

# DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)



Find us on Facebook: **Dunedin Methodist Parish**

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## PARISH BULLETIN

15 March 2020

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 22 March 2020

9.30am	Mornington	D Phillips
10.00am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11.00am	Glenaven	D Phillips
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed 18 March	7.30 pm	Open Education	Mornington Church
Sun 22 March	4.30 pm	Explorers	Lounge, Mornington Ch
Wed 25 March	2.00 pm	Womens Fellowship	Lounge, Mornington Ch
Sun 29 March	7.00 pm	Ecumenical service	Mornington Church
Fri 10 April	8.45 am	Taieri Walk of the Cross, St Lukes	

## **OPEN EDUCATION: FROM DAMASCUS TO DUNEDIN**

Our first Open Education meeting will be held in Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, on Wednesday 18 March, starting at 7.30pm. We have invited Dr Mai Tamimi to report on the successes and stresses facing the Syrian refugee community as they now settle into a new life in Dunedin. Many will remember Mai's powerful and moving address in the immediate aftermath of the appalling mosque attacks in Christchurch. Since that time she has been dealing with the shock of that massacre superimposed on the adjustments necessary to adapting to life in a new and unfamiliar culture. Come along and support her. Your koha of \$5, together with proceeds from the usual pre-session meal will go towards her work with this displaced community among us. \$15 buys you a seat at the excellent meal prepared by Judy Russell, served at 6pm. Sign in at Mornington, or ring her at 4553727.

## **EXPLORERS: THE ASSISTED DYING BILL**

On Sunday 22 March Explorers invite all interested, whether you are members of the Explorers group or not, to attend an open session discussing the forthcoming Assisted Dying Bill, which is to be put to a public referendum at the time of the General Election. This is an opportunity to raise questions and share views in a free and open and unthreatening way. Join us at 4.30pm in the lounge of the Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street. The session runs to 5.30pm.

**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 2pm in the Church lounge. All men and women are invited to join with us to hear Robyn Abernethy speak on Gardens on the East coast of America. If you are interested in singing, travel, art or gardening this is for you. Please remember our Fellowship of the least coin appeal.

**A REMINDER** and a warm welcome to the 5th Sunday ecumenical service to be held in the Mornington Methodist church 7 pm on 29th March. Please let people know about this service. We look forward to your presence at this combined Mornington churches service. Rod Mitchell.

## **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 10th April 2020**

Taieri Walk of the Cross,  
Good Friday at 8:45am.



The walk starts at St. Luke's walking to Anzac Park, then to the corner of Factory and Gordon Roads before heading to the Memorial Park car park. After that we walk onward to the Presbyterian Church in Church Street before finishing up at St. Mary's for our Good Friday Service at 10.00am.

Please feel free to join at any stage. The service will be followed by hot cross buns and a cuppa. Please join us.

## **FAITH THINKING EVENTS**

### **Faith, Truth, and Courage: The Story of Rachael Denhollander in the era of #MeToo and #ChurchToo**

Professor David Tombs, Centre for Theology and Public Issues, Theology Programme, University of Otago. Friday 3 April, 7:00-9:00pm - Burns 7, University of Otago and Saturday 4 April, 9:00am-12.30pm, 7N10 Richardson Building, University of Otago

### **Going Deeper into 1 Corinthians**

Professor Paul Trebilco, Theology Programme, University of Otago. 7-9pm, Wednesday 22, 29 April, Wednesday 6 May Burns 7, University of Otago

### **Finding Faith in 'Secular' Times: What can we learn about Christian witness from the experiences of recent converts to Christianity?**

Dr Lynne Taylor, Somerville Lecturer in Pastoral Theology, Theology Programme, University of Otago. Friday 22 May, 7:00-9:00 pm and Saturday 23 May, 9:00am-12.30pm Dunedin City Baptist Church, 19 Main South Road, Concord, Dunedin

**ON SUNDAY 8TH** at MOSGIEL  
we celebrated Wendy's birthday  
with a chocolate cake.



**VIOLENCE AND DEATH IN WEST PAPUA** - IT IS ALL TOO EASY when impersonal reports from committees and groups aiming to draw attention to the oppression of West Papuan by Indonesian "security" forces, to overlook the all-too-real human cost of those who form the front line of West Papuan resistance. But a report received this week contains the raw imagery of those whose lives are on the line, and whose deaths or battered bodies bear the brunt of Indonesian brutality as waged against the indigenous peoples of West Papua.

The report is not written with the concise, rational english of those accustomed to written communications but in the uncultured script of those for whom english is a second language, but who have a graphic tale to tell of man's inhumanity to man, of the death of a 25yr old woman (with picture of her bullet-ridden body) and the injuries sustained by 4 young men, fighters in the W/P resistance army who were tortured and clubbed with rifle butts as Indonesian soldiers stood over their defenceless bodies.

It is a gruesome "report" but it brings home the daily reality of the brave opposition to Indonesian occupation. The struggle which we as a Church have embraced is a hugely costly one for those who have chosen to rise up against their oppressors. Their struggle is in the same

tradition as many others honoured in the story of "saints and martyrs" yet because these people are our contemporaries, and live on our front doorstep we should not regard their courage and heroism in any different way than those who adorn our much-honoured story of faith.  
KR



## STORIES FROM THE MISSION

### Client Support Work – Little Citizens

Although December was a relatively short month with the break for Christmas, it was quite busy with the Little Citizens Christmas party, Combined Food Hamper applications, new whānau attending the centre, and the end-of-year stresses which can affect whānau.

This month several centre whānau were supported in accessing short-term assistance to alleviate immediate needs; these whānau commented that they appreciated how easy it was to access the Client Support Service, and how the support they received had an almost-immediate positive effect on their stress levels.

### Milton Little Citizens

On November 12 we celebrated one year of operating as an Early Childhood centre. Several people came along to celebrate the occasion with us from the local community. We had a lovely morning tea and cake prepared by the centre staff. The children opened some gifts bought for the centre. Some of our guests also presented us with gifts of grape vines and a lemon tree. These have since been planted in large pots and the children are caring for these making sure they get enough water. We look forward to watching them grow and enjoying the delicious fruit.

**If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit [www.givealittle.co.nz](http://www.givealittle.co.nz) and search for The Methodist Mission**



It is a challenge writing for Connections. I feel a bit like some of Wallis Chapman's guests on RNZ National's afternoon programme "The Panel", being asked to comment on a topic about which they know very little. I'm certainly not an expert on Christianity or The Church. Guests on "The Panel" are asked to speak to a segment called "I've been thinking". Perhaps I'll start there.

In January I travelled to Malaysia with my partner to celebrate Chinese New Year with his family. Their home is a short distance from traditional rice paddy fields and it was a regular evening walk for me along a narrow road raised above the fields. I was fascinated by the amount of life that teemed in this tropical environment. Fish darted through the stream that fed water to the fields, shallow remnants of paddy water thrashed with shrimps, a Monitor lizard scuttled across my path and into a thicket of banana palms. The bird life was amazing with flocks of herons and egrets, the nests of weaver birds hanging in the trees and an unidentified bird reminding me of home with its constant cry of "te reo". It was beautiful, but sadly, the scene was spoilt for me by the incredible amount of discarded plastic that lined the side of the road and floated in every waterway.

In Malaysia drinking water must be boiled, filtered or bottled as the water supply is not safe to drink. Consequently millions of plastic bottles are consumed every day. They are relatively cheap. A lot of the food is prepared in roadside stalls and served as take-aways, usually in plastic bags and trays. Fruit drinks are served in plastic bags tied around a plastic straw. Much of this is simply discarded along the roadsides. Plastic waste is everywhere.

Now I'm not pointing the finger at Malaysians. I am constantly picking up discarded plastic waste here in Mornington and I confess to using a

great deal of plastic in my daily life. Almost everything is now sold to us in plastic. When I was young we shopped at the local butcher and brought home our meat wrapped in waxed and brown paper. Flour was sold in a cotton bag which, when empty, was then used to carry home the unwrapped bread. Beverages of all sorts were sold in bottles which had a monetary value when recycled. Butchers and grocers made a good living.

Why has this changed? It seems to me that it is so that just a few people can make a lot of money. It doesn't seem as if we, the customers, pay less for our food. Supermarkets have replaced the small businesses of the past and our produce is now packaged to suit their requirements, with almost everything being packaged in plastic and stamped with a barcode. Yes, we do have the Saturday morning market, but it doesn't suit everyone to go to town to shop there and the range of goods, though impressive, is still limited. It has to be produced locally.

Back to the issue of plastic waste in Malaysia. I couldn't help wondering why the water supply could not be chlorinated as it is here. I read recently that a company with the right to bottle 1.5 billion litres of Christchurch water per year was planning to spend \$60 million to increase their capacity to as much as 9 billion litres per year. 9 billion plastic bottles being shipped to Asia each year from one bottling plant! Are we New Zealanders somehow complicit in this pollution of the world's streams, rivers and oceans. And who benefits? I understand the artesian water is virtually free. Isn't this at least as questionable as looking for new sources of oil and gas in the great South basin? Wouldn't it be better investing that \$60 million to provide safe reticulated water to some of the people who are currently forced to buy it?

The bible doesn't seem to say much about caring for the environment even though it claims it as God's. Perhaps that's because it was written when Earth's population was relatively tiny and before the invention of plastic and petrol. Maybe we it's time to write a new chapter? Happily

we have hymns such as Shirley Murray's "Touch the Earth lightly" and, one we haven't sung for a while, "Sing Green".

Vs 3

Sing Green to the plastic plague,  
To the fumes of traffic's wake,  
Sing green, let our vote be noted,  
Our voice be heard  
For our dying planet's sake

Sing green,  
And don't let the rainbow fade,  
Sing green,  
and cherish the world God made.

Euan Thomson.

(Who is not a member of any political party.)

