



Methodist Parish

Finding good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyter:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
Parish Stewards:	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Dr Richard Cannon	477 5030
	Mrs Fay Richardson	489 5485
Tongan Steward:	Mr Palanite Taungapeau	456 3144
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@dmm.org.nz	466 4600
	Sarah: sarahc@dmm.org.nz	

PARISH BULLETIN

3rd April 2011

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 10th April 2011

9.30am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Ungemuth
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	S Ungemuth
1.00pm	St Kilda	P Taungapeau
6.00pm	Broad Bay	No Service

HOME GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday 5th April at 7,30 pm. At the home of Ian and Dot Pearce. 44 Argyle Street. Tel. Ian. 453 6312 or Geoff. 473 0193

WESLEY LEADERS MEETING - Will be held on 12th April at 10.30am

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Tuesday 5th April Mrs Naomi Pole will be speaking to us about "Her life as the Ministers Wife."

MORNINGTON WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Monday 11th April in the Church Lounge at 7.45 p.m. The Guest Speaker Mrs Phillipa Crack - Youth Services Librarian. The Subject - "Children's Reading"

A MEAL FOR CHRISTCHURCH QUAKE VICTIMS

Judy Russell has offered to prepare a three-course meal (with optional wine) on Saturday 9 April at a charge of \$25 dollars. All profits will go to the Christchurch Earthquake Victims Fund. The meal will be followed by a free movie, *Mousehunt*. a family comedy. (please ring Judy (4553 727) if you want to share this special meal in a good cause. Or sign in at Mornington, where the meal will be held at 6pm.

If you can't come – make a large donation, see Colin Gibson.

BROAD BAY NEWS

- There will be no service at Broad Bay on Sunday 17 April.
- Easter sunrise service on the Broad Bay beach, 7am, Easter Sunday 24 April. If the weather is bad we will have the service in the church. Followed by breakfast of fish and fresh-brewed coffee. Cost: \$5 per person. Enquiries to Olive Bain 478 0657 or Jenny Winter 478 0491.

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A MUSICAL EASTER

The City of Dunedin choir with the Southern Sinfonia and soloists will sing Bach's greatest choral work, the Mass in B Minor, in the Dunedin Town Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 16 April. Tickets are available from the Regent (Ticket Direct), phone 477 8597. No finer Easter preparation could be imagined: at times sombre and deeply reflective, at others thrillingly joyful and triumphant, Bach's music is always majestic and uplifting. Join the audience for this rare celebration.

PEOPLE NEWS - Beth Major is in Leith House rest-home until April 6, while Lewis has a break away visiting family. Visitors are welcome.



The good, the bad, and the ugly. The latest scandal to rock the political establishment contains all three elements, and at the risk of being overtaken by fast-moving developments, I offer the following by way of comment on events leading to the resignation of Darren Hughes from Parliament.

Let's begin with the bad. Darren Hughes is just the latest of a continuing line of our political leaders who have come to grief in a tawdry web of scandal, with swirling unproven allegations, police investigations, sexual innuendo, and more than a whiff of over- consumption of alcohol. It should be no surprise, perhaps, that the private lives of politicians feature the same brew of antisocial ingredients that go on bedeviling the youth of the nation, but we of the electorate go on hoping that perhaps our leaders have sufficient personal maturity to ensure that what happened involving Mr Hughes in Wellington a few weeks ago just does not happen. But no surprise, sadly, that yet another political career, one said by his colleagues to have been of great promise, has come crashing down. Yes, there is agreement that our legislators, those who make laws for the rest of us, should live by the highest moral and ethical standards. And yes, there is also agreement that Parliament is a glasshouse - some would say a beargarden - into which only the strongest and most hardened should venture, well aware of the perils of being seen to fall from grace. In that sense Darren Hughes might be seen as one who in his parliamentary career has lived by the sword, and now he has died by the sword. But that is the cynical view. On the human side it is sheer tragedy that a young man brimming with the gifts we would all desire for our political leaders - personally attractive, intelligent, politically committed, and with exceptional skills of communication, especially among young adults, should have fallen in such ignominy. With the nation locked into the deepest sorrow for the community and people of Christchurch it is perhaps too easy to overlook the fact that life goes on for the rest of the country. The loss in this manner of one of the brightest and the best, albeit from the Opposition and not the Government, comes at a time when the country is in dire straits and needs all the visionary leadership the likes of Darren Hughes was capable of giving.

Next, the ugly. Quite by accident last Sunday night I fell on TVNZ's Channel 7's repeat of Paul Holmes' Q+A interview with Labour leader Phil Goff and his handling of the Darren Hughes affair. I was deeply troubled by the interview. So just to make sure I went back to the transcript which is readily available on the channel's website, and listened again. To call it an interview is a travesty of the word. It was Holmes at his worst, arrogant, driving, and bullying, determined to ram home a preconceived position that Mr Goff's decision to keep the Hughes business under wraps for two weeks was driven not by loyalty to his younger colleague, nor by his concern that justice should be done quietly through a police investigation

out of the glare of the spotlight. It was politics, he said, a desperate attempt to save a colleague and prevent a political disaster for Labour in election year. Mr Goff many times denied Holmes' allegations, and with emotion. But Holmes was unrelenting. It was an appalling abuse of the interviewer's privilege, and quite rightly Mr Goff at one stage broke off to ask Holmes whether he was listening at all, and was in effect interviewing himself? It was ugly alright. It was a classic example of the oppressive power of the media, the same media with which any politician must deal if/when heshe dares to step outside the expected norms to uphold personal values of justice and integrity.

Last, the Good. Yes, there is some good to be found in this tawdry business. Senior Labour MP's met with Phil Goff in Dunedin this week, and despite intense media speculation there was a rising rift in the ranks to unseat him, he was able to achieve a united front behind him. I have been one who has doubted his suitability to lead Labour. He has presented an overly jaunty demeanour; he has been too wordy; and he has given an impression of being more well-meaning than resolute. But in the firestorm of recent days he has done more than simply survive. He has matured and held his own in the face of the barrage that was thrown against him. He may not have opted wisely as a politician or a party leader in sitting with the Darren Hughes information as long as he did, but at worst he did the wrong thing for the right reason. The fact is his actions were dictated by loyalty, a sense that justice needed to be given a chance, and that the career of a valued colleague should not lightly be jeopardized. It is not a bad thing that a political leader is seen to risk his own reputation for the sake of values as simple and straightforward as loyalty, justice and friendship. He deserves credit for that, and not the arrogant bullying to which he has been subjected by a media thirsty for blood on the floor.

The good, the bad and the ugly. Not for the first time, and likely not the last, we are reminded that those elected to public office enter a jungle where it is incredibly difficult to practice pure politics unsullied by the sordid, destructive dimensions of deal making and recrimination. It is a indeed a bruising environment up there in Wellington, guaranteed to quickly extinguish idealism. It must be terribly difficult to maintain one's integrity and one's best human values. These people warrant if not our agreement than certainly our understanding of a demanding role. And personally, the hope that in the fullness of time Darren Hughes will be back. Such men are too good to lose.

Ken Russell