



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

20th May 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 27th May

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

Dates to remember:

Today	2.30pm	Dn Musical Society Concert – Mornington Church
Today	7.00pm	Combined Churches Pentecost Service – St Luke's
23 May	2.00pm	Mornington MWF – Mornington Church Lounge
23 May	2.00pm	Mosgiel Mid-week Service – 40 Forth Street
4 Jun	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Our People Our Heritage – Mornington Hall

DUNEDIN MUSICAL SOCIETY - The next Dunedin Musical Society Concert this Sunday 20 May, at 2.30pm, at the Mornington Methodist Church celebrates NZ composers, with items from the Flagstaff Community Choir led by Sue Mephram, Toni Shanks, soprano, Justine Pierre, flute, and a Piano Trio led by Mike Crowl. Bring friends and family. There are about 30 members in the choir and it would be good if there is at least that many people listening to them. The cost for non members is \$2 and children are free.

COMBINED CHURCHES PENTECOST SERVICE Sunday Evening, 20 May, 7pm at St. Luke's Church.

MOSGIEL MID WEEK SERVICE Wednesday 23rd of May at 2pm, at 40 Forth Street Mosgiel. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY. ALL VERY WELCOME.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP. This month's meeting will take place in the Church Lounge on Wednesday 23rd May at 2 p.m. The Guest Speaker will be Christine Thomas - telling us of the update on the Youth Transition Home. Please remember the Gift of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Also - if you wish to bring along the gift for the Youth Box. The Box is given out to the young person starting out in the life of living in a flat - a cake of soap, packet of tea, a tea towel - whatever you wish. Everyone welcome.

NOTICES for the bulletin for the rest of this month need to go straight to Katrina at the Mission Office please as I will be away. I will be back from Saturday 2 June. Thank you, Rachael

OUR PEOPLE OUR HERITAGE

On Queens Birthday, join us to generate some ideas about how we can capture and share some of the amazing stories of our people and places. Let's celebrate our heritage, share our faith and remember what makes each of us special in the eyes of God. We have people, places of worship, creative works of music, art and craft, memorials. We have supported many great projects over the years and, together, joined in many activities expressing our faith in action. Let's find fun and effective ways to share, to create a legacy of who we are and what we are about, for the future. Anyone interested from across the wider Parish is welcome. Let's do it! Contact Dale Meredith 467 2070 for more information. Monday 4 June 2-4pm, Mornington Church Hall.

BULLET POINTS FROM THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 MAY

- We appointed John Hardy as our third Parish Steward.
- The strengthening of the Glenaven Church is completed.
- We approved the contract for strengthening the St Kilda Church.
- The St Kilda youth had a successful trip to Christchurch where they took a leading part in the "Praise and Worship" at the annual meeting of Vahefonua Tonga O Aotearoa.
- All congregations are to be encouraged to raise their giving to meet our financial needs
- Later in the year there will be a workshop to discuss David Kitchingman's Leadership Paper.
- There will be a workshop on "Preserving Our Methodist Heritage" on Queen's Birthday Monday.

Can Religion Speak Truth?



Elizabeth Duke

The Quaker Lecture 2018

Saturday 26 May 2018
7.30 p.m.

Burns 1 Lecture Theatre
University of Otago

John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth and the life."

A gift from Japanese Quakers

All are welcome – entry free

The lecture ranges over Quaker faith and practice, Christian theology, Greek and Roman religion, ethics, science, magic, ecotheology and other topics.



PROFESSOR PAUL MORRIS of Victoria University spearheads an important initiative to revise the National Statement on Religious Diversity, and he proved an arresting speaker at Open Education on Wednesday night. Considering New Zealand ranks 15th on a world scale of approx 250 for our degree of religious diversity it is little wonder that the task is both urgent and important. Also, considering the degree to which religious conflict and intolerance is at the root of so much tension and unrest on every continent of the planet, the task of receiving, collating and then defining the many submissions that have been made from various religious groupings now active in New Zealand is a task that carries responsibility for the continuation of the state of religious harmony we currently enjoy. Professor Morris, himself a member of a Jewish synagogue in Wellington, exhibited an encyclopedic knowledge of his subject, and kept a representative audience riveted for 90 minutes. As well as Methodists, there were Hindu, Muslim and Mormon people in the audience. Some of the diversity is in the photo, with Prof. Morris middle back row.

*Profit from the dinner was \$160, plus admission to the lecture of \$40 making a total of \$200 to the Red Cross for support of Dunedin Syrian refugees.



**STORY FROM THE MISSION
Dunedin Little Citizens
(Client Support Work):** John
self-referred to the service.

He identified his need for service as parenting support. During the initial assessment he also described a difficult relationship between himself and his partner.

John and his partner live rurally, with their 3 biological children (two girls and a boy, aged from 5-10) and his partner's 15-year-old daughter. The support was requested in terms of strategies to work with their 8-year-old son, whom John said was often the cause of inter-sibling physical fights, and whose difficulties with emotional regulation caused significant stress in the family.

The work here involved supporting John and his partner to be able to put into practice strategies which Marcus believed would work for him; to assist parents and child to find common goals and common ways of working towards them.

Over the course of the service, the family said that they became better able to identify individual areas to work on (such as Marcus being able to go to bed on time and without argument), and that they benefitted from the flow-on effect once this goal was achieved.

At the conclusion of the services, both Marcus and his parents reported that life as a whole was significantly better than prior to the service beginning, and that Marcus had become better at managing his own behaviours.

This family showed a commitment to working with each other in a supportive and collaborative fashion, and an ability to focus on the problem rather than the person.



PRAYERS FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

“Palestinian death toll rises to 60” was the *ODT* headline on p.20 last Wednesday May 16. I had wondered whether to write about the homeless found in Dunedin’s streets recently but my attention was caught by TV news reports and newspaper stories about the plight of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. My attention was accentuated during breakfast by viewing part of a TV documentary called ‘Born on ’48’ in which the lives and aspirations of two Palestinian and two Jewish women were shown. They were all born in 1948 when the State of Israel was created.

I was taken aback by the hard-line attitudes of the Jewish women whose phrases such as “she should get over it”. “She” was a 70 year old Palestinian woman who had a good lifestyle but pined for return to the area where her family had owned the land during her childhood. The view of many older Jews, very few of them now ex-German concentration camp refugees, is clear. They now own the land, and their claim to being domiciled in Israel on land taken from Palestinian families is supported by the State. An entrenched feeling of injustice is at the root of the simmering sore which underlies the recent demonstration adjacent to the Gaza border in which 60 Palestinian demonstrators were killed and hundreds injured.

Now the US has blocked a UN independent investigation of the “incident”. This is a great pity for the country which purports to uphold democratic values in the world. It has prevented a neutral analysis of the shootings. It is more than likely that the US advisors to President Trump also saw the TV footage of Israeli soldiers shooting with live ammunition through the murk of burning tyres and deliberately targeting the Palestinian demonstrators and that would be cause for blocking an enquiry. TV footage showed the shallowness in the claim by the Israel government spokesmen that they were protecting their border. It was a sort of David and Goliath moment where young

Palestinian men were using slingshots with stones against well-armed Israeli soldiers lining a bank above them at a distance of two to three hundred metres. It does not appear credible that Israeli government officials were unaware of the action. More than likely they thought it would be good to “teach the demonstrators a lesson they would not forget”. Very poor timing, considering that the demonstration marked the anniversary of Yawm an-Nakba “the Palestinian Day of Catastrophe” – 15 May 1948 when the State of Israel was created from Palestinian land.

Why would the US side so publicly with the Israelis? Well the contentious opening of the US embassy in Jerusalem and the overt permission to back Israel in any action against “terrorists” lies behind this. US spokesmen have made it clear that the responsibility for the death of the demonstrators lies with Hamas, the leading party of Palestinian government in Gaza. Yet the demonstrators were unarmed. The Israeli state under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is now emboldened by US support and has engaged in a more aggressive attitude towards Hamas and the Palestinians. The outcome is tragedy.

What can we in Dunedin do? Just try to gain a perspective on what has happened by carefully watching news items, reading and praying for peace. May the God of the Jewish people, the Palestinians and our God bless us with patience and sympathy for all who are affected by the terrible tragedies in the Middle East. Pray for peace and forgiveness...

George Davis 17 May 2018