

# DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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



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|                               |                    |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
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| <b>Parish Stewards</b>        | Mrs Jan Stewart    | 473 9141   |
|                               | Ross Merrett       | 489 7663   |
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## PARISH BULLETIN

30 April 2023

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 7 May 2023

|         |            |               |
|---------|------------|---------------|
| 10.00am | Mornington | D Poultney +  |
| 10.00am | Mosgiel    | D Phillipps + |
| 10.00am | Glenaven   | D Poultney +  |

### MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Mosgiel MWF is meeting on Tuesday 2nd May at 1.30pm in the Hall Lounge. Our speaker is Mrs Teresa Christie from Taieri Network. All welcome.

## **DOROTHY AND IAN'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ON FRIDAY 21 APRIL**

Dorothy and Ian Pearce send their thanks to all their church friends for the cards, visits and messages of goodwill for their 50th anniversary.

A small group of us from Mornington gathered at Divine Cafe at Summerset for morning tea to help celebrate the happy occasion, and the Summerset Care Home put on a suitably 'golden' afternoon tea for Dot and Ian with the other residents.



You may be familiar with Hildegard of Bingen (born around 1098 in Bermersheim, Germany) through her sacred music. But Hildegard was much more than just a composer. The talents of St. Hildegard have long been overlooked, even though she was a superstar of the medieval

church. Indeed, she was not venerated by the Catholic Church until 2012, when she was belatedly canonized and given the title “doctor of the church”.

Hildegard was given to a Benedictine Monastery in Disibodenberg, Germany by her parents when she was eight years old. There is no indication that she had any choice in the matter and may have been very unhappy at the move, but Hildegard certainly received a better education at Disibodenberg than she would have otherwise. She took her vows at age fourteen as Benedictine nun and was later elected mother superior of the community. Wanting more independence for herself and her nuns, she asked her Abbot if the order might move to Rupertsberg. The Abbot forbade this, as it would put them outside his control, but Hildegard, undaunted, petitioned the Archbishop, who agreed to the creation of the convent. Hildegard then became the Abbess of this new foundation.

This story illustrates one of the qualities that draws me to Hildegard. Although she lived in a time when women commanded very little respect and agency, she was able, through the power of what she called “Living Light,” to accomplish an extraordinary amount of creative work in widely disparate fields. She is best known today for her monophonic liturgical songs, but she was also a mystic and wrote at length about her visions, which she began experiencing at age three. Moreover, Hildegard was an expert herbalist and holistic healer and authored early treatises on these subjects. All while running a busy convent and corresponding with many other well-known people of her day. She truly was a polymath almost without peer in the church.

The second thing that drew me to Hildegard was that, like me, she suffered from a chronic condition. Doctors today describe the symptoms that she carefully recorded in her journals as migraine-like, as she wrote of errant flashes of light, extreme pain, hallucinations, aphasia and ataxia. I’ve also had many migraines, although mine are

thankfully under control through dietary restrictions. I know how debilitating they can be, and yet Hildegard was able to keep up her punishing schedule, even traveling on lengthy speaking tours, until she passed away at age 80.

Sometimes she felt discouraged, as she writes in this letter to a fellow female mystic:

*O my daughter, may God make you the mirror of life. I too am downcast in my wavering mind and am greatly troubled with anxiety and fears. Yet from time to time, I resound like the small blast of a trumpet from the Living Light. May God help me to remain in his service.*

The “Living Light” strengthened her and from this I take my own hope. Hildegard was a blessing to those in her own time, and her music and words still resound like the small blast of a trumpet through the ages.

*Susan Hamel*

