



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
Parish Stewards:	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
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Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

1st May 2016

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8th May

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	G Abernethy
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	G Abernethy
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MOSGIEL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 3rd May at 1:30pm in the Hall where Earlene Owens will speak to us about her Cruise on the Sea Princess. Those interested are very welcome to come and hear Earlene.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to

- 😊 Alicia Horsfall who turns 8 on 6th May!
- 😊 Kirstie Kopi who turns 13, also on 6th May!

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

THE JIHAD OF JESUS: HOW CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS CAN WORK TOGETHER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Dave Andrews, Christian Heritage College, educator for TEAR Australia
Archway 2 Lecture Theatre

Tuesday 10 May, 5.30pm-6.30pm

Followed by supper and ongoing discussion with Dave Andrews from 6.45pm at All Saints' Church Hall, 786 Cumberland St. All welcome.

Please feel free to bring "finger food" to share. This can be dropped off at the Hall between 4.30 – 5.10pm.



RADIO CHURCH

8.30am Sunday

a weekly service presented by Dunedin Inner City Ministers' Assoc

Otago Access Radio 105.4FM & 1575AM and online www.oar.org.nz

CAN RELIGION AND POLITICS MIX? - Join us for the next Open Education presentation, on Wednesday May 18, when Dunedin's David Clark, prominent politician and an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church, addresses this thorny question from his own experience in the New Zealand parliament. Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, 7.30pm. A koha of \$5. Ring Judy Russell (455 3727) for your place at the pre-session meal, starting at 6pm. This is a subject of general interest: bring a friend. All proceeds go to the Syrian refugee families now in Dunedin.

National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies Seminar Series 2016

The Jihad of Jesus: How Christians and Muslims can work together for peace and justice

Dave Andrews

Christian Heritage College, Founder of the Waiters Union, educator for TEAR Australia,



In association with the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, the University of Otago Chaplaincy Service and the Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group

In the context of the conflict between Christians and Muslims, which has escalated alarmingly in many parts of the world since 9/11, Dave Andrews searched for a Muslim counterpart with whom he could work in partnership to rebuild the bridges of communication the extremists are blowing up. He found Dr. Nora Amath, Director of Australian Muslim Advocates of the Rights of All Humanity. Based on these conversations he wrote a book called 'The Jihad Of Jesus: The Sacred Nonviolent Struggle For Justice' which is a handbook for reconciliation and action: a do-it-yourself guide for all Christians and Muslims who want to move beyond the 'so-called clash of civilizations' and instead are prepared to struggle side by side for justice and peace.

Dave Andrews, his wife Ange and their friends started Aashiana, Sahara, and Sharan, faith-based community organisations working with slum dwellers, sex workers, drug addicts, and people with HIV/AIDS in India; and they are now a part of the Waiters Union in Brisbane, Australia; an inner city Christian community network that is walking alongside people of other faiths with Aborigines, refugees and people with disabilities. Dave is interested in radical spirituality, incarnational community and interfaith peacemaking. He is the author of many books, including 'Not Religion, But Love', 'A Divine Society', 'People Of Compassion' 'Compassionate Community Work', the 'Plan Be' series, 'Bismillah', 'Isa' and his latest book called '*The Jihad Of Jesus: The Sacred Nonviolent Struggle For Justice.*'

Archway 2
Tuesday 10 May, 5.30pm

Followed by supper and ongoing discussion with Dave Andrews at All Saints' Church Hall, 786 Cumberland St. All welcome.

The National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies works with students and researchers from all disciplines to further our understandings of peace-building and conflict resolution through the experiences of people, places and history.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/ncpacs>



LAST SUNDAY MOSGIEL remembered Anzac Day with a wreath made by Earlene Owens which we placed on our Memorial Gates. Many thanks Elaine



PENTECOST EVENSONG - A Contemporary service of prayer and praise.
Sunday, 15 May 7pm. St Luke's, 67 Gordon Rd.



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Corrections: Skills for Dads

Skills for Dads has finished with DVD messages to go home to the children.

PCOMS showed an average shift of 8.6 for the participants in the programme around their parenting skills and confidence. (A shift of more than 6 is considered statistically significant.)

IT ALL STARTED when our Ghanaian friend Adjoa Bansum wore a hat to Church, so chic, so positively breathtaking, it left every other woman in the congregation feeling . . . inadequate. It was immediately decided that corrective action should be taken the very next Sunday, and not only the women but the men should take the opportunity to sport their *meilleur chapeau*. The result was as you see in the picture, but don't Colin and Adjoa make a splendid sight!!





I WAS SPOILED FOR CHOICES this Anzac Day. Not for me the dawn parade, infirmities considered and blustery inhospitable weather.

For the same reason, exit the good idea to join fellow peace-niks at the Museum Reserve peace pole. And decided to give the RSA choir a miss this year, though have always enjoyed their splendid harmonies, old soldiers dipping into deep nostalgic waters, making music out of painful memories now mercifully freed from mud, guts, and appalling losses.

Instead, opted for a movie recommended by my younger family.

"*Eye in the Sky.*" "Dad, it's your kind of movie, with Helen Mirren - but don't take Mum." It was good advice.

It's modern warfare, with drones, about as far removed from the wars remembered at Anzac Day commemorations around New Zealand as is possible to conceive. The enemy is not lying low in a trench fifty yards away - she's a radicalised British subject committed to violent jihad and she's holed up in a Kenyan house arming a teenage boy with a suicide vest capable of killing up to 80 innocents in the next shopping mall designated for destruction. And remarkably, courtesy of an amazing array of eyes in the sky, including drones the size of garden sparrows that can perch, quietly and unsuspected, in any given domestic location, everything in the Nairobi location can be seen in sharpest definition on monitors in strategic sites as far distanced as the an airforce base in the Nevada desert, CIA hq, and British Intelligence.

The plot of this movie is as captivating as it is unlikely. The Brits are poised to destroy the target with a precision hellfire missile from a giant unmanned drone a mile overhead when a young Kenyan girl emerges from her nearby home and sets up her daily bread stall immediately outside the target house. The Nevada-based "pilots" who must fire the missile are dismayed by the girl's arrival and ask for her to be lured away before the strike is made. Frantic efforts commence with ground contacts to do this, but a fraught situation develops where there is conflict between the military and political/civilian interests involved. Morality takes centre stage. Is saving one child worth the

potential death of hundreds or should the child be written off as collateral damage?

Of course, the movie has an entertainment component, and as it reaches its climax the tension becomes palpable. You must go watch it to see the result. Some terrorists die but there are no winners, and at the end of the day the chief players in the movie, including the coordinator of the operation Colonel Katherine Powell (Helen Mirren) go to their beds, their duty done, but with their various moral integrities severely mauled and in various stages of damage control.

Not all of you would enjoy the movie, though it is masterfully made. I said the scenario is unlikely, simply because I cannot imagine such a moral dilemma among the war-makers playing out in the real world of drone warfare. There is too much military professionalism involved in the deployment of such sophisticated weapons technology, and the so-called "war on terror" makes for hard hearts, not the soft and compassionate ones that come to the fore in this movie.

But what this gig does do for the likes of me is provide a scary insight into the nature of war as developed by our friend and ally, the United States. The much-used term "boots on the ground" has become almost an irrelevance in the conduct of this kind of war. The pilots of this huge lethal drone never leave the ground. The day of absentee war has come, and I can imagine the fear and loathing generated in countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and a host of middle eastern and northern African nations where these silent "weapons out of no-where" have already been deployed.

Len Brown at the Auckland dawn parade paid tribute to the "bravest of the brave." These were men who went to war in the time-honoured manner, prepared to fight the enemy of the day, hand to hand if necessary. It was what the warriors of old deemed a fair fight, on what we call today a "level playing field". The battles were bloody and the toll was awful, but at the end of the day there was a measure of respect for those who fought by the same rules from the other side.

Drone warfare, the warfare of choice by the Obama administration has changed all that - but only for those with the wealth and sophistication to wage it. And that is the huge dilemma - just the latest, I might say - that I have with the very obvious courtship John Key and his government are wanting to prosper with all things American. The ability to settle any dispute, to defeat any rival, to eliminate any enemy, anywhere in the world - simply by pressing a remote button somewhere in the Nevada desert, sets the US apart. It makes them more sought-after as allies, but more feared and resented as enemies. And needless to say, will prompt more of the disenfranchised youth of the world to embrace the only weapon available to counter such warfare, the suicide vest.

Rod Mitchell's good news at our Anzac service was that Pope Francis and a conclave in Rome are laying the foundations for a new Catholic policy revising the long standing doctrine of the "just war." It's a bold move for any pope, though some would say it is about time. Still others would claim the excuse for a just war disappeared fifty years ago in the rain of agent orange sprayed over the jungles of Vietnam. But be as it may, the challenge of Francis has a context that cannot any longer be ignored, and hopefully will quickly catch fire among peace-loving thinkers, theologians, philosophers, ethicists, politicians and even the military. The nuclear weapon has played a part in turning humankind against the tyranny of war, but at huge cost. Pray God, the realisation that the stealth of drone warfare could all too soon proliferate to terrorise innocent people everywhere is sufficient warning to turn us all away from the madness of war, forever.

Ken Russell

Postscript: Barack Obama has authorised about 10 times as many drone attacks as his predecessor; the death toll from drone strikes is now higher than that of 9/11 and many of the dead have been innocent civilians, including women and children.