



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

21st May 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 28th May

9.30 am	Mornington	M Hardy
10.00 am	Mosgiel	G Davis
11.00 am	Glenaven	M Hardy
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT Sunday 21 May
2.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. All
welcome. Cost \$2 There will be items from the
Mornington Methodist Choir, piano music by NZ
composers and Eli Gray-Smith, who is 90 this
month, will talk about his life in music.



MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - The May Meeting will take place on the 24th May at 2 p.m. in the Church. All welcome to come along & see some of the wonderful Street Art around Dunedin. This will be presented by Brian & Sue. Don't forget The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

PF&R COMMITTEE - The PF&R Committee will meet at the Mission building at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 24 May.

GAMES NIGHT for all the Parish to be held at Mosgiel Methodist Church Hall on **Saturday 27 May at 7pm.** Mark this on your calendar. See you there for a fun night. Please bring any board games that you would like to play.



PRAYER REQUEST - Please pray for the sick people and those who are unable to attend our Sunday services due to health issues. Pray also for the future of the Parish, its vision and mission.



IT WAS **HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARGARET** at Mornington Church last Sunday, celebrating Margaret's 87th birthday. And a huge cake was cut to make the glad day even sweeter. CONGRATULATIONS Margaret. You are held in the highest regards by your Church family - your friendly, smiling presence, your beautiful alto voice in the choir, and your utmost loyalty to us all. Some of us have been round long enough to know a longer story - your record as a remarkable Mum in your marriage to the late

Rev Ron, and the commitment to loving gospel values that both of you brought to family, church and community. Photo shows Margaret with daughter Claire at the after-service function.

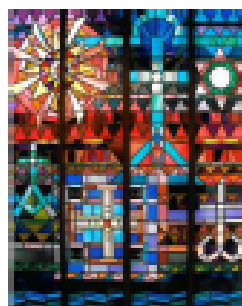
EXPLORERS GROUP next meeting: Sunday 28 May, Mornington Lounge, 4.30 pm. Two items: markers of progressive Christianity, plus our AGM. Welcome.



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Brief Drink Driving programme: A very responsive group who were happy to take part in all activities. They particularly enjoyed using the booze goggles, and were keen to carry on trying them out during breaks. Only one did not use the booze goggles as he had a hangover and did not want them to make him sick. They were engaged in the card and board games and there were good discussions during the brain storming sessions. Feedback from the participants - "Thank you for giving insight into drink driving, it has been a learning day" Joy has been very educational in all aspects in regards to the possible outcomes of the consequences of drink driving. The goggles definitely were an eye opener to the possibility of what could it look like if you were drunk, but from a sober perspective." "I have learnt a lot about the effects of alcohol and drink driving. Great course to take."

If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission.



OTAGO HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY SUPPORT TRUST

Spirituality Seminar

Dunedin Hospital Chapel

Thursday 25 May 2017, 1-2 pm



Prue Murdoch is a Dunedin GP and partner at Amity Health Centre. She is also actively involved in mentoring tertiary students, both within the church and the medical school. Nurturing robust Christian faith that can engage with all of life is a key interest. In that regard, her own personal and professional life has been richly impacted by a growing understanding and experience of 'Christ for us and Christ in us'.

Dr Prue Murdoch

Parish Links

St Kilda Methodist Church celebrated with joy Faka-Me Sunday, where the young people and children were acknowledged their role in the life of the church. They maintain the 10 years vision of the church, *Let the Children Live*. They participated in action songs, singing songs, dramas, and Bible memory verses. The day concluded with a potluck late lunch, which everyone was invited to join. It was a day of community celebration.





INTO THIS LAND

You will need to come with me on a journey of imagination – it is 2020AD in the old time, a term no longer allowed. It is Year One of the New Age. You see, much has happened.

The war and subsequent apocalypse was over shortly. It all happened swiftly when the superpowers became embroiled in a conflict which assured their mutual destruction. The war of words of the previous age slipped into warlike conflict. An argument over the never-settled border of North Korea became the excuse for an impatient USA President to allow his commanders to lob a salutary missile into agricultural lands west of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. Incensed, the North Korean Great Leader unleashed his carefully hidden “pencils of death” at the west coast of America and the capitals of the US’ ally states in Australia. In retaliation the US decided to teach the upstart Korean state a lesson and obliterate the capital no matter of its closeness to the South. Unfortunately one US missile went astray and hit a small city over the border in nearby China. It was Dandong, the birthplace of the President of China. Within a day, Russia, fearing world domination by a rampant US state, launched its IBMs on an all-out attack on the centres of western imperialism, the USA and Britain. In days, no place on Earth was unaffected. Only the Far South had any known survivors.

In Year One, the ship arrived in Otago Harbour. It was curiously called “*The Ark*”. The people on board carried no animals this time. They seemed uniformly self-assured and led by a man they called the “Commander”. They also had a very well equipped battalion of troops, numbering 500. They called themselves “Peacekeepers” and “Guardians of Public Safety” and arrived seeking shelter from the

devastation in the north. They explained some of what we already knew. That the weapon which had destroyed Brisbane carried such poisonous radiation that when its fallout crossed the Tasman on the prevailing winds everything north of the Waitaki river, now called “the Border” in new language, was dead and contaminated to a degree that it caused any life-form to die. So bridges on the river were demolished. The Riverstone Castle was used to house a small mobile contingent of troops from the *The Ark* to ensure no one crossed from the north. Some of us thought that curious if they were already dead.

There was no electricity as the national grid had collapsed. Important points in the city of Dunedin, now called “The Landing” were supplied from the nuclear-powered generators of *The Ark*. The University, Old Post Office and Town Hall were commandeered to house the new administration and their troops and support staff.

They came they said to aid us, to save us. At first they seemed benevolent but within a few weeks we saw their troops patrolling the streets and roads “for the safety of the

population”. The local NZ Police force were made to swear an oath stating that they would never act in a manner prejudicial to the new administration. Does that sound familiar? We were assured that the North was totally uninhabited and a wasteland. Some curious souls from Oamaru were not convinced and by night made their way to the northern side by the well-worn tracks of the old salmon fishers. They were never seen again.

Old folks and the infirm in the population were rounded up to be taken by Peacekeepers buses on a holiday to Central Otago. It was to be a fun week for them. When they were overdue to return the authorities explained by poster that the old people had decided to stay in Wanaka because it was so beautiful in the autumn – it was ablaze with colour and the changing mood of the nearby mountains. This message, repeated often reinforced the idea that the self-styled Guardians would take care of us.

Soon, however, rumours abounded that the old could not be contacted. There was no wireless, telephone or TV as the electricity from the shipboard plant could only be used for necessary administration of the Province and essential work. Only licensed administrators of the Peacekeepers were allowed in Central Otago so it also became a closed off land.

Dunedin and its environs became a great market garden supplying the population and the Peacekeepers with food and housing. Anyone objecting to the new regime was immediately arrested and put before the New Court, conveniently placed in the old, now recently refurbished Law Courts building but the Otago magistrates were replaced by those chosen by the Guardians of Safety. Almost always the cases were judged so dangerous that no public reporting was allowed, and the Court for the most part was in Closed Session - even close relatives of the accused were barred entry.

Parts of the Province reverted to wasteland, with “dangerous bands” of marauding persons wandering around looking for food and valuables. The Commander declared martial law as was now expected by the weary and compliant population. The invaders, as the locals quietly referred to the Guardians, now stepped up the pressure. Camps were established in quiet areas away from the Capital, The Landing. At old sites like Matarae on the edge of the Maniototo and at Kurow near the Border with the unknown North, training camps were established to retrain the obdurate about the purposeless of their old ways. Troops regularly marched north or up Highway 87 to do duty at these camps. When they returned they gave optimistic, even happy reports on what they had seen.

The people were depressed and aimless in the face of all this oppression, carefully spun around as “safety”. Into this land came Christ. He sensed he had been here before.