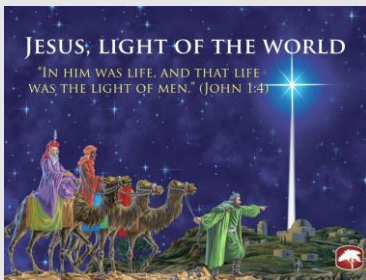


WESLEY NEWS

JANUARY DIARY DATES

Sunday 1st at 10.00 am
Pastor Andrew Kieselbach
Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS 1
NEW YEAR'S DAY

Friday 6th January
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Sunday 8th at 10.00 am
Rev Mark Dickens
BAPTISM OF JESUS

Sunday 15th at 10.00 am
Rev Mark Dickens
EPIPHANY 2

Sunday 22nd at 10.00 am
Rev Dr Jonathan Barker
EPIPHANY 3

Sunday 29th at 10.00 am
Pastor Andrew Kieselbach
EPIPHANY 4

CHURCH COUNCIL

No meeting in January. First meeting on 2nd February.

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice

The choir is in recess during January. Choir practice resumes on Wednesday 1st 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

FROM THE MINISTER

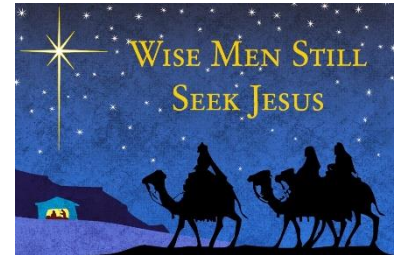
“So this is Christmas and what have you done? Another year over and a new one just begun.”

Every Christmas I’ve always been struck by this lyric “So this is Christmas, and what have you done?” For many years I heard it in an accusatory tone, was there anything significant that I had done that made a noticeable difference in the world? I felt guilt and shame. Could I have done more?

As we move into another year, do we bring with us the shame and hurt of past actions, or inaction? Or can we leave them behind? Should we assess a difficult 2022 with all of its challenges and make resolutions for a better 2023? What is the best way forward?

‘So this is Christmas’ came about after more than two years of peace activism by John Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono. The song was part of an international campaign launched by the couple in December 1969, at the height of the protests against America's involvement in the Vietnam War.

John and Yoko had rented billboard spaces in twelve major cities around the world to send a message of self-responsibility for peace. The message of the campaign was simple, yet powerful at the same time: "WAR IS OVER! If You Want It – Happy Christmas from John & Yoko".



The sole mission was to get everybody’s attention drawn to the fact that war and peace is a personal choice. Lennon explained that they chose the Christmas theme deliberately so that the world could find at least one excuse to choose peace over war this season.

For us today as we celebrate this season, we see Jesus as the source and provider of peace. The birth of Jesus signalled the coming fulfilment of God’s promise, and in His death and resurrection we have peace with God. THE WAR IS OVER – If we want it.

Sometimes we get the message wrong. John and Yoko weren’t trying to accuse or condemn me, rather they were promoting peace and inclusivity, actively standing against war and division. In a world where issues seem too big for us to do anything about, we forget the power of personal choice.

We can also get the message of Jesus wrong. In John 3:16-17 we read: “For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour”.

We often forget that Jesus didn’t come to condemn us, but to save us. There is peace between us and God, there is peace to be had with all humanity, if we want it. It’s a choice we are given.

May we, as we enter this New Year, act in Love, Joy, Hope and Peace.
Amen

Pastor Andrew Kieselbach



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



Happy New Year 2023

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



The special services held during December were very successful. On Sunday morning 18th December, the **Wesley Service of Lessons and Carols** was held and the delightful music presented by the augmented choir was greatly appreciated.

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. It was wonderful to see such a big congregation!

We are very grateful to the extra choristers who willingly helped out, particularly Joan Atkinson's daughter Katherine who was over from Ireland to be with Joan. Katherine can sing both alto and tenor and assisted in both sections of the choir.

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.

SPECIAL MORNING TEA



The Planning Group, comprised of Rev Mark Dickens, Pastor Andrew Kieselbach, Jenny Church, Peter

Skellon, Kay Rooke and Jenny Stewart, have organised a Special Morning Tea in January to which you are all invited.

you are invited

Morning Tea on Wednesday

25th January 2023 from 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Please mark this date in your diary.

EPIPHANY

This month, the church year moves into 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 at Christmas on the Feast of the Epiphany, today traditionally observed on 6th January.

FORWARD NOTICE OF DIARY EVENTS

- **HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE**
Sunday 26th February at 10.00am
- **Ash Wednesday, start of Lent:**
Wednesday 22nd February
- **Palm Sunday:**
Sunday 2nd April
- **Good Friday:**
Friday 7th April
- **Easter Day:**
Sunday 9th April



NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Joan Atkinson has really enjoyed having her daughter, Katherine and husband Simon, over from Ireland and has benefitted from the love and attention she has been receiving from all her family. Her health is stable at present.



It was good to catch up with a number of our folk whom we haven't seen for a while, including **Doug Baker, Raelene Chelley, Marlene Edwards** and **Beryl Kennett**. Beryl's daughter Allison accompanied her to the Christmas Day Service which Beryl enjoyed immensely. She is hoping to be able to drive herself again soon.

Mary Hackett-Jones and family were also at the Christmas Day Service. Mary's husband, Gabriel was back in Adelaide from Istanbul where he works. Their three children, **Arthur, Frederick** and **Vivienne** were dressed up for the occasion, the boys as airline pilots and Vivienne as an airline hostess.



Grandmother, **Penelope Hackett-Jones** was also there.

CONTACTS

Ministry Team:

Rev Mark Dickens

mdickens@pac.edu.au 0407 714 217

Pastor Andrew Kieselbach

akieselbach@pac.edu.au 0438 823 677

Pastoral Care Contact: Kay Rooke

jkrooke@aapt.net.au 0427 840 019

Organist & Choir Director: Graham Bell

ghb59au@outlook.com 0422 073 436

Church Council Chair: Dr Mark Symons

mark.symons@tpg.com.au 8331 9816

Church Council Secretary: Jenny Stewart

doug-jenny-stewart@bigpond.com 0400 279 684

Church Office:

office@wesleykenttown.org.au 8362 2544

Website: www.wesleykenttown.org.au