

WESLEY NEWS

MARCH DIARY DATES

Sunday 3rd at 10.00 am

Rev Mark Dickens

Holy Communion

LENT 3

Sunday 10th at 10.00 am

Rev Les Underwood

LENT 4

Thursday 14th at 2.00 pm

CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 17th at 10.00 am

Pastor Andrew Kieselbach

LENT 5

Sunday 24th at 10.00 am

Pastor Andrew Kieselbach

PALM SUNDAY



Friday 29th at 10.00 am

Pastor Andrew Kieselbach

GOOD FRIDAY

Sunday 31st at 10.00 am

Rev Mark Dickens

EASTER DAY

COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

In 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

Australian Music Theatre

Choir

FROM THE MINISTER:

On the morning of the first Sunday in Lent, 20 minutes before the service was due to begin, I made a bold decision to change my sermon! I madly began scribbling notes of what I would say, after determining what I was going to cut out, despite the time and consideration I had put into my preparation. Time wasn't going to allow me to incorporate it all.



What follows in this reflection piece is the part of my sermon I omitted.

Let's turn our attention to the Gospel reading. Compared with Matthew and Luke, Mark's gospel is sparse in descriptive detail. In almost as many words as the reading itself, it can be summed up as a passage which starts out describing the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. After being baptised, Jesus sees the heavens open up, and the Holy Spirit descends upon him like a dove. Then, a voice from heaven declares, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Immediately after his baptism, Jesus is driven by the Spirit into the wilderness, where he fasts for forty days and is tempted by Satan. Following this period of testing, Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, preaching the good news of the kingdom of God and calling people to repentance.

In its ancient context, the word "repentance" carried the connotation of "turning around" or "changing direction." The term originated from the Greek word "metanoia," which literally means "to change one's mind" or "to turn around." In this context, repentance implied a profound change of heart, a turning away from one direction, which might be said to be wrongdoing, and a redirection towards what might be described as righteousness or moral uprightness.

The concept wasn't solely focused on specific acts of sin; it encompassed a deeper transformation of one's heart, mind, and actions. While repentance included remorse for past actions and decisions that were considered contrary to God's commands, it also involved a commitment to change one's ways and to align with a higher moral or spiritual standard. So, while the notion of sin was part of the context, repentance was about more than just addressing individual transgressions; it was about a fundamental shift in one's orientation towards righteousness or virtue.

Understanding "sin" in broader terms involves seeing it not just as isolated actions but as a larger concept encompassing any thought, word, or deed that violates moral or ethical principles. Instead of solely focusing on individual actions, viewing sin in broad terms considers the underlying attitudes, intentions, and patterns of behaviour that contribute to moral or spiritual disconnection.

From this perspective, sin can be understood as a state of being, and not just about specific actions. It encompasses the overall condition of humanity's moral imperfection or distance from the divine. In this sense, repentance (metanoia) is turning away from this state of being and reorientating one's focus, one's life, on a different state of being.

Understanding sin in broad terms allows for a holistic view of redemption and transformation. It's not just about seeking forgiveness for individual actions but also about addressing the underlying causes of moral brokenness and striving for personal and collective change and renewal.

The invitation of Lent is, for us as individuals and as the community of faith in this place, to engage in a more comprehensive examination of conscience, seeking not only to avoid specific wrongful actions but also to cultivate virtues, promote justice, and foster reconciliation and healing in a manner which reflects the gospel accounts of Jesus. It is this that makes God's kingdom present here and now, and not some distant eschatological event to come.

Rev Mark Dickens



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town

27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held on **Sunday 25th February**.



Pastor Andrew Kieselbach was the worship leader and delivered an interesting sermon linking the celebration of harvest with Lent. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful music presented by the augmented choir. Members of the congregation again excelled in their generosity so that a marvellous display of produce adorned the front of the church.



All produce has been donated to Uniting Care Salisbury for distribution to people in need. The photo opposite shows Rev Mark with some of the workers at UnitingCare receiving our donation.

DUNSTAN BI-ELECTION/ SAUSAGE SIZZLE

The Front Hall of the church will be used as a Polling Station on **Saturday 23rd March** for the **Dunstan Bi-Election**. We have decided to hold another **Sausage Sizzle** on this day to help raise further funds for the Community Shed Project. If you are available to help out on the day, that would be greatly appreciated so that the workload can be shared. Alternatively you might like to just come along, enjoy a sausage and have a look at the Community Shed, which will be open to view on the day.



COMMUNITY MORNING TEAS

Our Community Morning Teas have resumed and are going well. On **Wednesday 14th February**, we held **“Pancake Day”** and raised **\$230** which will be used to help the work of Uniting Care emergency services.

If you are looking for some company, please call in any **Wednesday morning between 10.30am and 12.00 noon** and enjoy a **“Cuppa & Conversation”**. You will be very welcome!

JUST A THOUGHT

Feeling run down?

Why not pop in for a service?

Sign outside Knightsbridge Baptist Church

PLANNING DAY 2024

Our follow up planning day held on 5th February, was productive and very worthwhile. We were most appreciative of the encouragement and advice we received from Rev Les Underwood who attended.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Palm Sunday Service:

Sunday 24th March at 10.00am

Pastor Andrew Kieselbach

The Palm Sunday Service will be a beautiful start to Holy Week. A service of readings and choral music presented by an **augmented choir** will lead our thoughts from the palm-strewn arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem through penitential music towards the power and solemnity of Good Friday. The service is arranged by organist and choir director, Graham Bell.



Good Friday Service:

Friday 29th March at 10.00am

Pastor Andrew Kieselbach

This meditative service will focus on the journey to the Cross as we reflect on the great sacrifice Christ made for us.



Easter Day Service:

Sunday 31st March at 10.00am

Rev Mark Dickens

We celebrate with joy the risen Christ.

All services will feature special music presented by the Wesley choir under the direction of organist/choir director, Graham Bell.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

We are enjoying the company of **Ailin Pan** and **Yung Ho Pok** who are worshipping with us for two months before returning to Japan. Ailin has joined the choir as has **Dawn Lamont**. They are gaining great enjoyment from singing with the group.

Mac Macdonald had another trip back to hospital but was discharged and able to go home for his birthday. **Pat Symons** also had a trip to emergency at the RAH. Both Pat and Mark were impressed with the quality and thoroughness of treatment Pat received.

CONTACTS

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