



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
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Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600
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Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett: elaineros@xtra.co.nz	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

14th May 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 21st May

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	D Phillipps
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT Sunday 21 May
2.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. All welcome. Cost \$2 There will be items from the Mornington Methodist Choir, piano music by NZ composers and Eli Gray-Smith, who is 90 this month, will talk about his life in music.



MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH MID-WEEK SERVICE, Wednesday 17th May, Mosgiel Church, 2pm. All are welcome.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - The May Meeting will take place on the 24th May at 2 p.m. in the Church. All welcome to come along & see some of the wonderful Street Art around Dunedin. This will be presented by Brian & Sue. Don't forget The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

GAMES NIGHT for all the Parish to be held at Mosgiel Methodist Church Hall on **Saturday 27 May at 7pm**. Mark this on your calendar. See you there for a fun night. Please bring any board games that you would like to play.



POINTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at Mornington Wed 10th May,

- We have almost got the Parish Profile ready to send on to Synod then the Connexion. Each congregation and many people have contributed to make this a good document.
- Please note the date: **Sunday 10th September**. We plan to have a combined service at Knox church with the person delivering this year's Peace Lecture as the guest preacher.
- We will be highlighting the parish finances later in the year.
- St Kilda youth have been to Wellington to participate in the annual Vahefonua meeting/gathering. Quite an adventure with 3 vans in convoy all the way there and back. We give thanks for a safe trip. The Tongan congregation had an Easter Camp at Araiteuru marae.
- The Explorers Group have written a detailed report on Leadership in the Church as requested by the Parish Council. Questions came from the Faith and Order Committee of Conference. Thankyou!

Income

Offerings

Glenaven	\$4,200.57	
Mornington	36,323.40	
Mosgiel	8,630.50	
St Kilda	5,000.00	
Wesley	2,267.50	56,421.97
Glenaven Property	7,515.00	
Rental Income	35,352.29	
Other Income	4,970.62	
	<u>104,259.88</u>	104,259.88

Expenses

Ministry	56,461.56	
Ministry Rental	14,350.00	
Removal Fund	1,019.97	
Connexional Budget	5,508.00	
District Expenses	2,958.00	
Property Expenses	19,350.56	
Other Expenses	6,015.60	
Conference	2,013.00	
	<u>107,876.69</u>	107,676.69

- **CONNECTIONS - THE 2014 BOOK.** There is continued demand for the booklet we gave away to every member of our Parish mid-year 2014. We have met requests from interested parties and our small supply has run down to none, ZILCH !!
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- Do you have a spare copy in your house??? Or, have you read *Connections* and would be willing to return your copy so that we can keep on with our policy of giving the book to important visitors as a symbol of the life of our Parish ??
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- Either way, would you consider returning the gift of *Connections* in the same spirit as it was given to you?? We would very much like to replenish our small reserve stock. Please help us.
- ****Call Ken Russell at Ph 455.3727 and he'll be pleased to collect your gift. THANKS****

**TRUMPISM, BREXIT,
NEO-LIBERALISM,
THE GOSPEL AND THE
GENERAL ELECTION**

*A power-point presentation
and discussion led by Bishop
Richard Randerson*

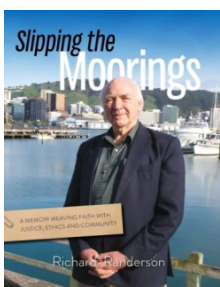


7.30pm, Wednesday, 17 May 2017
Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway St, Dunedin

A meal is available at 6pm for \$15: book with Judy Russell on
Tel 455 3727

About the Topic We live in troubled times with growing numbers in western society marginalised, and alienated, through poverty, homelessness and related causes. This seminar examines the socio-economic realities for New Zealand and offers a critique of the neo-liberal values which underpin them. By contrast, Gospel values of mutuality and well-being raise critical questions about choices for all Kiwis in the September election.

Richard Randerson is a retired Anglican bishop, now living in Wellington, whose 50 years in ministry have focused on the Church's engagement with the wider society, addressing issues of poverty and justice, ethics in the public square, and contemporary issues of theology and inter-faith. randersonjr@paradise.net.nz
Tel 04 976 6050



Slipping the Moorings: Richard's 2015 book addresses the above issues, along with same-sex relationships, ethics in the Public Square, God in the 21st century, and the future of the Church. It will be available on the night for \$25 (\$20 unwaged). Books may be invoiced if desired.



UNITY IN DIVERSITY, is what it's all about as far as the DUNEDIN INTER-FAITH COUNCIL is concerned. Here they are, a smaller number than usual, at their monthly meeting on Sunday, this time at Mornington Methodist.



The Council seeks to give expression to beliefs and values held in common by the varied religious traditions represented in the Dunedin community. It's sometimes hard going, but there is no doubt as to the commitment of those who meet regularly in pursuit of the goal - the unity and goodwill of all peoples of faith.



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Hub: We have had an exciting and busy time at the Hub this month with a

visit from the Prime Minister and Hon Michael Woodhouse. Whanau Tautoko services also came to visit and were interested in finding out what the Hub offered to the community and how the many groups used the Hub and what impact this has had for Whanau/ Families who use the services provided. They will be compiling a report for Te Pūtahitanga our new service partner. Wild Things in home child care, with support from the Ministry

of Ed has launched their new multi ethnic playgroup which will be on Friday mornings during term time, providing a playgroup for mothers and their children 0-5 from refugee and migrant backgrounds. The Hub has also hosted 20 children and their Teachers from Pioneers Childcare centre who came for the day while their centre was without power.

If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission.



SEEDING COMMUNITIES: ST COLUMBA AND IONA

This is the time of year a large chunk of the worldwide Church remembers St Columba, the sixth-century Irish monk who founded the Iona community (at first a monastery) on an island in what is now Scotland. Tradition says he landed on the island of Iona on the eve of Whitsunday -- Pentecost -- in the year 563AD.

Many stories of his life and work were gathered after Columba's death by a distant relative called Adomnan, also a saint, who was the ninth abbot of Iona, from 679 to 704AD. His *Life of St Columba* reached me through the Celtic library of the late Revd Helene Mann. Her books are housed in the chapter room in St Paul's Cathedral, where (quarterly) we celebrate a Celtic-style communion.

Although Columba's dates appear so early, he was not of course the first to spread the gospel in the west and north of Britain. Born three generations after the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, he received well-established traditions of learning, mission and service before passing them on. Columba saw a great expansion of the faith in Ireland and Scotland, at a time when the monastic

ideal caught the imagination of recently converted people and drew large numbers of them into the religious life. By the time he died, however, most Scots and many Irish were still pagan. As in other countries and eras, the gospel was grafted onto a pre-existing religion, adopting some of the character of its context.

The communities Columba and others founded not only survived but flourished after the death of their founder-patrons, through the transmission of stories -- legends, really, about a saint's prophetic or miraculous powers. Stories were a sort of "devotional truth", says Richard Sharpe, modern-day translator of Adomnan's *Life of St Columba*, quite obviously imitating the miracle stories about Jesus, none of which can be verified as a 'true' historical record. But it has to be repeated, weekly if necessary: in the minds of the gospel writers and all who wrote the Hebrew Bible there was no notion of factuality or history as we know it.

In the present age of what is shockingly described as 'alternative facts' or 'alternative news', we do have to take seriously the idea that everyone writes their own version of history in their minds, re-writing what others have conceived as unalterable truth. The negative side of this has important ramifications for 'objective' journalism. On the positive side, however, much-embroidered stories are the reason why Judaism and Christianity survived to the present day.

What has survived, indeed, is a sense of community much larger than the family or monastic community, originally a cell-group of minds and hearts intent on prayer: what we have now is a worldwide human web of imaginative connections, evolved through millennia from pre-historic people talking around a fire. My encyclopedia tells me the earliest human dwellings have been dated to 50,000BC; Scotland has been inhabited for some 8,500 years; Aboriginal peoples in Australia date back 40,000 years... As

soon as language arose, there were stories. Stories are what bound a family together, then a clan, then larger groupings, including faith communities.

Like the story of Columba, some of the tales still told in the Global Village are pretty old, and some are older than old. You think 563AD is old? I watched a fascinating TV programme about the Orkney Islands, where some of both John's and my ancestors lived. In 1999 a UNESCO World Heritage Site was formed there, including a cluster of houses making up Northern Europe's best-preserved Neolithic (late Stone Age) village. In 2009, at the Ness of Brodgar in the Orkneys, archaeologists discovered another extensive complex of stone-built structures. A typical dwelling had decoration and art as well as the basics: niches for sleeping and -- especially -- space around a large hearth in the centre, for cooking, eating and story-telling. Even more impressive were the ruins of a unique 82ft x65ft Neolithic 'cathedral' of stone, with walls that must have been abnormally high, considering that in a ruined state they are, at the base, 16ft (over 5m) THICK.

Part of the nearby World Heritage Site are the Standing Stones of Stenness -- 4 remaining pillars of a circle very like Stonehenge, the largest 19ft high. Stonehenge is said to be built in about 2800BC, but the 'cathedral' was found to be even older. Experts are concluding that not only did the Orkney 'cathedral' pre-date Stonehenge, the Ness of Brodgar complex in its entirety was a cultural and religious centre which influenced all of Britain, dating from before 3000BC. There is a whole network of Stonehenges on the archeological map of the British Isles, and it was on the Orkneys that Celtic people seem to have learned to combine their ritual worship with remarkable engineering feats in stone.

-- Helen Watson White