

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



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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
	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

7 AUGUST 2022

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 14 AUGUST 2022

9.30am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11.00am	Glenaven	No Service

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING to be held in the Mosgiel Methodist Church on Wednesday 10 August at 7:30pm. If you have any items of business, you wish the Council to deal with, please send them to Fay Richardson at malk_com@hotmail.co to be added to the agenda.

MORNINGTON LEADERS' MEETING

'At the meeting on 2nd August, Colin Gibson advised he will no longer be leading the choir after many appreciated years as Choir leader, nor will he be organizing any future open education programmes and will no longer be able to report on the activities of the Explorers' Group. While these last two are currently in recess it is hoped they may resume when the environment allows and if a replacement for Colin shows an interest.



The members of the Leaders' meeting accepted Colin's advice with much sadness and collectively offered their sincere thanks for the years of dedication Colin had devoted to these aspects of the life of our church community.'



This article is based on an article in the book 'A Bee in a Cathedral- and 99 other Scientific Analogies.' By Joel Levy.

I have recently celebrated my 80th birthday. In light of this, I want to reflect in this connections article on the very old paradox of the puzzle of 'the Ship of Theseus'

The ship of Theseus is a philosophical paradox based on a relic supposedly preserved by the ancient Athenians. According to the 1st century Greek philosopher Plutarch:

"The ship wherein Theseus and the youth of Athena returned had 30 oars, and was preserved by the Athenians down even to the time of Demetrius Phalereus (300 BCE), for they took away old planks as they decayed, putting in new and stronger timber in their place, insomuch

that this ship became a standing example among philosophers, for the logical question of things that grow; one side holding that the ship remained the same, and the other contending that it was not the same.”

In other words, if you replace every part of something, is it the same thing that it was before or something new? This paradox concerning continuity of identity could be said to apply to humans as well. Most cells in the human body are replaced at least once a month, and even those that are not are constantly having their constituent parts – proteins and carbohydrates, for example – recycled, repaired and replaced. (So 80 times 12 = 960 times I have had my cells replaced, so am I the same person as a 1 year old Rod? Clearly not; I am hoping!!!) Are you still the same person you were when younger? It may seem obvious that the answer is yes, but what if someone took all the discarded cells and molecules and reconstituted an exact copy of you with them? Which ‘you’ would be the most authentic one? How our lives might be shaped if we lived knowing that each month – perhaps even each day – we are given the opportunity to make a new start?

In the words of the hymn “The Summons” (Iona Community)

Verses 1 and 4:

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Rod Mitchell