

WESLEY NEWS

MARCH DIARY DATES

Sunday 5th at 10.00am

Rev Mac Macdonald

Holy Communion

LENT 1

Sunday 12th at 10.00am

Rev James Winn

LENT 2

Sunday 19th at 10.00am

Rev James Winn

LENT 3

Monday 20th at 4.00pm

Church Council

Wednesday 22nd 12 noon

Venue to be advised

COME-TO-LUNCH

Sunday 26th at 10.00am

Rev James Winn

ANNUNCIATION 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

I've just started reading an interesting and fascinating book. It's Australian Religious Thought, written by Wayne Hudson and published by Monash University Press in 2016. I'm not very far into it as yet but, so far, it's easy to read and quite insightful.

In essence, Hudson argues that despite the popularly cultivated image of Australia as a secular, hedonistic and religiously indifferent society the facts tell us otherwise. There has been, in our own backyard, much original and diverse thinking about religion, much interesting stuff published in papers rather than books, much influence on public life and not all of it in a Christian context.

I found myself wondering why this is. Of course, Wayne Hudson will have his own explanation for this and I will be interested to discover it. In the meantime I wondered whether there isn't a lesson here which could be useful to us during Lent as we prepare for Easter. (Easter Day, by the way, is Sunday, April 16th)

Already, a common thread in Hudson's discussion is the insight that when it comes to religious and theological discussions in Australia they have often occurred in a cocoon with little or no engagement with those on the outside. They've largely been "in-house" discussions.

Contemporary social commentators tell us that that is what is happening to us today on a much wider scale as more and more people use the internet as their social network. The way Facebook and many other social networks are set up, we automatically get news, and advertisements, from people and groups that appear to share our values and interests or from people and groups whose online pages we tend to visit frequently. And we also get shielded from people and groups who do not appear to be on our personal wavelength. So, most of the time, our online conversations are with people we agree with and the result is that we do not hear news or opinions that contradict our views and we certainly do not get to engage with people who hold very different views to our own. The end result is a much more fragmented and belligerent society where hate, contempt, ridicule and conceit become the order of the day.

When we think about Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem, and our Lenten journey as we walk with him to the Holy City, it is clearly a journey where some people heard what Jesus was on about and engaged with him, while others, despite their protestations, never did hear what he was saying to them and certainly had no intention of engaging with him. They put him to death.

There is a risk in engagement with Jesus, or any other person for that matter, and that is that we may need to reform our life or give up status or wealth or power in the process of being genuinely open to another person, another human being. So many people in Australia today say that they "hear" the cry of indigenous people, or the cry of refugees and asylum seekers, or the cry of the mentally ill, or the cry of the sexually abused, to name just a few categories, but they find that they cannot really offer help because they do not want to do so by becoming worse off in some way! Understandable, perhaps, but sad, none the less.

What, then, might we give up for Lent? Perhaps one of the best things we could give up is the safety of the cocoons in which we live and venture outside to meet and *engage* with people whose life experience is different to ours, whose religious faith is different to ours, whose tragedies are different to ours. Of course, there is a risk to all of this. Your life may change forever. It could be enriched beyond your wildest dreams. But, then again, you may end up crucified on a cross in the Holy City. That's the risk Jesus took for you and me. Will we take it for him?

Grace and peace,
Jim Winn

Wesley Uniting Church
Kent Town



Fast



Give



Prepare



Pray



HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service, held on Sunday 26th February 2017, was a great success. It was a combined service with PAC and featured 2 school choirs, a string ensemble and the Wesley augmented adult choir. The PAC boarders also attended the service.

The service was led jointly by Rev James Winn and the school chaplain, Rev Mark Dickens. Four students from a rural background shared some of their experiences of life on the land and helped lead the worship. Over 200 people attended and everyone greatly appreciated the music and the service as a whole.



There was the usual display of produce at the front of the church which had been decoratively arranged by a group of volunteers on the Saturday afternoon prior. Once again members were very generous and a great deal of tinned, packet and fresh produce was donated. Uniting Communities was very grateful to receive the goods as their supplies were running low.

COME-TO-LUNCH

Our first luncheon for 2017 was held on the 27th February at the Kent Town Hotel. Everyone enjoyed the company and the Jungle surroundings. Our next lunch is scheduled for **Wednesday 22nd March at 12 noon**. The venue is yet to be arranged so Trevor would appreciate receiving suggestions for a suitable dining place. We will let you know when a decision is made. Everyone is welcome so we hope you can join us on the 22nd.

LENT

We have just entered the period of Lent. It commenced on Ash Wednesday, 1st March and concludes on Thursday 13th April. Lent is a time when we, as Christians, spiritually prepare for Easter.

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday:

Sunday 9th April, 10.00am

Tenebrae Service:

Tuesday 11th April, 7.00pm

Good Friday:

Friday 14th April, 9.00am

Easter Day:

Sunday 16th April, 10.00am



Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day services will be held in the church and will feature an augmented choir with special choral music.

The **Tenebrae Service**, to be held in the Back Hall, will include a meal of fish, salad and fresh fruit. The service consists of a series of readings and hymns focusing on the passion and crucifixion of Christ. One by one, 16 candles will be extinguished, to represent the increasing sorrow of Jesus as the events of Passion Week unfold.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION RE MINISTRY AT KENT TOWN

The Church Council has been through a long process leading up to the selection of a new Minister of the Word. The decision was made to advertise the position at 0.7 time. A Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) consisting of the lay members of the council, Rev Phillip Gardner and Rev Dr Peter Trudinger, was formed, and conversations with applicants were held. **On Sunday 12th March 2017**, a Special Meeting of the Congregation will be held following the morning service when Rev Phillip Gardner will bring the name of the chosen minister to the congregation for approval.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Elizabeth & Frank Brookes have been holidaying in Sydney and we look forward to their safe return. **Graham & KK Stacey** are still in Singapore where they have been celebrating Chinese New Year. It is officially winter in Singapore but the weather has been unseasonably hot for the duration of their stay. They will be back in Adelaide on 15th March.

We were delighted that **Catharina & Robert Corbett** were able to attend the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Catharina has recovered remarkably well following her hip replacement and Robert also was in good health. Catharina is still not allowed to drive so was chauffeured by Robert. It was also lovely to catch up with **Marlene Edwards**. Marlene worships regularly now at Greenwith Uniting Church but has remained as a member-in-association at Kent Town where she still feels very strong ties. **Robin & John Douglass** also were able to make it to the service despite John's mobility problems. Both Robin and John are former choristers and soloists so they greatly appreciated the music.

Frank & Naomi Bryant have not been in good health. Frank has now moved into Residential Aged Care and Naomi visits him daily. It is a very stressful time for them so please remember them in your prayers. Other members whom we miss dearly because they have either moved into aged care facilities or are suffering ill health, are **Annis Bennett, Linda Nicholls, Raelene Chelley** and **Catherine Courtney**.

JUST A THOUGHT

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

Will Rogers

CONTACTS

Minister: Rev Jim Winn

jawinn@picknowl.com.au 0418 841 476
8322 2146

Minister in Association: Rev Mac Macdonald
ravensrock@adelaide.on.net 8332 7669

Organist & Choir Director: Graham Bell
graham.bell@sa.gov.au 0422 073 436

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