

# WESLEY NEWS

## MARCH DIARY DATES

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

*Holy Communion*

LENT 2

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

LENT 3

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm

*CHURCH COUNCIL*

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Phil Hoffmann

LENT 4

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Gary Stuckey

LENT 5

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

PALM SUNDAY



## 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

## From the Minister

### THE LENTEN JOURNEY

In recent times I have often heard it said, “It is all about power.” This year’s Lenten Gospel readings are all stories which weave the themes of power and the necessity to decide. Jesus journeys to Jerusalem and on the way has to decide what God requires of him. Let us take a peek at these stories and prepare to journey along with Jesus!

**The first is about TESTING.** Jesus, aware that he is “the beloved, the chosen” has now to choose what kind of messiah he should be. In the wilderness (symbolic of an “in between” time) he rejects the populist economic, political and messianic agendas and their false promises. It is all about power! So, what path did he choose? It was that of Isaiah’s suffering servant. His power would be that of self-giving love, in contrast to the ways power prevails in “this world.” We too are often tested about how we wield power or to which power we align ourselves and whether or not, it liberates or oppresses.

**The second is about RISKING.** Jesus’ encounter with Nicodemus reveals how hard it is to see the world differently when one is trapped within the security of an ideological system. Jesus does his best to liberate Nicodemus from his belief that only the Jews are special by asserting that “God so loved the world” with no limits. Bursting this bubble and being “born again” to live a new reality was too much of a risk for Nicodemus but hopefully not for us!

**The third is about ACCEPTING.** A Samaritan Woman discovers the radical inclusivity which Jesus himself took time to fully understand. She discovers the transformative inner power of the wellsprings of the spirit. This personal power released her from having to prove herself but also opened the door to accept others no matter how different they were. On our life journey we too will often have to choose to accept our being accepted and to accept the human worth of those who are different from us.

**The fourth is about TRUSTING.** A blind man becomes the living metaphor for being differently “sighted” and empowered to live in a hostile environment. It is amazing how offensive it can be if people choose to live differently. We too can become be subject to “blind spots”, but a Jesus “occasion” happens when we see through illusions and trust the new and living way of Jesus.

**The fifth is about POSSIBILITY.** A man called Lazarus is awakened from a “living death” to live the fullness of life. To his family and friends, Lazarus was doomed to live as is if he is in a tomb; no other possibility was open to him. Is this a story which foreshadows the death and resurrection reality which will be at the “end” of Jesus journey? What does it take to release us from a tomblike existence?

**The sixth is about CHOOSING.** Jesus enters Jerusalem acclaimed by the common people but then has to face the powers of this world with his alternative way of love. In a garden all alone the choice is stark, go to the cross or escape into oblivion. He decides to embrace what Bonhoeffer calls the “necessary deed” which despite crucifixion, will ultimately unmask the oppressive powers of “this world.” May we be granted faith’s courage to decide what is necessary when we are called upon to take a stand for the sake of others.

*Jonathan Barker*



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town

27 Grenfell St. Kent Town



## HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** was held on **Sunday 21st February** and featured an **augmented Wesley Choir**. Rev Dr Gary Stuckey led our worship.



Once again, our members were extremely generous with their contributions of tinned and packet food. It made for a magnificent display on the day. All goods were delivered to Uniting in Care, Salisbury, for distribution to people in need, along with a cash donation of \$100.

## PANCAKE DAY

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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



## AGM OF THE CONGREGATION

Our Annual General Meeting will be held immediately following Worship on **Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. Business will include receipt of Reports and presentation of the 2026 Budget. Kay Rooke's and Peter Skellon's terms of office expire. Kay offers herself for re-election. Peter has decided to retire and we thank him sincerely for his service to this congregation. If you are interested in serving on the Church Council please speak to the chairperson of the Church Council, Mrs Jenny Church.

## COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

Our Community Morning Teas are held in the Middle Hall every Wednesday. They are 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**”.



## 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.



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES



**PALM SUNDAY SERVICE:**  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am**  
**Rev Dr Jonathan Barker**

This 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: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**  
**at 10.00am**  
**Rev Dr Jonathan Barker**  
*Meditation on the*  
*Objects of the Cross*

**EASTER DAY: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**  
**at 10.00am**  
**Rev Dr Jonathan Barker**  
*The Feast of*  
*the Resurrection*



## NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE



It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of our dear friend **Dawn Lamont** aged 87 years. Dawn was a church member and also sang in the choir. She was very active in community and charitable work where she was highly regarded and respected. We have missed **Graham McGowan** from worship recently. He travelled by bus to the city for a medical appointment but unfortunately fell as he alighted. He was taken to hospital for treatment for cuts and bruises but is now back home after a short stay in the care of one of his daughters.

## ELECTION DAY SAUSAGE SIZZLE



The Front Hall will be used as a Polling Station on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March** for the **State Election**. Kent Town Residents Association will hold a **Sausage Sizzle** on this day. We will assist, and hope as many of you as possible can come and enjoy this event and help make it a success. It is a great way to connect with the local community.

## CONTACTS

**Interim Minister:** Rev Dr Jonathan Barker  
[jkimbarker@bigpond.com](mailto:jkimbarker@bigpond.com) 0416 157 811

**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  
[churchjenny3@gmail.com](mailto:churchjenny3@gmail.com) 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)