

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	027 635 6842
	Ross Merrett	489 7663
	Hilda Hughson	027 343 7770
Tongan Steward	Mr Sailosi Pole	027 250 2509
Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663 elaineros@xtra.co.nz
Pastoral Convenor Mornington	Susan Hamel	022 657 8303 sfh1959@gmail.com
Parish Office	bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600

PARISH BULLETIN

14 JUNE 2026

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 21 JUNE 2026

9.30AM	Mornington Church	Marcia Hardy
10.00AM	Mosgiel Church	Elaine Merrett
11.00AM	Glenaven Church	Susan Hamel
Connections Article		Dr George Davis

RADIO CHURCH

8.30am	OAR 105.4FM	Greg Hughson
	1575AM	
	oar.org.nz	
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

17 June 2026, Commissioning Service - New Minister Rev Adam Barker, Mornington Methodist Church, 4PM

21 June 2026 Parish Preacher & Worship Leaders Meeting, Mornington Church, 4PM

24 June 2026 Mornington Fellowship AGM, Mornington Church, 2PM

24 June 2026 Gibson Talk Series 3, Professor Greg Jones, Mornington Church 7.00PM

Notices

Weekly Parish Bulletins

If you have any items/events you would like advertised in the weekly Parish Bulletin please send these to bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz by close of business on Wednesdays.

If you would like to receive the weekly Bulletin via email please send your email address to the bulletins email (above) and we will add you to the mailing list.

Commissioning service for Rev Adam Baker

There will be a Commissioning service for Rev Adam Baker at Mornington Church, at 4 pm on Wednesday 17 June, refreshments to follow.

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.

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).

Parish preacher's and worship leaders' gathering

All of our Parish preachers and worship leaders are invited to gather with our Parish Stewards for prayer and discussion together on

Sunday 21st June 4pm-5pm in our Mornington Hall lounge.

This meeting is primarily to introduce Adam to us all, but also to deepen the sense of our being a "team", a team doing our best to provide quality worship and learning opportunities for everyone (of all ages) attending our services.

Each year, we offer at least 140 services of (English language) worship and at least 52 services in the Tongan language.

Please pray that those of us leading worship will continue to offer well-prepared opportunities for faith development, and that we will continue to attract new people to all our services.

Greg Hughson

We Know Times Are Tough

At Little Citizens, we're here to help make things a little easier by offering:

- Nutritious meals provided each day
- Affordable fees
- Flexible enrolment options to suit your family
- Quality early childhood education

If you're looking for a supportive and caring environment for your tamariki, we'd love to hear from you.

Call **NOW** to enrol or for more information contact: emiliem@mmsouth.org.nz
or tel: **027 545 5548**



Keep in Touch

We love sharing stories of the people, projects, and communities that your support helps make possible.

If you'd like to receive our regular email newsletter, please let me know or
email: julier@mmsouth.org.nz
Phone: 0272678140



Not everyone enjoys emails or social media—and that's perfectly fine! If you would prefer updates in another way, such as a printed copy or larger print, please have a chat with me. I'm happy to help find a format that works for you.

You can also follow our journey on social media if that's your thing, but most importantly, we'd love to keep you connected in whatever way suits you best.

Aroha Nui Julie

Connections - Why Did God Unplug the Fax Machine?

Many years ago, our son, having heard his bible class leader proclaim scripture as the inerrant word of God and not to be changed or added to, asked us “ why did God unplug the fax machine. Did he run out of ideas and stuff? ”

At the time we were attending a deeply conservative church of the denomination David and I were raised in. We were feeling increasingly uncomfortable with the theology and 'teaching' but felt a bit trapped since all the other options available were of the same mindset. To question was to be a backslider and doubt of any kind a slippery slope to perdition.

Our son's questions 'gave us permission' to have good discussions and read more books written by theologians like Lloyd Geering, Bishop Spong, Karen Armstrong to name a few. It became very clear that there was a world of scholarship yet to be discovered.

Around this time (late 1980s), a women's group had formed and a number of clergy women plus lay people like myself were invited to attend. What a Godsend! Whole new vistas opened...what a revelation!

New possibilities to be explored and debated. Things started to make some sort of sense. Our move to Dunedin meant finding a church home. We found it at Mornington Methodist church. A safe place where all questions were valid and exploration of theology openly encouraged. For me, it was returning to my family's roots... My maternal grandparents were Methodist and of course, married in the Caversham Methodist Church.

In the current geopolitical climate, where many norms and values are being eroded at a terrifying rate, it's a privilege to live in a place as yet largely unscathed, although signs of it are quietly sneaking in under the radar. We all need safe harbour to gather and take stock of these perilous times and think about how best to navigate these situations at both a personal and community level.

For some, the concept of the 'common good' has become an outmoded idea with 'rugged individualism' gaining ascendancy. This is becoming increasingly apparent in some of today's politicians. For the church writ large this flies in the face of the teaching of Jesus. The present Pope in his first encyclical strongly lamented this trend which is infecting many communities. The fundamental idea of the common good is at the very heart of the gospel. We ignore it at our peril.

The people of our communities who, every day, struggle simply to put food on the table despite the fact they are working two or more jobs, is a spreading blemish on society. Not to mention poverty stricken, war-torn countries suffering at the hands of authoritarian leaders and Oligarchs, some of whom claim to be Christian.

However, their priorities are to amass great wealth for themselves, families and cronies and the retention of power. In order to justify this, they quote passages of scripture from Old Testament writings and contort themselves into pretzels to prove their point, ignoring the fact that these were ancient writings for a specific time in humanities journey...and all the while ignoring the teaching of Jesus.

So...

Has God, whoever or whatever you perceive God to be, unplugged the fax?

Personally, I think not. I think it's still being written as new understandings are revealed and science makes new astounding discoveries. Certain values and concepts are changeless and vital to our wellbeing, indeed our very survival...for example, the common good. At its heart the gospel is a 'social gospel' as opposed to the so called 'prosperity gospel' so beloved by wealthy oligarchs and 'wannabe' oligarchs. Many people will cry out that the church should keep out of politics... Jesus was very political, and he died a politically motivated death.

The bible is not a history book. Nor is it a scientific book. It does contain great truths and much wisdom...but I do not believe it to be the inerrant word of God to be read literally. It is a book of metaphor and contains the stories and struggles of humanity in particular periods of human history.

And it contains much wisdom to be mined with thoughtful care and respect.

Postscript

Our sorrow is that our sons didn't have the nurturing and grounding in faith they would have received had they grown up in this spiritually safe environment, an environment where all questions are valid...Mornington Methodist Church.

Trish Patrick.