

### **We Start With...**

A two minute period of silence - a moment of peace.

### **From the ‘Chair’**

Gretchen is coming to the end of her holiday and will be back in the chair at the May meeting. I'm sure she will have lots to tell us about the places she visited and the folk she met.

### **Our Next Meeting**

Marion Kitchingman will give us a dramatized reading about Vera Brittain: English nurse during WWI, notable author, feminist and pacifist.

Vera Brittain became one of the leading pacifists of the twentieth century. In the 1920s, she was a regular speaker on behalf of the League of Nations Union, and was active for the Peace Pledge Union.

Her pacifism came to the fore during World War II when she was vilified for speaking out against saturation bombing of German cities through her 1944 booklet *Massacre by Bombing*. During the 1950s and 1960s she wrote articles against apartheid and colonialism and in favour of, nuclear disarmament.

Her Biographer Paul Berry wrote; *The world is only as good a place as the people living in it choose to make it, and we should be grateful to Vera Brittain for her valiant fight to make it better, for her dedication to peace and the continuing liberation of women, for her passion for justice and her compassion for the oppressed, and, perhaps above all, for the shining example of her rock-like integrity.*

### **Events**

I'm always please to see members of Sea of Faith at events which I publicise either via this Newsletter or via the occasional e-mail. That means I am picking the sort of events that our membership is interested in.

Currently there are lots of interesting events for us to explore.

### **Euthanasia Debates**

At St Paul's Cathedral on Wednesdays 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

At a recent meeting a story was told about a husband, at life's end, who was in a coma. His wife was distraught watching him and

### **Vera Brittain A remarkable nurse**

Her story told by

**Marion Kitchingman**  
**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> MAY**

**Highgate Church buildings,  
Maori Hill**  
**Tea and Coffee**  
**will be available from 3pm**

**The programme will start at  
3.30pm**

**Contribution - \$4**

commented that a dog wouldn't be allowed to suffer like that. The doctor in the room knew that the patient was free from any pain and there was only one person there suffering and it wasn't the husband. End of life treatment needs to be extended to more than the dying.

### **Otago Healthcare Chaplaincy Support Trust**

They hold lectures each month at 1pm in the Hospital Chapel. Last month Dr Chris Wisely talked to a packed-out chapel about end of life spirituality. Chris is a Christian and spoke of things that happened to patients which neither of them could explain.

Chris recommended us to Google; *TED talk - Dying to be me! By Anita Moorjani* where there is a remarkable story about Anita's out of body experience and what it taught her afterwards. Well worth the 18 minute watch.

There will be another seminar in May I believe – at the time of writing I don't have details but I'll send an e-mail when I do get them.

### **Fortune Theatre**

Drama at its best makes the viewer think hard after a performance. The current production is no exception and is all the more topical when we have new settlers in our midst. It deals with a Samoan family settling into a new street with their friendly neighbours. Over time there are close friendships, shared meals and church services, acceptance of difference, and then estrangement – we ask ourselves could things have gone differently.

Set in an earlier and more equal time in our country's story this is a compelling play – with two actors taking all the roles but it is never difficult to imagine who is who due to talented acting.

### **Sustainable Dunedin**

We had a presentation on this theme a few months ago and since then we have been circulating occasional news of their events. Recently our DCC passed a resolution to divest from companies associated with fossil fuels – such as petroleum and coal companies. We are the first city in the country to do that. There was some dissent, as shown in the letters page of the ODT, but other notable groups doing the same are the cities of Copenhagen and Oslo, the Norwegian Sovereign Fund, the World Council of Churches, the University of Glasgow, the British Medical Association and the Rockefeller Brothers fund. We are in powerful company, and we can be grateful to Jinty MacTavish who helps the Council to think about what is going on in other modern cities which wish to develop into sustainable communities for our grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

### **Panama Papers**

In New Zealand *a fair go* has always been regarded as something we can all subscribe to, and the current debate over the Panama Papers shows that some folk have been avoiding making a contribution to the general well-being of societies. Tax isn't a fine or a burden but a contribution we all make towards the common good. The fact that we abhor those who are avoiding their contribution shows that *a fair go* is a belief still strongly held in this country.

The thing that makes us mad is the fact that the people who are the rulers are not playing by the same rules as those people who are ruled. It is difficult to have respect for people who say "*Do as I say not as I do*".

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