

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



Find us on Facebook: Dunedin Methodist Parish

Presbyters	Rev David Poultney	974 6172
	Mobile phone	022 350 2263
	Office phone	466 3023
	Office email	parish@mmsouth.org.nz
	Rev Dr Rod Mitchell	027 647 7003
		roddieg@xtra.co.nz
Parish Stewards	Mrs Jan Stewart	473 9141
	John Hardy	472 7377
	Ross Merrett	489 7663
Tongan Steward	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
		elaineross@xtra.co.nz
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	477 7377
Mornington		
Parish Office		466 4600
		bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz

PARISH BULLETIN

1st August 2021

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8 August 2021

9.30 am	Mornington	D Poultney
10.00 am	Mosgiel	D James
11.00 am	Glenaven	D Poultney
	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 3rd August – Mosgiel Womens Fellowship, 1.30pm (Hall Lounge)
 Wednesday 4th August – Mornington Leaders Meeting, 7.30pm

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMENS FELLOWSHIP next meeting will be held in our hall lounge on Tuesday 3rd August, at 1.30pm. Our speakers will be The Travel Twins, Daphne & Laraine. They are always more interesting. All very welcome.

MORNINGTON LEADERS MEETING this Wednesday, 4th August at 7.30pm. Please note change in date.

GLENAVEN PEOPLE please note that there will be no service at Glenaven on two weekends in a row, Sunday **22 August** and Sunday **29 August**. On the 22nd we have accepted the kind invitation of Revd Ruth Doig to join St Martin's NEV (up some steps at 194 North Rd) for their Anglican communion service at **10.30am**. On **29 August**, it being the fifth Sunday in the month, we will join the Parish Combined service at Mornington Methodist at **10am**, when Prof. Paul Trebilco will be the visiting preacher. As usual we are bringing finger-food to share at morning tea after the combined service.



Tokomairiro Community Hub Taituarā a Hāpori

Another client dropped into the Hub - they were on ACC and needed help with some paperwork. They needed navigation support working through what they were entitled to with ACC. It was tricky as a historic leasing situation was classed as extra income. Once the way forward was clarified he didn't feel as though he needed to come back as he thought he was given enough information.

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



Susan Benson Hamel is a recent newcomer to the Mornington congregation where she has quickly become involved in congregational life. She is a recent graduate of One Spirit Interfaith Seminary in New York City. This tells something of her story. She is currently in quarantine after returning from the United States. We look forward to welcoming her into membership soon, to acknowledging and celebrating her own journey and to her sharing wisdom from time to time as a preacher

MY JOURNEY TO INTERFAITH SPIRITUALITY

“There will be no peace among the nations without peace among the religions. There will be no peace among the religions without dialogue among the religions.” —Hans Küng

It was a belief in the strength of dialogue which led me to the path of interfaith ministry. After the terrible tragedy of the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center in New York, I felt a strong calling to attend seminary, but it took about 20 years before I was able to make this dream a reality. The toll of war carried out in the name of religious faith had only been increasing in that time; Israel vs Palestine, India vs Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan vs the USA as well as conflicts in the Balkans, Sudan, Africa and Myanmar have left thousands dead and millions displaced.

I am a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers Aotearoa New Zealand Tē Hāhi Tūhauwiri). The Quaker values of peace, integrity, equality, simplicity and sustainability still inform my life practices but I wanted something more: the ability to minister to others of different faiths and callings, or even no faith at all. So I decided, in 2019, to sign up for the Interfaith/Interspiritual Seminary program offered by One Spirit Learning Alliance in New York City. This learning center was founded in 2002 by Rev Diane Berke to train interfaith ministers to serve in a complex and interrelated multicultural world and support those working for peace and justice.

Though it may seem unfamiliar and new, the interfaith movement has been growing and developing over many years. The 1893 Parliament of World Religions is often seen as the beginning of the interfaith movement, bringing together members of the Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Moslem, Jain, Bahá'í and other faiths. This parliament continues to meet and encourage a global dialogue between faiths to promote peace and understanding. The last meeting in 2018, was opened by an address by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Locally, the Dunedin area is privileged to host two groups working to create peace and understanding between peoples; The Interfaith Council includes members from the Latter-day Saints, Buddhists, several Christian faiths, Quakers and others, while the Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group brings together Jews, Christians and Muslims in dialogue.

My two years at One Spirit was intense and I made lifelong friendships. I studied both major and minor spiritual traditions throughout the world so that I would be able to listen to others with some understanding of their beliefs, and speak without prejudice or misconceptions. I learned how to create services to mark life's milestones; baby naming ceremonies, weddings and funerals. But more than that I learned to walk with others on their spiritual journeys, providing support and companionship without proselytising for any given faith. I trust in Spirit to lead people on the path that is uniquely suited to their life and circumstances.

Though I learned a great deal at One Spirit I feel as though I have only begun on my journey towards effective ministry. I plan to undertake a Post Graduate Certificate in Chaplaincy at the University of Otago next year. While this qualification is focussed on Christian theological practice, I believe it will give me more tools with which to help others navigate the exigencies of life and faith. Serving at Mornington Methodist will give me experience in the real world and that is what I look forward to the most.

Susan Benson Hamel