



# 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

7<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> February

9.30 am	Mornington	G Abernethy
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	G Abernethy
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

### INVITATION TO ATTEND ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT:

An opportunity for Mornington Churches to worship together at the beginning of Lent. Please join us at 6.30pm at St Mary's Anglican Church, Whitby St, Mornington, on Wednesday 10th February.



**PARISH COUNCIL** - Members of the Parish Council will have their meeting on Wednesday evening the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, 7.30pm at St Kilda Methodist Church.

**HELPING THE HUGHSONS** - The Hughson family has suffered a serious home invasion and are expecting to be in rental accommodation for six months while their house is repaired. On Friday 26 February a meal and family movie night will be held at Mornington Methodist Church, catered by Judy Russell. A koha of \$15 dollars for the meal and \$5 for the movie. All profits will go to Greg and Hilda; please be generous. Ring Judy (4553727) to book your place and establish numbers attending.

**OUR NEXT OTAGO SOUTHLAND SYNOD MEETING** is being held at Camp Columba, Pukerau on 12-14 February - starting Friday afternoon (around 3.30pm) and ending Sunday 1pm.

Cost \$50 per person (which is being subsidised by the Synod) or \$10 for day visitors.

Own bedding needs to be provided. Sleeping arrangements are dormitory style rooms with bunk beds (no one needs to sleep on top bunk so don't worry about that).

Our guest speaker is the Rev Dr Trevor Hoggard - Mission Resourcing Director in Auckland.

Please contact Rachael Masterton if you are wanting to come - 4764867 or [rmasterton@actrix.co.nz](mailto:rmasterton@actrix.co.nz). Numbers needed by Monday 8 February please.

**SYNOD MEETING** – Those in the parish who are planning to go please contact me by Monday for the purpose of arranging transport.  
Siosifa Pole, 455 2923.

**MORNINGTON LEADERS MEETING** - First meeting for 2016 will be Tues 16th Feb. 7.30 pm.

**SYMPATHY** - On behalf of the Wesley congregation and the whole of the Dunedin Methodist Parish I would like to convey my condolences and sympathy to the family of John Angell for his death. It is our prayers that God would grant his peace and comfort upon you during this time of mourning.

**MOSGIEL MID - WEEK SERVICES** start on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February @ 2p.m. in our church followed by afternoon tea. All Parish members welcome.

## **STORY FROM THE MISSION**

*Science Kids:* Both Bathgate Park and Carisbrook Heights successfully completed the first Science Kids programme. The feedback from Parents, Teachers and Students has all been very positive. I caught up with the Social Workers in Schools before the Christmas break and they are keen for the programme to include the schools they are working with. Some of these are Pine Hill, Brockville, Carisbrook and Calton Hill. Just some feedback from Charles visit to the last Science Kids session on Monday at Bathgate Park school.



- All the families and kids were really engaged in the experiments – the kids were clearly leading these and explaining/showing to their parents/siblings how and why the experiment worked.
- The kids interactions with each other was great – a lot of sharing, waiting for equipment, supporting other kids, and a lot of hilarity.
- One of the kids was reading a science experiment sheet out to his Mum – he appeared to have lower level of literacy but read through it well working out through a range of strategies what the sheet was saying. Rebecca said that his Mum has very little literacy.
- One family was using their phone to video their son who was conducting the experiment and talking through what was happening and why that was happening. Rebecca said that this family rarely came to anything as they were quite withdrawn and she was both rapt and surprised that they came to support their son at this.
- Science was clearly the vehicle for driving a whole lot of other things that were happening:
  - Positive family interactions
  - The kids being leaders
  - Literacy development
  - Social, sharing and problem solving interactions between the kids
  - Parents being able to be really proud of their kids
- The programme clearly a privilege for the kids – not one of those catch up programmes or ‘do good’ programmes





## HOLIDAYS LOSE MUCH OF THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

once you're retired, and looking back on the last six weeks, or so, and gauging the highlights, or otherwise, is not the exciting process it once might have been. But despite unwelcome intrusions on the serenity of my holiday experience, there was indeed one highlight worth sharing in the first *Connections* column of the year. It was the movie *Suffragette*.

I had seen the trailer weeks before, and marked it as a must-see. There are a limited range of movies that will attract me into the cavernous depths of the Rialto in daylight hours. I abhor the tsunami of violent extravaganzas regularly inflicted by the Hollywood moguls, and equally, the gooey American attempts at comedy. But movies that address serious social issues, that illuminate the rich dramas by which the human race has made progress toward a more just and humane manner of living, get my vote. *Suffragette* promised to be one of those, and I bought my ticket with anticipation. I was not disappointed.

Let's be clear, it's not a movie for the faint hearted. It's a grainy portrayal of life in the big cities of England in the years prior to the first war, with the demeaned role of women in sharp focus. Forget *Downton Abbey*. Maud Watts is an unlikely heroine. Young wife and mother, she works with her husband long dreary hours in a London laundry. The wages are subsistence stuff, just enough for the two of them to make a poor living for themselves and their little boy. She regularly suffers sexual abuse at the hands of the male supervisor, with no recourse, as do many of the younger women who wash and iron the linen of richer and more privileged families.

Un-affected by the simmering tide of angry voices pushing for womens rights in 1912 England Emma had no aspiration to be part of it until she comes under the influence of an older fellow laundry worker and

witnesses some of the civil disobedience being waged by the militant campaign of (Mrs) Emmeline Pankhurst. Naively unaware of the dangers, Maud is drawn in and becomes what we would call today, an "activist" eventually morphing into a front-line member of the Womens Social and Political Union, advocating for womens voting rights. They became the suffragettes. The tactics of WSPU were then, and still are, hugely controversial. While they aschewed personal violence, they took their deep sense of injustice out on property. They bombed pillar boxes, lit fires, smashed windows, lay on the roads and disrupted public life in a hundred ways. They practiced civil disobedience. As popular indignation grew exponentially, police confrontation became particularly brutal, with beatings and imprisonment the order of the day.

Emma Watts was increasingly drawn into the vortex of all of this, and the movie shows her increasing commitment despite. growing opposition. The impact on her, personally, was profound, and the ferocity of the public backlash on women identified as among the leaders is a striking part of the movie. Emma was thrown out of the family home by a husband who has no understanding or sympathy for the cause.. She is denied access to her son. She loses her job. She goes to jail, several times, and while on hunger strike she is force-fed by a posse of prison staff, the men of which take the opportunity to fondle and humiliate her.

Above all, the movie graphically demonstrates the implacable depths of male dominance on the political and civil structures of Great Britain in the pre-war years. The womens voice was held to be of no account, an impudent and improper demand from a half of society whose aspirations were seen to undermine the God-given order of things.

So what's the significance of the movie a hundred years after those fraught events have passed into history? In short, a great deal. We should never forget, especially the women among us, the price paid for what are counted as among the most fundamental rights in the civil

code. And it's perhaps timely to note that the right so grudgingly won for the womens vote, won here twenty yrs earlier by our own Kate Sheppard was based on the appeal for equality, the irony of which should not be lost on any of us. The current cry is not for the vote but the still elusive gender equality, equal pay for equal work and sufficient recognition for womens role in bearing our children. Women still struggle for the true equality needed to bridge the gap between "rights" and "opportunities." *Suffragette* is not a perfect piece of history. It's a work in progress - as witness so many white ribbons on the lapels of New Zealand men.

But *Suffragette*, hopefully, will be a movie for the world. While it is a moot point as to whether the most socially introverted countries will allow it in, wherever the film is shown it will be a powerful encouragement to women still denied even the most basic rights - to the vote, yes, but to an education, to a meaningful say in the life of their communities - not to mention liberation from paternalistic marriages that allow for the most frightful exploitation. Even a few such women may see this movie, and like humble Emma Watts, will catch a vision of a better life for women. It is a cost being borne this very day by women on every continent. It may be a call to patient perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds, or to rebellion stark and dangerous. Those women will know that the entrenched prejudice of powerful men is hugely oppressive of womens right to self expression, and sooner or later must be challenged. Let there be a silent prayer from movie goers that when the movie reaches less permissive shores the whispered encouragement of Mrs Pankhurst to Emma in the thick of London's turmoil will be heard anew "never surrender, never give up the fight."

Is this a Christian movie? By a narrow definition, no, but by St Paul's highest vision of the gospel, engendering equality between "men and women, slave and free" the movie world is a powerful weapon of "christian" liberation today. So go buy your ticket soon. The season is almost over.

*Ken Russell*



NEW ZEALAND  
RED CROSS  
IHOA WHIRO AOTEAROA



# Volunteers needed

Dunedin will be welcoming newly arrived refugee families in April 2016 and we need Refugee Support Volunteers to help resettle the families.

New Zealand Red Cross supports refugee families during their first twelve months in New Zealand to resettle in the community, develop their independence and help make the transition to life in New Zealand as smooth as possible. Our refugee support volunteers do an extraordinary job and are a core part of the services we offer for newly arrived refugee families. Most importantly, they are a friendly face and supportive guide for a new family.

Anyone with a passion for helping people and an interest in welcoming new kiwis can be a Red Cross refugee support Volunteer. No previous experience in this area is required, as our comprehensive training equips you with the skills you will need. Volunteers receive training from Red Cross staff, along with mentoring and support during their time as a volunteer.

To learn more:

Come along to an information evening about becoming a volunteer on either **Tuesday 26 January** or **Tuesday 23 Feb** at 7pm.

RSVP

To RSVP for the information evening:

Email  
[otago@redcross.org.nz](mailto:otago@redcross.org.nz)

Phone  
03 477 1527

Visit  
31 York Place, Dunedin