

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

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Presbyters	Rev David Poultney	974 6172
	Mobile phone	022 350 2263
	Office phone	466 3023
	Office email	parish@mmsouth.org.nz
Parish Stewards	Mrs Jan Stewart	473 9141
	Ross Merrett	489 7663
Tongan Steward	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
		elaineross@xtra.co.nz
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	477 7377
Mornington		
Parish Office	bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600

PARISH BULLETIN 22 October 2023

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 29 October 2023

9.30 am	Mornington	Joint Service Mosgiel
10:00 am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11:00 am	Glenaven	Joint Service Mosgiel

JOINT SERVICE MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 29th October

The Service will be at 11.00 am, Refreshments will be served beforehand from 10.30am. Thank you.

MEETING OF THE MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.

Wednesday 25th October in the Mornington Methodist Church at 2pm.

All members and friends of the Mornington Methodist Church are invited to join in our meeting in the Church. We have invited other local Church Fellowships to join with us. Our speaker is Margaret Connor, who has recently returned from a visit to Scotland with her family.

We look forward to you all joining us for this afternoon of fun and fellowship.

ANIMAL ARK PETTING ZOO

Invite to ALL in the parish. Aim to get over 1000 years of methodists at the ARK.

ON Sunday 12 November, If able and interested, please bring yourself and others, if possible, to the Animal Ark petting Zoo out at 18 Dukes Road Mosgiel for an enjoyable gathering. There are chairs and tables to rest on while interacting with the various domestic mammals and birds at the facility. If you can bring a member of a younger generation, children, grandchildren or someone with a youngish mind that would be great. The hope is to get enough individuals there so that our collective ages will exceed 1000 years of Methodists aboard the ARK.

Assembly time is 2:00pm. with the adding up of ages at 3:00p.m. Cost per person is \$10 and \$1 for a bag of pellets which the mammals will eat.

For those less mobile parking close to the access gate can be arranged.

Please advise Cam Weston on 021 995 130 if you are coming and/or if you need transport assistance.



Material from Greg Hughson

A week or so ago I helped formulate this press release, for media release throughout NZ. It should by now have been published in Letters to the Editor, Otago Daily Times.

Prayer and action for peace and justice in Israel and Gaza

As the conflict continues to grow in Gaza and Israel, members of regional interfaith councils and faith leaders throughout Aotearoa-New Zealand unequivocally condemn the violence, and call for peace and justice.

We ask for the current violence and fighting to stop, and we pray for lasting peace, unity, and justice in the Holy Land and the Middle East. Inevitably when conflicts like this erupt around the world, tensions rise at home. So we ask people of all religious faiths to protect the sanctity of each other's places of worship, and to protect our ability to practice our faiths in peace and safety. We send our healing love to our Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and other faith brothers and sisters in the Middle East and to their families and friends here in New Zealand as they endure and try to come to terms with huge loss, pain, and worry. We ask all New Zealanders to reject all forms of hatred and violence through love, forgiveness,

understanding the other, and compassion at this dark time and forevermore.

I (Greg) also support and endorse this recent letter (17th October, below) from Peace Movement Aotearoa to the Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, Prime Minister, the Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of

Foreign Affairs / Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control and the Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Chair, Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control

Israel / Gaza: New Zealand's humanitarian and disarmament obligations

Kia ora koutou katoa,

We are writing to you with regard to the appalling escalation of violence against civilians in Israel and Gaza since 7 October 2023 by Hamas and Israel, with a focus on New Zealand's disarmament and humanitarian law obligations in this situation. We condemn all acts of violence against civilians, regardless of who carries them out, and thus appreciated Minister Mahuta's initial response on 8 October calling *"for the immediate cessation of violence. The protection of all civilians and upholding of international humanitarian law is essential"*.

We noted with concern that this was subsequently overridden by Prime Minister Hipkin's statement, which included *"New Zealand condemns unequivocally the terror attacks led by Hamas on Israel. We are appalled by the targeting of civilians, and the taking of hostages which violate fundamental international humanitarian law principles"*.

We are even more concerned that this has not yet been matched by a similar condemnation of Israel's targeting of

civilians, and other gross violations of humanitarian law - including, but not limited to: collective punishment; indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian objects; depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival (including food, water, power, medical assistance); preventing the delivery of food and other essential supplies, and so on.

As the UN Secretary-General and many others have said these past few days, these cycles of violence must be understood in the context of Israel's military occupation of Palestine, including the 16 year blockade on Gaza which has left the civilian population particularly vulnerable to any further deprivation of the necessities of life, the impacts of the incessant ongoing bombardment of Gaza and to further military attacks - a situation that has not yet been reflected in New Zealand's public statements.

As a state party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and to the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, there are particular obligations on New Zealand to condemn any and all breaches of humanitarian law, including those listed above. In addition, the prohibitions on indiscriminate attacks on civilians, the use of weapons with indiscriminate effects or that inflict superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering (which includes incendiary weapons such as those containing white phosphorous used by Israel in Gaza this week), and the principles of necessity and proportionality that are the basis of humanitarian law have all been flagrantly breached by Israel.

Furthermore, as a state party to the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, there is an obligation on New Zealand to condemn the placement of further antipersonnel mines by Israel along the Gaza border this week. As well, as a supporter and endorser of

the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, there is a responsibility on New Zealand to condemn the use of heavy explosive weapons in populated areas by both Hamas and Israel.

We therefore urge New Zealand to publicly condemn **all** attacks on civilians; to publicly call for an immediate end to attacks on civilians by both Israel and Hamas, and the release of all hostages; and to use its diplomatic resources do whatever it can to bring about a ceasefire as a matter of urgency to prevent further loss of life and human suffering.

We urge New Zealand to convey its deepest concerns to the Ambassador of Israel about Israel's multiple breaches of humanitarian law, and to demand that Israel ends its siege of Gaza as a matter of the gravest and greatest urgency so that the civilian population can access the necessities of life, and humanitarian personnel and supplies can cross the border. We urge New Zealand, in the absence of diplomatic recognition of the state of Palestine, to reach out to the Head of the General Delegation of Palestine in Canberra, as well as to the relevant UN agencies and the ICRC, to discuss what assistance New Zealand can provide to assist with the rapidly developing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Yours sincerely,

Peace Movement Aotearoa

cc: Hon Gerry Brownlee, National Party Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Disarmament and Arms Control
Golriz Ghahraman, Green Party Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Disarmament and Arms Control

Peace Movement Aotearoa - *the national networking peace organisation*

PO Box 9314, Wellington 6141, Aotearoa New Zealand

Tel +64 4 382 8129, email icanz@xtra.co.nz

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