

# WESLEY NEWS

## DECEMBER DIARY DATES

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Rev Mark Dickens  
*Holy Communion*  
**ADVENT 1**



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Pastor Andrew Kieselbach  
**ADVENT 2**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 pm**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Rev Doug Hosking  
**ADVENT 3**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Rev Mark Dickens  
*Service of  
Lessons & Carols*  
**ADVENT 4**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> at 9.00 am**  
Pastor Andrew Kieselbach  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Rev Mark Dickens  
**CHRISTMAS 1**

### COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

In middle hall  
Wednesday mornings  
10.30 am – 12.00 noon

### MUSIC @ WESLEY

**Choir Practice**  
Wednesday evenings in the  
choir vestry at 7.30 pm

**WESLEY IS HOME TO**  
**Adelaide Harmony Choir**  
**Metropolitan Musical  
Theatre Company**  
**Organ Music Society of  
Adelaide Music Library**

## FROM THE MINISTER

We tend to package our ideas of what our life looks like into a neat little box. Life is a gift after all! For us here in Australia we often have a dream of what life will be, and then become surprised when the dream doesn't match our reality. We look inside our box and find that's not what we wanted at all! Nor is it something one would ever want to 'gift' you. Tragedy, heartache, betrayal, turn our dreams to nightmares, and the picture we had for ourselves may seem a distant memory, a long-forgotten hope.

Looking back on our life we are often convinced of the "if only" something "then it would be better". For some of us we feel like we have been given the raw deal. Sometimes it is our own choices which has led to a bad situation, other times we might have nothing that we could have done, yet we find ourselves far from where we wanted to be. When there is a disaster, whether it be fire, flood, war or famine, where can we find our hope? Where is God in our story?

"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." (John 3:16,17)



We find in the Christmas story, that right in the midst of darkness and despair, God is present. God is born into our suffering, God is there, God is with us, Immanuel. We find that our story is woven in with God's presence and love at every moment in our lives, and in every situation we face. Not all our hopes and dreams will come to pass, but Jesus is the hope we can hold on to when all other hopes have failed.

Jesus stands alongside of us in our struggle. So, whatever our story is this Christmas, remember that God's story is present too, in the midst of whatever we face in this season. May we remember the gift of Jesus and the hope that we have.

Every Blessing this Christmas season,

**Pastor Andrew Kieselbach**

## Waiting in Community

*Reflection from UC e-News 28/11/23*

Christian community is the place where we keep the **flame of hope** alive among us and take it seriously so that it can grow and become stronger in us. In this way we can live with courage, trusting that there is a spiritual power in us when we are together that allows us to live in this world without surrendering to the powerful forces constantly seducing us toward despair.

That is how we dare to say that God is a God of love even when we see hatred all around us. That is why we can claim that God is a God of life even when we see death and destruction and agony all around us. We say it together. We affirm it in each other.

Waiting together, nurturing what has already begun, expecting its fulfillment—that is the meaning of marriage, friendship, community, and the Christian life. *On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent we light the Candle of HOPE*



**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. 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. **This year Mary Hackett-Jones' daughter Vivienne was the Bible bearer.**

### COMMUNITY MORNING TEA



These are held in the middle hall every Wednesday morning and a good cross-section of people continue to attend. A very sociable atmosphere prevails. If you are looking for some company, please join us on a **Wednesday morning between 10.30am and 12.00 noon and enjoy "Cuppa, Conversation & Connection"**. You will be very welcome!

**The Morning Tea will go into a short recess finishing on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and resuming on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

### NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

#### Vale Barbara Fitzsimmons

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our dear friend Barbara Fitzsimmons who passed away peacefully on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023. Barbara bravely fought on through a year-long period of illness with great strength and courage. She was an active member of the choir and made a significant contribution to this church in a variety of ways. We extend our love and prayers to her family.



**Jenny Church's** fractures have healed and she is out of her boot and able to drive again. **Deborah White** is making good progress following knee replacement surgery and has returned to sing in the choir. Of those of us who caught COVID for the first time, **Graham Bell** and **Jenny Stewart** have recovered fully, while **Mark & Pat Symons** have recovered but still feeling the after-effects. **Mac & Margaret Macdonald** have been quite severely affected by the virus and still have a way to go before they regain their strength. **Penny Hackett-Jones** was another of us to succumb and has been quite unwell. **Raelene Chelley** had surgery on her hands and is pleased with the results. She has been able to knit and participate in her craft group again.

## CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE APPEAL

A fund has been established with the National Trust of South Australia for the refurbishment and restoration of the Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town, the halls and school rooms. A detailed Conservation and Asset Management Plan has been prepared to prioritise work that needs to be done.



Brochures with details of how you can contribute to the conservation and restoration of these buildings are now available. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus.

#### ❖ Service of Lessons & Carols

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### ❖ Christmas Day Service

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 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

#### Ministry Team:

**Rev Mark Dickens**

[mdickens@pac.edu.au](mailto:mdickens@pac.edu.au) 0407 714 217

**Pastor Andrew Kieselbach**

[akieselbach@pac.edu.au](mailto:akieselbach@pac.edu.au) 0438 823 677

**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:** Jenny Church

[jenny.church@internode.on.net](mailto:jenny.church@internode.on.net) 0418 855 644

**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)