

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



Find us on Facebook: Dunedin Methodist Parish

Presbyters	Rev Ian Boddy	021 109 0454
	Office email	parish@mmsouth.org.nz
Parish Stewards	Mrs Jan Stewart	473 9141
	Ross Merrett	489 7663
	Hilda Hughson	027 343 7770
Tongan Steward	Mr Sailosi Pole	027 250 2509
Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663 elaineross@extra.co.nz
Pastoral Convenor Mornington	Susan Hamel	022 657 8303 sfh1959@gmail.com
Parish Office	bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600

PARISH BULLETIN

24 MAY 2026

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 31 MAY 2026

10.00AM	Joint Service Mosgiel Church	Ian Boddy/ Elaine Merrett
Connections Article		Richard Cannon
RADIO CHURCH		
8.30am		Michael Godfrey – Anglican Diocese
	OAR 105.4FM	
	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

Services at Mornington can be watched on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@morningtonmethodist1598>



UPCOMING event Dates

24 May 2026, Dunedin Musical Society Concert, Mornington Church, 2.30PM
24 May 2026 Mornington Fellowship AGM, Mornington Church, 2.00PM
25 May, 2026 University of Otago Lecture, Burns 2 University of Otago, 4.00PM
27 May 2026 Mornington Methodist Fellowship, Barbara Weaver, Mornington Church, 2.00PM
30 May 2026 Farewell Evening for Ian Boddy, Mornington Church, 7.00PM
31 May 2026 Joint Sunday Service at Mosgiel Church, 10.00AM
3 June 2026, Artificial Intelligence & Christian Life, Matt Ensor, Online
24 June 2026 Gibson Talk Series 3, Professor Greg Jones, Mornington Church 7.00PM

Notices

Dunedin Musical Society Concert Today at 2.30PM, Mornington Church, \$5 koha

All members and friends of the Mornington Methodist Church are invited to come and join us.

Mornington Fellowship
All roles are open.
AGM 2026
Come willing to help if you can - no pressure.
2pm **Wednesday**
24th June

A Short AGM followed by a leisurely, social afternoon tea.

Mornington Methodist Fellowship
 Galloway Street, Mornington, Dunedin

WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY 2026
2 PM

OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS BARBARA WEAVER
Barbara will be sharing some of her life stories

All church members and friends are welcome to join us and for the social afternoon tea.

Bullet points from Parish Council

- Parish Council is supporting Sailosi Pole as he candidates for the Methodist Ministry.
- There will be a commissioning service for our new Minister, Rev Adam Baker, at Mornington Church, on the afternoon of Wednesday 17 June, time to be confirmed.
- There will be a Karaoke night farewell for Ian Boddy on Saturday 30 May at 7 pm at Mornington Church.
- Please consider the Parish Stewardship Campaign prayerfully.

Artificial Intelligence and Christian life

June 3: Matt Ensor - Appreciative Insights on the Use of AI: Possibilities and Challenges Insights along with a no-jargon opportunity for questions.

Register at: <https://knoxcentre.ac.nz/training-events/>

Gibson Talk Series 3



Professor Greg Jones will deliver a Gibson talk on improving risk assessment for vascular disease.

**Held on Wednesday 24 June at 7pm
Mornington Methodist Church.**

We expect a large crowd for this so parking will be at a premium.

All welcome, and a plate if just inside the door for koha (money gift).

Accommodation Needed – Can you Help?

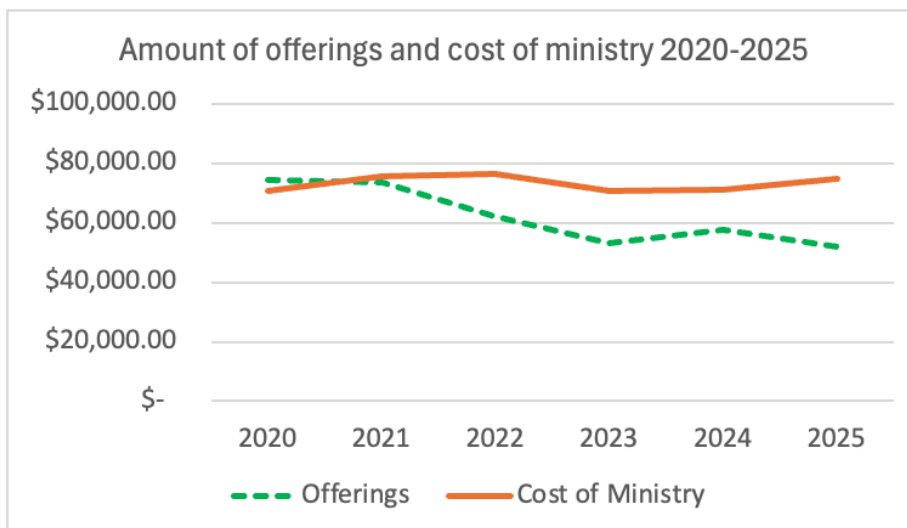
Accommodation needed for Wednesday 10th June for the Co-Convenor of the Connexional Climate Justice Working Group, who is attending the Mission's Celebration at Little Citizens.

Please contact Julie: 027 267 8140 or email julier@mmsouth.org.nz

Parish Stewardship Campaign

The Parish is very grateful for the many ways in which our members support the Parish. This includes people using their time and talents to enrich our worship, provide support for members, and enable use of the premises by the community. Another important aspect is the free will offering of financial support to the Parish. The money we give in the offertory, or through direct credit, goes to the Parish and is used to support the Synod the Connexion and importantly, our paid ministry.

We appreciate that many people are facing financial pressures from increases in the cost of living. The Parish is experiencing the same financial pressures. As you will see from the graph below, ministry costs have increased slightly over time but the total offering from Parish members has decreased significantly.



We would like to reverse this trend. This can be achieved by increasing our giving, and by inviting people to join our fellowship! We would like you consider your free will giving to the Parish, are you able to increase your monetary giving? Are you able to help the Parish in other ways with your time and talents?

We will be placing a 'pledge sheet' in the Bulletin on **Sunday 17 and Sunday 24 May**. This sheet is for you to consider your ongoing giving and make a pledge to that effect. You can keep the pledge sheet as a personal reminder, alternatively we encourage you to place it in the offering in Ian's final joint service on Sunday 7 June 2026.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support of the Parish, it is greatly appreciated.

Dunedin Methodist Parish Council.

The Otago University Theology Programme is pleased to welcome to Dunedin Revd Dr Paula O. Latu, Principal of Sia'atoutai Theological College in Tonga. This year marks an important milestone for the Church in Tonga: two hundred years of faith, resilience, and the transforming power of the gospel across the islands of the Pacific. In celebration of this historic occasion, we warmly invite you to a special public lecture:



"Church Growth and Development: On the History of Christianity in Tonga"

Delivered by Revd Dr Paula Onoafe Latu
Principal, Sia'atoutai Theological College, Tonga

- Monday, 25 May 2026
- 4:00 PM
- Burns 2, University of Otago

Revd Dr Latu brings with him a wealth of theological insight and a deep connection to the living heritage of Christianity in Tonga. The lecture will be given in Tongan with English translation.

All are welcome. We warmly encourage you to share this invitation across your networks, communities, and congregations so that as many people as possible can be part of this special celebration.

Mālo 'aupito,

Professor Murray Rae



KARAOKE NIGHT FOR IAN

7pm Saturday 30 May at Mornington Methodist Church.

Rev Ian Boddy's time here in Dunedin will soon vanish.
Ian loves Karaoke, and this is all the farewell he desires.

ALL INVITED

from all of the parishes, and whether you intend to sing or not!
Just arrive, be on time to get a carpark anywhere near the church.

Cuppa when the singing stops.

Connections

Prayer: A Pathway to Connect with the Spiritual Cord in the Evolving Universe

(Another way to appreciate the Holy Spirit – Read May 24th Article in 150th Booklet.)

Rod Mitchell

Prayer, a practice as old as humanity itself, transcends cultural, religious, and geographical boundaries. It is a universal language that speaks to the deepest recesses of our souls, connecting us to something greater than ourselves. At its core, prayer is a means of establishing a connection with the spiritual cord that pulses through the evolutionary universe. This essay explores the concept of prayer as a conduit to this cosmic energy, delving into its historical significance, psychological benefits, and its role in fostering a sense of unity with the universe.

Historically, prayer has been a cornerstone of spiritual practices across various cultures and religions. From the ancient Egyptians who prayed to their pantheon of gods, to the Native Americans who communed with nature spirits, to the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, prayer has been a consistent thread in the tapestry of human spirituality. Each tradition has its unique way of articulating this connection, but the underlying principle remains the same: prayer is a means of tapping into a universal spiritual energy that binds all life.

The spiritual cord, as conceptualized in many esoteric and spiritual traditions, is an invisible thread that connects all living beings. It is believed to be a conduit for divine energy, a lifeline that links us to the universe's creative force. Prayer, in this context, is seen as a way to attune oneself to this energy, to align our consciousness with the cosmic rhythm. It is a way of acknowledging our place in the grand scheme of existence, a recognition of our interconnectedness with all life.

From a psychological perspective, prayer can be seen as a form of self-care and stress relief. It provides a moment of respite from the chaos of daily life, a chance to step back, reflect, and find inner peace. The act of prayer can be meditative, helping to quiet the mind and reduce anxiety. It can also foster a sense of hope and resilience, providing comfort in times of distress. Studies have shown that regular prayer can lead to improved mental health, lower levels of depression and anxiety, and increased feelings of well-being.

Moreover, prayer can serve as a catalyst for personal growth and spiritual development. It encourages introspection, helping individuals to examine their thoughts, feelings, and actions. Through prayer, one can cultivate virtues such as compassion, forgiveness, and gratitude. It can also inspire acts of kindness and service, fostering a sense of community and interconnectedness. In this way, prayer is not just a personal practice but a communal one, strengthening social bonds and promoting collective well-being.

Prayer also plays a crucial role in fostering a sense of unity with the universe. It allows individuals to express their deepest hopes, fears, and aspirations, creating a dialogue with the divine. This dialogue can be a source of inspiration, guiding individuals towards a more meaningful and purposeful life. It can also instil a sense of awe and wonder, reminding us of the vastness and complexity of the universe and our place within it.

In conclusion, prayer is more than just a religious ritual; it is a profound spiritual practice that connects us to the universal spiritual cord pulsing through the evolutionary universe. It is a tool for personal transformation, a source of psychological well-being, and a means of fostering a sense of unity with all life. As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, prayer can serve as a beacon of light, guiding us towards a deeper understanding of ourselves and our place in the cosmos. It is a reminder that we are not alone in our journey, that we are part of a larger, interconnected web of existence. In this sense, prayer is not just about connecting to a higher power; it is about connecting to ourselves, to each other, and to the universe at large.