

WESLEY NEWS

JUNE DIARY DATES

Sunday 6th at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

Holy Communion
Commissioning of Church
Council
PENTECOST 2

Thursday 10th at 2.00 pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 13th at 10.00 am
Rev Jim Winn
PENTECOST 3

Sunday 20th at 10.00 am
Dr Rodney Fopp
PENTECOST 4

Tuesday 22nd
UCA ANNIVERSARY

Sunday 27th at 10.00 am
Rev Dr Jonathan Barker
PENTECOST 5

Sunday 4th July at 10.00 am
Rev Dr Jonathan Barker
TARTAN SUNDAY

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice

Wednesday evenings in the church at 7.30pm.

ARTS @ WESLEY

Patchworkers & Quilters

Monday mornings in the
Susannah Wesley Hall
9.30 am – 12.00 noon
Contact Margaret on
8445 7006

WESLEY IS HOME TO

Young Adelaide Voices
Adelaide Harmony Choir
Metropolitan Musical
Theatre Company
Monte Verdi Singers
Organ Music Society of
Adelaide Music Library

FROM THE MINISTER

REVISITING THE STORY OF DAVID - A FLAWED BIBLICAL HERO

During June and July, Sundays at Wesley Kent Town will feature key episodes of the great Biblical Saga of David. We shall seek to tease out how this archetypal story can speak to our life and times. In my childhood, King David was a Biblical hero. His defeat of Goliath was a powerful metaphor for facing life's challenges. A "nobody" defeats the powerful one. Later I understood how David became the prototype of Messiahship: a gifted shepherding leader, who is chosen to inaugurate the kingdom of justice and peace. As we retell the stories we shall ask, "How may this great but flawed leader enable us to navigate pathways through the complex social and political dilemmas of the 21st century?"



And personally, "How do we maintain our integrity and our identity as disciples of Christ in a world of such uncertainty and ambiguity?"

In mentioning David's flaws it is worth noting that the biblical record actually amalgamated at least two versions of the David story: one which intends to praise him; the other which stresses his flaws and oppressive policies. For example, David's relationship with women was particularly problematic. He married Saul's daughter Michal who dearly loved him, but later spurned him when he leapt and danced almost naked before the ark of the covenant. And we certainly cannot ignore David's affair with Bathsheba which took place while his troops were dying in his wars. When Bathsheba became pregnant, David brought back her husband, Uriah, from the wars to sleep with her. However Uriah refused to do so while his fellow soldiers were still camping in open fields. To save his own neck, David plotted to have Uriah removed by sending him back to the battlefield and putting him in the front lines so he'd be killed. Did he get away with it? No, Nathan the prophet caught him out with a simple parable about a shepherd cheated of his flock of sheep.

Yet the messianic movement attributed to Jesus the titles and functions assigned to David giving rise to the idea of a mediator able to reconcile the gulf of estrangement between others, ourselves and God. Retelling this story may enable us to see how David displayed deep insights necessary to deal with complex situations. He possessed the knack of finding solutions to immediate problems while being able to inspire a nation to achieve long-range aims. The whole question of the ethics of power is central. There is so much food for thought. Besides which, the saga is filled with "ripping" good yarns! They may also give rise to interpretations that we never learned in Sunday School.

Jonathan Barker



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



TARTAN SUNDAY

On **Sunday 4th July at 10.00 am** a special service of worship will be held to celebrate Tartan Sunday. This day celebrates the lifting of the Act of Proscription which banned the wearing of Highland dress.

His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia and Mrs Le will be in attendance. There will also be representatives of all the Scottish clans, bagpipers and highland dancers as well as special music provided by organist, Graham Bell, and an augmented Wesley Choir.

Worship leaders will be Rev Dr Jonathan Barker and Rev Mac Macdonald. Morning Tea will follow the service. Please invite family and friends along.

TARTAN SUNDAY HISTORY

Three million Australians are either Scottish or of Scottish descent. **International Tartan Day in Australia** is celebrated on a local basis in most states on **July 1**, the **anniversary of the Repeal Proclamation of 1782, annulling the Act of Proscription of 1747**, which made wearing tartan an offence punishable with up to seven years' transportation. The Act of Proscription, passed in 1746 following the defeat of the Jacobites at the battle of Culloden in April 1745, was '*An act for the more effectual disarming the highlands of Scotland; and for the more effectual securing the peace of the said highlands; and for restraining the use of the highland dress*'. It banned the wearing of Highland Dress except by the military. It didn't ban tartan cloth per se but, because the Highlander was forced into Lowland Dress, the everyday link with tartan was irrevocably severed which resulted in a later perception that tartan itself was banned.

MINISTRY

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker has been working actively to get to know our congregation, making home visits and chatting with people at morning tea each week. We have really appreciated his services of worship and the thought-provoking addresses he delivers. Due to some prior commitments, Jonathan will be away from 9th - 22nd June 2021. During this time he will participate in the Uniting Church National Historical Society Conference to be held in Sydney, presenting a paper on the establishment of the renewed Diaconate 30 years ago. Jonathan is a member of the committee of the South Australian Historical Society. Rev Jim Winn and Dr Rodney Fopp will lead Sunday Worship in his absence. Should you require the urgent services of a minister during this period of leave, please contact Rev Mac Macdonald on 8332 7669.

BOOKS FOR SALE

There are two books for sale that would be of interest to Wesley members and visitors. Both are on display at the Northern Transept door. **"The House of God – The Gate of Heaven"** written by Dr Marlene Edwards is the first comprehensive and illustrated account of Kent Town Wesleyan Methodist/Uniting church. The book is hard bound, has 412 pages of text and



includes 137 black and white and coloured illustrations. The cost is \$20 which goes to church funds.

"Margaret Davey – An Amazing Woman" written by Janet Whitham describes a wonderful South Australian woman who devoted much of her talents to working with community groups including Wesley Church Kent Town where she attended all her life and was involved in the choir for 68 years. The cost of this publication is also \$20 of which \$10 goes to support *Heartkids* and \$10 to the author.

Payment for each book (please identify your choice) can be left in the box at the door.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Trevor Leane and his wife Lee have moved into their new home at Woodside. Their children assisted with the move using two horse floats to transport furniture. They still have a lot of sorting out to do but are loving the new house and heartened by the warmth of friendship and support offered by other residents. **Rev Alex Rodgers'** health is continuing to improve after he suffered a stroke earlier this year. He misses not being able to drive but is making the most of the opportunity to recuperate. **Joan Atkinson** is pleased to be home again after undergoing rehabilitation at Glenrose Court. She is most appreciative of the kind expressions of concern extended to her during the past months and hopes to be back worshipping at Kent Town soon. **Doug Stewart** is still in Memorial Hospital where he continues to receive excellent care from his physician, nurses and physiotherapists. He has responded well to physiotherapy and is now much more mobile and steady on his feet. He did have to spend a week in the Critical Care Unit while some underlying medical conditions were brought under control but is now well enough to return to the general nursing area. **Helen Drummond** has also returned home after a period of hospitalisation and respite. Her daughter from Melbourne is spending a few days with her as she settles back in. **Margaret Harkness** received the good news from her oncologist recently that her latest bout of chemotherapy has successfully lowered her cancer markers. We thank God for the healing power that has sustained, and continues to sustain them on their path to renewed vigour.



CONTACTS

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