

# 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

31st January 2021

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

9.30am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11.00am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
	St Kilda	TBA

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Today, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January @ 2.30pm – Musical Afternoon (Knox Church)  
 Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 @ 1.30pm – Mosgiel Methodist Women's Fellowship  
 Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 @ 7.20pm – Mornington Church Leaders Meeting  
 Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 - 6.30-8.30pm – Harmony Dinner  
 Sun 14 February 2021 @ 10.00am – Joint Service at Mornington Church

## **A MUSICAL OFFERING**

Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music to raise money for the Dunedin Night Shelter.

Knox Church, 2:30pm, Sunday 31st January.

We are very grateful for the generosity of Sydney Manowitz, Fiona Pickering and Donald Cullington for sharing their talents and their time in organising a musical offering! See the attached poster. Entry is koha only, with all proceeds going to the Dunedin Night Shelter.



**MORNINGTON CHURCH LEADERS' MEETING** - Tuesday 2nd February at 7.30 p.m.

## **MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

First meeting of the year Tuesday 2nd February @ 1.30pm in hall lounge cuppa & chat all very welcome.

**JOINT SERVICE** - On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February there will be a joint service at 10.00am at Mornington. The President of MCNZ – THE Rev Andrew Doubleday – will be with us to lead worship and to induct Rachael Masterton and David Poultney as co – superintendents of Otago Southland

**REQUEST** - At Mornington we have the camera and computer with a special programme for live streaming of services which could be a great asset for situations like the Covid lockdown. We need people with the appropriate skills to operate the programme. If you can help please contact either Rod Mitchell 027 647-7003 or Marjorie Spittle 4811418.



**THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THE JONES FAMILY** to Mornington on Christmas Day was a welcome reminder of the strength of ties developed in better attended days than we are able to achieve at the present time. Each member of the family, Greg, Rachel, Amy, Samuel and Lachlan, were seen to be enjoying conversations with "old friends" and these lasted well beyond the conclusion of the service. This photo taken by Paul Gourlie features (from left) Hilda & Greg Hughson, Greg Jones, Amy, Rachel, Ken Russell, Colin Gibson, Samuel and Lachlan. And, at the foot of the photo, not to be missed, is Bev Sutherland's very special dog, Jess. KR



***OIL AND WATER: YOUR WAY OF RIGHT,  
NOT EARTHLY MIGHT***

The Gospel of Mark begins with the compelling story of Jesus receiving God-given power to act in and change people's lives. John the Baptist says Jesus is more powerful than him: but this was a very different understanding of power.

We've thought a lot about power lately. As the two elections unfolded in NZ and the US, people around the world became crucially interested in democracy and the power of voting in the context of capitalism – our shared context. When electoral disappointment erupted at Capitol Hill, we saw not democracy but Fascism, a violent single-mindedness. Democracy, as we live it, is the result of thinking, relating and deciding on many fronts, not just one.

The 45th president excelled at being single-minded – or one-eyed while presenting himself as multi-talented: a capitalist magnate, patriot, golfer, statesman, diplomat, rhetorician, salesman (and Christian). He was a one-off, an individualist, whose only community seemed to be the people who served him – including of course his family.

For the Christian Right in America, the word "community" is too similar to the word "communism" to be taken seriously. The Cold War was seen as Capitalism vs Communism, and Faith was on our side, the Capitalist side. Faith and Capitalism? Aren't they like oil and water?

In studying Christian Thought and History, we learned how this marriage of seemingly contradictory ideas came about. In the 18th century, there grew up a sort of 'Quaker capitalism', (Deborah Cadbury in her 2010 book *Chocolate Wars*.) She writes that 2-300 years ago, the English Quakers, as non-conformists, "were barred from many professions, including law, university lecturing, the military, etc. So, if they were to be true to their faith, they needed to find other spheres in which to make their contribution, and they found this partly in trade, commerce and manufacturing. They were forced back on their own resources."

The combination of faith and capitalism entered Protestant thinking through the Puritan and Quaker pursuit of prosperity (self-reliance) along with peace, piety and propriety. Leading a simple life by the light of the Spirit did not need to mean taking a vow of poverty. Indeed, as the televangelists preach to this day, the Bible (at least, the OT) can be read as meaning God wants us to *prosper* financially, as well

as to triumph over our enemies – those of other races and religions – and to multiply and fill the earth with people of the same mind.

How can anyone reconcile the aims of capitalism and Christianity? Cadbury says of the historical Quaker firms, including her family's chocolate company: "Their approach to trade and business was not like that of today. As Joseph Cadbury put it, 'The real goal for an employer is to seek for others the best life of which they are capable.' As someone else said, 'Wealth generated for personal gain is shameful'."

Cadbury continues: "The Quakers were no airy-fairy do-gooders, but practical and even tough in business. They put community at the heart of everything they did. As soon as they started turning in profits, they diverted those profits into helping their staff", giving time-off, providing leisure facilities, good housing, promoting health and education.

So it can be done, but it seems now no-one wants to try reconciling wealth-accumulation and Christian ethics. Any criticism of capitalism, because it is so rare, is noteworthy. Remember Winston Peters in 2017, explaining his decision to back not National but Labour: "Far too many New Zealanders have come to view today's capitalism, not as their friend, but as their foe. And they are not all wrong." He also called capitalism "irresponsible" and argued against neoliberalism as well, saying that "after 32 years of the neoliberal experiment, the character and the quality of our country has changed dramatically, and much of it for the worse." He talked about "Labour and then National's shameful failure" in the areas of housing and jobs.

Such criticism is even more noteworthy in the US. Martin Luther King Jr. felt that "something is wrong with capitalism ... there must be a better distribution of wealth in this country for all of God's children and maybe America must move toward democratic socialism." King was sure "God never intended for some of his children to live in inordinate superfluous wealth while others live in abject, deadening poverty."

According to the magazine *Sojourners* – an article by Obery Hendricks in 2019 – NY Democrat Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has come under attack for her aspirations towards democratic socialism, or social

democracy as it's called. Much of the condemnation, says Hendricks, is from "the same crowd that so vigorously insists that America has always been a 'Christian nation'. This is quite ironic, because democratic socialism and the Bible share a strikingly similar vision of what constitutes a fair and just society." Here's Hendricks's list of values:

1) **Justice and equality:** "Give the king your justice, O God  
May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. May he defend the cause of the poor and crush the oppressor." (Psalm 72:1-2,4)

2) **Health care for all** Jesus modeled universal health care by healing everyone who asked, regardless of their gender, nationality or ability to pay. "Great multitudes followed him," mostly poor peasants, "and he healed them all" (Matthew 12:15).

3) **A fair wage** Prophets consistently excoriated those exploiting their employees. For example, "Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing and does not give them their wages" (Jeremiah 22:13,17).

4) **A minimum income for everyone** The book of Leviticus pronounces: "There should be no poor among you - if any of your neighbours become poor and are unable to support themselves among you, help them - so they can continue to live among you." (Leviticus 25: 35-36)

5) **Fair treatment of workers** Deuteronomy declares: "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the immigrants who are in your land" (Deuteronomy 24:14)

Let's see if Ocasio-Cortez can stand her ground, now that the principles she espouses have potentially got majority support in both Senate and Congress. King's legacy lives on.

**Helen Watson White**

# Conversations about Faith

Reaching your world one  
conversation at a time.

Ever wanted to help someone discover  
Jesus, but not been confident about  
where to start?

This FREE workshop will help you have  
conversations about Jesus in natural,  
respectful ways.

Led by Dave Mann from  
The Hope Project, NZ.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021

1-3pm

Oak Lounge, East Taieri Church  
12a Cemetery Road, Mosgiel

Please RSVP to East Taieri Church Office  
489 6308 or [office@etchurch.co.nz](mailto:office@etchurch.co.nz)



# WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February | *Love of God & Love of the Neighbour*

## *Celebration of Harmony Dinner 2021*



**Wednesday, 3 February, 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm**

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Fenton Crescent, St Clair, Dunedin

**Vegetarian Potluck:** Bring a vegetarian meal or desert to share

**Whanau-friendly:** face-painting and other activities will be provided

**Featuring:** readings, stories, entertainment and more

*Everyone is Welcome!*

Organised by the Dunedin Interfaith Council. Any enquiries phone Ruth on 455 1777