

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

10 MAY 2026

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 17 MAY 2026

9.30AM	Mornington Church	Ian Boddy
10.00AM	Mosgiel Church	Elaine Merrett
11.00AM	Glenaven Church	Ian Boddy
Connections Article		Heather Rhodes

RADIO CHURCH

8.30am		Olivia Dawson University Chaplaincy Coordinator
	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

10 May 2026 Mothers Day
13 May 2026 Parish Council, St Kilda Church, 7.30PM
13 May 2026 Artificial Intelligence & Christian Life, Dr Garner, online 7PM
14 May 2026 Vocation of a Deaconess, Rachel Tombs, Knox College, 5.30PM
20 May 2026 Artificial Intelligence & Christian Life, Dr Shepherd, online 7PM
3 June 2026 Artificial Intelligence & Christian Life, Matt Ensor, online 7PM

Notices

Parish Council will meet at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 13 May at St Kilda Church

Artificial Intelligence and Christian life

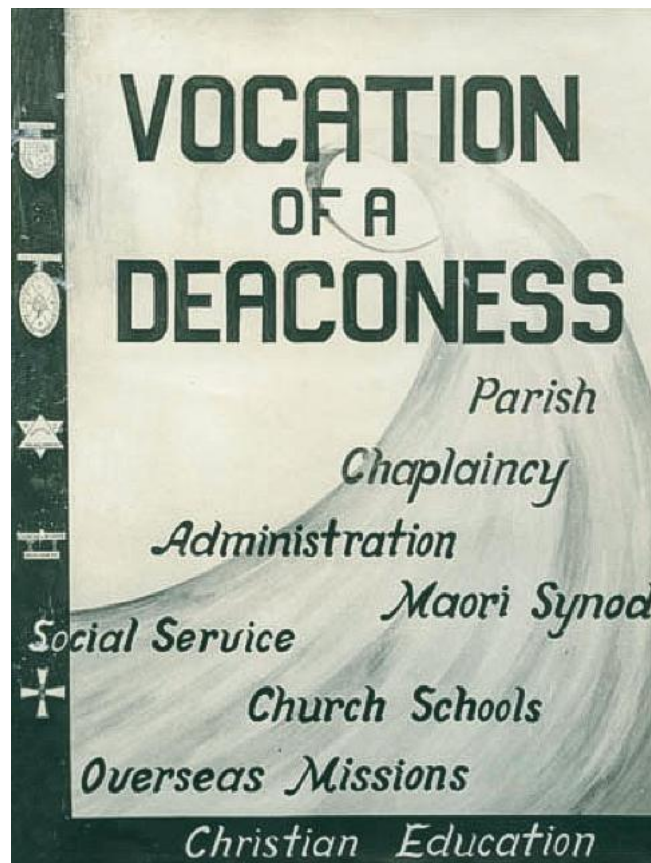
Join us online at 7pm over four consecutive Wednesdays for online sessions exploring a range of perspectives on AI, technology and Christian life.

May 13: Dr. Stephen Garner - What's next? Robot preachers and worship leaders? Is there a place for AI in the worshipping life of the church?

May 20: Dr. Andrew Shepherd - A Critique of Contemporary Technologies and their Impact on Human Flourishing.
How does technology shape us?

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/>



Presbyterian Research Network presents:

Dunedin Deaconesses

A talk by Rachel Tombs

Thursday 14 May, 5:30 pm

Seminar Room, KCML, Knox College, Dunedin

This presentation focuses on the Presbyterian Deaconess Movement in Dunedin between 1940 and 1974. It will explore the expectations, freedoms, and challenges of the deaconess role, and argue that the deaconesses were both a part of the established gender order and a challenge to it. This lecture is co-sponsored by the Presbyterian Research Centre (PRC), in support of their Presbyterian Church Deaconess Collection, a UNESCO Memory of the World Collection. The talk is free and open to the public.

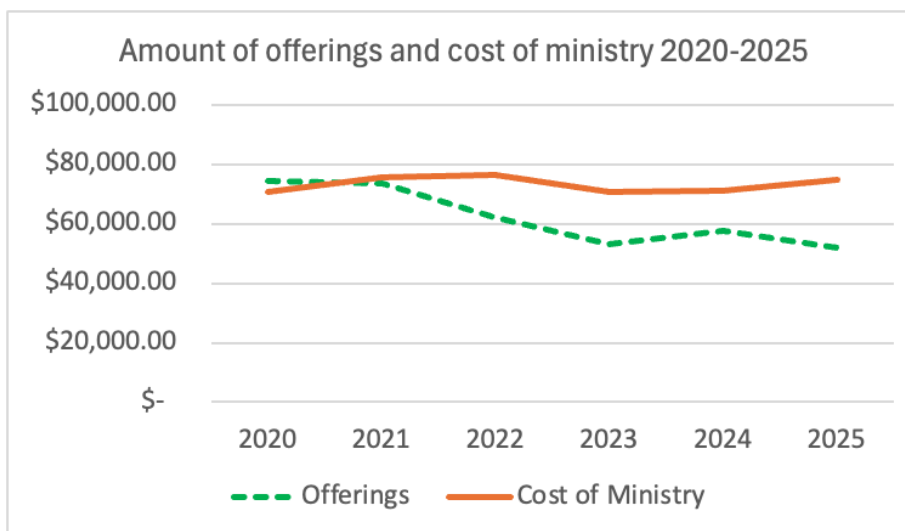
Preceded by refreshments from 5 pm.

Any questions: Presbyterian Research Centre, 473 0775.

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

Connections - Women's Day

There is no way one can miss the fact that 'Mother's Day' has come round again.

We are swamped with the inevitable advertising on radio, television, magazines etc.,

exhorting us to demonstrate how much we love and appreciate our mothers by buying a gift

ranging from relatively inexpensive to wildly extravagant, often accompanied by a nauseatingly sentimental message.

As children, we weren't exposed to intense media advertising as kids are today. Tv, phones, magazines, computers all intended to pressure the consumer that they REALLY need to buy Mum

something she doesn't either want or need to demonstrate how much she is loved. It can become a guilt trip.

'Back in the day' Mothers were presented at church with a flower, usually a white

Chrysanthemum, and if she was VERY lucky, breakfast in bed.

Whenever I asked my Mother what she would like, she would look at me very meaningfully and say..." all I want is for you to be good"

Hmm...I can't imagine why she might have said that!

The sermon on Mother's Day, (delivered by a male minister of course) was usually exhorting mothers to be the fine virtuous women as described in Proverbs 31. The portion of the text describing her as active in the role of a businesswoman (albeit while carrying out her maternal

duties) was carefully overlooked. Meanwhile her husband is 'known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land, and his heart safely trusts her so he will have no lack of gain.'

God the father as a theological concept was acceptable in the 1950s, however God as mother...well

this was a bridge too far.

In the denomination in which I was raised, Mary was faithfully wheeled out on Mother's Day and Christmas, then carefully shelved until the following year. Motherhood was the one safe attribute of women, after all Jesus had a mother. But for a large section of

Christendom Mary was relegated to a state of perpetual virginity. Motherhood was mostly the way a woman was validated. That was her safe and proper place.

However...it's not that simple.

It is important to remember that motherhood for many is not always a happy event. While it is often a joyous and wonderful experience, it can be difficult and painful for many for a host of reasons .

It's not just mothers who 'mother' and nurture. More and more Grandparents are required to step into the parenting role, indeed some great grandparents are needing to step up. As a great grandparent myself, I'm well aware what a big 'ask' that must be. Extended family, aunts and uncles too are finding themselves involved to some extent in this demanding yet important task.

I wonder what Jesus would think of Mother's Day May 10th, 2026.

In biblical text his attitude toward his own mother was less than sentimental, at least the way it is related by the authors in the gospels. In biblical times there wouldn't be much room for the luxury of sentimentality. The daily grind would put paid to that.

Setting aside all the peripheral commercialism, it is right and good that we celebrate all mothers.

Especially those who grieve the loss of a beloved child. For many, today must surely be a day of bittersweet memory. We think of mothers struggling in the space between the perception of their child's rearing and the disparate perception of their troubled adult child.

Motherhood / nurturing these days presents challenges unthought of in our day.

AI presents a minefield of unforeseen situations socially, geopolitically and possibly even a threat to humanity. Our world as it today makes it all too easy to head down a rabbit hole of negativity and gloom. Over sentimentalising celebrations like Mother's Day may be one of societies ways of dealing with it.....of holding it at arm's length. Unfortunately, it is an opportunity seized by huge commercial interests who have everything to gain from it.

Climate change and the degradation of the environment also loom large over our very existence.

These factors will intensely influence the demands that will fall squarely on the shoulders of parents and nurturers globally.

Therefore, let us celebrate ALL who nurture!

The saying 'it takes a village to rear a child' will take on a whole new significance for parents indeed for all who nurture our young in this age where truth, justice, equality and the fundamentals of basic human decency are in question.

That is a story yet unimagined and of course, as yet untold.

Trish Patrick.

2026	MOSGIEL 10.00 am	MORNINGTON 9.30 am	GLENAVEN 11.00 am
MAY			
3	Susan Hamel	Rod Mitchell +	Ian Boddy +
10	Ian Boddy +	Greg Hughson	Helen Watson White
17	Elaine Merrett	Ian Boddy	Ian Boddy
24	Ian Boddy	Susan Hamel	Susan Hamel
31	Ian Boddy /with Elaine	Joint service at Mosgiel 10am	Joint service at Mosgiel 10am
JUNE			
7	Joint Service Mornington at 10am	Ian Boddy (Final Service) 10am +	Joint Service Mornington 10am
14	Greg Hughson +	George Davis	Helen Watson White
21	Elaine Merrett	Marcia Hardy	Susan Hamel
28	Joint service Mornington	Adam Baker (1st service)	Joint service Mornington