



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

4th December 2016

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 11th December

9.30 am	Mornington	Combined at St Mary's Anglican
9.30 am	Mosgiel	R Masterton
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP meeting Tuesday 6th December 1:30 pm. Final meeting for the year is to be a Christmas afternoon tea @ 40 Forth Street.

LEADERS MEETING Tuesday 6th December 7:30pm @ Earlene Owens, 9 Aitken Place. CHRISTMAS PLATE PLEASE. Spouses very WELCOME.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS, Dunedin Botanic Gardens

11 December, 1pm - 2:30pm, Botanic Garden's Band Rotunda

The City Council carols this year will be led by the Taieri Gospel Band from St Luke's Anglican Church, Mosgiel. It will be a great time for the Dunedin Churches to join with the wider community to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The carols will have wide appeal, both traditional and modern, and will tell the Christmas story in a simple way for people of all ages and beliefs.

ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Mission Office will be closed from midday Thursday 22nd December and although we reopen on Monday 9th January, I do not return to work until Monday 16th January. Could you please ensure your Orders of Service over this period (between 22nd Dec & 16th Jan) are sent to me admin@dmm.org.nz no later than **12 noon Friday 16th December**.



The final bulletin for 2016 will be the 18th December edition and the first bulletin for 2017 will be 22nd January.

Thank you everyone, wishing you a very happy Christmas. *Katrina*

THANKS FOR LAST SUNDAY - I would like to express my sincere thanks to the President of our church, Rev Prince Devanandan for accepting the invitation to come and join our Parish in the closing celebration of the Wesley Methodist Church. I also would like to acknowledge Donald Phillipps' presentation on the History of the Wesley Church and also those who participated in the service. Thanks also go to all who brought a plate to share after the service. We all felt supported at the end of the service.

THANKS FOR THE WORKING BEE DAYS - I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who helped with the clearance of the Wesley property for the new owner to take over. Thanks go to Ian and the Watson family for your untiring support every day. Thanks also go to some members of the Mosgiel and St Kilda congregations for your care and support for the Wesley congregation during the cleaning up.

THE WESLEY CLOSURE - 6 Photos that Speak for Themselves



FUTURE PLANNING

A special meeting of the Mornington Leaders Meeting considered three papers from David Kitchingman looking toward the future for our community of faith. His summary of the opportunity before us to deeply reconsider what we stand for, what we do and how we do it, was thought so important and insightful, that we are reprinting it for all of our readers to reflect on.

Let us aim primarily for integrity and loving service, not just numerical gains or institutional survival.

Let us share and honour our individual stories.

Let us imagine how we might develop a broader spectrum church (first for the diversity among ourselves, but hopefully for others too), without losing cohesion.

Let us avoid ruling any suggested structural or creedal aspects off limits unless we first allow an opportunity to ponder them.

Let us look for allies and wisdom from those who have set out on similarly unmarked paths.

Let us have the courage to experiment with (and then evaluate) our forms and practices, and perhaps even experiment with [challenging] some basic assumptions.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Invercargill *Brief Drink Driving programme:*

A small group of 6 for this session. They enjoyed using the Booze Goggles for the obstacle course, and the other hands on activities like the board game and card game. This group were quite quiet and so discussion could be difficult to get going. One of them stated and they all agreed that they could walk almost everywhere in Invercargill, so drunk driving was unnecessary and was just poor decision making on their part. They also were able to easily identify several other options for getting home safely when they had been drinking, so overall a good outcome.



UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURE -

“Shaping Darwin’s endless forms most wonderful” by Peter Dearden
 Archway 4 Lecture Theatre, Union St East, Tuesday 6th December 2016,
 5.30pm



***Vahanoa*: A Space of Opportunities**

Vahanoa is made out of two words, ‘*vaha*’, meaning ‘space’, and ‘*noa*’, meaning ‘empty or zero’. The notion of

‘*noa*’ in this context is not about void but is about the unknown. When these two words of ‘*vaha*’ and ‘*noa*’ are joined together, they become ‘*vahanoa*’, meaning ‘unknown or uncertain space’. When we speak of ‘*vahanoa*’ we refer to the deep ocean, a space of unknown and uncertainty - but at the same a space that can provide new opportunities. On Monday, I went to St Clair beach for a walk as I usually do on my day off. It was a fine day but it was very windy, which causes a rough sea. The big waves rolled down and crashed on the seawall of the Esplanade causing excitement for the passers-by. I decided to sit down on one of the seats. I looked to the deep ocean with fear and wonder. I felt fear because of the big waves and strong winds which can damage boats and cost lives. I was immediately reminded about the Lampedusa Cross and what it represents, remembering the danger of crossing the deep ocean. There are unknown obstacles that voyagers unexpectedly face as they navigate their way in the deep ocean. It prompts everyone to prepare for those moments. But I was also looking with awe to the vast space that the deep ocean provides for voyagers and explorers who are searching for new opportunities on the far end of the world. That reminded me of the courage and determination that my ancestors had as they travelled from Southeast Asia on rough seas, searching for lands of opportunities as historians told us.

Vahanoa can also refer to unknown land space and unknown territories where people migrate to and settle. Because they have moved from

the familiar and the known to the unfamiliar and the unknown, they are regarded as people who are settled on the *vahanoa*, an unfamiliar space. Obviously, every migrant who settles in a new land will face the reality of the unknown and unfamiliar challenges. These challenges can pose a threat to any migrant's integrity and cultural identity. Yet, settling in a new land space can offer new opportunities to pursue and utilise for the betterment of life. I believe that to be the experience of most of the refugees who settled in our city recently. The new destination where they have now settled, offers them hope and a better future for their children.

Although *vahanoa* can pose a threat to those who travel across it, we cannot deny the opportunities that it provides for those who have the courage and vision of a better future. It is that kind of hope which gives travellers the mindset to stay positive during hardship. We are all travellers in one way or the other and we are always in the middle of a *vahanoa* experience. Sometimes, when we are in that sphere of life, we give up hope and optimism rather than tracking on with courage and expectation for opportunities. John O'Donohue in his book, entitled, *To Bless the Space Between Us*, writes, "Consequently, when we stand before crucial thresholds in our lives, we have no rituals to protect, encourage, and guide us as we cross over into the unknown. For such crossings we need to find new words." But I believe finding new words is not good enough without finding new actions and new meanings.

I am always impressed with the "calling story" of the first disciple - as the author of Luke's gospel wrote in Luke 5:1-11. Jesus said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." The result of letting down their nets in the middle of uncertainty and the unknown was that they caught so many fish, their nets were almost destroyed. This story portrays a picture of those who are in the *vahanoa*

experience. They are frustrated and stressed, for there is no positive outcome of their hard work for the whole night. It is understandable that they were inclined to give up hope altogether. Yet, the words of Jesus stirred them to maintain their hope, and helped them to realise that there were still opportunities yet to discover in the midst of their chaos. Furthermore, it was his failure that gave Simon another opportunity to embrace a new action and to find new a meaning for his life and his career.

It feels to me that our Parish is, in some ways, going through a *vahanoa* experience since the closing celebration of our Wesley Methodist Church last Sunday. Like Simon Peter, we are all frustrated and stressed because we have worked so hard, with apparently little result. To add to our frustration, our membership is declining and our congregations are ageing. We are obviously at a crossroad. Can we still have hope in the midst of our uncertainty? Can we still find opportunities for growth, in the midst of our frustration? Our Methodist Church President, Rev Prince Devanandan reminded us last Sunday that we must look beyond the four walls of our church buildings for opportunities for mission. His words reiterate the well-known saying of John Wesley, "The world is my parish." *Vahanoa* reminds us the challenges which we face in our journey in the unknown space, but it also reminds us of the hope we are still yet to discover in our explorations. Advent Season reminds us that we must be hopeful in our waiting for the coming of Christ to be with us, as our Emmanuel (God is with us). We are not alone.

So, every time you go to St Clair beach, I hope you will enjoy looking toward the deep ocean (*vahanoa*). Deep oceans provide vast opportunities and challenges for explorers and navigators. Let's ask God, and each other, where best to "cast our nets" in the midst of all our uncertainties.

Siosifa Pole

WORSHIP SERVICES - DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017**Sunday 11th December**

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Mornington at St Mary's Anglican

11.00 am – Glenaven

Sunday 18th December

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Mornington

11.00 am – Glenaven

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December

11.00 pm – Glenaven, with supper at 10.30 pm

Christmas Day, Sunday 25th December

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Mornington (combined with Glenaven)

Sunday 1st January

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Mornington (combined Mornington Churches)

11.00 am – Glenaven

11.00 am – St Kilda

Sunday 8th January

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Mornington at St Mary's Anglican

11.00 am – Glenaven

Sunday 15th January

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Morn/Glenaven combined at Mornington Presbyterian

Sunday 22nd January

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Mornington

11.00 am – Glenaven

Sunday 29th January

10.00 am – Glenaven (Parish Combined Service)