

WESLEY NEWS

FEBRUARY DIARY DATES

Sunday 4th at 10.00 am
Rev Alex Rodgers &
Rev Mac Macdonald
Holy Communion
EPIPHANY 5

Thursday 8th at 2.00pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 11th at 10.00 am
Rev Alex Rodgers
TRANSFIGURATION OF
JESUS

Wednesday 14th
ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 14th, 12 noon
Alma Hotel
COME-TO-LUNCH

Sunday 18th at 10.00 am
Rev Alex Rodgers
LENT 1

Sunday 25th at 10.00 am
Rev Alex Rodgers &
Rev Mark Dickens
LENT 2

Harvest Thanksgiving
Service with PAC

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice
Wednesday night, 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

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Ministerial Meanderings

I have just finished reading a history of the Templar knights. The 'Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon' was their official name and they were founded in 1119 to guard pilgrims seeking to make their way to the holy sites in the Middle East.



After the first and second Crusades of the late 11th Century Christians had taken control of most of the holy sites including Jerusalem. A Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem was founded and one of the King's responsibilities was guarding these sites from attack by the Moslem Emirs and Sultans from Egypt, Turkey and Syria.

It's a fascinating subject and it raises the importance for some people of 'proofs' about the life and witness of Jesus. Pilgrims wanted to see the places mentioned in the New Testament, and there were numerous holy relics for the traveller to see; fragments of the true cross, clips of Jesus hair, Jesus fingernails, his blood and almost every part of his body. There were also pieces from the stone that was on front of the tomb where Jesus was born, the spear that pierced his side, thorns from the crown he wore on the cross and many other bits and pieces.

Of course these relics were important in proving that the bible stories were correct and to have touched these relics, or kissed the boxes (reliquaries) they rested in, made the pilgrim a very special person where they came from.

There are still quite a number of Catholic Churches in Europe that hold relics, including probably the best known – the *Shroud of Turin* – kept in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Turin. Today however, the Church does not reject or endorse the authenticity of the Shroud or indeed any relic.

It is a mistake to look for proof of our faith. We will find none. That is why we celebrate our Faith, we believe without proof and that is what gives our belief its strength. We do not need proof – it is our individual relationship to God and our commitment to the living body that is the Church which is our strength.

As Martin Luther wrote '*sola fides*' – '*Faith alone*' that is the foundation of all our individual faiths – we have no need of proofs

Blessings,
Alex

Wesley Uniting Church
Kent Town



DALGLEISH HARKNESS

It was with deep regret that we received the sad news of the sudden passing of our dear friend Dalgleish (Dal) Harkness after an extended period of illness. A regular attender at worship and a long-term active member of this congregation, Dal gave valued service to this Church over many years. He was a former member of the Church Council and in charge of maintenance of the Church property. In more recent years he will be best remembered as a door steward, meeting and greeting people in his polite and gentlemanly manner. He will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dal's wife, Margaret and his family, and we extend our love to them at this most difficult time. Dal's funeral service will be held in this Church on Monday, 29th January 2018 at 2.00pm.

RECEIPT INTO MEMBERSHIP

During the service on Sunday, 4th February, Bev Jury will be received into membership by transfer from Mitcham Village Uniting Church. Bev has been attending worship here regularly in the past 6 months and has joined the alto section of the choir. We are delighted to formally welcome her into membership of this Congregation.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on **Sunday 25th February**. This will be a combined service with Prince Alfred College and will feature an augmented Wesley Choir and music ensembles from PAC. The service will be led jointly by Rev Alex Rodgers and Rev Mark Dickens, chaplain of PAC. Members of the congregation are asked to contribute tinned and packet food for a display of produce at the front of the church.



EASTER DIARY EVENTS

- **Tenebrae Service:**
Thursday 29th March
- **Good Friday:**
Friday 30th March
- **Easter Day:**
Sunday 1st April

COME-TO-LUNCH

Our first Come-to-Lunch for 2018 will be held at the Alma Hotel on Wednesday, 14th February at 12 noon. Please let Trevor Leane know if you plan to attend. Everyone is most welcome.

REPAIRS TO SW WALL OF THE CHURCH

The Church Council has accepted a quotation for repairs to commence on the SW wall. Work will include repair of stonework, replastering of the internal wall in that area, and repainting of the walls in the SW landing and stair well. Whilst we have not enjoyed the hot weather it has been ideal for allowing the wall to dry out thoroughly prior to repair. It is expected that work will commence in the next few weeks. Thank you again to everyone who donated to the restoration fund that is enabling this work to be done.

WESLEY CHOIR

The choir will be back in February after a month's rest. Many people have commented on how much they have been missed during their absence, particularly for the leadership they provide for hymn-singing during services. We were very grateful to Dr Mark Symons for playing the organ for services in early January. We are extremely fortunate to have two talented organists who delight us with their playing each week. Graham Bell was very appreciative as it enabled to have a rest and allow him time to recover from a respiratory virus.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Trevor Leane visited **Linda Nicholls** and **Annis Bennett** recently. He reports that Linda was looking a little tired which, at 105, is not surprising. Annis was in good spirits despite her back pain, and is content in her surroundings at Summertown.

John Beard hasn't been well and has had periods of hospitalisation. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Last month it was reported that **Mark & Pat Symons'** grand-daughter had achieved highly in year 12. In fact it was their grandson, Sam who did so well. Sam will commence studying a double degree in Law and Commerce. **Jenny & Doug Stewart's** grandson, Charlie will undertake a course in Physiotherapy Honours.

KK Stacey is back home in Singapore where she has the support of her family. She is missing Graham terribly but is keeping busy and is gradually feeling she can cope better. Chinese New Year at the end of the month will provide a welcome distraction. She sends her love and will probably visit Adelaide again in March.

There are many others in our church family whom we miss because they are unable to be with us because of ill health or frailty. Please remember them in your prayers – **Fernetta Bartlett, Naomi & Frank Bryant, Catherine Courtney, Robin & John Douglass,** and **Rosanne & Graham Pillar.**

JUST A THOUGHT

It is not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters.

Epictecus

CONTACTS

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