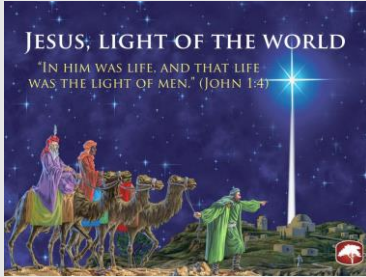


# WESLEY NEWS

## JANUARY DIARY DATES

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January**  
**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**



**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Pastor Andrew Kieselbach  
**Holy Communion**  
**BAPTISM OF JESUS**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Rev Mark Dickens  
**EPIPHANY 2**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Pastor Andrew Kieselbach  
**EPIPHANY 3**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am**  
Rev Mark Dickens  
**EPIPHANY 4**

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

No meeting in January. First meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

### **MUSIC @ WESLEY**

#### **Choir Practice**

The choir is in recess during January.

Choir practice resumes on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm

### **WESLEY IS HOME TO**

**Adelaide Harmony Choir**

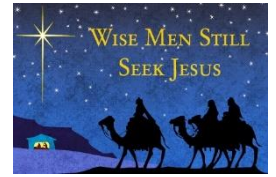
**Metropolitan Musical Theatre Company**

**Organ Music Society of Adelaide Music Library**

**Australian Music Theatre Choir**

### **REFLECTIONS ON RESILIENCE: EMBRACING LIFE'S JOURNEY IN 2024**

Over the last week I have finished reading one book and started another. The book I finished is entitled 'A scar is also skin: a memoir of stroke, heart attack and remaking' by Ben Mckelvey, published by Hachette Australia, 2023. And I have started reading Eddie Jaku's 'The Happiest Man on Earth', the story of how a Holocaust survivor found gratitude, kindness and hope in the darkest of places, published by McMillan in 2000.



These books, coupled with a conversation with our friends recently while away, about what hopes and plans we each have for 2024, along with other recent events, had me thinking philosophically about life and time. The transition to a new year is a natural time for reflection. It's also interesting how books can interweave with personal conversations and events to shape our perspective on life.

The central theme of both books is about overcoming adversity and finding joy in life's darkest moments. Both Mckelvey and Jaku provide perspective from their lived experience on the human capacity for recovery and hope.

I have mused over this as I have thought about some of the challenges 2023 brought for myself and the friends I was with, along with some of the tragic and traumatic events that have happened close to home and further afield (and are far from finished when considering the conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East). I continue to think about the family of four who went away, and only three returned home<sup>1</sup>.

It may not always be evident, but both the scars and joys of life are integral parts of our personal tapestry. While everyone's journey is unique, there's a common thread of resilience and kindness that binds us all.

The enduring positivity found by Eddie Jaku, a Holocaust survivor, emphasises the long-term impact of attitude on life quality. Ben Mckelvey's memoir of his stroke and heart attack recovery provides insights on the nonlinear nature of healing and growth.

The passage from Matthew 6, verses 28 to 33, comes to mind, although I am continuing to theologise it! And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

While I have hopes and plans for the year ahead, I know that the year ahead will also come with challenges and difficulties. Things will happen that will come out of the blue, things unexpected and unplanned. That will be the case for all of us.

That said, may your year be filled with growth, gratitude, and the courage to face whatever comes with the wisdom from past experiences and the support of those around you; family and friends. May you look ahead with optimism, faith, and a renewed sense of purpose.

*Rev Mark Dickens*

<sup>1</sup> I mentioned this in my sermon on 31 December. This was in reference to the 15 year old boy, Khai Cowley, who was taken by a shark while surfing in Innes National Park. My daughter and her partner were camping next to the family at Daly Head.



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



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



The special services held during December were very successful. On Sunday morning 24<sup>th</sup> 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 have so many visitors join us!

We are very grateful to the extra choristers who willingly augmented our regular choir and helped produce such a great sound.

## 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 Feast of the Epiphany, today is traditionally observed on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

## 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. The choir will have a break during January but will return to help lead worship on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in February

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.

## COMMUNITY MORNING TEA



The Wednesday morning teas will also be in recess during January but will resume on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## COMMUNITY SHED

Quite a bit of work has been done to prepare the Community Shed. We had a hard rubbish collection to dispose of unwanted gear. Some patching up of walls and floor have been done and two of the 3 walls have been painted. We were fortunate to receive a donation of paint left over after a neighbouring property was painted. A white shelving unit donated by Peter Skellon has been mounted on one wall and we found a lot of good shelving units in a store room which will fit nicely along the back wall. A piece of timber that will be used as a shadow board has also been mounted on another wall. We are very grateful for the willing labour of members of the Kent Town Residents' Association.



## FORWARD NOTICE OF DIARY EVENTS

- **HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE:**  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am
- **ASH WEDNESDAY, START OF LENT:**  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February
- **PALM SUNDAY:**  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March
- **GOOD FRIDAY:**  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March
- **EASTER DAY:**  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March



## NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the death of our dear friend, **Barbara Fitzsimmons** on Sunday 3rd December 2023 after a year-long battle with cancer. Barbara was a loyal and irreplaceable member of the choir, and gave selfless service to supporting the work of our church community.

Her funeral service was a true celebration of her life and a fitting tribute to her achievements and dedication to everything she held dear. Brian Hern, in his eulogy for Barbara, described her as "an identity".

Barbara loved music and sang in a number of choirs including The Adelaide Harmony Choir and St Andrew's Walkerville Church Choir as well as the Wesley Kent Town choir. She was a Life Member of the Royal Society of Church Music (RSCM) and, in 2011 received a Special Services Award from the RSCM (UK).



Barbara & Graham at the 2017 RSCM Summer School, the last one held in Adelaide

## CONTACTS

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