

# WESLEY NEWS

## FEBRUARY DIARY DATES

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**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Rev Alex Rodgers  
& Rev Mac Macdonald  
**Holy Communion**  
**EPIPHANY 4**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Rev Alex Rodgers

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm**  
**EPIPHANY 5**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Rev Alex Rodgers  
**EPIPHANY 6**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Rev Alex Rodgers  
**TRANSFIGURATION OF  
JESUS**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**BEGINNING OF LENT**

### MUSIC @ WESLEY

**Choir Practice**  
Wednesday evenings in the  
Choir Vestry at 7.30 pm

### ARTS @ WESLEY

**Patchworkers & Quilters**  
Monday mornings in the  
Susannah Wesley Hall  
Contact Pat: 8331 9816

### WESLEY IS HOME TO

**Young Adelaide Voices**  
**Adelaide Harmony Choir**  
**Metropolitan Musical**  
**Theatre Company**  
**Monteverdi Singers**

## MINISTERIAL MEANDERING

This year the Church will be using the Lectionary as collected for Year A. The main gospel from which the readings will come is the Gospel of Matthew.

The earliest followers of Jesus remained members of the Jewish faith centred in Jerusalem and were probably most comfortable calling themselves Christian Jews. This community was under the leadership of Jesus' brother James. It appears that, after the death of James and the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (70CE), these Christian Jews either returned to the Jewish fold or converted fully to become followers of Jesus.

Scholars suggest that the writer of Matthew was a Jewish Christian, perhaps out of the Jerusalem community, who was writing around 90CE (sixty or so years after Jesus' crucifixion) in Antioch which had become one of the centres of the Jesus Movement. The writer was probably a 'disciple' of Matthew who wrote down the story of Jesus for the people within his community. The major sources for Matthew's Gospel are the Gospel of Mark and the 'Q' source (a written document as yet undiscovered).

The writer was clearly well versed in Jewish tradition and history and this background plays a very important part in understanding what Matthew wanted to teach his readers.

The writer of Matthew had a number of themes in mind as the gospel was composed. We will examine nearly all of them as we journey through the gospel as the year progresses. Most common among the themes are – SALVATION, CONFLICT, SPIRITUALITY, LAW, COMPASSION and SCRIPTURE.

If asked to try and sum up Matthew in one sentence I would say, "Matthew wants Christians to accept that we are humans and that we are therefore not perfect, but if we live as part of a caring, united community of faith and love we will be living out the life that Christ demands of us".

Blessings, Alex

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. **Lent** lasts from Ash Wednesday to the evening of Holy Saturday. This calculation makes **Lent** last 46 days if the 6 Sundays are included, but only 40 days if they are excluded. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Day, through which we attain redemption.

The word "Lent" means "Spring". During the season of Lent, the Holy Spirit calls us to leave our winter attitudes behind and awaken to spring. It is a time to weed out our bad habits and plant, water, and allow good habits to grow. The meaning of spring urges us to finish our spiritual journey to Easter in a different place spiritually than we were on Ash Wednesday.



**Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town**  
**27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town**



## HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

It is planned that the annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March**. (Confirmation of this date is still pending). This will be a combined service with Prince Alfred College and will feature an augmented Wesley Choir and input from students of 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. All produce will be donated to Uniting Communities Eastern Services.

Setting up will take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February. It would be helpful if donations of produce were brought to the church that afternoon or on the previous Sunday. If this is not convenient, please still bring things on the 1<sup>st</sup> March and they will be added to the display.

## NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE



**Vivienne Hackett-Jones Okutoi** will be baptised during Sunday Worship in this church on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February**. Vivienne is the daughter of **Mary Hackett-Jones and Gabriel Okutoi**, and the granddaughter of **Penelope Hackett-Jones**. Mary and her two boys were all baptised here. Godparents will be Mary's sister, Dr Emily Hackett-Jones and Emily's husband, Dr Mark Sorrell.

We are delighted to welcome Vivienne into the life and fellowship of the Church

Mary and her three children were at church with Penelope recently. Penelope took this delightful photo of her grandsons **Arthur and Frederick** sitting on the front steps of the church after the service.



**Catharina & Robert Corbett** received some sad news from family in England last month. Their daughter in law, Elizabeth, was visiting friends and went to Wales for a visit (her mother was Welsh). Unfortunately, while there, she became unwell, collapsed and died suddenly. She was only 55. Their son, Andrew, and family flew to England for the funeral service. We extend our sincere sympathy to the whole family and hold them in our hearts and prayers.

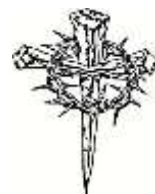
## LENT & EASTER

- **Ash Wednesday, start of Lent:**  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February
- **Palm Sunday:**  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April
- **Maundy Thursday:**  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April
- **Good Friday:**  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April
- **Easter Day:**  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

**Special services will be held on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day with an augmented choir.**

## COME AND SING THE "CRUCIFIXION"

On Saturday afternoon 4<sup>th</sup> April the **Royal Society of Church Music** will present a "Come and Sing" Stainer's "Crucifixion" in this church. Everyone is invited to come and sing along. Please bring your own score if you have one. Graham Bell will be the organist and the conductor will be Anthony Hunt. Anthony Hunt is Director of Music at St Peter's Cathedral.



Even if you don't consider yourself a singer, come and sing what you can or just listen to this beautiful and moving musical performance. It will be a fitting start to Holy Week.

## CONTACTS

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**Organist & Choir Director:** Graham Bell

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**Church Council Chair:** Dr Mark Symons

[mark.symons@tpg.com.au](mailto:mark.symons@tpg.com.au) 8331 9816

**Church Council Secretary:** Jenny Stewart

[doug-jenny-stewart@bigpond.com](mailto:doug-jenny-stewart@bigpond.com) 8337 5649

**Church Office:**

Monday – Thursday 10.00am – 3.00pm (school term)

[office@wesleykenttown.org.au](mailto:office@wesleykenttown.org.au) 8362 2544

**Website:** [www.wesleykenttown.org.au](http://www.wesleykenttown.org.au)