

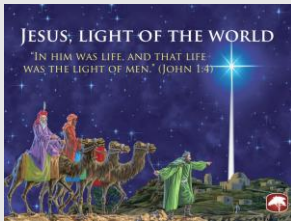
WESLEY NEWS

JANUARY DIARY DATES

Sunday 4th at 10.00 am

Rev Doug Hosking
Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS 2

Tuesday 6th January
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Sunday 11th at 10.00 am
Pastor Andrew Kieselbach
BAPTISM OF JESUS

Sunday 18th at 10.00 am
Rev Doug Hosking
EPIPHANY 2

Sunday 25th at 10.00 am
Rev Mark Dickens
EPIPHANY 3

COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

In recess.

Reopens Wednesday
4th February 2026

COMMUNITY SHED

Reopens Saturday 10th
January 2026

QUIET CENTRE

In recess.

Reopens Wednesday
4th February 2026

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice

Resumes Wednesday
28th January 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

LOOKING FORWARD

As we move into the beginning of a new year, we find ourselves in a season of reflection and anticipation. The turning of the calendar offers a natural pause, an opportunity to look back with gratitude and look forward with hope. It is a moment to remember the faithfulness of God through all that has been and to trust in all that is yet to come.



Recently, I read some Christmas messages from various church leaders and thought I would share this one with you. It is from Commissioner Miriam Gluyas, Territorial Commander and Chair of the Board of The Salvation Army, Australia Territory. It is entitled, **"The Heart of Christmas"**.

"In a world where hope dwindles, we gather as people of hope.... hope-givers and hope-bringers in a world that needs it in abundance right now.

As we approach this special time of year, we're reminded once again of the heart of Christmas—God drawing near to us in love. The miracle of Jesus' birth tells the story of a God who didn't remain distant, but stepped into our world so we could know Him personally.

In this small, humble beginning—a baby laid in a manger—we find hope. Jesus' arrival brings the promise of a future held securely in God's hands, a future shaped not by fear, but by His peace, Prince of Peace, connecting us with God, and offering salvation to all who trust Him.

This beautiful story is wrapped in humility, as the Saviour of the world entered not as a king in a palace but as a child in a stable. It's a reminder that God often works in quiet places and unexpected ways.

We also see the steady faith of Mary and Joseph—ordinary people who said "yes" to God even when the path was uncertain. Their trust encourages us to lean into God's plan for our own lives with courage and obedience. And as we celebrate, we're called to reflect the goodwill woven throughout the Christmas story—to show kindness, compassion, and selfless love to those around us, just as Christ has shown to us.

The world right now needs a whole lot of Christmas... love, hope, humility, courage, goodwill, faith, salvation... a whole lot of Jesus.

May you both know Him and make Him known.

The world desperately needs Him. May we show the way."

Our Vision

This Church strives to be an accepting, inclusive community of love, care and faith. It is committed to honour and respect unity in diversity, and the freedom to explore faith as its members develop a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. The members of the Church desire to live out their faith in humility, accepting differences of opinion and practising the way of Jesus. No matter who we are or where we are on life's journey, the Mission of the Church is to share God's love in a spirit of openness and acceptance, reaching out to the people in the Church, in the Community and in the neighbourhood to share the gospel.

The Church's core values are compassion, love acceptance, Christian charity and embracing diversity, following the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission Statement: "Sharing the Love of Jesus"

Jenny Stewart



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell St. Kent Town



NEW MINISTRY



We are pleased to announce that Rev Dr Jonathan Barker has offered to be our new Interim Minister. His placement with us will commence on 1st February 2026. It will be a 0.5 FTE position and is for a period of 6 months. Jonathan is well known to most of us, having provided supply ministry prior to the commencement of Rev Mark Dickens' and Pastor Andrew Kieselbach's time with us.

Jonathan, a Uniting Church minister, trained at the former Parkin Theological College and the University of Adelaide has served city churches at Pitt Street, Sydney and Pilgrim, Adelaide as well as suburban and regional cities such as Whyalla, Canberra and Goulburn. After living and working in the westside ghetto in Chicago USA, Jonathan developed an emphasis on community development first with the Mowanjumb Aboriginal community in the Kimberleys, then in Mumbai, India and later as Senior Community Development Officer with the S.A. Department for Community Welfare. He has advocated for Indigenous Australians as co-convenor for the Aboriginal Reconciliation Council in S.A. and as Assistant Principal of Nungalinya College in Darwin. Jonathan has postgraduate awards from Flinders University, the University of South Australia and a doctorate from the Graduate Theological Union, Berkely, California. In active retirement, Jonathan pursues his interest in history and integrating theological perspectives into current events (among several other things!)

THINKING OF THOSE IN NEED

Christmas Bowl Appeal



The Christmas Day offering, which amounted to just over \$500 will be donated to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



The special services held during December were very successful. On Sunday morning 21st 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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our Community Morning Tea and Quiet Centre are in recess during January but the Community Shed reopens on Saturday 10th January 2026 and will then be open each Wednesday and Saturday morning. The Quiet Centre and Community Morning Teas resume in the first week of February 2026.

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 6th 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 Sunday, 1st 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.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

We send our love and prayers to members of our church community for whom life is more difficult these days.

Ivan Miller is facing his illness with courage. He is being cared for at home by his wife Lidia and was able to enjoy Christmas with his family. **Raelene Chelley** continues to deal with a number of serious health issues and is supported at home by her sister Lorraine. Her surgeon has carried out a procedure on her arthritic hands to give her more flexibility which enables her to still do her beautiful craft work, from which she gains so much pleasure. **Peter Skellon** has recovered quite well from the mild stroke he suffered late last year but is not yet strong enough to participate in church life as fully as before. **Elise Jenkin** has settled in well to Residential Care at ElderCare Goodwood. We were delighted to see her at the Lessons & Carols Service accompanied by her daughter Kendall. We also miss seeing **Rev Mac Macdonald** but know that he is lovingly supported by Margaret and his family.

CONTACTS

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