

Lectionary
Readings for every day
You Select!



in the HCUC

No. 2

For 6 March 2016

Dear Friends

I woke in the middle of the night. It must have been the heat. As I lay awake my mind began travelling down a hundred uninteresting paths. The mind springs into action every time we come into the awake state. That's why deep sleep is such a wonderful gift. It brings us into the field of no worry, no pain, no anxious thoughts, no fears. So I switched on my tiny radio and put the sound buds in my ears, and suddenly I found myself in a world of inspiration and interest. Briefly, this is what I heard.

The programme had started and the interviewer (Lyn) was talking to Liz about a hundred violins. "Finding 100 was not a problem", Liz said. The harder task was selecting the children for the project. All the children came from a decile 1 school in Porirua. Many had never seen a violin, let alone held one. They came from families who could not afford one or the lessons to learn to play it. So the project was massive. The aim was to establish a string orchestra in the area, giving children the opportunity to experience the world of music which they would create.

One mother described the sound her 7 year old daughter made on the violin she brought home as like the fingernail on a blackboard. "How long did that last?" Lyn asked. "Only 2½ days, when she suddenly achieved the true sound" said the mother. She was so excited she played it as soon as she woke next morning and when she rushed home from school. And it hasn't stopped since that day.

All this began about 3 years ago. Now there are over 100 children aged from 6 years to 13 years forming an orchestra and playing in public. The spin-off has been unbelievable and inspiring—for the school, the families, the community and most of all for the children. Some children are planning to become professional—and Liz says they are capable of becoming full time. The talent is obvious.

One 8 year old boy said that when he grew up he wanted to be a gang member like his father and uncle. Two years later he had changed his mind. He wanted to be a policeman as he saw that what his father did was not good. A 10 year old girl said that she wanted to have lots of children like her mum. Two years later she said she would be a teacher—so she could help a whole room of children discover music and all the fun and possibilities she had found.

Sincerely - Lester

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 7 March:	30:1-5,8, 11-end	Isa 65:17-21	John 4:43-end
Tuesday 8 March:	46:1-8	Ezek 47:1-9,12	John 5:1-3,5-16
Wednesday 9 March:	145:8-18	Isa 49:8-15	John 5:17-30
Thursday 10 March:	106:19-23	Exod 32:7-14	John 5:31-end
Friday 11 March:	34:15-end	Jer 26:8-11	John 7:1-2,10, 25-30
Saturday 12 March:	7:1,2,8-10	Jer 11:18-20	John 7:40-52
Sunday 13 March <u>Lent 5</u>			
Ps 126; Isa 43:16-21; Phil 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 14 March:	23	Josh 2:1-14	John 8:1-11
Tuesday 15 March:	102:1-3, 16-23	Numb 21:4-9	John 8:21-30
Wednesday 16 March:	55	Exod 9:1-12	John 12:1-11
Thursday 17 March:	105:4-9	Gen 17:3-9	John 8:51-end
Friday 18 March:	18:1-6	Jer 20:10-13	John 10:31-end
Saturday 19 March:	89:26-36	2 Samuel 7:4-16	Matt 1:18-25
Sunday 20 March <u>Lent 6—Palm Sunday</u>			
Ps 31:9-16; Isa 50:4-9; Phil 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56			

Holy Week	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 21 March:	36:5-11	Isa 42:1-9	John 12:1-11
Tuesday 22 March:	71:1-14	Isa 49:1-7	John 12:20-36
Wednesday 23 March:	70	Isa 50:4-9a	John 13:21-32
Maundy Thursday 24 March:	116:1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday 25 March:	22	Isa 52:13-53:12	John 18:1-19:42
Holy Saturday 26 March:	73:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8	John 19:38-42
Sunday 27 March <u>Easter Day</u>			
Ps 118:1-2,14-24; Isa 65:17-25; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18			

STORIES WITHIN STORIES

Was it just by chance? Sometimes when two or more events that seem to have no direct connection with each other come together they can open up a whole new or fresh vision. So was it just by chance that such a hot night woke the sleeper just at the moment the radio programme was playing, and the sleeper decided to listen? The experience was inspiring, enriching and unexpected. It seemed as though there was an organized coming together of different elements to produce a new vision. Such events are (and always have been) so common that a word has been given to the experience: It has been called “synchronicity”, and the word is about things being together (sync) at the same time (chronos).

- * Everyday there are individuals who find the right book jumps off the shelf and its contents meet the reader at the right time.
- * The physicist Fritjof Capra was exploring new attitudes and visions of the ventures people saw happening that would shape the future. He was looking for creative people in different fields such as medicine, ecology, economics, psychology and spirituality. He went to conferences all round the world and never tried to contact particular individuals but listened carefully in lectures, over meals together and casually. Again and again he found the people by “chance”. It astonished him how often such people “found” him and fresh connections were made and wider visions resulted.
- * Back in the 1980’s the writer Marilyn Ferguson wrote a book she called “*The Aquarian Conspiracy*”. She hesitated to use the word ‘conspiracy’ because of its tones of secret and dangerous destruction. She did use it because as she says it is about breathing together—acting together in an almost invisible but yet vital way.
- * John Sanford a biblical scholar says that he sees many events in the bible story, especially for the first disciples and early church members as examples of synchronicity. For him they are signs of the Holy Spirit working at levels below the surface—an invisible intelligence bringing together seemingly separate bits. Bits that turn out to be aspects of one world and expressing the loving purpose of the one Source, the One God, and our Oneness as part of creation and our evolution.

CONSPIRING TO BLESS

It’s an open secret but few are attuned to hear it.

St Paul’s Prayer
in the light of God’s pleasure and purpose for us.

When Jesus breathed the fresh air of the Good News few accepted the opportunity to breathe with him—they missed the meaning of the conspiracy.

I pray that God ... will give you spiritual wisdom and the insight to know more of Him: that you may receive that inner illumination of the spirit which will make you realise how great is the hope to which He is calling you—the magnificence and splendour of the inheritance promised—and the tremendous power available to us.

The poet John Keats writes of autumn as a time of conspiracy.

Season of mists and mellow
fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the
maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load
and bless with fruit the vines that
round the thatch-eves run.

(J B Phillips in Letters to Young Churches)

It is about being open
to the invisible links
that hold us together
that inspire and
that empower us
whether we call it synchronicity or conspiracy.

Now that “Shalom” is underway for 2016 here is A NOTE:

- Those who collect their copy of Shalom either at the place of worship or from one of our volunteer distributors we ask you to give \$5 for the year’s supply.
- Those who have their copy posted each time we ask you to contribute \$20 p.a.

Pay to:

- ⇒ Congregational distributors; or
- ⇒ The HCUC office—personally
- ⇒ or post to PO Box 30-529, Lower Hutt 5040;
- ⇒ or to L J Reid, 70A Kings Crescent, Lower Hutt 5010