



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)

<b>Presbyters:</b>	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
<b>Tongan Steward:</b>	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Siosifa: <a href="mailto:parish@dmm.org.nz">parish@dmm.org.nz</a>	466 4600
	Katrina: <a href="mailto:admin@dmm.org.nz">admin@dmm.org.nz</a>	
<b>Parish Prayer Convenor</b>	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
<b>Mornington:</b>		

## PARISH BULLETIN

17<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> April

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - Wednesday 27 April at 2.00pm. Marion Kitchingman will present a dramatisation of the life of Vera Brittain. Vera was an English nurse during WWI, serving in England, Malta and France. After the war she became a notable author advocating for peace and social justice including equal rights for women. ALL WELCOME.

**EXPLORERS GROUP** - Next meeting Sunday 24 April, Mornington Lounge, 4.30 pm.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Alice Hughson who turns 2 on 18<sup>th</sup> April!

### **OPEN EDUCATION: LIVING RICHER SPIRITUAL LIVES**

On Wednesday 20 April Open Education presents a fascinating talk by Rev John Franklin, former chaplain to the Bishop of Dunedin, and one of the founders of the Spiritual Growth Ministries organisation. This national, ecumenical organisation organises retreats and venues for meditation and contemplation. It publishes Refresh, a richly illustrated and poetic journal. Essentially it is a network of people from many Christian traditions (yes, including Methodists) who find depth and meaning in the whole Christian heritage of contemplative spirituality. It aims to help people develop their own spiritual resources for life and work. Join us at Mornington Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 April or come to the pre-talk meal catered by Judy Russell at 6pm (ring 455 3727 for your booking). A koha of \$5 for the talk and \$15 for the meal. All profits will go to help restore the Fijian communities battered by hurricanes and torrential rain.

**ON SUNDAY WE CELEBRATED** our oldest members birthday Mrs Thelma Howison who was 97. Thelma has been and still is a very regular attending member of the Mosgiel Church and earlier Trinity Methodist. She is a very faithful member with a very strong faith and has served many positions in the church. We ask does any other church in the Dunedin Parish have a regular worshipping member older than 97?



**OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS** love & prayers to Nancy & Frank McGregor who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on Thursday. 60 years is an amazing achievement. May God bless you both from your Mosgiel Church Family.

## **BACKGROUND TO THE** Virtuoso String Orchestra touring group.

- 37 children aged 6 to 16 from the Porirua String Orchestra
- mostly Pacifica or Maori children who have had an average of 2 years group teaching at school
- taught and organized by volunteers
- trip funded by the Virtuoso Strings Charitable Trust based in Porirua
- music varies from classical to folk to Brazilian
- the concert at Knox Church will last about an hour -- shorter than the concert in the evening.
- these children have a love of music, natural ability and boundless enthusiasm – all they needed was opportunity



**Virtuoso Strings**  
**ORCHESTRA**

**Concert**

*Uplifting musical performances by accomplished young musicians from Porirua's own string orchestra*

*Conducted by Andrew Atkins*

*Oamaru, 24th April*  
*The Opera House at 7pm*

*Dunedin, 25th April*  
*Knox Church at 2pm*  
*Kings & Queens Performing Arts Centre at 7:15pm*

*Entry by Koha*  
*All proceeds to the Virtuoso Strings Charitable Trust*

## **NZ LAND WARS PETITION - PARISH SUBMISSION**

I encourage you to sign the submission from the Dunedin Methodist Parish, in support of the Petition of Waimarama Anderson and Leah Bell, calling for greater awareness of the Land Wars, for local stories of those times to become part of the New Zealand Curriculum, and for there to be a statutory Day of Recognition.

Today is your last opportunity to sign this submission, as it must be received by the Maori Affairs Select Committee by Thursday 21 April.

A copy of this submission, and space for your signature, is available from your worship leader.

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Over the past few weeks I have spoken with a range of people, both Maori and Pakeha. There seems to be a positive recognition that it is now time to recognise this chapter of our history. Thank you all for your support.

For more information, please contact Dale Meredith, ph [467 2070](tel:4672070), email [peterdale@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:peterdale@slingshot.co.nz)

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER –**

The Taieri World Day of Prayer, this year, was held at Trinity Church Outram. As people arrived they were greeted and handed a small glass of home made lemonade, as they do in Cuba, we followed the service sheet, having members of all



the congregations taking their part. This is one of the few times when all our congregations do join together, and we do enjoy this time. The service was followed by a scrumptious afternoon tea with plenty of chat and laughter. Praise to our Lord for bringing us all together.



## A VISIT WITH VERA BRITTAIN

**Saturday 7 May 2016 at Mornington Methodist Church at 2pm**

Come and meet Vera in a dramatised play written and presented by Marion Kitchingman. Vera was an English nurse during WW 1, a notable author and had a passion for peace and women's rights. Enjoy singing songs from the World War 1 era. This event is open to all the **Parish, family and friends**. Everyone welcome

Entry \$5.00 Afternoon tea to follow

## MEMBERS OF THE PARISH

have the last opportunity today to sign a petition to Parliament calling for the commemoration of those who died in the New Zealand land wars to be raised in prominence in the life of our nation. To quote Donald Phillipps' piece in last week's bulletin -



"The New Zealand wars were, and are, a formative and essential part of our country's history. An estimated 3000 Maori and Pakeha - warriors, soldiers and civilians - lost their lives. Vast tracts of land were confiscated. Both the heartbreak and the injustice still influence the way we think and speak of our sense of nationhood."

Despite many hundreds of memorials around New Zealand commemorating the sacrifice of those who died in foreign wars, South Africa, Gallipoli, France, WW2, Korea etc, only a handful of reminders are in place to tell of events in our own land that played such a profound role in shaping New Zealand as it is today. And a New Zealand kid learning history today is much more likely to be taught the history of England than of his/her own nation. Concerted moves are afoot to rectify that imbalance, and our Parish petition, along with

many other representations to the Select Committee, are part of that effort. If you have not yet signed, enquire at your congregation today. Photo shows Dale Meredith, petition organiser, and Donald Phillipps, petition author holding the petition.



**BY THE TIME** you read this article, Mornington Methodist Church will have hosted one of the meetings being held around Dunedin, as the city prepares to receive a small group of Syrian refugees. Our quota of a few families is part of this country's timid response to the plight of millions of displaced people around the world as civil war and social turmoil, poverty of a kind we can hardly imagine, unemployment and climate change take their toll.

Our leaders tell us we cannot afford to take anymore and that this country's relative prosperity would take a massive hit if we opened our gates an inch or so wider. And Mr English worries that his government's 'balanced' budget, with its electorally profitable hope of a magic surplus, might be upset by the arrival of numbers of people without money (that most important of all worldly goods), in poor health (no more problems for our underfunded health services, please) and without desirable technical skills.

Who is my neighbour? Well, not certainly impoverished refugees and asylum seekers, battered by the bandits of this world, and left to groan in a ditch by the side of the road. The ugly truth of these beautiful islands is that our elected representatives have no intention of allowing our tourist-pleasing world to be turned into a haven for the wretched mass of humanity flowing from one country to another, searching to escape from the nightmare that is now their home.

On the other side of the world, where the blue waters of the Mediterranean lap the golden shores of the Sicilian island of Lampedusa, the local population of 6000 people, who get most of their income from European sun-seeking tourists, have a problem like ours. In March 2011 their population doubled, as thousands of Libyan, Syrian, Somali and Ethiopian asylum seekers and 'economic' refugees reached their shores,

desperate to escape persecution, poverty, or to get a chance at a better life, and have continued to arrive in huge numbers. Lampedusa has become a symbol of Europe's migrant crisis, and its reluctant response to that crisis.

An Amnesty team found that the Italian authorities were very slow to help the refugees stranded on the island and that the islanders were worried that the tens of thousands of tourists who arrive every year would not return for the summer season. 'Keeping the island attractive to tourists is on everyone's mind, it seems. When we visited a boat cemetery, where old boats of migrants can be found, the impression we got from the Italian military guard there was that migrants were a bad thing, and that the boats do not represent what Lampedusa is really about—an island for tourists.'

Enter Francesco Tuccio, a carpenter living on Lampedusa. One Sunday in 2011, at the height of the Arab spring, this humble carpenter made a decision to stop making furniture. He was at Mass in his local church. Among the congregation were bedraggled groups of newly arrived Eritrean migrants, weeping for loved ones who had drowned during the Mediterranean crossing. After the service he went to the beach and began collecting the blistered, brightly coloured driftwood from the wreckage of migrant boats that had washed up on Lampedusa's shores. He decided to make crosses from them.

As he carved the timber, he shivered at the wood's strange touch which he said made him think of holy relics, and smelt 'of salt, sea and suffering'. He asked his parish priest to display a big, rough cross above the altar to remind the congregation of the migrants' desperate plight and he offered every migrant he saw a small cross as a symbol of their rescue and of hope for a new life. His work later became famous, especially when it was made the subject of a BBC news item.

Enter Cam Weston, a member of the Mornington congregation, who saw the news item and responded as instinctively as the carpenter had done. He emailed Francesco (O the miracles of modern connective technology!), asking if he would make our congregation such a cross: 'Here in Dunedin, in far off New Zealand, we are soon to have some refugees from Syria joining our community with the hope that they can establish a better life for themselves in this peaceful part of the world. My request is for one of

your special crosses to reside in my local church to be here to welcome any refugees who may attend a service, as a symbol of our recognition of the suffering they have experienced before coming to our land...while we are not of the catholic faith we welcome all into our community, and will support the refugees as we can when they arrive.'

The reply came back by email, 'I understand what it needs, for me is fine, I just need to know the size in terms of the cross, I have to inform to know if I can get them the cross and the cost of shipping. Good evening. Best regards, Francesco Tuccio.'

And so sometime soon, a cross fashioned from the shattered timbers of a refugee boat crossing the Mediterranean, will be in place in Mornington Methodist Church as a reminder of the suffering that plagues our whole world and the sympathetic love that that suffering calls forth—as Jesus would have wished.

The British Museum has also requested such a cross—you can see pictures of it and its maker by going to Google and looking up the many websites for 'Lampedusa crosses'. The wood for the Museum cross was chosen carefully: It came from a boat which capsized off the coast of Lampedusa on 3 October 2013 with the loss of 366 lives; a disaster that prompted the Italian navy to launch their Mare Nostrum sea and rescue mission. Francesco later wrote, 'I was so happy and proud when the museum contacted me. And then I asked myself a question. 'If this message has reached such an important museum, visited by people from all over the world, is this enough to break down the wall in the hearts of people still indifferent to this terrible crisis?' The Museum director replied: 'It is hard to stand in front of that humble cross, in the middle of so many opulent and priceless exhibits, and not to be moved to tears. Its message is powerful, direct and so deeply sad.'

May we in Dunedin, and the people coming in the future to Mornington Methodist Church experience the same powerful message.

**Colin Gibson**