

WESLEY NEWS

FEBRUARY DIARY DATES

Sunday 1st at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

Holy Communion

EPIPHANY 4

PRESENTATION OF
THE LORD



Sunday 8th at 10.00 am

Rev Alison Whish

EPIPHANY 5

Thursday 12th at 2.00pm

CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 15th at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

TRANSFIGURATION OF
JESUS



Sunday 22nd at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Gary Stuckey

LENT 1

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

Wednesday mornings

10.30 am – 12.00 noon

in middle hall

COMMUNITY SHED

Open Wednesday,
& Saturday mornings

9.00 am – 1.00 pm

QUIET CENTRE

Wednesdays 12.45-1.45pm

in church

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

EPIPHANY AND BEYOND

Last month, we moved from the celebration of Christmas, and the wonder of the incarnation into the liturgical season of Epiphany. An Epiphany is a revealing or manifesting of something or someone, and as a church, we have been reflecting on the manifestation of Christ to all people.



“In this age of dislocation, when people around the globe are on the move, fleeing violence, crushing poverty and despair, Matthew’s account of the Epiphany presents us with another tale of a journey- a journey of faith and hope. Scripture tells us little about the travellers, these Magi from the East, who set out bearing gifts for a newborn king, based on their knowledge of prophecy and portents in the sky.

Martin Luther, among others, recognized the parallels between the Magi and the Queen of Sheba, who also came to Israel bearing gifts when she heard stories of the legendary wisdom of King Solomon. The magi had a higher aim than the queen; they did not come to learn from a human king but to pay homage to a divine one. The connection is reiterated in Matthew’s Gospel when Jesus declares, “something greater than Solomon is here.” (12:42)

The Feast of Epiphany, this journey of the Magi, reminds us that the Spirit of God, who was breathed out over the waters at creation, continues to move among us to love, call and enlighten all who are open to God’s presence.

This Spirit moved the Queen of Sheba and the Magi to give away their material possessions as they searched for something more real, more profound. God’s Spirit is not confined to any individual, any people, any church building, no matter how magnificent. Notice, it is not King Herod, the scribes or the temple priests of Israel who recognize or worship the newborn king, but outsiders, foreigners. If we shut our doors and our hearts to people of difference, like Herod or the infamous innkeepers of Bethlehem did, we might miss a chance to welcome bearers of God’s Spirit and God’s Word.

We encounter a better role model in Mary of Nazareth, who welcomed these unfamiliar guests and their unusual gifts rather than turn them away. It is easy to imagine this humble woman “reflecting on” and “treasuring” this visit, as she did the night she received her first unexpected visitors, a band of impoverished shepherds from the hillsides near Bethlehem singing God’s praises and speaking of angels (Luke 2:19).¹

It doesn’t matter what our age. we are constantly being challenged to grow in our faith. Two very strong messages struck a chord with me recently. Firstly, Pastor Andrew Kieselbach’s message, “this is my beloved son, Listen to him!” The emphasis was on “**Listen to him!**” And secondly, Rev Mark Dickens message, that Jesus continues to call us throughout our entire life. To quote Mark, “**So today, hear this good news: You are called, not away from who you are, but deeper into God’s presence. Called to seek. Called to trust. Called to follow, one step at a time.**”

Blessings

Jenny Stewart

¹Reflection by Ruth Cunnings, Candidate in the Society of the Sacred Heart, Canada



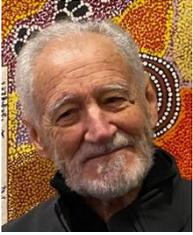
Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town

27 Grenfell St. Kent Town



NEW MINISTRY

We are delighted to welcome Rev Dr Jonathan Barker as our new Interim Minister. His placement with us commences 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. We look forward to partnering with him as we minister to this congregation and the wider community.



HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** will be held on **Sunday 22nd February** and will feature an **augmented Wesley Choir**. **Rev Dr Gary Stuckey** will lead worship.



Members of the congregation are asked to contribute tinned and packet food for a display of produce at the front of the church. All goods will be donated for distribution to people in need.

Setting up will take place on Saturday 21st February at 4.00 pm. It would be helpful if donations of produce were brought to the church that afternoon or any Sunday morning prior. If this is not convenient, please still bring things on the 22nd February and they will be added to the display.

QUIET CENTRE

We invite you to discover our **Quiet Centre**, open from 12.45-1.45pm every Wednesday. Experience a time of peace and reflection in our church, with opportunities for meditation and guided spiritual insights. Join us as we explore the tranquility of silence and simplicity.

Come and Find Your Quiet Centre

COMMUNITY SHED

The Shed is open every **Wednesday, and Saturday mornings from 9.00am until 1.00pm.** If you would like to participate, please feel free to call in and try your hand.



COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

Our Community Morning Teas will resume in the Middle Hall on Wednesday 4th February. This is viewed as an important outreach by this church to the local community. 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".



LENT & EASTER SERVICES

Easter is early this year and so our Harvest Thanksgiving Service falls on the first Sunday in Lent.

- **ASH WEDNESDAY, START OF LENT:**
Wednesday 18th February
- **PALM SUNDAY:**
Sunday 29th March
- **GOOD FRIDAY:**
Friday 3rd April
- **EASTER DAY:**
Sunday 5th April



Shrove Tuesday is on 17th February when it has become



the custom to have pancakes. Each year, churches are invited to participate in Pancake Day as a fundraising event for Uniting Care SA. We have registered and will hold our

"Pancake Day" event on **Wednesday, 4th March** during our **Community Morning Tea**. We hope you can join us and enjoy some delicious pancakes and support the important work of UnitingCare SA.



NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of **Jenny Church's son, Kym**, in a car accident on 18th January. Our hearts go out to Jenny and her family as they mourn Kym's passing in such tragic circumstances. Kym's funeral service will be held in the church on Saturday, 7th February at 1.30pm. Rev Dr Jonathan Barker will officiate.



Rev Mac Macdonald will celebrate his 90th Birthday on 27th February, 2026. Happy Birthday and congratulations Mac.

Helen Thomas is home after enjoying a 3 week holiday in Egypt. A highlight was visiting Mt Sinai (or Mt Moses) the revered, traditional site where Moses received the Ten Commandments.



Jenny Stewart visited **Ivan Miller** recently and gave him a card from the congregation and a framed Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of faithful service to Wesley Uniting Church at Kent Town. Ivan was quite touched to receive them.

CONTACTS

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