

# WESLEY NEWS

**APRIL  
DIARY DATES**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> **PALM SUNDAY**



**Matthew 21:1-15**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> **GOOD FRIDAY**



**John 18:1-19 & 42**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> **EASTER DAY**



**John 20:1-18, Matt 28:1-10**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> **EASTER 2**

**John 20:19-31**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> **EASTER 3**

**Luke 24:13-35**

**MUSIC @ WESLEY**

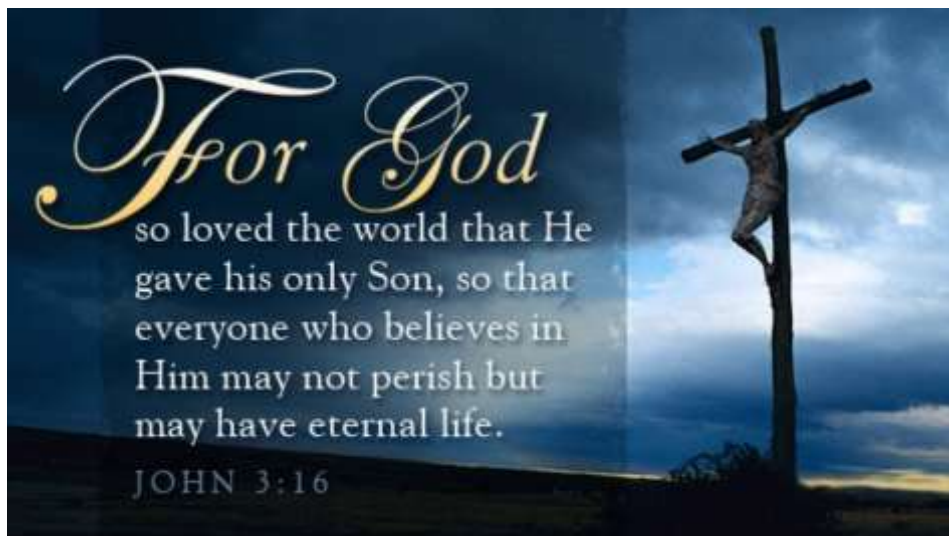
**Choir Practice - in recess.**

**ARTS @ WESLEY**

**Patchworkers & Quilters  
in recess.**

**WESLEY IS HOME TO**

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



**MINISTERIAL MEANDERING**

Easter comes near to the time of the spring equinox on 21 March, when the length of the day and night are equal. Throughout history, many ancient cultures have celebrated this as a time of birth and renewal, following the darkness of the long winter.

Historians have traced the origin of the word Easter to the Scandinavian word 'Ostra' and the Germanic 'Ostern' or 'Eastre'. Both of these derive from the names of mythological goddesses of spring and fertility, for whom festivals were held at the time of the Spring Equinox. Similar goddesses were known by other names in other cultures around the Mediterranean, such as Aphrodite from Cyprus, Astarte from Phoenicia, Demeter from Mycenae, Hathor from Egypt, and Ishtar from Assyria. All of these goddesses were celebrated in the spring.

Modern symbols of Easter, such as the egg and the bunny, have their origins in paganism. Rabbits were the most potent symbol of fertility and the egg, the start of all life, was often thought to have magical powers.

Modern-day pagans continue to celebrate the coming of spring as part of a seasonal cycle known as the 'wheel of the year'. Some pagans carry out rituals at this time, such as symbolically planting seeds, and holding egg races and egg hunts.

In Scotland and in many other European countries eggs are painted on Easter Sunday and taken to the nearest brae (hillside) and rolling races held down the side. The trick is to chase the egg downhill without landing on your head.

The modern chocolate Easter egg with its smoothness, shape and flavour owes its progression to the two greatest developments in the history of chocolate - the invention of a press for separating cocoa butter from the cocoa bean by the Dutch inventor Van Houten in 1828 and the introduction of a pure cocoa by Cadbury Brothers in 1866. The Cadbury process made large quantities of cocoa butter available and this was the secret of making moulded chocolate or indeed, any fine eating chocolate.

**Just the same today we need to remember that Easter is not about chocolate, eggs or downhill races but the great love of God for humanity that he gave His Son to us as an indication of the depth of that love.**

Blessings, Alex



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



## COVID-19 REGULATIONS – IMPLICATIONS

By now you are all most likely aware that the Federal Government has imposed a ban on all indoor gatherings as part of its measures to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that all churches have closed so that we will not be able to hold Worship Services until these bans are lifted. I am sure we all understand that these measures are necessary to protect the health of our people.

For Christians and all people of faith this will be difficult because corporate worship is an important aspect and expression of our love of God. We can still find other ways to nurture our spiritual lives during this difficult period. We can pray, read the Bible, listen to music and radio broadcasts, and watch church services on line or on TV. Some Uniting Churches in SA are having online services. Try tuning into these by visiting their websites.

**Maintaining contact with one another during this period will be very important.** I would urge you all to keep in touch. Ring, text or email one another and enquire how they are going.

I will continue to publish, and email to you, the Monthly Newsletter so I would like to hear news from you. Some good news stories would be great to cheer us up - maybe you have a special birthday or anniversary coming up. Photos would also be much appreciated. I will maintain regular email contact with you all.

Please also let me know if any of our congregation has some special needs so that we can try to help out. We can also ask for prayers of support to be made.

I can be contacted by phone on 0400 279 684 or by email at [doug-jenny-stewart@bigpond.com](mailto:doug-jenny-stewart@bigpond.com).

**Jenny Stewart**

## MINISTER ON LEAVE

Rev Alex Rodgers is taking annual leave from 28<sup>th</sup> March until 11<sup>th</sup> April. He is apologetic for being absent at this time but it is the only time his wife Elaine, who is a doctor, has been able to organise some leave. We hope they find the break revitalising.

Should you require the services of a minister during this time please contact Rev Mac Macdonald or alternatively ring the church secretary, Jenny Stewart.

## AGM OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual General meeting of the Congregation was held on **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020** in the church, immediately following the worship service. At this meeting, the financial statements and 2020 Budget were presented by the Treasurer, and reports received from the Minister, the Chairman and the Secretary of the Church Council. Our finances will be severely hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Joan Atkinson, Jenny Church and Jenny Stewart** were elected to serve on the Church Council. We thank them for their willingness to serve the church in this manner.

## NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

During the service on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, **Jenny Church** and **Helen Drummond** were received into membership. It was a happy occasion and we were delighted to share it with them..

We extend our congratulations to our organist and choir director, **Graham Bell**, who has been awarded a Special Services Certificate by the Royal School of Church Music. His citation reads: "Graham Bell has served the RSCM for some 30 years in countless ways, not least as a Committee member for the South Australian Branch, and also editor of its newsletter from 1993 to 2018. He assisted with the planning and running of five Adelaide Summer Schools from 1990 and has been a driving force in consolidating the work of the RSCM in South Australia, both through his instinctive understanding of the constitution and his fine musicianship as organist and choral director".

**Mark & Pat Symons** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020. We congratulate them on this special occasion and extend our best wishes.

We were delighted that **Fernetta Bartlett** was able to attend the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Her health frequently makes it difficult for her to be out and about. We will now all realise what it is like to have to stay home for long periods of time.

It was with sadness that we farewelled **Doug Baker** on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Doug has been attending worship at Wesley Kent Town for 10 years and recorded the service each week. He has been travelling from Panorama by gopher and train for some time (What dedication!) but he is finding it a bit difficult. He hopes to make it to special services from time to time.

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Our planned special Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day services have all had to be cancelled as has the Royal School of Church Music performance of Stainer's Crucifixion.

Remember the message of Easter: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"*.  
*John 3: v16*

*May your faith in God bring peace to your heart today and always.*

## CONTACTS

**Minister:** Rev Alex Rodgers

Mobile: 0400 888 386

Vestry: 8362 8844

Home: 8524 6640

Email: [regdor2@outlook.com](mailto:regdor2@outlook.com)

**Minister in Association:** Rev Mac Macdonald

[ravensrock@adelaide.on.net](mailto:ravensrock@adelaide.on.net) 8332 7669

**Organist & Choir Director:** Graham Bell

[ghb59au@outlook.com](mailto:ghb59au@outlook.com) 0422 073 436

**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) 0400279684

**Church Office:** Closed at present

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