



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)

<b>Presbyters:</b>	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
<b>Tongan Steward:</b>	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Siosifa: <a href="mailto:parish@dmm.org.nz">parish@dmm.org.nz</a>	466 4600
	Katrina: <a href="mailto:admin@dmm.org.nz">admin@dmm.org.nz</a>	
<b>Parish Prayer Convenor</b>	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
<b>Mornington:</b>		

## PARISH BULLETIN

19<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> June

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** The June meeting will take place on the 22nd June in the Church Lounge at 2 p.m. This will be the Annual General Meeting where the Rev Siosifa Pole will chair, followed by Reflections. We will then have the "monthly" meeting followed by the Rev Pole telling us about his "Study & conference in Sydney & Samoa. Please remember the "Fellowship of the Least Coin" All welcomed.

**EXPLORERS GROUP.** The next meeting (including the AGM) will be on Sunday 26 June at 4.30 pm in the Mornington Lounge.

**AN UNEXPECTED** but welcome addition to last Sunday's service at Mornington was a long delayed presentation to DONALD PHILLIPPS of an Otago University Students Association name tag from last year's 125th anniversary dinner - which he unavoidably missed, but which was an important event for him, as one of the longest standing life members of



the OUSA, and one of the most highly regarded. \*Presenting the name tag, and speaking of Donald's contribution to university life when he was Chaplain, and since, was Paul Gourlie, Chair of the Dunedin Multi Ethnic Council, and looking on is Greg Hughson, present University Chaplain.



### **LIFE MATTERS SUICIDE PREVENTION TRUST QUIZ NIGHT**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 7pm Event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/990741664379742/>

Organise a team (4 to 6 people) and come have a fun night at the Mosgiel RSA, 6 Church St, Mosgiel. Tickets are \$5 per person, payable on the night. Please register your team as soon as possible with Nikki on 0273431099 or by emailing her via [events.mmrsa@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:events.mmrsa@vodafone.co.nz)

All the money raised will go towards paying for the traffic management required for the Dunedin Hopewalk on Saturday the 13th of August.

**HOPEWALK** Event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1795184507368422/>

HOPEWALK is a walk to bring greater awareness around suicide and promote the suicide prevention agencies who are doing their best to provide information and support around suicide related issues.

Our hope is to remind those who feel like they are by themselves – you are never alone.

The parade will start at the School of Dentistry and will finish at The Octagon where will have a minute of silence to remember and mourn suicide victims, followed by some entertainment.

Further information: Greg Hughson [greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz)

Ph. 027 212 1048 <https://www.facebook.com/LifeMattersOtago/>

**A REMINDER** that our second discussion meeting on the Future of our Dunedin Parish will be on Saturday 25th June 2-4pm at Wesley hall. Everyone welcome! Please come with ideas for a Parish Mission Statement. We made good progress at our last gathering. Hilda.



### **THE CLASH OF SYMBOLS**

Those strange people, from whom most of us pakeha New Zealanders descend, the English, willingly stand in the rain of a typical English summer's day to watch an elderly couple drive by, sheltered from the elements in their splendid car. If I had been in London the other day I might well have joined them. That's the way I was brought up, too. When the King spoke to us on Christmas Day, and the National Anthem (the real one) was played, I remember that I stood to attention.

Someone I know, and hold in great affection, thinks of the monarchy as a rather ridiculous and costly burden on both our pockets and our credulity. We don't need such a thing – it's outdated, it's irrelevant, surely we've grown up by now!

Well, yes – and no. The negative has to do with that word 'irrelevant' because I happen to think that symbols are much more important that we ever realise – that we need them, almost instinctively, to make sense of our lives.

John's Gospel starts with these words: 'In the beginning was the Word...'. The Greek for 'word' is logos. We all know now what a logo is – sport or business or any form of human activity needs to have its logo – that's how it is to be identified. Symbols have to do with the way we want to identify ourselves.

They are so important, in fact, and so necessary, that we New Zealanders had to have a referendum to decide what our national symbol should be. And it was so important, in fact, that we couldn't agree that it was time for a change. If ever there were proof that humans, in their very essence, are symbol-makers it was that failed referendum earlier this year.

I invite you to look around, if you are reading this in church this morning. How many 'symbols' are there. Leave the cross aside for the moment. Candles, hymn-books, a familiar picture, some stained- glass, the design on

the carpet, the special chair, the pulpit, the embroidery, the shape of the window, the communion rail, the table, the collection-plate, the organ, the piano, and on and on. But what about the words we use – you only have to say “Our Father .....’ and all the other words are there. You only have to sing the first line of a familiar hymn and all the words are there. If they’re changed or different you notice. The people, your fellow-worshippers, are symbols, too – recalling family links, old friendships, sad times and crises. We need Sunday morning – and we need it for deeper reasons than we can say.

In a changing world – how trite that sounds – there are people who need reassurance, because they find it difficult to cope with too much change. I’d dare to suggest that that is true of virtually every single human being. And it is that yearning for a still point in a turning world that underlies the significance of the monarchy in 2016. At 90, the Queen has been there throughout the whole lives of most of her people – she is the symbol of reassurance. That’s their choice.

If there isn’t a live monarch, then what do you turn to when you think about your country’s past and your country’s future? It seems that in this small corner of the world we’re not sure. When we look overseas that sense of uncertainty becomes overwhelming. What does the Stars and Stripes symbolise for the Republican, Donald Trump, and for the Democrat, Hilary Clinton. The differences seem irreconcilable. We don’t want to be dragged into that argument, do we!

The great religions of the world have their principal symbols – the cross for Christianity, the Star of David for Judaism, and the Wheel of Dharma for Buddhism. Islam’s ancient rejection of icons still stands, but the Star and Crescent means something in the Islamic world.

When we come to ‘this familiar place’ each Sunday, is it because we need reassurance. If that’s all, then we’ve missed the point of the Gospel. If we come looking only for change, then we’ve missed the point again.

Somehow, the cross says it all. If it’s empty then how effectively do we relate to a suffering world. If Christ is still hanging from it what hope do we offer to others. It has to be a symbol of both. Out of the past, into the present, and for the future.

**Donald Phillipps**