

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



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

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PARISH BULLETIN

4 December 2022

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 11 December 2022

9.30am	Mornington	S Hamel
10.00am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11.00am	Glenaven	G Hughson

ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK



The Mission Office will be closed from Midday Friday 23rd December with the Parish team returning to work Monday 16 January 2023.

Would you please ensure that your Orders of Service over this period (the dates 18th December through to 15th January 2023) are sent no later than **12noon Wednesday 14th December** (bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz).

The final bulletin for 2022 will be Sunday 18th December and the first bulletin for 2023 will be Sunday 22nd January.

Many thanks, Methodist Mission Parish Team

REPORT FROM CONFERENCE

Conference this year met in Kerikeri, normally it meets in the main centres or town that are not quite so out of the way. However this is the bicentenary of Methodism in New Zealand, which began in Northland. Before Conference began there were a series of organized trips, one might say pilgrimages, to sites associated with the origins of Methodism in this country.

As well as being a physical event Conference was also on Zoom, as there were cases of Covid at Conference (we had a Covid testing station) so choosing to engage on Zoom was a prudent choice. It also mitigated against the significant cost of travel to and accommodation in Kerikeri. Conference met in the Turner Centre, a surprisingly large events venue for a small town.

On the Saturday there was a service to remember and honour those who have died; among those remembered were Jeanette Gibson and Ken Russell. Later that day the new presidential team was inducted; our new president is Peter Taylor, formally presbyter at Invercargill and our Synod Superintendent. Members of Conference had been polled prior to the event on our next presidential team and their names were announced at Conference. Our next presidential team is Te Aroha Rountree and Peter Norman. Te Aroha is from Taha Maori and works at Trinity College. Peter Norman is presbyter at Takapuna Northcote.

Te Aroha will be our first lay president in some time. She has also been appointed as acting Tumuaki or leader of Taha Maori. This is a significant development as Taha Maori had been under an appointed commissioner for several years. It is a return to normal and in our bicultural church makes conversation between the two partners easier.

A major issue at Conference was the recent resignation of the Board of Mission Resourcing. There had been a message a while ago citing a difference in a sense of future direction between the Directors and the nominated members of the Board. As an interim measure the President acts as the Board and provides governance while a new board is appointed.

We had a presentation on the Grafton Downs development, a housing project on land sold by Wesley College. A portion of the profits are given to the Methodist Missions for social housing projects.

We had a presentation on the Methodist Church's participation into the Royal Inquiry on Abuse. Some of the stories we heard were harrowing.

Much emphasis was placed on children and young people, though personally I found the tone of some of the presentations a little patronizing. I felt we were being told off and this is not the best way to engage people.

An interesting point on investment was made by David McGeorge, who is a manager at Tamahere Eventide Village near Hamilton. He questioned the Church's investment in for profit providers of accommodation for elderly people as their business model disadvantages poorer elderly people and the companies involved often conspire to drive up prices. This is to be looked into and divestment may follow. In recent years the Church has intentionally divested from fossil fuel companies.

The Let the Children live initiative has now come to an end, those funds left ringfenced for it will be used for projects with children. There is a new ten year initiative based on Green Initiatives which includes grants for the greening of our buildings. These can be as large as \$100,000.

It was a pleasure to have Donald Phillipps and Laura Black for company at Conference. Donald had a book launch on the last day of Conference; one of three book launches this Conference.

Conference 2023 will be a Zoom based event, Conference 2024 will meet in Wellington.

David Poultney



Christmas Carols

December 11th

(Sunday) 4.30pm

St Mary's Anglican Church

(corner of Lawrence and

Whitby Streets)



Dunedin Community Christmas Dinner

Are you expecting to be alone on Christmas Day?
Please join us for a delicious
free Christmas dinner and entertainment.

Venue: Dunedin Town Hall - Dec 25th - 11:30am



Booking and enquiries to: Dunedin Community House
Phone: 471 6150 or book online dch.org.nz

Booking advised - No alcohol served or permitted

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AN EARLY HYMN BOOK

About one hundred and thirty years ago a visitor and his family walked into the Taranaki Street Methodist church. As they entered the porch that Sunday morning they were greeted by the stewards and handed a small hymnbook. Both the church building and the hymnbook were fresh and new. The building had been opened in 1880. The hymnbook, with the elaborate title of *A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People called Methodists, by the Rev. John Wesley, M.A., sometime Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, With a New Supplement*, had been published in London by the Wesleyan Conference Office in 1876.

Inside the front cover, in ink now faded to a dull brown—no typewriters in those days— someone has written “For the use of Strangers. Wesley Church Taranaki Street Wellington”, and on the opposite page there is the ink drawing of a bird’s head.

The contents of this little book are fascinating. In incredibly small type to a modern eye there are 1028 hymn texts, with an index to every verse. The original 1779 collection is organized by Wesley himself, beginning with hymns exhorting sinners to return to God and ending with hymns for the Society Meeting. Headings suggest an active and vigorous religious life: there are hymns for believers rejoicing, fighting, praying, watching, working, suffering, seeking for full redemption, saved, interceding for the world (note the busy verbs). Strange to our ideas, perhaps, there are hymns for mourners convinced of sin, persons convinced of backsliding and backsliders recovered. There is not a trace of dusty theology or creeds: only hymns of ‘formal’ religion contrasted with ‘inward’ religion.

The New Supplement shows the emergence of a much more formal Church, with the first appearance of select psalms, hymns of the Holy Spirit, His Person, Work and Offices, hymns on Christian ordinances and institutions, and various seasons and occasions, like the Watch Night, Harvest Home or Laying the Foundations of a Chapel. There are some delightful surprises

among them, like hymns for Going on Shipboard, Hymns for the King or Queen, and a hymn in Time of Pestilence.

Here, for *their* Age of Covid is what Methodists once sang:

In grief and fear, to thee, O Lord,	O look with pity on the scene
We now for succour fly,	Of sadness and of dread,
Thine awful judgments are abroad,	And let thine angel stand between
O shield us, lest we die!	The living and the dead.

The fell disease on every side	With contrite hearts, to thee, our King,
Walks forth with tainted breath,	We turn, who oft have strayed:
And pestilence, with rapid stride	Accept the sacrifice we bring,
Bestrews the land with death.	And let the plague be stayed.

There are also hymn-prayers for a dying child and a dying father (common enough events in those dangerous days), but I haven't the heart to reproduce them. Enough to say that, having read through the whole collection and its supplement, I personally realise that while I am the grateful heir of a long heritage of Methodist ancestors I am also thankful that our thinking and theology have greatly changed—for the better.

Colin Gibson