

# DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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



**Find us on Facebook: Dunedin Methodist Parish**

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## PARISH BULLETIN

**21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	G Davis
11.00 am	Glenaven	D Poultney
	St Kilda	TBA

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00 pm	Mornington MWF	Mornington church
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> March	4.30 pm	Explorers	Mornington Church
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	9.30 am	Walking the Cross	

**MONTHLY MEETING of the MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm at the Mornington Methodist Church.**

All are invited to join the Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship meeting to hear of our Special Project for 2021.

The meeting will be addressed by Eileen Stephen from St John. Please join us to hear of this project and then share in a social afternoon tea.

**NEXT SUNDAY, 28TH,** David is taking both the Mornington and Glenaven services.

**THE MORNINGTON CHOIR** was recorded singing on 19th Nov 2019 a selection of songs selected by their leader Colin Gibson and the majority of that choir have also added their personal thoughts on their membership of it. These treasures of the choir's output are now available either as a 2 CD set or on a USB memory stick. If you would like a copy in either format or multiple copies please contact Cam Weston on 021 995 130 or 03 4545600 to place an order. Due to a donation which funded this project there is no charge for a copy in either format.

**QUIET DAYS FOR SPIRITUAL RETREATS** - You are invited to a quiet time apart with God in the lovely environment of St Margaret's Anglican Church, 4 Seaview Terrace, Brighton. A brief sharing at beginning and end, then a silent time. You use the time and facilities as best work for you. Bring your own lunch. A koha is appreciated.

Friday March 26, April 23, June 25, July 23, August 27 and October 22. You must register: contact Maureen Harley (021) 107 1401 or (03) 456 0573 or [maugernz@gmail.com](mailto:maugernz@gmail.com).

**CALLING ALL EXPLORERS** - Our first meeting for the year will be held in the Mornington Methodist church lounge, Galloway Street on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March, from 4.30 to 5.30pm. An opportunity to air and share our individual theological grumbles, groans and grouches gracefully. Try us, if you are doing some thinking about your own faith or the state of the world. We are an up-front, friendly bunch, our conversations are informal and we welcome all comers and all shades of opinion. And bring a friend.

### **GOOD FRIDAY WALK AROUND CHURCHES IN MORNINGINGTON:**

Begin to walk From Catholic church 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 9.30; move to Presbyterians; then to Methodist, and final stop is at Anglicans. About 15-minute service at each church. Rod.

**LENTEN STUDIES** - Each THURSDAY @ 2pm at 40 Forth Street, Mosgiel. All very welcome PLEASE COME TO SUPPORT DAVID as he puts a lot of effort into our studies which helps us to centre on EASTER.

### **FAITH THINKING EVENT**

Seeing Jesus as a Victim of Sexual Abuse: Biblical, Pastoral, and Theological Perspectives. Professor David Tombs, Centre for Theology and Public Issues, Theology Programme, University of Otago. Friday 26 March, 7:00-9:00pm and Saturday 27 March, 9:00am- 12.30pm, The Gathering Area, Knox Church, 449, George Street, Dunedin

This Course costs \$20. Numbers for this course are limited to 40. Faith Thinking courses are jointly organised between the Theology Programme and some Dunedin Churches, and supported by Continuing Education at the University of Otago. To enrol go to: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation/index.html>



## STORIES FROM THE MISSION

### ***Waihopai YTH***

A long staying resident has transitioned out of the YTH in Waihōpai after almost a year with us. He worked hard and closely with myself and Taituarā a Hāpori (Specialist Support) to find sustainable accommodation. He did all his own paperwork and took initiative to ensure everything was ready and complete for his transition date. He is doing well in his new residence and enjoying his independence.

### ***Dunedin Little Citizens***

We have had Kiwi Harvest offer us food to give to our whānau, lately we were given UHT milk in small cartons, cereal, baby food etc. I had a parent look at the food and say she went to the supermarket to buy weetbix but couldn't afford it and was so grateful we had weetbix to hand out, she was very appreciative.`

Kiwi Harvest are keen to provide any spare food they have to us, it usually has a short use by date.

**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**



## LENT AMID FALLING LEAVES

I often find myself teaching about or explaining the structure of the Church year. This is inherently difficult in Aotearoa New Zealand as the Church year evolved in the Northern Hemisphere and amid the cycle of the seasons there.

This means that the prayers and hymns we have inherited for the feasts and fasts of the year refer to the seasons there. Think of the Carol In The Bleak Midwinter. A hymn resonant with the northern European winter. A carol that is abidingly popular here though it is utterly removed from our summer.

And now we are in Lent, the very name comes from a word meaning lengthening, referring to the lengthening of daylight hours as Spring progresses. And of course Easter is saturated in Spring imagery, the Paschal lamb becomes the Spring lamb. Churches in Europe are riot of flowers at Easter.

Yet our experience of Lent is different, days are getting shorter. Summer slips away into autumn, flowers fade and leaves fall. How should we live with the tension of this? The tension we live with between our received tradition and our lived experience.

Many of us are, I suspect, good at mental bracketing. We just no longer hear the seasonal references or we discount it anyway. For some of us this will be enough.

But wait, there can be more! A healthy spirituality doesn't discount context it embraces it and finds expression in it.

So then what of Lent amid the falling leaves? What of Lent amid the first cold mornings, amid grey skies and rain and in summer's last hurrah?

I ask the question without an answer up my sleeve. Answers are to be found out in a shared reflection. In asking what works?

I wonder, for example, if we can learn from the falling of the leaves over Lent. As trees shed their leaves their wood is more and more exposed. Just as the culmination of Lent is the wood of the Cross.

St. Francis de Sales tells us that Lent is the autumn of the spiritual life. He wrote that Lent, which is rooted in the story of Jesus in the wilderness, strips us and reveals the truth of us. Just like falling leaves reveal the wood of the tree. Every season has lessons, every season opens up aspects of our faith and spirituality.

Here are the familiar words of AA 77 The Sacrament of the Seasons  
 Jesus comes to me as a springtime tree  
 and I receive him as a springtime tree  
 Fragrant the blossoming of the child,  
 fresh with laughter, free and wild,  
 and carrying the green of summer.

Jesus comes to me as a summer tree  
 and I receive him as a summer tree.  
 Warm in the sun and richly laid  
 with patterns of growth through light and shade,  
 and carrying the fire of autumn.

Jesus comes to me as an autumn tree  
and I receive him as an autumn tree.  
Season of ripeness, brightly ablaze  
like a torch in the quietness of closing days  
and carrying the wood of winter.

Jesus comes to me as a winter tree  
and I receive him as a winter tree.  
Gentle the cross and gentle the snow,  
gentle the path where he and I go,  
carrying the buds of spring.

May every season be a window into truth David Poultney