



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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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

3rd Sep 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 10th September

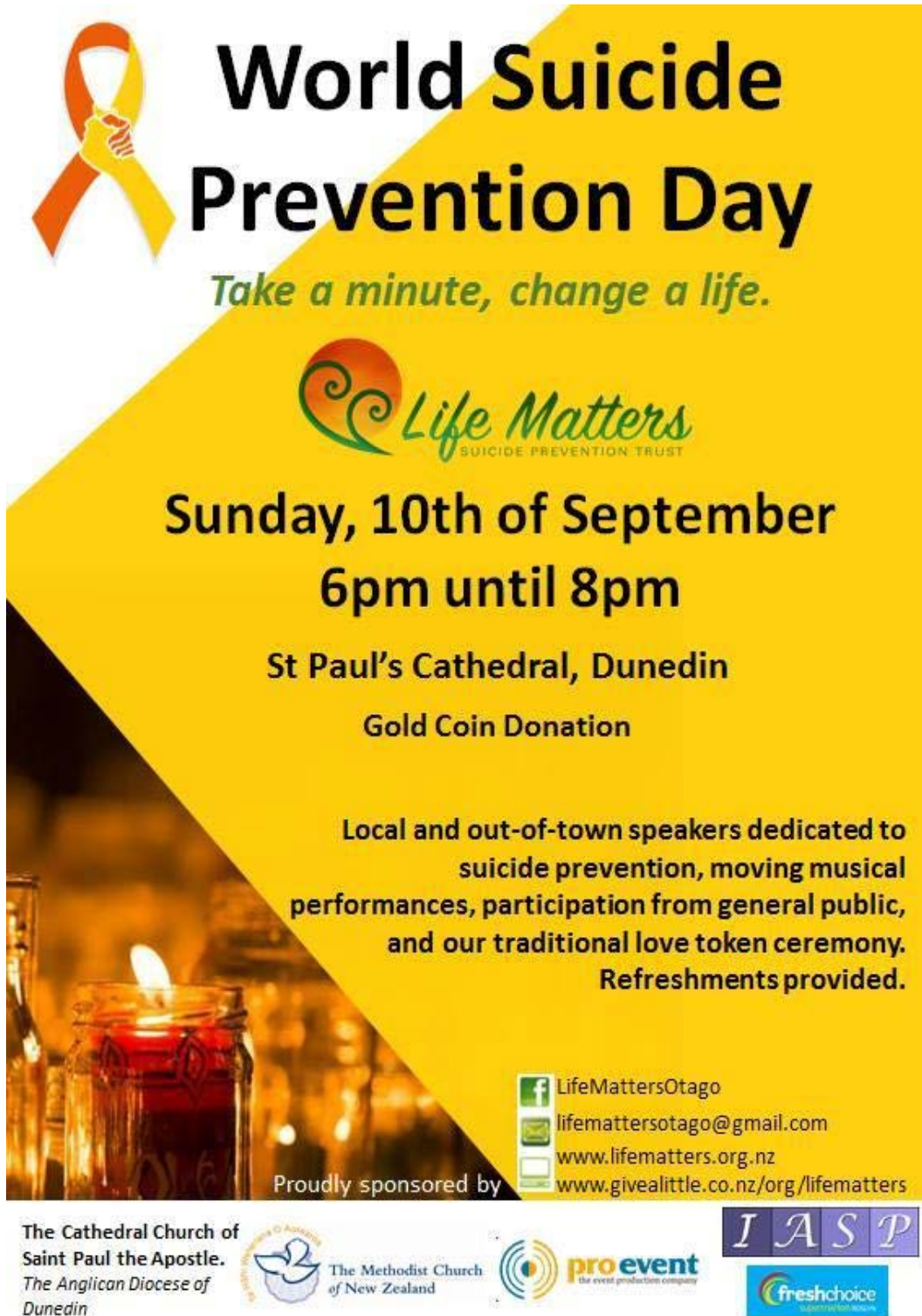
10.00 am	Mornington	Combined at Knox Presbyterian
10.00 am	Mosgiel	Combined at Knox Presbyterian
10.00 am	Glenaven	Combined at Knox Presbyterian
10.00 am	St Kilda	Combined at Knox Presbyterian


SYMPATHY - On behalf of the Dunedin Methodist Parish I would like to convey to the Kirkwood family my sincere condolences and sympathy for the Death of Keith Kirkwood, a former member of the Broad Bay Methodist Church. It is our prayer that God's peace be with you during your period of mourning.

PRAYER REQUEST - We are in a time of turmoil and uncertainty in terms of world peace and community harmony. Please pray for calmness and diplomacy after North Korea launched one of its missiles above Japan. This careless action can trigger a Violence response from around the world. Please also pray for the people of Texas who are badly affected by flood, especially those families who have lost their loved ones


TUI MOTU - The New Zealand independent Catholic magazine Tui Motu, which the Mornington congregation receives each month, has recently won no fewer than seven international awards given by the Australasian Catholic Press Association and its big brother the Australasian Religious Press Association. Its pictures are breathtaking, its articles hard-hitting and socially relevant, and you don't have to be a Catholic to enjoy its high standard of journalism and its broad religious scope. Congratulations to a notable Christian voice amid all the 'noise' of the media and the social digital inter-traffic.

EXTRA! EXTRA! OPEN EDUCATION - The Otago University graduation of their daughter has brought to Dunedin two parents now living under Israeli occupation in the biblical city of Hebron on the West Bank of the Palestinian territory. Mai and Naser Tamimi lived and studied in Dunedin themselves 5 years ago; now they have an enthralling tale to tell of life for Muslims under Jewish rule in the much disputed land of Palestine. We have arranged a special Open Education session to hear their story; bring a friend, for little unbiased news comes to us about this troubled part of the Middle East. Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, Wednesday 6 September, 7.30pm. A koha of \$5. Preceded by the usual splendid meal offered at 6pm by Judy Russell. Sign in for this meal (\$15) at the church, or ring and let Judy know you are coming (455 3727). And we will also hold our usual Open Education meeting on 20 September, to be advertised later.



 **World Suicide Prevention Day**


Take a minute, change a life.

 **Life Matters**
SUICIDE PREVENTION TRUST

Sunday, 10th of September
6pm until 8pm


St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin
Gold Coin Donation


Local and out-of-town speakers dedicated to suicide prevention, moving musical performances, participation from general public, and our traditional love token ceremony.
Refreshments provided.


 Proudly sponsored by


LifeMattersOtago
lifemattersotago@gmail.com
www.lifematters.org.nz
www.givealittle.co.nz/org/lifematters

The Cathedral Church of Saint Paul the Apostle.
The Anglican Diocese of Dunedin

 The Methodist Church of New Zealand

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support when it counts

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 1:30pm in the CHURCH
our speaker will be SUE GALLOWAY - SINCLAIR WET LANDS ALL
WELCOME.

REMINDER - Our Parish will have a combined service with Knox
Presbyterian Church next Sunday, 10th of September at Knox Church, 10
am. Our Preacher is the Peace lecturer this year, Dr Sami Awad from
Bethlehem.



BEV'S BIRTHDAY will be remembered by all of us fortunate enough to have been at the Mornington service - and feast to follow - last Sunday.

Bev Sutherland is SEVENTY - but as her tee shirt declared with typical candour to all and sundry, "*my age is inappropriate to my behaviour.*"

Not many of us have the courage or the grace to make fun of ourselves the way that Bev does, regularly, but alongside the rich laughter we have shared with her over the years, has grown enormous respect for a woman whose depth of spirit belies the frailty of a body that gives her so much grief. And what does it say of the character of the relationship we cherish with Bev that Colin's choice of theme for the service the *Mad Hatter's Tea Party*, could not have been more appropriate for such a celebration.

CONGRATULATIONS Bev and thanks Colin.



Photos:

1. Birthday Girl.
2. Bev and special friends.
3. Mad Hatters Choir.
4. Foyer Magic



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Science Kids: This term the programme is working with

students from Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Otepoti on a Monday afternoon and Carisbrook School on a Tuesday afternoon. So far there have been three sessions for each school, 2 held at the museum and 1 at the schools. This term we have begun with a different on-going experiment to the previous groups (the experiment will run for the entirety of the programme), instead of mummifying apples the children are now trying to grow/inhibit algae in some samples of pond water using various different ingredients, for example dishwashing liquid. The children seem to be really engaged with this experiment and are really excited about the possibility of growing 'slime!'

Another favourite has also been visiting the 'Tropical Forest', where the children are encouraged to identify all the senses involved while observing as a scientist, although some children are a little frightened of the butterflies to begin with, for the most part they are really keen to observe and sometimes they are able to get the insects to land on them.

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.

OPEN LECTURE – Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group and Otago Tertiary Chapaincy 14th Annual Open Peace Lecture - **"Healing, transformation and nonviolence: Peace-making in the Holy Land"**

Dr Sami Awad, Holy Land Trust, Bethlehem <https://holylandtrust.org/>

To be introduced by: Harlene Hayne, Vice-Chancellor, University of Otago. St David Lecture Theatre, Monday 11 September, 6.15pm – 7.30 pm. Supper to follow at All Saints Anglican Church Hall, 786 Cumberland St.



Youth 'n age ia

To come clean, what am I obliquely referring to? No prizes if you've already guessed the familiar homophone of this expression. The August meeting of the Dunedin Sea of Faith dealt with the 'End of Life Choice Bill', which was drawn from the Parliamentary ballot in June and will most likely be debated later this year (after the election) or early next year. Sea of Faith had no quibble in announcing its topic as 'The Euthanasia Debate', but I find myself a little hesitant in introducing it.

The following morning (25 August) the 'Faith and reason' column in the Otago Daily Times featured an article on the same topic by Keith Bragan of Wanaka, a retired psychiatrist and author. It was headed: *'Loaded words' must not be used*. It will help to explain my own roundabout way of broaching the subject. Bragan wrote:

We are now engaged in what is a very important debate on assisted death... The challenge is to be reasonable, which...requires not letting feelings hold too much sway and not using loaded words..., words that carry weight in addition to their literal meaning.

Bragan argued that there are three such words that should not be used in this debate: homicide, suicide and euthanasia. I don't have space here to deal with the first two – euthanasia is enough on its own. Although the Greek origin of the word means 'good death', he is concerned that it has become negatively tainted in reference to Nazi atrocities and treatment of laboratory animals. Bragan says: 'It is not right to use the word in this debate. Assisted death says it as it is.'

I suggest that 'assisted dying' might be a slightly more precise alternative. Either version has merit as a neutral descriptor. But 'euthanasia' is well established as a shorthand expression which is unlikely to be dispensed with, and for clarity's sake can be expanded to 'voluntary euthanasia'. Its positive and negative connotations should

balance out enough to allow it to be cautiously retained on either side of the argument.

My questioning of Bragan's suggestion is not just to oppose avoidance of the euthanasia word. Rather, we need to extend his caution regarding a few words to an awareness of the pervasive loadedness of words in general. The fact is that practically all words (excepting particles, conjunctions and prepositions, if not pronouns) can be and often are loaded in certain contexts. The word 'reform', beloved by politicians, is a prime example. An expression such as 'euthanasia reform' may often fall into the trap of simply begging the question.

Another example will help. Figures of speech are often loaded expressions. One of the commonest in the euthanasia debate is the 'slippery slope' argument. Indeed, it is often regarded as the single strongest objection to legalizing euthanasia. It refers to the perceived danger that if A is initially allowed, then B (which in itself may be more problematic than A) may well be more likely to follow, and so on with C etc. Without going into the detail of the ensuing arguments for and against, we need to be aware of how emotionally powerful such graphic imagery as 'slippery slope' can be. The phrase on its own can be immensely influential, regardless of the merits of the case it represents.

As far as I'm aware, advocates of euthanasia have yet to come up with anything like as persuasive an image. In response to the warnings of a 'slippery slope' leading to abuse and coercion, they could well try arguing that the current law presents an 'insurmountable hurdle' standing in the way of compassion and autonomy, and therefore does require 'reform'.

Another aspect of loadedness in the debate is the way words can be weighted more heavily according to their source. This is increasingly a trap for the churches. Gone are the days when direct appeal to sacred writ can be expected to help determine public policy. Yet in 2015 I had

occasion to make a submission to our church's Faith and Order Committee. It had prepared a paper entitled 'Reflections on Physician Assisted Suicide: Resources for a Conversation'. A resource it drew on was a 2004 paper by the Interchurch Bioethics Council on 'Euthanasia: Unethical Intervention or Death with Dignity?'

That paper had included many biblical references, including this one from Psalm 104: **'[T]he earth is full of your creatures...creeping things innumerable are there...when you take away their breath they die...'** A sense of the centrality and universality of divine governance may well become integral to personal faith but the psalmist fell into the trap of wanting to impose his particular world view on the fate of others (see verse 35). The Psalm is a glorious hymn to the complexity, even the contradictions, of creation (God serves the young lions with their supper), but it doesn't enshrine precise answers as to how we should **'bless the Lord'** as long as we live.

That may be a peripheral example, but it suggests to me that the churches are not adopting a very good position to assist constructively in the nationwide conversation that is required to move society forward on the euthanasia issue. They remain too captured by the loadedness of their heritage. Despite Bragan's wariness of 'letting feelings hold too much sway' there's a need for both emotional honesty and recognition of the bias of loadedness.

My euphemistic 'youth 'n age ia' tag may have a point. It reminds us that euthanasia is a question for the whole population, both young and aged. End of life choices are not always for the elderly, and in any case the manner and timing of death have enormous ramifications for the living as well as the dying. We need to think very carefully and also feel very deeply on the way to resolving a legal framework that maximizes both freedom and protection for individuals and society.

David Kitchingman