconnecting from community as a contradiction of the heart and intention of Halloween. There is no community building in our response.

On the other hand our actions also remind us of how far faith understandings have disappeared from the consciousness of our modern communities. I, for one, would be happy to see Halloween die a natural death, particularly since we have recently bought a new car and had the outside of our house newly painted!!

Rod Mitchell