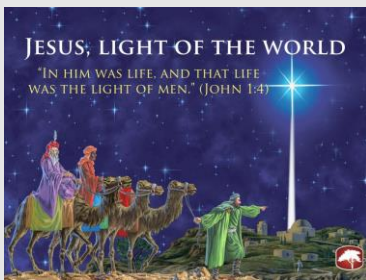


WESLEY NEWS

JANUARY DIARY DATES

.....
Sunday 2nd at 10.00 am
 Rev Doug Hosking
Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS 2

Thursday 6th January
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Sunday 9th at 10.00 am
 Rev Dr Jonathan Barker
BAPTISM OF JESUS

CHURCH COUNCIL
 No meeting in January. First meeting on 3rd February.

Sunday 16th at 10.00 am
 Dr Rodney Fopp
EPIPHANY 2

Sunday 23rd at 10.00 am
 Rev Mac Macdonald
EPIPHANY 3

Sunday 30th at 10.00 am
 Dr Rodney Fopp
EPIPHANY 4

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice

The choir is in recess during January. Choir practice resumes on Wednesday 2nd February at 7.30pm

WESLEY IS HOME TO

- Young Adelaide Voices
- Adelaide Harmony Choir
- Metropolitan Musical Theatre Company
- Organ Music Society of Adelaide Music Library

A LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS

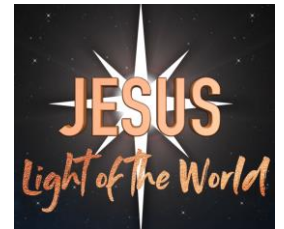
With the rising prevalence of the Omicron variant of Covid in our community, many of us may be feeling fearful and vulnerable. This Christmas message from the moderator of the Uniting Church in SA reminds us that Jesus' birth offers us hope of brighter things to come.

Moderator's Christmas Message 2021

We live and wait in hope and expectation. At the moment we are waiting for Christmas. Waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. Some of us feel we are living in dark times, times that seem to have little to hope for. We remember those we long to be with. We think about those suffering. We think of our world and what is happening to it. And we are not even sure what we are waiting for. The birth of Jesus offers us hope. That glimmer of light at the end of a darkened tunnel. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' In our waiting, we see glimpses of this light around us. We see it in the eyes of someone comforting a friend who is feeling down. We see it when someone pays forward an extra cup of coffee. We see it when we connect in new and meaningful ways with God, each other and our community. As we can see from afar the houses decorated with twinkling Christmas lights, so can we see the glimmer of hope in the darkness. Anyone who has experienced darkness in their life will know how relentless it can be. But it only takes one candle, a small spark, a flicker of light to bring a glimpse of hope and all the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of one flicker of light. At Christmas, as we celebrate the coming of the One who brings light, may we trust in God who is Lord of the darkness and the light. May we find hope in the baby in the manger who just might be the tiny glimpse of light we need to remind ourselves of where we are, of who we are, of where we are going, of what we may become. May we receive a glimpse of light enough for each step, each breath, each understanding, as we find our way in the dark. May we in turn, give the gift of light to those around us, in turn shining light into the darkness of someone else's world. The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. As you celebrate Christmas this year, I invite you to look at the Christmas lights on your tree, or those strung up in the front yard as a glimpse of the love and hope which can be found in darkness, a reminder that there can be beauty and hope in the midst of darkness and despair. As Martin Luther King Junior said 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.' May you see a glimpse of the love and hope of Christ in your life this Christmas, and may you in turn share that love and hope with others.

Merry Christmas!

Bronte Wilson Moderator Uniting Church in South Australia



EPIPHANY

Epiphany comes 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 6th at Christmas on the Feast of the Epiphany, today traditionally observed on January .



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
 27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



VALE MARGARET HARKNESS

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our dear friend **Margaret Harkness** who passed away peacefully following a long battle with cancer on Saturday 18th December 2021. Margaret bravely fought her illness with great strength and courage, sustained by her deep faith in God throughout.



Margaret was a long term member of this congregation and made a significant contribution to this church in a variety of ways. She was a member of the church council for a number of years, including serving as secretary, a door steward, and a regularly bible reader during Sunday worship, to name just a few. We thank God for Margaret's life and her great contribution to the life and worship of Wesley Kent Town Church and can take comfort knowing that she is now resting peacefully with the Lord.

A moving service to celebrate and give thanks for Margaret's life was held in the church on Wednesday, 29th December 2021, with Rev Mac Macdonald officiating. We hold Margaret's family, especially her three children, Fiona, Sonia and Stuart, her four grandchildren and her sister, Elizabeth Brookes in our thoughts and prayers.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

The special services held during December were very successful. On Sunday morning 19th 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 seven 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 have a bit of a rest during January while the choir is in recess but will still play for Sunday services

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.

FORWARD NOTICE OF DIARY EVENTS

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



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.



Elizabeth Brookes has had to deal firstly with the sad loss of her sister Margaret and a few days later her daughter's partner died unexpectedly of a heart attack. **Ivan Miller** had a second knee replacement operation and is convalescing at home. **Pam George** also had a knee replacement just before Christmas and will need to have the other knee done early next year. Husband, **David** has been kept very busy looking after her and attending to all the household duties. It was good to see **Joan Atkinson** at the Service of Lessons and Carols. She was bright and cheery as always and adjusting well to life at the Lodge.

Cherry & Daniel Brookes were at the farewell service for Rev Alex Rodgers along with **Justin** and **Courtney**. Here we learnt of the good news that they are expecting another baby in March.

Fiona Atkinson is part of a local dance and fitness school for all ages that put on an end of year concert called "Pirates Pointe". It was a large production which ran very smoothly thanks to a huge effort in the last few weeks. Fiona found the interaction between ages and skill sets fascinating. The photo shows Fiona and another member of the cast in their pirate costumes.



Johanna Garnica's little daughter **Ruby** also performed in 4 items at an end of year performance put on by her ballet school. Jenny Stewart was privileged to be invited to see Ruby on stage. In Jenny and Johanna's eyes, Ruby showed great style and stole the show.

CONTACTS

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