

WESLEY NEWS

DECEMBER DIARY DATES

Sunday 4th at 10.00 am
Pastor Andrew Kieselbach
Holy Communion
ADVENT 2



Thursday 8th at 2.00pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 11th at 10.00 am
Rev Mark Dickens
ADVENT 3

Sunday 18th at 10.00 am
Rev Mark Dickens
*Service of
Lessons & Carols*
ADVENT 4

Sunday 25th at 10.00 am
Rev Mark Dickens &
Pastor Andrew Kieselbach
CHRISTMAS DAY



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**

FROM THE MINISTER

What emotions does Christmas give rise to in you?

I recently read an article by Lisa A. Williams, Associate Professor in the School of Psychology at the University of New South Wales, published in 'The Conversation' online newsletter. A not-for-profit company, 'The Conversation' provides independent, research-based news and analysis through a collaboration between academics and journalists. The article was titled, 'What COVID has taught us about sharing our emotions – and why now's a good time to share again'.

Williams says, "It's no surprise most Australians reported lowered mental wellbeing since the onset of the pandemic." The article continues with self-reported data gathered from social media networks that underscores the increase in issues and problems associated with mental health and wellbeing.

It notes that during the first waves of the pandemic with lockdowns, density restrictions, mask mandates, border closures, and everything else that came with it, people longed for their usual social interactions, freedom of movement, and a return to 'normality'. People's stress and emotions were high. Everyone was affected in one way or another. While there were differences, there was a collective emotional response. People generally openly shared their emotional response.

Speaking of the emotional response to Covid, words such as gloom, melancholy, despair, loneliness, and depression come to mind. These are a subset of what is said to be one of the primary emotions: sadness. Depending on who or where you read, some say there are four primary emotions (happiness, sadness, fear, anger), some say six, others say eight (anger, anticipation, joy, trust, fear, surprise, sadness and disgust).

The article headline made me think - what does Christmas teach us about our emotions? What does it teach us about those who first started to tell the Christmas story? What does it tell us of the people of ancient Israel, the generations of people who lived before the birth of Jesus?

Simply speaking, as Christians we celebrate Christmas to mark the birth of Jesus. We reflect on the beliefs behind Christmas and how the symbolism of the celebration connects us to the past and calls us to look to the future.

For the ancient Israelites who found themselves living in exile there was a longing desire and hope for better times; times they might have described as 'normal' – a return to what life was like pre-exile. I suspect it was out of this that writings which expressed the anticipation and longing for a messiah began to emerge. Jesus was, for his earliest followers and the Christian communities which emerged in due course, the fulfilment of these longings. In and through Jesus emerges joy and trust and continuing anticipation.

Perhaps it is not so much a question of what does Christmas teach us about our emotions, but what emotions does Christmas give rise to in us? In you? Depending on individual circumstances, any of the emotions may be triggered for you. Whichever way it is you might answer the question, I wish Gods peace, shalom, which passes all understanding, to be with and within you as we recall again the coming of the Christ-child this Christmas season. In sharing our emotions with one another, may we surround and support each other.

Blessings,

Mark.

Rev Mark Dickens



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 EVENTS



The two November special services, **Remembrance Day Commemoration and St Andrew's Day**, were enjoyed by all those present. 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.



The second **Spring Concert** was also greatly enjoyed by all those in attendance. The program of fine music was much appreciated. Further concerts are planned for next year.

The **Baptism of Charlotte Mae Brookes** was an occasion for celebration. It was lovely to welcome back Charlotte's family, Cherry, Daniel, Justin and Courtney.



CHOIR IN RECESS

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



PLANNING GROUP

The Planning Group, comprised of Rev Mark Dickens, Pastor Andrew Kieselbach, Jenny Church, Peter Skellon, Kay Rooke and Jenny Stewart are organising a Morning Tea in January. This was to have been held last month but had to be cancelled because the date clashed with a PAC event.



Morning Tea on Wednesday 25th January 2023 from 10.30am-12.00 noon. Please mark this date in your diary.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Joan Atkinson is in frail health but currently doing quite well. Her daughter, Katherine with husband Simon, have come over from Ireland and Joan is enjoying the family visits from all her children – Fiona, Katherine, Gavin and

James. **Raelene Shelley** is missing her friends at church. She is on new medication to control pain but it is making her very tired. She hopes to be back as soon as her body adjusts. **Beryl Kennett** had a fall a couple of months ago and broke both her wrists. This required several weeks of rehabilitation. She is home now on transitional care but still not allowed to drive. **Pat Symons** had a hip replacement recently. This was very successful and she is virtually pain free for the first time in years.

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 18th 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

Sunday 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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