



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

5th July 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 12th July

9.30 am	Mornington	P Frost
9.30 am	Mosgiel	R Masterton
11.00 am	Glenaven	P Frost
11.00 am	Wesley	R Masterton
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

OTAGO DISTRICT METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held in the Mosgiel Methodist Church
Saturday 11 July 2015



12:30pm POT LUCK LUNCH

Please bring **FINGER FOOD** to share

1:45pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

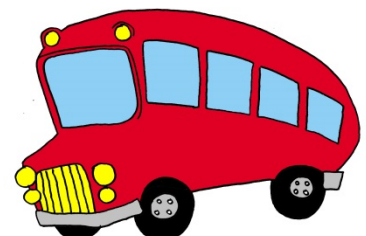
Collection for Social Services - going to the Family Support Fund

INVITATION TO ALL. On Sunday 5th July an invitation is extended to all members of the parish to tour the Holy Cross Facility at 89 Church St Mosgiel. Monseigneur Walker will greet us and lead the tour, commencing at 2:00p.m., around the facility, commenting on the history and ceremonial aspects and maybe a chance to meet with Geneieve, the resident, ghost may occur. In the elaborately decorated chapel we will share a musical interlude as the grand piano is fingered before enjoying afternoon tea in the sumptuous lounge. If you wish to come please advise Cam Weston ph 454-5600 to allow for catering for afternoon tea. There will be a charge of \$6 for afternoon tea, a fund raiser for the Mosgiel Catholic Parish.

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP A.G.M. Tuesday 7th @ 1:30pm in church hall lounge all welcome.

OPEN EDUCATION: LIFE ON THE EDGE

On Wednesday 15 July, in the Mornington Methodist Church, at 7.30pm, Open Education presents an extraordinary film about life in the seas and on the islands of the Hebrides. It focuses on how humans are learning to co-operate with and protect this remote environment and all of its inhabitants, from fields of wildflowers to huge basking sharks and white-tailed eagles. There are lessons here for New Zealand's own island environment. Sign in for the usual tasty pre-session meal provided by Judy Russell (or ring 455 3727), and bring a friend for a wonderful night of entertainment and education. All proceeds go to help keep Chatbus on the road: we would like to raise \$1000 for this project. Will you help us do so?



A RARE GLIMPSE, snapped with an iPhone, shows Rachel Hanna's class at Sunday School two weeks ago. Alicia, Jacaranda & Mamaiz Horsfall, Annabelle & Julia Wilson, and Kakala & Naomi Pole - all caught in a moment of complete attention. Well done Rachel. But where were the boys? Some questions have no easy answer! Thanks to Andrea Mosley for the photo.



STORY FROM THE MISSION...

From Take 10 Streets

The Mission was involved helping at the South Dunedin Resource Centre for people affected by the flooding. After the DCC workers with an army of volunteers had been round the neighbourhood taking details from households needing assistance, we were involved in triage which included follow up phone calls and directing people to the appropriate form of support to meet their needs. There were also people coming in to the Recovery Assistance Centre to make enquiries



about all sorts of different issues and we were able to link people up with the various supports and services that have been offered by organisations and members of the community.

On Thursday the atmosphere, while of distress, was a true testament to the community spirit. People arrived into the centre with baking, to volunteer and other donations. One younger couple had self-evacuated on Wednesday night and arrived back to their home with no flood damage so began baking scones to give to people who weren't as fortunate when returning to their homes. Jackie also called around to neighbours on the Take 10 Streets to see how people were coping, and how they were coping as a community. One residents sleep-out was flooded and as a result of sewerage issues was also contaminated, however she was joined by two of her neighbours from either side of her home sweeping and clearing up.



In the initial aftermath people were very distressed and disappointed with passing traffic; a number of residents expressed a severe annoyance at “rubber-neckers” who were driving around South Dunedin pushing gravel and water towards the houses.

However as the weather cleared up and the sun shone over the weekend, neighbours were out helping each other with many down playing their damage. Speaking with one man who was removing the bats from under his house at the time he remarked that “I’m not too bad, look over at the neighbours; they’ve to pull all the carpets up”.

However with changing weather and rain continuing to fall – some houses are still struggling to prevent a second round of flooding to their houses with some residents not being so lucky.



PROVIDENCE

‘For I dipped into the future, far as human eye could see,
Saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be;
Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales;
Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there rained a ghastly dew
From the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue;’

We had to learn that at school – it’s from Tennyson’s *Locksley Hall*. If you’re a *Star Trek* fan, you might be interested to know that the first line was engraved, as the *Voyager*’s motto, on its dedication plaque. The words still make perfect sense in 2015 – a future filled with dreams of commerce and war. Nothing else. What’s changed in 180 years?

Actually, there is a much more imaginative reason for starting with Tennyson. When you read this it will be Sunday morning, and the final will be over. This writer is neither a prophet, nor the son of one – so contents himself by pretending it doesn’t matter who wins. Born in Wellington, living in Dunedin. Nonsense! It does matter – and I wish I could predict with confidence the size of the Highlanders’ winning margin.

Despite all the data that has been gathered about animals and birds that store food, there doesn’t seem any good reason to doubt that it is only *homo sapiens* who can imagine, and even prepare for, a future beyond immediate experience. We are constantly reminded of this as we attempt to deal with the damage caused by the extreme weather conditions that have afflicted our country over the past month or two.

Take the St Clair sea wall, for example - we excuse its fragility in the face of the pounding of the seas by referring to the weather as 'exceptional' – 'once in a 100 years' sort of thing. We explain away the flooding around Hargest Cresc. by pointing at old and ineffective drainage systems, fudged by being described as 'infrastructure.' We know there is such a thing as global warming, but it seems the world's political leaders are too timid, too much in thrall to the lure of power, to be decisive about it. We have to start 'dipping into the future' **now**.

So what about those blessed (in both senses) words of Jesus, from what we familiarly call the Sermon on the Mount. Words about: what we are to eat; how we are to clothe our bodies; about the birds who don't sow or reap; about adding an inch to our height; about the flowers in the field that do nothing. Are we really comforted by being told that our "Heavenly Father knows you need them all."? Isn't it a really silly thing "not to worry about tomorrow: [because] tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."? What is 'providence, after all?

Here's a legal definition. An 'act of providence is an accident against which ordinary skill and foresight could not guard. This is synonymous to an act of God. For certain acts no one can be held responsible. Naturally occurring events that are unavoidable can be considered as act of providence. In such cases, liability will not rest on one person. However, if the consequences of the natural act are foreseeable liability can shift because due diligence was not exercised by a person.'

Does that set your mind at rest? To me it's almost a counsel of despair. Do we have to know the answer to the question "Why?" before we do anything at all. When someone is lying beside the road do we wait for an explanation before we do anything about it. Did the Good Samaritan?

To be human, or, better still, to be humane, we follow the very simple logic of Jesus of Nazareth. We, who are made (as we believe) in the image of God, attempt to discern God's will - and then do it. Providence is **not** doing nothing. Providence is **not** waiting for God to provide. Providence is – and no blasphemy is intended – standing in the place of God when human need arises. If we pray, as we do, every day, that God's will be done, we pray that we may be ready for the challenge, and that we may have the skill, or the sensitivity, or the love, to do the will of God ourselves.

There has never been a time when leaders of imagination were more needed. Where are they to be found? People of imagination, tempered by common sense and common humanity, are precious people. They're the ones we want to lead us into the future. We desperately need women and men of such talent, if not of genius. There is a distinction. A philosopher has said "Talent is like the marksman who hits a target, which others cannot reach." (There are many such.) But, "genius is like the marksman who hits a target, which others cannot see."

God knows we need such as these. Now!

Donald Phillipps