

WESLEY NEWS

DECEMBER DIARY DATES

Sunday 5th at 10.00 am
Rev Dr Jonathan Barker
Holy Communion
ADVENT 2

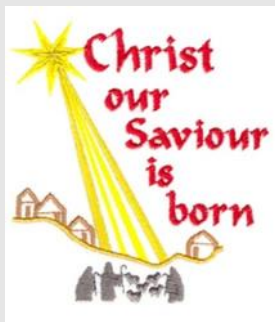
Thursday 9th at 2.00 pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 12th at 10.00 am
Dr Rodney Fopp
ADVENT 3

Sunday 19th at 10.00 am
Rev Mac Macdonald
*Service of
Lessons & Carols*
ADVENT 4

Saturday 25th at 9.00 am
Rev Mac Macdonald
CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 26th at 10.00 am
No service of worship
CHRISTMAS 1



MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice
Wednesday evenings in the
church at 7.30pm

WESLEY IS HOME TO

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

Do you have the Christmas Spirit?

“Do you ever notice that some people seem to have the Christmas spirit, but others just can’t seem to get in the mood? Which one are you? Are you the person that goes around singing Christmas carols, always feeling warm and fuzzy? Or, are you just aggravated that the Christmas season is just too overwhelming? Perhaps the Advent season makes you joyful or perhaps you are just living day to day, not at all excited about Christmas. Why is it that some people have the Christmas spirit and others do not?”

I believe that John the Baptist can help us. He announced to the people of his time that the Christ would be coming soon. “The one who is more powerful than I, is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.” John announced that Jesus was coming but he also acknowledged that he was but a servant of God. For the spirit of God to become real to us we must be willing to humble ourselves and accept the fact that Jesus is greater than ourselves.

John was preaching to a people who were powerless because of an oppressive Roman government. His listeners had no hope, no reason to believe that their lives had any meaning. When John announced that the Lord would be coming, he also said that his listeners would be baptized by the Holy Spirit. In other words, their lives would become filled with the spirit of God and they would be transformed from people without hope to people with hope.

Humility is not always an easy attribute to grasp. It requires emptying oneself, coming to grips with our humanness and our finitude. The spirit of God cannot enter our souls until we are willing to humble ourselves and learn that we are mere mortals, in need of a powerful and eternal God.

Secondly, John tells his listeners to get ready. Their lives would change; they would become more faithful, more loving and more hopeful. The opportunity for change was close at hand. To take advantage of that opportunity they had to trust in John’s word. He was God’s messenger, “the voice of one crying out in the wilderness.” In addition to humbling themselves they needed to listen.

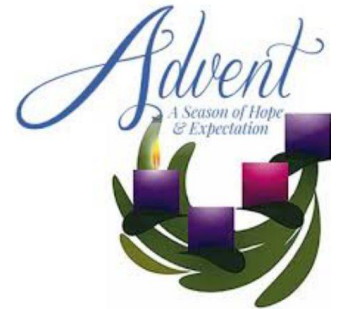
All of us know Christ – but we sometimes tune ourselves out, and completely miss him – not recognizing the one standing among us. While we wait then, we must keep ourselves continually tuned to God’s still small voice.

Third, our lives are open to the spirit of God when we are willing to change. John’s message was about repentance. Repentance means there is a change of direction.

I believe that everyone wants to change but we are stuck. We are trapped by our sins of the past or we are distant from God pursuing our own personal agenda. As a result we are never fulfilled or satisfied. Life is nothing more than a treadmill with no way of getting off. The key that can unlock the door to newness and guide us from darkness to light is forgiveness. John proclaimed a “baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” Forgiveness enables us to move away from the past and embrace the present.

Forgiveness, like John the Baptist proclaimed, is at the heart of opening ourselves to God’s spirit. The Christmas spirit can become a reality to you when you accept the forgiveness of God for your past, or you are willing to forgive someone else for theirs”.

*Dr Keith Wagner
(abridged)*



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



THINKING OF THOSE IN NEED

Christmas Bowl Appeal



The Christmas Bowl is the Christmas Appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Envelopes are available in the porch if you would like to make a donation. The Christmas Day offering will be donated to this appeal.

RECENT SPECIAL SERVICES

The two November special services, **Remembrance Day Commemoration and St Andrew's Day**, were enjoyed by all those who attended. Many favourable comments were received about the organ music and choral work. We thank the regular members of the choir and the extra singers who joined them for these two events. Special thanks is extended to Graham Bell our organist and choir master who puts so much work and thought into the selection and presentation of the work.



MINISTRY AT KENT TOWN

It was with regret that we received the advice that **Rev Alex Rodgers** had resigned from his placement here at Kent Town due to ill health. Alex had been on extended sick leave following a stroke early in the year, and whilst his recovery from that was quite good, other underlying health issues meant that Alex felt it was best to step down. We were pleased to have the opportunity to formally say **thank you and farewell to Alex** at a service on 5th December and at the morning tea that followed. We extend our best wishes to Alex and Elaine as they enter a new phase in their lives together.

A preaching roster has been organised until the end of February while we work through the process of organising a new minister. Should you require **pastoral support** during this period, or know of someone who does, please contact **Kay Rooke on 0427 840 019**.

PATCHWORK & QUILTING GROUP

This group, which has met weekly in the middle hall for the past 30 years, has decided that it is time to disband and will finish up this month. The group was set up as a community outreach venture and was coordinated by **Pat Symons** for the duration.

CHOIR IN RECESS

The choir will take a well-deserved rest during January and return again at the beginning of February.



NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Ivan Miller is awaiting further surgery to have a second knee replacement. The previous surgery was very successful so he is looking forward to greatly improved mobility once the second operation is over.

Raelene Chelley has had difficulty getting to church because of very painful arthritis in her wrist. We hope that a change of treatment will relieve the pain and give her better movement in her hands.

Margaret Harkness has had to undergo further bouts of radiotherapy. As always she maintains a positive outlook and shows great strength of character.

Helen Drummond has a new lease on life following having a pacemaker fitted.

Doug Stewart's health fluctuates but he and Jenny are thankful that he has avoided any further hospitalisation for several months.

Joan Atkinson has been in respite at "The Lodge" with the view to moving in on a more permanent basis. She is greatly appreciative of the assistance and care she is receiving and likes the fact that she has a choice about participating in activities or just having quiet time. She sends her regards to everyone at Kent Town and hopes to see us again soon.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

The first Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of the Christian Year. It is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus.

❖ Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday 19th December at 10.00am

This special service, relating the Christmas story of the birth of Christ through Bible readings and music, features an augmented choir led by organist, Graham Bell. It has a long tradition in the history of Wesley Kent Town.

❖ Christmas Day Service

Saturday 25th December at 9.00am

This family service celebrates the birth of Christ and the coming of Love into the world.



Please invite family and friends along to these services.



Love came down at Christmas



CONTACTS

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