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 Office	bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600

PARISH BULLETIN
29 NOVEMBER 2026

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 6 DECEMBER 2026		
9.30AM	Mornington Church	Adam Baker
10.00AM	Mosgiel Church	Greg Hughson
11.00AM	Glenaven Church	Adam Baker
Connections Article		**Laura Black**
RADIO CHURCH		
8.30am	OAR 105.4FM	**Anne Thomson – Knox Church**
	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

29 November 26, Dunedin Methodist Parish AGM, after combined service at Mosgiel
1 December 26, Annual Raising of Morning Star Flag, Octagon, 12.15PM
5 December, St Martha's Carol Service, 26 Chingford Park Stable, 11AM

Notices



Message from Methodist Mission Southern

It is time to start thinking about the Christmas Break. The Mission office will be closed from **23rd December 2026 to Monday 11th January 2027.**
For those taking services from **13th December 2026 through to 17th January 2027** (including special Christmas services or Carols), please send these to bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz **no later than midday Tuesday 1st December 2026.**

Dunedin Methodist Parish AGM

The Dunedin Methodist Parish will be holding an AGM after the combined service at Mosgiel **TODAY, Sunday 29 November**.



Mornington Fellowship

Mornington Fellowship's Christmas gathering was a lovely way to wrap up the year, with carols, good conversation, generous gifts for residents of the Mission's Youth Transition Houses and Young Mums House, and the joy of sharing fellowship together. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make it such a special occasion.



Annual raising of the Morning Star flag in Dunedin

Members of our Mornington Church will be familiar with seeing the West Papua Flag on permanent display in our Church foyer.

As Methodists, we are invited to gather in Dunedin with our wider community once again to support our Pacific family in West Papua as they continue to undergo brutal military occupation by Indonesia. Since Indonesia invasion in 1963 they have continued to destroy the Papuan's rainforest, ethnically cleanse the indigenous people from their lands and imprison and murder activists who speak out for a restoration of their independent nation.

Around the world people have been supporting the Papuan people by raising the beautiful flag **"The Morning Star" on December 1st every year**, as our way of saying they are not forgotten and to try to bring some pressure to bear on our NZ government who appear to be content to allow this to continue happen.

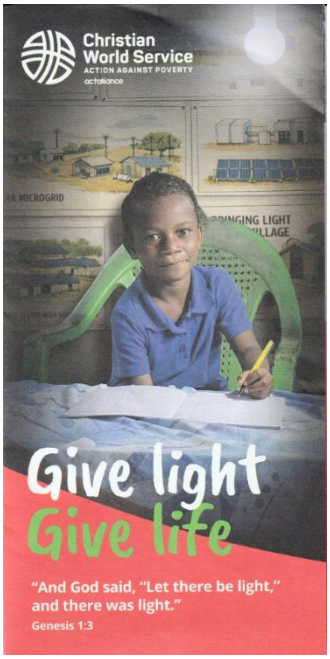
Venue: The Octagon, Dunedin
Date: Tuesday December 1st starting at 12.15pm
Inquiries: Greg Hughson 027 212 1048



St Martha's Carol Service

St Martha's would like to invite the Glenaven Methodist congregation to join them for their Carol service.

It will be **11am Saturday December 5th, at the Chingford Park Stable.** Please make a note of this now in your diaries.



Give light
Give life

The annual Christian World Service Christmas Appeal has been a tradition in New Zealand churches since 1945 when the first Christmas Bowl appeal was launched to raise funds for post-war reconstruction in Greece. Together we have supported millions of people through conflict and disaster. We have helped people all over the planet improve their lives and livelihoods. Our donations have funded our local partners to strengthen communities in their efforts to end violence and promote human rights and peace.

This year's theme is "Give light, give life" Please donate before Christmas, or place your offering in the collection plate on Christmas Day.
Envelopes are available in the foyers of all our Churches, or you can donate via the CWS website https://cws.org.nz/get-involved/give/christmas-appeal/

Connections - Caring for Creation: Loving Our Global Neighbours

Heather Rhodes

I love the diversity of thoughts presented in Connections – a celebration of the unique perspectives we each bring to our congregation. I guess it reveals what's on the mind of each contributor!

Something that's on my mind *a lot* is how to live sustainably, and how to encourage societal change so that more of us do so, before we run out of planet! (This is why I did my PhD in Environmental Science, assessing ways to improve water quality and stream health on farms.)

I don't actually think we'll 'run out of planet' in our own lifetimes 😉, but things literally are hotting up for the next generations. I feel compelled to minimise my own environmental impact, and believe we all have a responsibility to do so – particularly those of us in first-world countries, where our individual environmental footprints are disproportionately large.

I'll admit, it can seem disappointing that Christ doesn't speak more explicitly about environmental stewardship/manaakitanga. But 2,000 years

ago, sustainable living wasn't the pressing issue it is now. The global population was just 200–250 million, compared with 8.3 billion today. Christ taught the people of His time, using the world they knew.

As an example of Christ's context-specific teaching: He told parables involving servants (such as the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:21–35 – incidentally, the Greek word translated as 'servant' often refers to a slave). Few would interpret this as Christ endorsing slavery. Similarly, while He didn't explicitly address humanity's impact on the environment, I believe our responsibility to care for creation is implicit in His teaching:

- Christ demonstrates an intimate knowledge of the natural world, reminding us that God cares for it (Matthew 6:30: "If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers…")
- He repeatedly draws on nature to illustrate spiritual truths, from seeds growing into plants to birds finding shelter in trees (Matthew 13:31–32).
- And all of this sits within the wider biblical context of humanity being placed in the Garden of Eden to both work it and take care of it (Genesis 2:15).

Christians rightly place great emphasis on Christ's teaching about love: in addition to loving God, we are to love our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). The exciting thing about living in the 21st century is that we truly are global citizens! Our 'neighbours' now include Pacific Islanders and Bangladeshis threatened by rising sea levels; elderly people in Italy and Spain dying in heatwaves; and communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo experiencing ecosystem destruction from cobalt mining for our electronic devices. Our lifestyle here in New Zealand, like the Western lifestyle all over the developed world, is driving these pressures.

Realising the implications of our interconnectedness – that what we do can affect people and ecosystems all over the world – could feel overwhelming. Instead, let's see it as phenomenally empowering! What we do, every day, and how we do it, matters.

Some of the most important things we can do to care for the planet, and our neighbours across it, include:

- Buying less: repairing things and extending the life of what we already own.
- Sharing transport or choosing non-motorised options.

- Eating fewer animal products, particularly red meat, and more plant-based proteins*.

I'm always keen to chat about these things, if you have ideas you want to share. Above all, revel in the agency you have to serve God by serving others, in everything you do!

*n.b. this can also have powerfully positive impacts on your own health 😊