



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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PARISH BULLETIN

4 March 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 11th March

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBC

Dates to remember:

6 March:	Mosgiel MWF, Mosgiel Church, 1.30pm
7 March:	Lenten Studies continue, Mosgiel Church, 7.00pm

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 6th March @ 1: 30pm.in the church. Our guest speaker will be our own Rev Greg Hughson speaking to us about Greg & Hilda's recent Uk & Europe trip all interested VERY WELCOME

FROM THE SYNOD 23rd – 25th February

Friday 23rd 4pm – 6pm

Normal business meeting

- Financial report was satisfying
- Mission's report was received with appreciation
- Any church property that is selling, buying, or renovating, that Parish must contact the Synod Superintendent
- Anyone who lives in the parsonage or church property must have a Tenancy Agreement with the Parish
- Every church must have a Health and Safety Policy
- Submission of End of Life Bill was on Tuesday 20th of February
- Neighbours Day – We are encouraged to do something on that Day together with our neighbours in order to know each other.
- New Synod Lay Preachers rep – Dorothy Willis
- Reports from Parishes

Saturday 24th

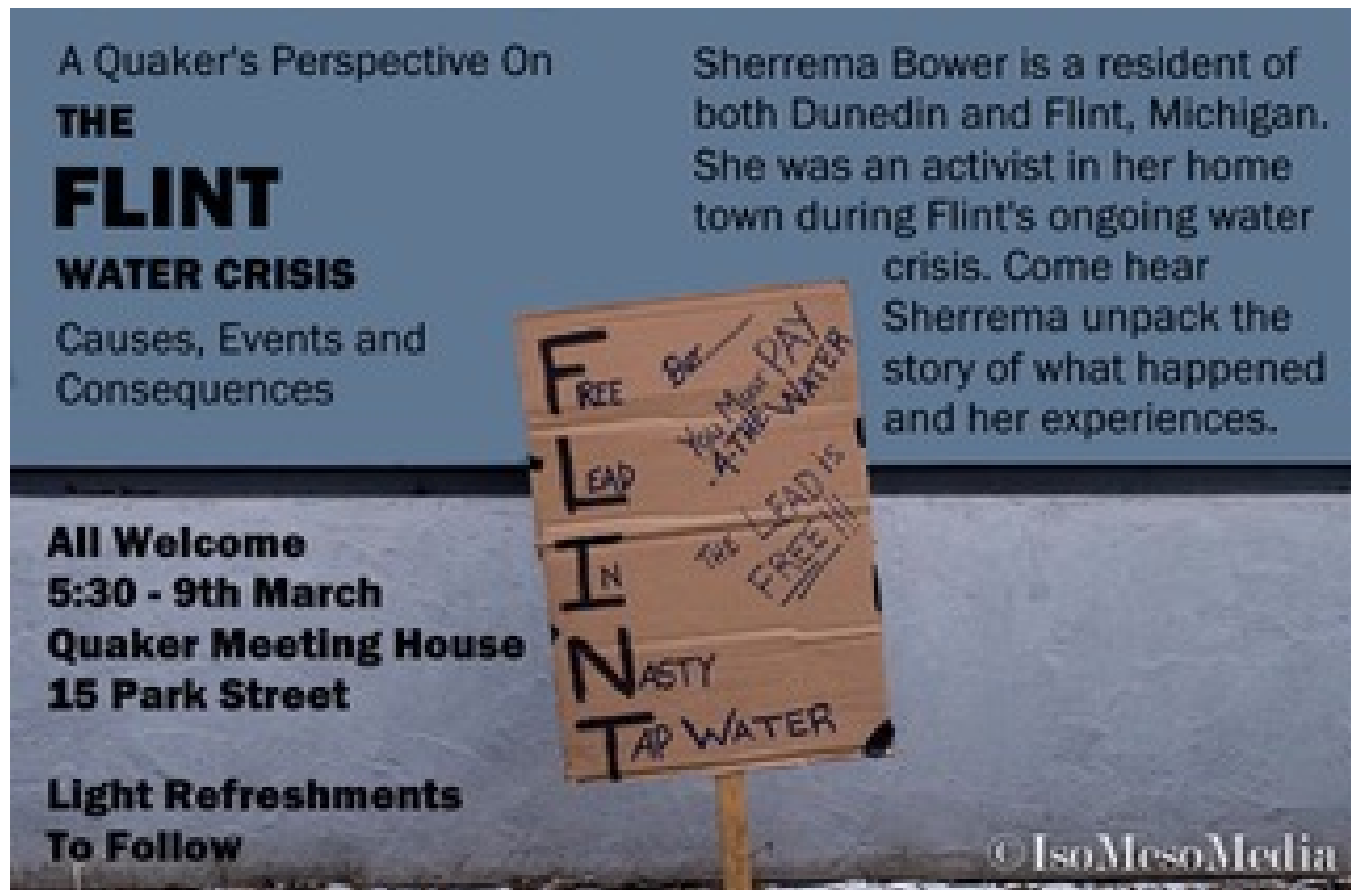
School of Theology led by Rev Peter Taylor

- The Cross – glory and Shame
- World View – Our personal view of the world shapes the things we say and do

Sunday 25th

- The Holy Spirit – dove, fire, wind, cloud, helper, comforter (*Paraclete*)
- Covenant – Noah (rainbow), Abraham (circumcision), Moses (Ten Commandment), Jeremiah 31:31-34 (heart) , Jesus (his death)

Holy Communion – New Covenant in Christ



FAITH THINKING 2018

These courses are jointly organised between the Department of Theology and Religion and some Dunedin Churches, and supported by Continuing Education at the University of Otago.

GOING DEEPER IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Professor Paul Trebilco, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago. Friday 16 March 7:00pm – 9:00pm, Saturday 17 March 9:00am – 12:30pm, Burns 7, University of Otago

WHEN DID WE SEE YOU NAKED? THE BIBLE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Professor David Tombs, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago. Friday 20 April 7:00pm – 9:00pm, Saturday 21 April 9:00am – 12:30pm, All Saints Church Hall, 786 Cumberland Street

Each Course costs \$20. Please register online at

www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation

THANK YOU

I would like to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who participated in our Parish fund raising last Sunday for the rebuilding of Tonga after Cyclone Gita devastated its people. On behalf of the President of our church, Rev Prince Devanandan I would like to thank you for your compassion and generosity. The total amount of our fund raising is not yet finalised but as soon as I receive from Lynley I will inform the Parish. Again, thank you very much. Siosifa

PRAYER REQUESTS - Please continue to remember those who are sick, frail, and home alone in prayers. Also remember the ongoing wars and violence that threatened those of families and their loved ones. Remember the refugees and new comers in your prayers as well.

THEOLOGY OPEN LECTURE - Professor John Barclay, Lightfoot Professor of Divinity, Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University
“Early Christianity and the Survival of the Poor”

Tuesday 20 March, 5.15-6.30pm

Archway 4 Lecture Theatre, University of Otago. **ALL WELCOME!**

Note also:

Research Seminar by Professor Barclay: “Reciprocity and Risk at the Economic Margins: Some Early Christian Examples”

Friday 16 March, 3.00-4.15pm. Venue TBC

Professor Barclay is one of the foremost New Testament scholars in the world today. His many books include *Paul and the Gift* (2017); *Pauline Churches and Diaspora Jews* (2011); *Against Apion: Translation and Commentary* (2006); *Jews in the Mediterranean Diaspora from Alexander to Trajan (323 BCE – 117 CE)* (1996); *Colossians and Philemon* (1997); *Obeying the Truth: A Study of Paul’s Ethics in Galatians* (1988).



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Little Citizens: Kotuku/Tui Room: Preschool is extremely busy with lots of new enrolments. Even though we have farewells over 5 children to school out numbers continue to grow. In the kotuku group this has seen several children who have turned 3½ remain in the tui room for longer periods of time to allow for a more even distribution of children and to accommodate changing group dynamics.

Our increasing number of children with diverse or high needs has added challenges to the teaching and learning where 1:1 support has been implemented to aid in their transition and to engage them in learning. Close relationships with outside support agencies has allowed us to gain advice and extra guidance to support us through this time.

The Tui room remains steady and busy with new enrolments and children moving from the kiwi room increasing their numbers of two year olds who require social coaching and modelling as they experiment and develop their social competencies.

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.



IN 2009 MICHAEL FORD a religious broadcaster for the BBC conducted a series of interviews with four modern day spiritual leaders. He subsequently put these interviews into a book entitled 'Spiritual Masters for all seasons'. The book comprised interviews with Thomas Merton (1915-1968), Henri Nouwen (1932-1996), Anthony de Mello (4 September 1931 – 2 June 1987), and John O'Donohue (1 January 1956 – 4 January 2008). John O'Donohue's life and work have a particular interest for me. It was John's book 'The Four Elements – Reflections on Nature.' that set me on the development of the evolutionary project which has been the thread running through worship over these last four years. Michael Ford's interview with John O'Donohue is entitled 'Befriending the Soul – the Landscapes of John O'Donohue'. Each of O'Donohue's books bears titles which evoke the spiritual landscapes of his exploration.

His first book, which rocketed him to fame was called 'Anam Cara (Meaning Soul Friend)– the Spiritual Wisdom from the Celtic World'. From the back cover of the paperback version we read:

"When St Patrick came to Ireland in the fifth century AD, he encountered the Celtic people and a flourishing spiritual tradition that had already existed for thousands of year. He discovered that where the Christians worshipped one God, the Celts had many and found divinity all around them: in the rivers, hills, sea and sky. The ancient Celts reverence for the spirit in all things survives today – a vibrant legacy of mystical wisdom that is unique in the Western World.

Now, in this exquisite book, Irish poet, Priest and scholar share with us the secrets of this ancient world. Using authentic Irish prayers and blessings, he reveals the treasures that lie hidden within your

soul and the 'secret divinity' in your relationships. As he traces the cycles of life and nature, he draws from the holy waters of Ireland's spiritual heritage to lead you to a place where your heart can be healed and nourished. It is a place where you will discover your own Anam Cara, your true 'soul Friend'."

Belonging is a powerful word in O'Donohue's vocabulary. He sees the hunger to belong as being at the vulnerable heart of human nature. Another of his books is entitled 'Eternal Echoes-Exploring our Hunger to Belong'. The inside flap of this book states:

"There is a divine restlessness in the human heart today and the echo of longing that lives deep within us and never lets us settle for what we have or where we are. Now, in this exquisitely crafted, inspirational book, John O'Donohue explores that most basic of human desires – the desire to belong. It is a desire that constantly draws us towards new possibilities of self-discovery, friendship and creativity. In *Eternal Echoes*, John O'Donohue embarks upon a journey of discovery into the heart of our post-modern world- a hungry, homeless world that suffers from a deep sense of isolation and fragmentation. With the thousand-year-old shelter of Divine Belonging now shattered, we seem to have lost our way in this magical, wondrous universe.

Here, as we explore perennial themes and gain insight from a range of ancient beliefs, we draw inspiration from Ireland's rich spiritual heritage of profound, mystical wisdom that will open pathways to peace and contentment, and lead us to live with creativity, honour and compassion the one life that has been given to us."

Two of his other books 'Divine Beauty – The Invisible Embrace' and 'Benedictus- A book of Blessing's' I have also found enriching and challenging.

Particularly appropriate for Sarah and me, in moving into our new home, is John O'Donohue *Blessing for a new home* from his

“Benedictus”:

“May this house shelter your life.
When you come in home here,
May all the weight of the world
Fall from your shoulders.
May your heart be tranquil here,
Blessed by peace the world cannot give.

May this home be a lucky place,
Where the graces of your life desire
Always find a pathway to your door.

May nothing destructive
Ever cross your threshold.

May this home be a place of discovery,
Where the possibilities that sleep
In the clay of your soul can emerge
To deepen and refine your vision
For all that is yet to come to birth.

May it be a house of courage,
Where healing and growth are loved.
Where dignity and forgiveness prevail;
A home where patience of spirit is prized,
And the sight of the destination is never lost.

May you have the eyes to see
That no visitor arrives without a gift
And no guest leaves without a blessing.”

Rod Mitchell