

# WESLEY NEWS

## FEBRUARY DIARY DATES

.....  
**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**  
**PRESENTATION OF  
 THE LORD**



**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2.00 pm**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
 Rev Doug Hosking  
**Holy Communion**  
**EPIPHANY 5**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
 Dr Rodney Fopp  
**EPIPHANY 6**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
 Rev Mac Macdonald  
**EPIPHANY 7**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
 Rev Dr Jonathan Barker  
**TRANSFIGURATION  
 OF JESUS**  
*Harvest Thanksgiving*



## 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**

**Organ Music Society of  
 Adelaide Music Library**

## FAITH AND POLITICS: HOW DO THEY RELATE? – A PERSONAL VIEW.

It is interesting to look back on how church and state have related to each other in South Australia. The early colony (a “Paradise of Dissent”) held the clear separation of church and state. All religious institutions were to be treated equally and none should receive any “State Aid”. The “city of churches” was less about the number of church buildings and more the fact that churches of all traditions were free to establish themselves. Implicitly it meant that neither church or state would interfere with each other, perhaps encouraging the idea that “faith and religion” ought not mix.

Even today, there remains a reluctance for institutional Christianity, for example to be supportive of one political party over another. However, this separation never deterred people of faith from being personally involved in politics and exerting moral influence. Many influential dissenters in Government helped shape the cultural milieu of South Australia. Is this still true today? Perhaps these days it is more from outside the political process that people of faith can best address political parties over issues deemed to be in the public interest. How do we decide what these issues may be?

I believe the key challenge is to decide which things are against the “will of God”. The best clue to discern this in a non-theological way is to ask, “where is there innocent suffering and why?” Where do people cry out for fairness and justice? Such questions connect us with the core agenda of Jesus to “bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed and the grace of unconditional acceptance to all”. It will often mean speaking truth to power on behalf of those who are the voiceless, for our faith reflects the fact that all are God’s beloved people. This is often called the social pioneering role of awakened Christians.

What are the issues that need to be addressed in this election year? Here is my list - what is yours? First, I am aghast at the continuing incarceration of asylum seekers and refugees, highlighted interestingly by a certain tennis player locked down in a particular hotel. This inhumane treatment justified by dubious political reasons has to be changed. Second, while First Nations peoples have clearly expressed a way to have a voice to Parliament their desire to be included in the political process has been blunted by the failure of having bi-partisan political support. Third, all parties are too tame when it comes to tackling the consequences of climate change. Per capita Australia is one of the biggest emitters of green-house gases in the world. Fourth, adequate housing for the poor and young. My list is actually longer but these are examples which need to be addressed because of the scale of innocent suffering.

How does one speak in the public domain so as to be heard? It cannot be done by preaching which unashamedly draws on scripture and God language. Instead we need to develop a public discourse which dares to ask what is ultimately real. Paul’s speech at the Aeropagus is one biblical example. Martin Luther King Jnr is another. Such discourse draws on universal images of fairness as well as daring to even name “crimes against humanity”. While for us the ultimate reality of God incarnate is the warrant for our faith and social action, in the public domain we express this secularly by referring to the need to right the wrongs which prevent people from living their lives as the valued human beings that they are.

*Rev Dr Jonathan Barker*



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



## HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February** and will feature an **augmented Wesley Choir**. **Rev Dr Jonathan Barker** will lead the service.



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 26<sup>th</sup> February at 4.00 pm. 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 27<sup>th</sup> February and they will be added to the display.

## LENT & EASTER

- **Ash Wednesday, start of Lent:**  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- **Palm Sunday:**  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April
- **Good Friday:**  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April
- **Easter Day:**  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April



## EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

**Just in case** any member of our congregation has an accident or significant health-related episode whilst at worship or other church function, the Church Council invites attendees to advise of a next-of-kin or other family/friend emergency contact so we know who to call for you. This contact will be held securely and *only be used with your agreement or if you are taken to hospital by car or ambulance*. Contact details can be given to Kay Rooke 0427 840 019.

## COVID UPDATE

It often feels like the rules and regulations in relation to COVID are changing constantly and this is reflected in the frequency with which I (as the COVID contact person for Wesley Kent Town) receive an updated COVID Safe Plan. In practice, for our church activities – worship services, morning tea, choir practice, Church Council meetings and Congregational meetings, the situation is fairly static.

- QR codes and sign in sheets still need to be used.
- Masks must be worn indoors except when eating or drinking
- Density limit for seated activities is 3 persons/4m<sup>2</sup>
- Density limit when standing is 2 persons/m<sup>2</sup>
- At morning tea we must be seated and wait to be served.

## CHOIR RESUMES

The choir has had its annual January break and will be back to deliver its music ministry again from the first Sunday in February. The choir practises in the church every Wednesday evening from 7.30 – 9.00pm. If you are interested in joining, please speak to Graham Bell.

## NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

**Ivan Miller** has made a good recovery after his second knee replacement operation and is now walking more freely. He has had issues with ongoing cellulitis which has caused him considerable discomfort. It will be good to have Ivan resume his place in the church choir.



**Helen Drummond** has been feeling better and enjoying being able to attend worship services again. She had a pacemaker inserted last year and it has taken a while to settle.

It was good to see **Marlene and Colin Edwards** at church recently. They live at Greenwith these days and, as Marlene has impaired vision due to glaucoma, it is hard for her to get here regularly. She enjoys receiving the weekly emailed worship service which keeps her in touch. Unfortunately she has had three falls this year and the most recent one has left her with very painful bursitis in her hip. Most of you will be aware that Marlene is the author of our church history book, “the House of God, the Gate of Heaven”.

Colin Edwards, OAM, is one of the “Friends of the Heysen Trail” and in 2016 received a Distinguished Service Award for his longstanding contribution. At 86, he still manages a 12 kilometre walk each weekend. Colin runs a “Men’s Shed” at Greenwith and has the men making stiles and signs for the Heysen Trail.



Both **Pat Symons** and **Doug Stewart** have been experiencing a lot of back pain recently which is making daily life difficult for each of them. Pat has had several medical procedures to try to relieve the pain. We hope they are both feeling better soon. We extend our love and prayers to all members of our congregation who are experiencing ill health and finding life more challenging.



## CONTACTS

**Pastoral Care Contact:** Kay Rooke  
[jkrooke@aapt.net.au](mailto:jkrooke@aapt.net.au) 0427 840 019

**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) 0400 279 684

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

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