

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
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Pastoral Convenor Mornington	Susan Hamel	022 657 8303 sfh1959@gmail.com
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PARISH BULLETIN 2 MARCH 2025

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 9 MARCH 2025

09:30am	Mornington	D Phillipps
10:00am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11.00am	Glenaven	D Phillipps

RADIO CHURCH

8.30 am	OAR 105.4FM	Anne Thomson – Knox Church
	1575AM	
Live stream	oar.org.nz	

Please note you can now listen to RADIO CHURCH every Sunday on OAR 105.4FM, 1575AM or Livestream via oar.org.nz



UPCOMING event DATES

PARISH EVENTS COMING UP

4 Mar 2025 Mosgiel Womens Fellowship – Special Project Ronald McDonald House & Grow Christ and be a lifegiver (Palestinian Refugees) Mosgiel Methodist Church 1.30PM

7 Mar 2025 View Strengthening Work (Mornington Methodist Church) 2.30-3PM

7 Mar 2025 World Day of Prayer – see notice below for times and locations

12 Mar 2025 Iftar Meal at St Anne’s Hall, St Mary’s Church. 6.00-8.00PM

****Register to Greg Hughson by 10th March.****



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDER OF SERVICE & BULLETIN NOTICES

Order of Services sheets need to be sent by **Wednesday 10am**

Notices for the Bulletin need to be in by **Thursday 12pm**

Pick up for both Order of Service sheets and the Parish Bulletins will now be after 11am on Fridays unless prearranged.

Many thanks, the Parish Admin Team

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MORNINGTON CHURCH FINANCES NEED HELP.

Our ongoing expenses of insurance, rates, and electricity are not currently being covered by our income sources, previously from hall and church hire.

We only have enough in the cleaning fund to cover cleaning for March and April.

Donations (tax deductible) towards running of Mornington Church would be greatly appreciated. These can be made by Direct Credit via internet banking to:

Mornington Property

02-0800-0008617-000

Particulars: your name

Code: donation

Reference: cleaning or general

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NEW SECRETARY FOR PARISH COUNCIL

After many years of careful and thorough work as Parsi Council Secretary Fay Richardson has indicated an intention to step down this year. We are looking for someone to take over this role, if you would like to talk about it please contact David.

MORNINGTON FELLOWSHIP

On Wednesday, 27 of us met for lunch to begin our year of Fellowship Activities. George Davis told us of his research into the significant leaders at the Otago Medical School during the World War Two years. The questioning led to a lively and lengthy discussion touching on early Dunedin, our new hospital, climate change, future medical education and what is next for our Church.



Please come and join our Fellowship on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

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MOSGIEL WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

On **Tuesday 4th March** Mosgiel Women's Fellowship are launching the **Special Project Ronald McDonald House and Grow Christ and be a lifegiver (Palestinian Refugees)** @ 1:30pm in the Mosgiel hall.

Mosgiel Women's Fellowship

- **4th March**
- **1:30pm in the church hall**

Mosgiel Methodist Church is at 61 Gordon Road, Mosgiel.

Come and join us as we launch our
Special Project: Ronald McDonald House
and
Grow Christ and be a lifegiver
(Palestinian Refugees)

MORNINGTON CHURCH STRENGTHENING WORK

Chance to see what is happening. The Mornington Hall strengthening work is available to come and see just what is happening beyond the door.

On Friday 7th March at 2:30 to 3 pm the door will be opened and those who wish to can come and view the progress on this project.

If coming, please wear solid shoes for foot protection and ensure no loose clothing to catch on projecting materials.

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025

Mornington – Mornington Presbyterian Church, 16 Maryhill Terrace 7pm

Mosgiel – Mosgiel Methodist Church 1.30pm

NE Valley - North Dunedin Pacific Island Church, 162 North Road, NEV 7pm

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AN INVITATION TO AN IFTAR MEAL MARCH 12TH 2025

You might recall a visit two years ago from the Muslim charity the Pearl of the Islands Foundation; a visit which began a good relationship. Last year Mornington hosted an Iftar meal – the meal Muslims eat when breaking the Ramadan fast at sunset. Christians, Muslims and Jews ate and shared together.

We have been asked to host another Iftar this year, unfortunately we cannot do that at Mornington, but we have arranged to do so at:

St Anne's Hall at St Mary's Church 6.00-8.00PM

You are warmly invited but you will need to register your intention to attend. If you could please advise Greg Hughson by 10th March.

Thank you.

A MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND.

The Methodist Church of New Zealand stands in unwavering solidarity with our LGBTQ+ whānau, in response to recent attacks from Destiny Church and others who seek to harm and marginalise.

We acknowledge the deep pain, frustration, and exhaustion of those who must constantly defend their own existence. Faith-based discrimination has caused profound harm, and we grieve the misuse of Christian language and symbols to spread exclusion and division. Without hesitation, we affirm that all people are made in the image of God and are inherently worthy of dignity, love, and belonging.

As Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa, our commitment to bicultural partnership, justice, and grace calls us to be a Church that truly welcomes and affirms all people. Silence is not an option when our whānau are under attack. We call on churches, faith communities, and people of goodwill to reject hate and stand openly in support of LGBTQ+ communities.

We are grateful for the leadership of those within our Church and across Aotearoa who are organising expressions of support. We encourage individuals and congregations within our Connexion to take meaningful action—whether through public statements, community engagement, or pastoral care—to ensure that our LGBTQ+ whānau know they are not alone.

The Gospel calls us to love one another as Christ has loved us. Love does not tolerate harm. Love does not stand by in silence. Love acts.

We choose love.

Ngā manaakitanga

Te Aroha Rountree | President of The Methodist Church of New Zealand.

TRINITY METHODIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT ON QUEERPHOBIA AND XENOPHOBIA

Trinity Methodist Theological College expresses deep concern over the increasing presence of homophobia, transphobia and xenophobia in Aotearoa New Zealand, often justified through theology, scriptures and political rhetoric. We condemn the actions of senior cabinet ministers who continue to use racist and xenophobic language in Parliament, demeaning immigrant communities. We strongly denounce Destiny Church's attempts to disrupt the Pride Parade and incite violence at a children's event, all under the guise of faith. Additionally, we deplore the misuse of the Haka – an indigenous expression of diversity and resilience – being distorted as a tool to spread hate and homophobia.

The global rise of ultranationalism and the religious right, particularly within Christian fundamentalism, has had devastating effects on vulnerable communities. However, we are encouraged by the courageous public voices across different communities who challenge these supremacist ideologies with care and solidarity.

As a theological institution of Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, we stand firmly in solidarity with our LGBTIA+ and migrant siblings. We acknowledge your pain, fear, grief and anger, as well as the times when we have failed to stand alongside you in the fight against discrimination. We reaffirm our commitment to celebrating diversity and rejecting harmful theologies and ideologies that undermine the dignity of every person.

We echo the words of the President of Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa spoken at Waitangi.

The prophetic voice of our nation that we seek is not always found in the speeches of politicians or church leaders. Not perhaps it is best reflected in the everyday people of Aotearoa – the people, Maori and non-Maori, tangata whenua and tangata tiriti.

In the name we call upon the Coalition Government to practice **MERCY**, urge faith communities to embrace **JUSTICE**, and invite all people of goodwill to embody **MANAAKITANGA**, transforming our communities into sanctuaries of inclusion and affirmation.

We remain committed to ministries of disruption and healing, engaging through worship, song, preaching, writing, research, and protest, to build a more just and compassionate society.



CONNECTIONS -On the Threshold of Lent

On this last Sunday after Epiphany, we stand at the threshold of Lent. A season we might feel ambiguous about. We know it's there but for much of our history as Methodists the liturgical calendar has sat lightly with us for much of our history an even now Lent only "gets real" with Palm Sunday and then Good Friday. As a Liturgist – and as a "Recovering Catholic" I might wish we made more of Lent, but we are where we are.

To be fair Lent carries some difficult associations. It can come with a preoccupation with sin, or as sin as something deeply individualised with no societal dimension. With the supposed sacrifice of "giving things up." How might we engage with it, how can we enter into it in ways which are coherent and meaningful to us?

I find in Lent a call to the truth of our humanity. It traditionally begins with just that, with the imposition of ashes with these words "remember that you are dust and to dust you will return." Our ancestors in the faith, entered into a morose season of Lent via this awesome reminder that they came from dust and soon they shall return to the dust. Lent was a season of lament and repentance based on a particular understanding of what it means to be human. Since the 11th century most of Christianity has understood the human condition as that of those who have fallen from grace. But we live in a post-modern world. We no longer believe that Adam and Eve were the first humans. We read *Genesis* not as history but as myth, a story which while not a factual account tells us deep truths. We understand that humans evolved over millions of years. There was no perfect human condition for us to fall from. What happens when you reject the theological construct of original sin? What happens when you embrace the idea that we are fiercely and wonderfully made? What happens when you see humanity as originally blessed?

Once you open up Pandora's box you can't just walk back out of the room and pretend that the theory of evolution doesn't have something to teach us about what it means to be human. If we see ourselves as incomplete creations rather than fallen sinful creatures, how then do we deal with our mortality? Perhaps we can begin to express what it means to be human in terms that reflect our need to evolve into all that we were created to be. Perhaps the brevity and uncertainty of life can begin to wake us up so that we can seize each and every moment of this incredible mystery that we call life. All that we love and care for is mortal and transitory, but mortality is the very reality that can become the inspiration for celebrate life and to love. Lent calls us to be mindful of our mortality. But we should also remember the reality of creation itself is transformed by death and is constantly renewing itself. Let us embrace the promise that in death we are transformed into a new way of living on within the

MYSTERY that is the LOVE we call God. Trusting that here and now we are living in the MYSTERY, we delight in the knowledge that in this MYSTERY that is God, we share in eternity; eternity – that which has no beginning and no end. We are constantly dying, but we are also constantly living as we give particular expression to an aspect of the LOVE that is God.

Yes, we are dust, but we are earthly dust, springing forth from a multi-billion-year holy adventure. Dust is the stuff of life. Dust it is the place of fecundity, of moist dark soil, and perhaps we are as various scientists are suggesting: “stardust” evolving creatures emerging from Divinity’s intergalactic creativity. We are frail, but we are also part of a holy adventure reflecting the love that is God over billions of years and in billions of galaxies. Lent is our wake-up call to this truth. This Lent “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” Let the memory of your incomplete humanity awaken you to the wonders, joys, sorrows, pain and wonders of life. This lent embrace life itself.

David Poultney