

WESLEY NEWS

FEBRUARY DIARY DATES

Sunday 5th at 10.00am

Rev James Winn

Holy Communion

4th after EPIPHANY

Sunday 12th at 10.00am

Rev Mac Macdonald

5th after EPIPHANY

Monday 13th at 4.00pm

Church Council

Sunday 19th at 10.00am

Rev James Winn

6th after EPIPHANY

AGM of Congregation

Wednesday 22nd 12 noon

Kent Town Hotel

COME-TO-LUNCH

Sunday 26th at 10.00am

Rev James Winn

& Rev Mark Dickens

Harvest thanksgiving

TRANSFIGURATION OF
JESUS

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice

Wednesday evening at 7.30pm

ARTS @ WESLEY

Patchworkers & Quilters

Monday morning

Contact Pat 8331 9816

WESLEY IS HOME TO

Young Adelaide Voices

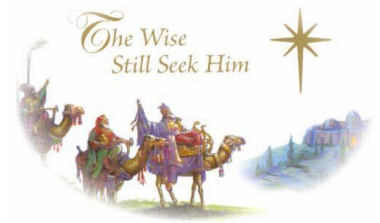
Adelaide Harmony Choir

Metropolitan Musical

Theatre Company

Monteverdi Singers

In many ways February is the true start to a new year. On February 1st, children have only just returned to school and the academic year in tertiary education still awaits its commencement - at least for students! The memories of family holidays haven't yet faded, management committees are just starting to swing into action and church choirs have just come out of their summer recess. Morning and evening road traffic returns to being its usual nightmare!



It's interesting to note the book-ends of this summer hiatus. It begins with a prolonged advertising campaign urging us not to forget anyone on our Christmas present list. Parents do their best to ensure that their children are hypnotised by a world of fantasy which often leads to extraordinary levels of expectation as to what they might expect for Christmas presents. Somehow we slip in a few carols, maybe go to church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, gorge ourselves full of food and then, boom! It's all over. Some people then enjoy the mad rush of Christmas/New Year sales, others catch their planes or pack their caravans, and others sit in their gardens sipping lemonade or wine. Christmas is nowhere to be seen. Many people do not even understand that it's about Jesus.

The next thing we know is that it's February, children are back at school and the demands of the workplace ratchet up a notch or two - the second book-end. Soon it will be Ash Wednesday (March 1st this year, if anyone notices) and then Palm Sunday (the traditional time for a peace march) followed by Maundy Thursday (when we once held foot-washing services) Good Friday and a four day holiday break. Oh yes, there are some people who go to church on Easter Sunday where they talk about the resurrection of Jesus, whatever that means. Are you still with me?

So, how has it come to this? These book-ends revolve around Jesus of Nazareth; a man who lived in Galilee over 2,000 years ago. No man is more central to human history than him yet he is the man no one knows. He has had an incredible impact on the world and, particularly, western civilization. From the Dark Ages to Post-Modernity he won't go away. He was not in the mould of a Roman Emperor or a High Priest. He did not loudly and demonstrably defend his movement in the spirit of a rising political or military leader. He did not lay out a case that history would judge his brand of belief superior to any other. Only his followers have done that. His life and teaching simply drew people to follow him. He made history by starting in a humble place, in a spirit of love and acceptance, and allowing each person space to respond.

Today his vision of life still spooks cynics and confronts humanity. His influence has swept over history bringing inspiration to what has happened in art, science, government, medicine, and education; he has taught humans about dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope. Sadly many of his followers have wreaked havoc in his name or used his good name to line their pockets with cash or power. The recent US election is a sobering reminder of this.

So what will we, at Wesley Kent Town gear up for in 2017? As our year gets underway perhaps we should make it our common New Year resolution that if we do nothing else, we resolve, again, to follow Jesus faithfully. To be people of whom others will find themselves compelled to say, "Who is this Jesus whom they follow? I think I need him in my life." I look forward to continuing this journey with you.

Grace and peace,
Jim Winn

Wesley Uniting Church
Kent Town



ORGAN RECITAL & RSCM SERVICE



The large audience in attendance at the Malcolm Archer organ recital on the afternoon of January 8th, were treated to a feast of marvellous music. In the evening of the same day, the RSCM choir, under the direction of Malcolm Archer, presented "Music for Pentecost". It was wonderful to hear the delightful blend of voices of the large choir filling the space. We are greatly blessed to have a building with such wonderful acoustics.

COME-TO-LUNCH

Our first luncheon for 2017 will be on Wednesday 22nd February at 12 noon, at Kent Town Hotel, 76 Rundle Street, Kent Town. Everyone is welcome.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service is planned for Sunday 26th February 2017. This will be a combined service with PAC and will feature a school choir as well as an augmented adult choir. We will have our usual display of produce at the front of the church and ask members to kindly donate suitable items. Setting up will take place at 4.00 pm on Saturday 25th. All offers of help will be gratefully received.

AGM OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, 19th February, 2017 in the church immediately following worship. Financial statements will be presented along with other reports. All current members of Church Council do not require re-election as they have not yet completed their terms of office.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Ben & Lisa Price, with daughters **Samantha & Annaliese**, are home safely after enjoying a holiday cruise of SE Asia. **Mark and Pat Symons** also had a well deserved week's holiday in Hong Kong. **Deborah White** is back from Nepal and looking forward to singing in the choir again. **Graham & KK Stacey** flew home to Singapore and return again in 6 weeks' time. In the interim, Graham will fly to Germany for testing of engines for the Antarctic icebreaker, and then to Norway where generators for the same project will be tested.

Penelope Hackett-Jones' grandson **Frederick Geoffrey Hackett-Jones Okutoi** was baptised on Sunday 8th January 2017. It was a very happy occasion with little Frederick sleeping most of the time and big brother, Arthur watching on. We thank Mary and Gabriel for sharing this special event.



Annis Bennett is now a resident at Summerhill, at Summertown. Graham & KK, together with Doug and Jenny Stewart, visited her recently. She was delighted to see them and sent "handfuls of kisses" to everyone at Kent Town. **Linda Nicholls** had a fall recently and had a visit to the RAH for treatment. **Catharina Corbett** has had a hip replacement. She is home from hospital and recovering well, although very sore. We wish both Linda and Catharina a speedy recovery.

WORKING BEE

A group of 11 members took part in a Working Bee last month. Some useful work was completed and some great fellowship was shared. Participants were John Beard, Pam & David George, David & Beryl Kennett, Trevor Leane, Ivan Miller, Graham & KK Stacey and Doug & Jenny Stewart. Tasks completed included, dismantling and packing away the Christmas Tree and Nativity Scene, packing groceries and delivering them to Uniting Communities, repairing the eastern fence of the cottage, cutting back wisteria and propping up rear cottage fence, trimming hedges, weeding gardens, dead-heading roses, and sweeping the grounds. Beryl Kennett provided some delicious home-made quiches, and Jenny and KK made sandwiches and cakes. A good time was had by all and a great sense of achievement was experienced by everyone.



Photos courtesy of KK Stacey

JUST A THOUGHT

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but seeing with new eyes.

Marcel Proust

CONTACTS

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Church Council Chair: Dr Mark Symons
mark.symons@tpg.com.au 8331 9816

Church Office: Tracy Shepherd

Monday – Thursday 10.00am – 3.00pm (school term)
office@wesleykenttown.org.au 8362 2544