

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 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

9.30AM	Mornington Church	Marcia Hardy
10.00AM	Mosgiel Church	Adam Baker
11.00AM	Glenaven Church	Helen Watson White
Connections Article		

RADIO CHURCH

8.30am	OAR 105.4FM	Michael Godfrey – Anglican Diocese
	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

23 September 26, Mornington Methodist Fellowship, Mornington Church, 2PM
27 September 26, Parish Luncheon – Equinox, 12.30PM – RSVP to Elaine Merrett.

Notices

PARISH LUNCHEON



Where: EQUINOX

When: SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 12.30PM

All Parish Members Welcome.

Please phone or email Elaine Merrett by September 20th to confirm numbers on: **021 141 8293 OR elaineross@xtra.co.nz**

Blanket for Ukraine



At our August meeting, Euan Thomson suggested that those who are unable to knit might like to contribute towards the cost of the wool, so that everyone can feel part of the blanket project.

We have now ordered 20 balls of pure wool for \$3.50 each. You can deposit any wool money into the Fellowship account or bring to the meeting.

Account Name; Methodist Church of New Zealand Mornington

Methodist Womens Fellowship

Account number: 02-0800-0008801-000

Reference: wool

Anne Murchison, the South Island Co-ordinator for Operation Cover Up, will hopefully visit our September meeting bringing the wool to distribute among the knitters. This will also be an opportunity to ask Anne any questions about the knitting requirements.

I'll include the pattern details in the bulletin over the next few weeks as a reminder, so we don't forget! Julie x

Mornington Methodist Fellowship

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

Mornington Methodist Fellowship
Galloway Street,
Mornington, Dunedin

 **2 pm**  **Wednesday 23rd September 2026**

Our guest speaker is

Methodist Mission Southern's
Christine Thomas
Youth Transition House and
Community Manager



Mosgiel

 **Labour**

PUBLIC MEETING:

Mosgiel Traffic Issues

with MP for Taieri **Ingrid Leary** and
Spokesperson for Transport **Tangi Utikere**

Friday 25 September
1pm - 2pm
Methodist Hall
61 Gordon Road, Mosgiel

Scan the QR code to register!



Authorised by Peta Bakland,
a Cabinet Member, Wellington

Connections: Persistence Pays

I love North East Valley. NEV. It's like an old-style town, sufficient to itself, – or even just a big village – while also sitting on a major bus route between Normanby and St Clair. Its main thoroughfare, North Rd, was once the main road in or out of Dunedin – before the motorway was built that runs from Waitati, crossing the Leith Saddle and entering the city through Pine Hill, at the top of a notoriously steep incline.

At the Gardens Corner there is a concentration of charity shops, cafes and other eateries, plus a butcher, an electrician firm that does repairs, a flower and gift shop, a pharmacy and a New World supermarket. Note that all the above, even the charity shops, are commercial enterprises. The same is probably true for the three schools in the area, one 'private' and two 'public': most schools are forced to operate within a tight budget – set by a government that seems to want every outfit run like a business.

Importantly for its identity and social health, NEV has a strong, loyal voluntary sector as well. It has its own excellent community newspaper, for instance, put out by the long-standing Valley Project, which has established many forms of social support and a community garden as well. Then there are the churches...

When playwright Renee came to Otago University to take up the Burns Fellowship, she remarked on Dunedin's unique townscape, with 'a church on every corner'. This is particularly noticeable in NEV. When John and I first came to Glenaven in 2003, there were numerous churches on or near North Rd: besides Glenaven Methodist in Chambers St there was a Salvation Army centre that offered morning and night services; St Martin's Anglican, with its hall nearby that used to be a Primitive Methodist church; Sacred Heart Catholic, which is open most days for private prayer; a Baptist church; a former Church of Christ, re-activated; a chapel inside Ross Home; and the imposing St David's Presbyterian, high up on a corner above the main road. That's eight active churches within just a few blocks.

All these buildings – and there were more, historically – are there to enable people to worship together, to meet each other on a deep level and form loving communities. But I'd take that further, to describe a strongly ecumenical impetus that has been furthered by our joining together at various times, and establishing personal links that last for decades. As I know many believe, the church is not primarily a building, but a group of

humans widely differing in their needs and resources, who make a covenant-like commitment to each other and to God. This universal church never dies, even though its various members do.

So many connections arise from these groupings, over such a long time! I've always enjoyed the fact that I met Rev David Crooke, once vicar of St Martin's and still resident in NEV, when we were about 3 years old (about 1948), marching in a ring with musical instruments in, yes, our very own Mornington Methodist Church Hall (downstairs), at Miss Hetherington's kindergarten. David grew up in Mornington as I did, (but only to age 5). Our two families played together, however, on summer holidays at Taieri Mouth, and so we asked David to conduct the 2002 funeral of my mother, since our families were well and truly joined. For the Watson Whites the strongest link, perhaps, was that David had been John's student in English at university, as I was, as well as singing in the choir at St Paul's Cathedral, as we did from 1996-2003.

In the small world of NEV there's one group I now know much more about than I did in 2003, because some of its members have shared my faith path. An unusual bay-windowed brick church in North Rd, formerly a Church of Christ, in 1992 became the home of Pacific Islands Presbyterian, an autonomous group that originated in First Church. The most recent minister has been Rev Nimarota Lale, who with his wife Rev Alofa Lale QSM, graduated B. Theol in 2004, as I did, the pair crossing the stage before me in the May ceremony.

While Alofa was working at the Mercy Hospital, until recently, John and I met her often in the Marinoto café. She pops up everywhere. You may recall she made a very positive speech on the occasion of Broad Bay Methodist's final service, while she was serving in the Otago Peninsula Presbyterian Parish at Anderson's Bay. In an article in the Catholic magazine *Toi Motu* 228, July 2018, (which Colin Gibson bought for us, and which is probably still sitting in the Mornington foyer), Alofa described then a 'A painful time in my life', which has yet 'been like the blink of an eye, because I have felt the strength of the Lord in my very being.' There are just such inspiring articles of witness in *Anglican Taonga* too, which you can find in the foyer of All Saints Church, since it is edited/ illustrated by photographer Julianne Clarke-Wallace who is based there. This is another North End church that is open every day.

Back to NEV. When I look back at past rolls for Glenaven, I find the name of Nuiean Vai Kumitau, who lived quite close to our Chambers St

Church. Vai loved coming to Glenaven at Christmas, for instance, but she couldn't come all the time as she had responsibilities at PI Presbyterian. These increased as she became a respected elder and leader within that church. But I would drop off the bulletins and services so she knew what was going on with us, even if she wasn't a regular. She always appreciated the contact, as she had a particular fondness for Glenaven.

Time passed, and the Covid years brought huge changes. One day I went to her house to find it had been demolished, replaced by a modern two-storey box built right beside Lyndsay Creek. Her landline had been given to someone else, so I lost touch, and wondered if she had died. Then out of the blue we met twice in North Rd on the opshop side, hugging each other like long-lost friends. She gave me her phone number and told me her address, and I used it quite often but then lost it, as you do. Then in this year's King's Birthday Honours List on June 1st, there she was: Ms Vaitoelau (Vai) KUMITAU, granted the King's Service Medal (KSM) 'for services to the Niuean community.'

So earlier this week I went round to the address I remembered, in Knox St by Salmond Hall, and knocked on the door. It was a lovely neat, sunny DCC flat-for-one, quiet too. She was amazed to see me and I could see she appreciated my persistence over so many years. It was the very next day she was booked to fly to Wellington to Government House to receive, all 5ft 1 of her, this very special award. I love North East Valley.

– Helen Watson White

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