

WESLEY NEWS

JANUARY DIARY DATES

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Sunday 3rd at 10.00 am
 Rev Alex Rodgers &
 Rev Mac Macdonald
Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS 2

Wednesday 6th January
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday 10th at 10.00 am
 Rev Alex Rodgers
BAPTISM OF JESUS

CHURCH COUNCIL
 No meeting in January. First
 meeting on 4th February.

Sunday 17th at 10.00 am
 Rev Alex Rodgers
EPIPHANY 2

Sunday 24th at 10.00 am
 Rev Alex Rodgers
EPIPHANY 3

Sunday 31st at 10.00 am
 Rev Mac Macdonald
EPIPHANY 4

MUSIC @ WESLEY
Choir Practice
 The choir is in recess during
 January. Choir practice
 resumes on Wednesday 3rd
 February at 7.30pm

ARTS @ WESLEY
Patchworkers & Quilters
 In recess during January.

WESLEY IS HOME TO
Young Adelaide Voices
Adelaide Harmony Choir
Metropolitan Musical
Theatre Company
Organ Music Society of
Adelaide Music Library

HOPE SHATTERED - HOPE RESTORED

“2020 has seen a global health crisis unlike any in our lifetime — one that is killing people, spreading human suffering, and upending people’s lives. But this is much more than a health crisis. It is a human, economic and social crisis.

It is no wonder that almost nine in ten Australians (88%) are excited to close the door on 2020 and start 2021 according to McCrindle research. Many have lost the source of their confidence in 2020 and hope has been shattered. As industries have shut down, jobs have been lost, and health has been compromised, many people are experiencing the shattering of the things in which they put their hope.”

The global crisis accentuates that we really need to hear again the message of Christmas because it gives us the opportunity to remind ourselves of where hope can be restored.

“The Christmas story as it unfolds in the Bible is associated with family connection. Jesus’ birth is a local family event. The shepherds on the Bethlehem hills discovered the newborn baby in the simplest of family scenes. Christmas is an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of family; an opportunity to commit to working to strengthen families and not weaken them.” “The strengthening of our family bonds and community connection can restore hope.

Christmas reaffirms the value of giving, over and against getting. The Bible narratives of the first Christmas record that the wise men came, bearing gifts, for this newborn baby who would change the course of human history. Everyone needs to be reassured that others are really interested in them and gifts give tangible expression to this basic need. Could we work together as a nation to bring hope to the less well-off in our world by being more generous in our support through disaster relief and development aid?

Christmas ultimately provides the opportunity to restore hope by focusing on our own personal spirituality and well-being. Christmas marks the intervention of the eternal creator God into the personal history of every one of us. Eugene Peterson in the Message Bible puts it simply: "And this sublime Word (God himself) became flesh and blood and moved into our neighbourhood." God with us and for us.”

“Let’s take up God’s invitation to accept His gift of Jesus as the conduit to restore hope in situations where hope has been shattered.” *Australian Baptist Ministries*



EPIPHANY

Epiphany goes by various names in different cultures. Little Christmas, Three Kings Day, or Twelfth Night all remain the official end of the season's "Twelve Days of Christmas" - counting from Christmas evening on December 25th to the Epiphany on January 6th.

Epiphany is from the Greek word *Epiphania*, meaning "revelation". In biblical terms, the word best describes the story of how the Magi or Three Kings - Caspar, (or Kaspar or Gaspar) Melchior and Balthasar - saw a bright star on the night Christ was born and followed it to Bethlehem. There they found the Christ child and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The legendary visit would later give rise to the custom of gift giving at Christmas on the Feast of the Epiphany, today traditionally observed on January 6th



FORWARD NOTICE OF DIARY EVENTS

- **Ash Wednesday, start of Lent:**
Wednesday 17th February
- **Palm Sunday:**
Sunday 28th March
- **Good Friday:**
Friday 2nd April
- **Easter Day:**
Sunday 4th April



A **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** is planned again this year and it is hoped that PAC will share in that service with us. The date has yet to be confirmed.

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

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

The special services held during December were very successful.

On Sunday morning 20th December, the **Wesley Service of Lessons and Carols** was well attended and the delightful music presented by the augmented choir was greatly appreciated. Special thanks belong to **Elizabeth Brookes** who read all eight lessons during that service. The **Christmas Day Service** was a beautiful start to Christmas Day with its message of love and singing of carols celebrating the birth of Christ



THANK YOU TO OUR ORGANIST & CHOIR



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. 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.

We extend our thanks to Graham and the regular members of the choir for their dedication and work in enhancing our worship experience each Sunday.

PATCHWORK & QUILTING GROUP

25 years ago, **Pat Symons** started up a **Patchwork & Quilting Group** as a community outreach venture of the church and she has faithfully served as coordinator of this group for all that time.

Pat has decided that it is time to step down but the group will continue with one of the members, Margaret Priestly taking up the reins as coordinator of the group. Pat will continue to visit monthly and be the liaison person for the church. We extend our sincere thanks to Pat for so many years of loyal service.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

For most of us, Advent and Christmas has been a happy and joyful time, but amid all the excitement and celebration, the full circle of life continues. For some, this time has been tinged with sadness at the loss of loved ones and others have struggled with declining health and adversity necessitating readjustment of lifestyle.



It is with sadness that we report the passing of **Dr David Kennett** on Monday 7th December 2020. David, the husband of Dr Beryl Kennett, was formerly a leading haematologist, and together with Beryl was a regular member of this congregation. Unfortunately ailing health saw him in residential care at Helping Hand at North Adelaide over the past few years. We remember Beryl and the family at this difficult time and pray that fond memories will bring them comfort. **The Symons family's** Christmas was also tinged with sadness when a niece of Mark and Pat passed away on Christmas morning after a long battle with cancer. We hold the family in our prayers.



It was also with regret that we learned that **Jennie Hosking, wife of Rev Doug Hosking** passed away just a few days before Christmas. Rev Hosking was a regular preacher at this church until a few years ago and we all hold him in high regard. We extend our sincere sympathy to Doug and the family at their loss.

Joan Atkinson has been through quite an ordeal with her eyes. She has not recovered the sight in her right eye which was the one that became infected. Following the insertion of a new lens in the left eye, she has some limited vision in that and it is hoped that this can be improved with special glasses. She is undergoing therapy to learn to adjust to her new situation. We send her our love and hope she will soon be recovered sufficiently to return to us. **Fiona Atkinson** has recovered from her bouts of surgery and we have welcomed her back warmly. **Margaret Harkness** is now living in her own home again after staying with her daughter Sonia when first released from hospital. We were all delighted that she was well enough to make it to both the Service of Lessons & Carols and the Christmas Day Service. **Johanna Espitia** has just completed a month's placement at the Lutheran Aged Care Facility at Fullarton. This means that she is now fully accredited to work in Aged Care. Following a job interview this week she was successful in being offered a permanent part-time position at the same facility. Congratulations Johanna!

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