

# 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

15th August 2021

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 22 August 2021

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

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sun 22 Aug - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** Mosgiel Church



## **METHODIST MISSION ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

is on the move. We are moving from our current premises in Teviot Street to 258 Stuart Street,

Dunedin. Therefore, the deadline for all notices/orders of service for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September will be noon on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August. All printing will need to be picked up between 12noon – 3pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September. The office at Teviot Street will be closed Thursday & Friday (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> September), reopening on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September in Stuart Street. All phone numbers remain the same.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Mosgiel Church - August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

There will be a Congregational meeting at Mosgiel after Sunday Worship next week, the Leader's Meeting seeks your approval for its proposed solution to the question of floor covering in the Church. David Poultney, Chair of the Leaser's Meeting

**AGM REPORTS:** A reminder: Mosgiel please start on your AGM reports thank you.

## **MORNINGTON CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:**

There will be a short congregational meeting following the service on August 22nd to seek approval for proceeding with the seismic strengthening of the church hall.

## **REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL on the August 2021 Meeting of Synod**

- Our recent Synod was hosted at Mosgiel, which offered its hospitality on behalf of the parish.
- We were joined for Synod by the President of the MCNZ, Andrew Doubleday. Andrew shared something of his insights and experiences from his time as President.

- We noted the imminent retirement of the Rev Peter Taylor and I described the process to try and fill the upcoming vacancy at Invercargill.
- One of the tasks of August Synods is the nomination of candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency, Synod is nominating the Rev Peter Taylor to both for both of these positions though he will not be considered as a vice presidential candidate if there is a credible lay or diaconal candidate for President.
- The usual round of reports to August Synod was quite light, though we had a paper from Faith and Order – which I authored – on celebrating the Eucharist over Social Media. We also looked briefly at the Church’s safety strategy.
- As of the beginning of February, Rachael Masterton is stepping down from all her roles in Synod. I will be a “sole” or “stand alone” Superintendent and we need to find a person or more likely three people to fill the roles of Synod Secretary, Lay Representative to Strategy and Stationing and Treasurer.

David Poultney

## **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

- Parish Council gave approval to the request from Mornington Leader's Meeting for consent for the seismic strengthening of Mornington Hall. This is now referred to Synod for its consent.
- We urge members of the parish to continue to sign in, use track and trace and to use the hand gel provided.
- St Kilda are planning an extension to their hall at some point
- Mornington services are now filmed and uploaded to YouTube
- Our congregations are engaged in exploring how the future might be. What are your hopes and dreams for the future?

David Poultney

Chair of Parish Council

## **METHODISTS UNITE!**

Open Education brings the parish its first opportunity to meet and welcome our new General Secretary, Tara Tautari, on Wednesday 18 August at 7.30pm, in the Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, as she shares with us her vision for our Church as we go forward into an uncertain future.

Tara brings to her new job a wealth of community development and ecumenical experience. She has worked in a number of roles with the World Council of Churches as a Special Adviser to the General Secretary and a coordinator of Global Training. In New Zealand she has worked as a teacher, policy analyst and Parliamentary Support Person. She is a member of the Board of Christian World Service. Make sure that you are there to hear her and share the conversation. Your koha will help to support Christian World Service.



## **STORIES FROM THE MISSION**

### **Ōtepoti Youth Transition House**

A resident is planning to leave the house this month. They are planning to move into a flating situation with some non-binary university students and feel that they have made the right choice. They are well prepared, confident and able to now move forward into independent accommodation and put their plans and goals into action.

**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**

## FAITH THINKING

August-November 2021

*Short Courses jointly offered by the Theology Programme, University of Otago and some Dunedin Churches in conjunction with Continuing Education at the University of Otago.*



PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT [www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation](http://www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation)

Faith Thinking on Zoom Wednesday August 18, 7.00-8.15pm

“It’s all Greek to me! The New Testament in Text & Translation”

Dr Katie Marcar, Theology Programme, University of Otago

COST: Free but please register to receive the Zoom link



## ON NURTURING SPIRITUALITY

It is my sense that even in Churches we are a little self conscious and wary about talking about spirituality, either giving account of ours or enquiring after someone else’s. Particularly in more liberal congregations spirituality is often a private affair, something we should perhaps be self conscious of and guarded about. But if we do not talk about it how can we understand what it is for, how can we nurture it?

We are probably becoming used to the tag “spiritual but not religious.” Behind it is the idea that we might not be religious but we can be spiritual people, indeed sometimes it comes with the charge that religion can

wound and inhibit spirituality; something I would not deny. I once heard an interesting take on this by a Jewish speaker from the Reconstructionist branch of Judaism. Jewish Reconstructionism tends to dwell on the theological cutting edge, its practitioners generally reject any God “out there” and see Judaism as both the creation of and part of the evolving experience of the Jewish people. However religious practice is cultivated whereas Christians who come to similar understandings

often reject a continuing practice of religion. Reconstructionists hold that observing the rituals, keeping the fasts and feasts and marking the life cycle in traditional Jewish ways helps transmit values, identity and culture.

There are obvious differences between Jews, who in all their diversity are less than twenty million people and who share a sense of peoplehood, and Christians who number over two billion and cover an enormous diversity of cultures and ethnicities. However could it be that the rituals of Christianity convey and contain something that is of value even when the faith has ebbed away? It is interesting how when churches decide to close often the greatest resistance is from members of the local community who might have never darkened the door of the local church. We saw this very much in the insistence that the Anglican Cathedral in Christchurch be rebuilt as it had been. Likewise many of those who are most passionately fond of *The Book of Common Prayer*, *The King James Bible* and even the Latin Mass are not “religious.”

Perhaps Methodism doesn't have such *taonga* – well maybe the hymns of Charles Wesley – but I think there is a challenge there for those of us who prepare liturgy to craft words, practices, rituals which nurture something deep within us. Something that remains even if the tenets of religious faith are loosened and affiliation to a religious body ends. Something which perhaps sparks imagination enough to keep people involved with the faith community.

Spirituality belongs to all of us, whether or not we are religious. Clearly for many people their practice of a religion nurtures their spirituality, for others the experience has proved stifling.

Spirituality is there in our longing for a sense of connection, in our understanding our place in an unfolding narrative, be that our place in the unfolding of our family from one generation to the next or indeed in the unfolding of life itself. Spirituality is there in our search for an

integrated self, for peace of mind and ethical integrity. May our Sunday words and rituals, our hymns, our poetry and our open exploration nurture our spirits; wherever the spiritual journey takes us.

**David Poultney**