

WESLEY NEWS

JANUARY DIARY DATES

Saturday 6th January
EPIPHANY

Sunday 7th at 10.00 am
Rev Alex Rodgers &
Rev Mac Macdonald
HOLY COMMUNION
BAPTISM OF JESUS



Sunday 14th at 10.00 am
Rev Alex Rodgers
EPIPHANY 2

Sunday 21st at 10.00 am
Rev Alex Rodgers
EPIPHANY 3

Sunday 28th at 10.00 am
Rev Alex Rodgers
EPIPHANY 4

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice

The choir will be in recess during January.

Choir practice resumes on Wednesday 31st January at 7.30 pm

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 am writing this meandering on New Year's Eve (Hogmanay!) in a motel in Geelong, Victoria. I am attending the 80th birthday celebration for my favourite Aunt Bernice.

Last night as I lay in bed before getting to sleep, I realised that today is the 50th Anniversary of my family's arrival in Adelaide from Scotland. However we didn't leave the ship (MV Fairsea) until New Year's Day. Officially we became Aussies on January 1st 1968. We left Southampton just over a month before and stopped at Las Palmas, Cape Town and Fremantle.

I then thought about the difference between our journey and that of the First Fleet. Eleven sailing ships left Portsmouth on the 13th May, 1787 to start a penal colony on the shores of Australia. On the way they stopped at Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town before finally arriving at Botany Bay.

They went the 'wrong way' across the Atlantic to South America before turning east to sail to Australia. Of course they were following the prevailing winds but it still took nearly a year to get here, the first of the fleet arriving on the 18th January, 1788.

The Rev. Richard Johnson was the first fleet's chaplain. Along with his wife Mary he was expected to bring the Gospel to the rowdy men and women serving sentences in the colony and the marines who were there to guard them.

Johnson had little experience and his job was extremely difficult as his journal and letters show. The Australia founded by these European convicts and their jailers began as a very irreligious society and I think things haven't changed that much over the centuries.

I wish you all a blessed New Year, and may your lives be filled with richness and love in the months to come. Let's also pray for the future life and work of our congregation as custodians of this wonderful building in which our church family exists.

– *"Lang Mae yir lum reek"*

Blessings,
Alex & Elaine Rodgers

Wesley Uniting Church
Kent Town



Epiphany

Traditionally observed on January 6th, Epiphany is the celebration of three events that are said to demonstrate the significance of Jesus – that is the divinity of Christ. "Epiphany" means "to show, make known or reveal."

It started in the Eastern Church in AD 361 as a commemoration of the birth of Christ. Later, additional meanings were added – the visit of the three Magi, Christ's baptism in the Jordan River, and Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana. These three events are central to the definition of Epiphany, and its meaning is drawn from these occurrences.

The Lectionary readings during January focus firstly on the visit of the Magi and the theme of light or being enlightened, and then on Jesus' baptism. The Wise Men were the first Gentiles to publicly recognise the significance of the baby in the manger and offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The theme of God's expansive love is prevalent and that this love can and does stretch way beyond our human limits to include those whom we might want to exclude.

(by Rev. Chris Vermeulen, Church of Scotland, 'Starters For Sunday', 2013)



VALE GRAHAM STACEY



It was with deep regret that we received the sad news of the sudden passing of our dear friend Graham Stacey on Monday 11th December, 2017. Graham has been a very active member of this Congregation and a valued member of the Church Council. Everyone in the

Congregation would have benefitted from Graham and KK's kindness, generosity and hospitality. Graham was keenly attuned to the needs of others and went out of his way to help and care for people. His strong personal faith in God guided him in his daily life. He was a truly humble and decent man who will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with KK at this most difficult time. We send her our love as she returns to her family in Singapore.

FORWARD NOTICE OF DIARY EVENTS

- **Ash Wednesday, start of Lent:**
Wednesday 14th February
- **Harvest Thanksgiving Service with PAC:**
Sunday 25th February
- **Tenebrae Service:**
Thursday 29th March
- **Good Friday:**
Friday 30th March
- **Easter Day:**
Sunday 1st April

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held in March at a date to be arranged.

COME-TO-LUNCH

There will be no Come-to-Lunch in January but please be on the lookout for news of the next gathering in February.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

The special services held during December were very successful. The PAC Service of Lessons and Carols was a wonderful occasion. The nave of the Church was full and all present thoroughly enjoyed the music and singing presented by the combined PAC and Wesley Choirs and PAC music ensembles.



On the morning of Christmas Eve, the Wesley Service of Lessons and Carols was well attended and the delightful music presented by the augmented choir was greatly appreciated. The Christmas Day Service, although smaller, was a beautiful start to Christmas Day with its message of love and singing of carols celebrating the birth of Christ

We are very grateful to our organist and choirmaster, Graham Bell for all his hard work in preparing the choir, his selection of beautiful music and his magnificent organ playing. This year he showed his dedication more than usual as he was battling a very nasty upper respiratory tract infection. He will be having a well-deserved break for 2 weeks during January while the choir is in recess. Dr Mark Symons will play the organ in Graham's absence.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Margaret Harkness was unable to be with us for Christmas because she had two medical procedures requiring anaesthetics a few days before Christmas. She is back home now after being lovingly cared for by her family. She reports that Dal had quite a good Christmas Day and enjoyed laughing and playing with his grandchildren. **Fernetta Bartlett** is gradually becoming more mobile as she recuperates from her spinal injury. She misses attending services and hopes to return soon.

Catharina Corbett was laid up for a few weeks as a result of a spider bite on her foot that caused intense pain and swelling. Many of you will know **Rev Jim Murton**. He, and his wife Nina, have often helped out in the choir in the past. Unfortunately Jim had a fall in the garden last month and broke his pelvis. We were delighted to see him and Nina in the congregation on Christmas Eve. **Mark & Pat Symons** and **Jenny & Doug Stewart** are very proud of the achievements of their grandchildren, Mandy and Charlie respectively, who recently achieved ATARs in the high 90's for their year 12 results. **Sonja** Cherney is holidaying with her family in Bratislava and returns in February. She had been hoping for a white Christmas but



that was not to be, although she was able to roast chestnuts on an open fire. She is staying close to the historical centre and has attended several ballets, operas, dramas and Christmas

concerts. She went to hear Bach's Christmas Oratorio and has been to several services in the beautiful cathedrals there. She sends greetings to everyone at Wesley Kent Town for a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

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 - **Annis Bennett, Naomi & Frank Bryant, Catherine Courtney, Robin & John Douglass, Dal Harkness, Linda Nicholls** and **Rosanne & Graham Pillar**.

CONTACTS

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