



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

16th July 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 23rd July

9.30 am	Mornington	R Cannon (MLT)
10.00 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Cannon (MLT)
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT - Sunday 16 July 2.30pm
Mornington Methodist Church. Come and hear a very
good jazz trio. All welcome. Cost \$2.



PARISH COMBINED SERVICE - In Mornington church on the 30th of July,
10am. Please bring a plate to share at the morning tea.

MARTIN LUTHER MEETS OPEN EDUCATION - Yes, our next Open Education presentation is by Dunedin's world-recognised Martin Luther scholar, Reverend Professor Peter Matheson. Was Luther a nightingale singing a new and gentle song or was he a wild boar, rooting up an ancient church structure and its traditions? What has been his impact on the Christian Church, heir to his radical Reformation? Join us at Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, on Wednesday 19 July at 7.30, and get some really well-informed answers. A Koha of \$5 will go to a member of the Parish whose house went on fire last Sunday and needs our support, as will proceeds from the pre-session meal at 6pm, catered by Judy Russell (\$15). Ring Judy (455 3727) to book your place at the table.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Our July Meeting will take place on the 26th July in the Church Lounge at 2p.m. Our Guest Speaker will be Liesel Mitchell & or subject - "Performing non-violence, an Inside Outside Journey". Please remember The Fellowship of the Least Coin. The room will be warm - so please put this on your calendar! & see you there.

PUBLIC ISSUES FOR PARISH BULLETINS JULY 2017

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Bula Vinaka.

Public issues invites you to join the call for an Independent Inquiry into the abuse of children in State Care. A very moving event was held at Parliament with the presentation of a petition, and survivors of children in State care speaking to the crowd gathered at Parliament.

Men and women spoke of the way their lives had been ruined from beatings, sexual abuse and solitary confinement as children. They welcomed the opportunity to speak out for the first time. Some speakers brought photos of loved ones who had committed suicide or died.

We want justice for these people, and to ensure such harm is not repeated. We urge each parish to write to their MP, or to the Minister of Social Welfare, Anne Tolley, a.tolley@ministers.govt.nz or the Commissioner for Children, children@occ.org.nz or the Human Rights Commission infoline@hrc.co.nz to ask for an Independent Inquiry into the abuse of children in state care.

The Climate Conversations Resource is available as hard copy from Betsan or at

http://www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/index2

DUNEDIN INNER CITY MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION RADIO CHURCH

Each Sunday morning a pre-recorded service of worship is offered to our wider community by members of the Dunedin Inner City Ministers' Association.

Shut-in folk, people in rest-homes, in hospital, travellers and anyone else who cannot attend church services can tune in to:

Otago Access Radio 105.4 FM, or worship with us online via www.oar.org.nz each Sunday morning from 8.30 am – 9.00 am.

Please publicise these services widely through all your networks, and tune in yourself to be led in worship by a wide range of Dunedin Church leaders.

Podcasts of services are available, so you can listen to them at any time. This provides a very valuable resource to our wider community.

Go to <http://www.oar.org.nz/browse-podcasts/> and find "Radio Church" via the "Select Programme Name" box.

Radio Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1241647572519138/>

For further information contact Greg Hughson

greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz



STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Next Step Training: One of our students who is profoundly deaf, conducted a signing class for students and staff. She held the groups attention well using interactive activities and games to involve everyone. She had prepared an evaluation and feedback sheet and was very pleased with the positive responses. She is planning to hold more classes. We have a NZSL Taster class booked for 8th June from Deaf Aotearoa as part of New Zealand Sign Language Week.

Little Citizens: Matariki Dinner happened on the 23 June, it was a lovely time for the parents and children. The numbers were down on last year due to it being a wet and cold night we estimate there were 70 people came to the event.

Hearing and vision testing of 4 year old children happened in the centre on the 23rd May. The Public health nurse is visiting once a month and it is nice to see parents starting to talk to her and they even will text her if they have a question.

Dinners in the centre are going well and the families who stay for dinner say it is making their lives easier when they come to pick the children up knowing that they have a full tummy and are ready for the trip home. Some children have to walk home so it gives them the energy to walk home happily. Some children have been asking their friends at centre to stay for dinner so I have had parents book a day so that their child can stay with their friends and enjoy dinner.

FAITH THINKING 2017

Who Is Jesus Really?

Revd Assoc. Prof. Chris Holmes, Department of Theology and Religion,
University of Otago

7:00 – 9:00 pm Monday July 24, 31 and August 7

R7N10 (Richardson Building), University of Otago ***Please note room change***

A “Taster” Course in New Testament Greek

Dr Katie Marcar, Department of Theology and Religion, University of
Otago

7:00 – 9:00 pm Wednesday August 16, 23 & 30

Burns 5 (Albany Street), University of Otago

Understanding the Book of Revelation

Professor Paul Trebilco, Department of Theology and Religion,
University of Otago

7:00 – 9:00 pm Wednesday September 6, 13 & 20

Elim Church Conference Room, 67 Harrow Street

The Protestant Reformation and the Breaking of the Western Church

Assoc. Prof. Tim Cooper, Department of Theology and Religion,
University of Otago

7:00 – 9:00 pm Friday Oct 27 and 9:00am – 12:30pm Saturday Oct 28

DCBC Church, 19 Main South Road, Concord

Each Course costs \$30. Please register online at
www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation or
see payment options overleaf.

For further information go to:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/news/faith-thinking.html>

MOSGIEL CHURCH MID-WEEK SERVICE was postponed from last
Wednesday 12th July to Wednesday 26th July due to the weather and
sickness. It will be at Earlene Owens' home, 9 Aiken Place, Mosgiel,
2pm.

ONE WEEK STUDY LEAVE - I am taking one week Study Leave, starting from Tuesday 18th of July until Monday 24th of July. While I am away, Rev Dr Rod Mitchell will be in charge the administration of the Parish. For any pastoral matter, please contact Rod.



SOME OF YOU KNOW THAT not long after my partner Malcolm died in 2012, I was befriended by a young Chinese Malaysian and have since visited Malaysia with him on three occasions, each visit including a stay with his family on the island of Penang. I am immensely privileged to be welcomed into this family and to enjoy their hospitality, their lifestyle, their festivals and the food for which Penang is famous.

The initial impact as you leave the air-conditioned airport complex is the incredible heat. Just 5° north of the Equator Penang has a tropical climate, warm and humid with a day-time temperature around 35°C. Soon you become aware of an array of different smells in this city where food is cooked outdoors and sold along almost every street. Incense burns in the multitude of temples and on the shrines that are inside and outside most Chinese homes and businesses. The amplified calls to prayer from the minarets that rise above the numerous mosques are another surprise, especially when they wake you before sunrise. The traffic is chaotic with endless motorbikes weaving their way between the cars, trucks and buses that crowd the roads from early morning until late in the evening. It is like Auckland without road rules. Even pedestrians have difficulties with the uneven footpaths being places for café tables or for parking motorbikes making it necessary in many places to walk in the streets.

The family business is the daily supply of fresh banana leaves to the many Indian restaurants in “Little India”, an area within the historic island capital Georgetown. I particularly enjoyed travelling there with “Papa” on his early morning delivery run when the air was balmy and the town just waking up. There is a Chinatown too, much of which is identifiable by its rows of narrow shop-houses, the ground floor devoted to the family business with accommodation on the floors above. Georgetown has been recognised by the United Nations as a World Heritage Site and, with its ancient fort and colonial buildings, its Chinese Clan Houses decorated with ornately tiled roofs, is a fascinating blend of architectural styles.

Ethnic Indians are about 10% of Penang’s population, the majority being Chinese with Malays comprising little more than 30%, the reverse of the situation on mainland Malaysia. There are also people from Burma, Thailand and Indonesia as well as people who are of mixed races including those of British and Portuguese ancestry. This intermingling of races, cultures, religions, cuisines, architectures and languages makes Penang, and Malaysia as a whole, such an interesting place to visit.

The urban area of Penang has spread far beyond the confines of Georgetown and most of the island’s flat land is sprouting high-rise apartment buildings and luxurious private homes. Buildings are under construction everywhere and on each visit I have been taken to explore a vast new shopping mall, favourite places for all Penangites to escape the heat of the streets.

The island has a spine of steep, jungle-clad hills rising in places above 700 metres. The family home is on the coastal plain on the far side of these hills, similar in location to Wellington and the Kapiti Coast. It is a place of traditional fishing villages and orchards, but with modern housing development adding to the mix.

I understand there is a social security system in Malaysia and all employees are required to have health insurance, but I wonder how many of the thousands who are self employed have access to medical care for themselves or their families. More than once I observed old women who could barely shuffle waiting tables in street-side restaurants. In such places blind people who sell tiny packets of paper tissues are led between the tables and are generally well supported by the diners, but I saw very few beggars despite the obvious poverty.

How can I connect any of this with Connections? I have been particularly interested in the way that religion is so important to most of the many people who share this small island. It certainly perpetuates divisions between the races who tend to live in segregated communities, to attend segregated schools, to marry within their own ethnic group, to attend separate places for worship and even to be buried in racially divided cemeteries. Moslems dominate politically and may be resented by non-Moslems for perceptions of institutionalised favouritism in employment and education. If a Moslem marries a non-Moslem he or she must by law convert to the Moslem faith.

It is in the temples to Commerce that these diverse peoples come together and manage to peacefully co-exist. I often wondered what a woman who was completely clad in black with only her eyes visible was thinking of the Chinese girls in short tees and shorter shorts, (or what their husbands were thinking for that matter.) The festivals of all the different religions are celebrated in the malls and all are welcome, no matter whose God they worship. How is it possible for these diverse peoples to coexist when, in so many other countries, even where people speak the same language and worship the same God, they are at war? Perhaps Malaysia has some lessons that would benefit our world in the 21st Century?

Euan Thomson