

Music tribute preaches messages of support Jamie First

The legacy of a much-loved preacher is being felt years after his death.

Reverend David Hodges AM, the former minister of Toorak Uniting Church, died in January 2012, aged 88, after a six-year battle with Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia.

Now, his long-term partner and former carer, David Ross-Smith, is holding a fundraising concert to honour him and help others in need.

"David was a great believer in the church being involved in the community through providing social programs for the young, families and the elderly, and it being a centre for the arts — music, drama ... etc," Mr Ross-Smith said.

The show, *The Gallant Gondoliers* (influenced by Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas), will support Uniting AgeWell's Music for David program.

The program uses music to help dementia-sufferers with symptoms of anxiety, agitation and restlessness, as well as the people looking after them at home.

"Being a musician, and aware of the positive therapeutic effects of music, I used music to help David relax during his dementia-related periods," Mr Ross-Smith, from Glen Iris, said.

"Music for David is a subtle way of acknowledging David as a significant minister ... and that he had dementia in the last years of his life.

"As a coincidence of my sharing his name, Music for David also subtly acknowledges the role of the carer."

The concert, held at the Toorak Uniting Church, is on Saturday, February 7 at 4pm. All money raised contributes towards iPods and MP3 players.

Tickets are available at the door or at trybooking.com/GRWK.

Prices are \$40 for adults and \$35 concession.