

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

2 July 2023

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 9 July 2023

09:30 am	Mornington	S Hamel
10:00 am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11:00 am	Glenaven	S Hamel

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 2nd July 2023 @ 1:30pm in our hall. Rev David will take our AGM - All welcome.



Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship supporting **MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS**

Blanket details for OPERATION COVER UP

Preferred blanket size

At least **160cm x 140cm**.

Seven strips measuring 160cm in length make a blanket. Use size 8 (4mm) needles. Cast on 40 stitches and knit in garter stitch (plain knitting) to 160cm in length. For the homeless, darker colours, heavier wool and even larger sizes are required.

Contact Julie to have more details.

02102562277



TITANIC, TITAN AND THE HIERARCHY OF LIVES

Can you sleep on long distance flights? I can't, not for more than a few minutes anyway. Thinking back to flying NZ 1, the service from Auckland to London via Los Angeles I would watch movies and read for the first leg but on the second leg, somewhere over North America I find I no longer have the focus for these. So I try to rest as best I can and put on my entertainment system to the flight map, so when I open my eyes from time to time I have some idea of where we are and how much longer I have until *terra firma*. Such is the

scale of the journey from New Zealand to Britain that when the plane crosses the Canadian coast and heads out over the Atlantic the journey feels like it is drawing to a close. Of course between Newfoundland and Ireland the plane flies over open ocean so the map is pretty featureless for a while. But here and there a ship is named. Quite the most famous shipwreck identified is the *Titanic*.

It is 111 years since the *Titanic* sank and in that time its story has been a source of endless fascination. There was the hubris of its owners saying *Titanic* was unsinkable. There was the shortage of lifeboats, it should have had 64 but it was decided to reduce the number to 20 simply because it was thought that a full complement of lifeboats would clutter the deck and obscure the views for First Class passengers. And of course the *Titanic* is a story of class. Only 37% of the *Titanic*'s passengers survived but 63% of First Class passengers survived compared to 42% of Second and 24% of Third. Perhaps the *Titanic* was a floating metaphor for a class ridden Britain, some lives just mattered more.

But 111 years later isn't this still the case?

Last week our news media was dominated by the story of the *Titan*, a submarine used to take tourists, at great cost, to see the wreck of the *Titanic*. They only saw it through images from a probe fed to the onboard computer. We all know what happened, the submarine was crushed under the immense pressure of the Ocean and all lives were lost in what must have been a truly awful way. Five lives were lost and the media coverage was immense, the British Prime Minister described those on board as "explorers," it seemed rather a grandiose term for people on an immensely costly excursion.

Tragic as it was, do we think it was more tragic than the sinking of a boat a week earlier carrying, well we don't know, somewhere between 400 and 750 migrants from Libya to Greece. There were 80

confirmed deaths but hundreds of people are missing. Many of whom, it is believed were locked in the hold. Are their deaths less significant, or the manner of their dying more bearable? Yet this story was a footnote, five minutes on the News.

In our Gospel today we are called to hospitality, to a seeing of the other, whoever they are as a bearer of the image of God, a person with an inalienable dignity.

A few years ago in response to Black Lives Matter we occasional heard (from angry white people) that all lives matter. Well of course, they do but some have been treated as mattering less, or barely at all. Black lives matter, refugee lives matter, poor lives matter; indeed every life matters. Can we live the truth of this?

David Poultney