

# WESLEY NEWS

## APRIL DIARY DATES

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10.00am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker  
**GOOD FRIDAY**



Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker  
**Holy Communion**  
**EASTER DAY**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker  
**EASTER 2**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker  
**EASTER 3**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**ANZAC DAY**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Gary Stuckey  
**EASTER 4**

## 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

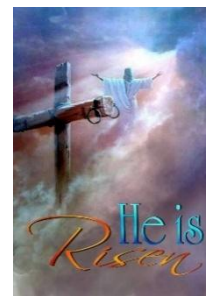
## WESLEY IS HOME TO

Adelaide Harmony Choir  
Metropolitan Musical  
Theatre Company  
Organ Music Society of  
Adelaide Music Library

## From the Minister

### THE CHURCH AS SOCIAL PIONEER

Julian Cribb's book "Surviving the 21st Century" remains in my opinion one of the best books about the existential threats posed by the runaway warming of the planet. In it he talks of humanity's ultimate survival skill - foresight. This resonates with a little gem by the late renowned sociologist-theologian Richard Niebuhr, (left) "The Church as Social Pioneer" written in the wake of World War Two when humanity had to face up to the social "evils" of racism, nationalism and economic imperialism.



Niebuhr proposed that to be true to its calling to forward the love of God and neighbour in the world, the church must take on the role of social pioneer. He contends that in every society there are the "sensitive and responsive" ones who are the first to step forward in response to the challenges of their times. Here is the connection with Julian Cribb - people of foresight, who can name a crisis, understand its causes and then be bold enough to take a lead in meeting that crisis, who as "social pioneers" act for the sake of all.

Cribb lists the risks to civilisation associated with climate change, for example mass extinctions, resource depletion, toxic oceans, food crises, population displacement, pandemic diseases and the capacity for humans to be self-deluded. But if the capacity of foresight is matched with the will to act, then ultimate disaster may be averted. Again, those who respond for the sake of sustaining life on earth may be called social pioneers.

To me the Jesus movement that arose after the resurrection was a social pioneering of the peaceful alternative to Roman rule based on fear and an economy based on slavery. Although it took almost 1800 years for church and society to name slavery as truly against the will of God (how do we know what is against the will of God? Niebuhr says the clue is where one sees "innocent suffering"). It began with an enlightened few who pressed home the idea that slavery was "evil" thus shaming nations into abolishing slavery. I am sure we can all think of other examples over the past century when "social pioneers" acted to bring about freedoms that we may now take for granted.

Niebuhr is also clear that the institutional church itself may have to be awakened by "social pioneers" to act responsibly when faced with new threats to life. He says, "As the representative and pioneer of humankind, the Church meets its social responsibility when in its own thinking, organisation and action it functions as a world society, undivided by race, class and national interests." Regarding the risks to the continuation of life on earth, is it not time for the church to take a lead in our society? The Synod's "Environmental Action Group" in response, challenges Uniting Churches to take a stronger stand and set an example of meaningful (and sacrificial) ways to respond to climate change.

Niebuhr concludes by proposing that social pioneering is "the highest form of social responsibility of the Church. It is the direct demonstration of love of God and neighbour... the radical demonstration of faith." And when this happens, "the deed of Christ is reduplicated." Maybe we could say that the hope is that the planet itself will witness a resurrection!

*Jonathan Barker*



**Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town**

**27 Grenfell St. Kent Town**



## DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS

Daylight saving ends on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Please remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour the night before and enjoy an extra hour in bed before getting ready for church. Mobile phones and computers adjust automatically

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES



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

This was a beautiful start to Holy Week. A service of readings and choral music presented by an *augmented choir* led our thoughts from the palm-strewn arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem through penitential music towards the power and solemnity of Good Friday. We thank the members of the augmented choir and organist and choir director, Graham Bell for organising this special service.

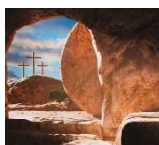


**GOOD FRIDAY: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**  
at 10.00am

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*



## 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. Election of members of Church Council will be held. Kay Rooke has been nominated for re-election.

If you are interested in serving on the Church Council please speak to the chairperson of the Church Council, Mrs Jenny Church to obtain a nomination form.

## 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.



## PANCAKE DAY

Our Pancake Day, held during our Community Morning Tea on 4<sup>th</sup> March, was successful in raising \$120.00 which has been forwarded to Uniting Care SA Emergency Services. In acknowledgement, we received a letter of appreciation and a Certificate which is on display in our morning tea hall. UnitingCare SA Emergency Services, part of the UnitingCare network, provides vital community services to support vulnerable



individuals and families in South Australia, offering emergency assistance, advocacy, support, and referrals to other services.

## NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

We have been delighted that **Emma Farrell** and **Murray Munro** have joined us for worship recently and we extend a special welcome to both of them. It is always a joy to meet new people and hear their stories. Murray lives locally so can walk to church. He enjoys a traditional style of worship. Emma has a son, Lucky, who is studying at University, and is currently house sitting. One of her duties is to look after the owner's snake. **Janet Ingleton** has been away for three weeks in the eastern states, She travelled by bus to Albury and then train to Sydney. A highlight of her holiday was a 5 day/4 night rail tour on the 'Southern Aurora' run by Vintage Rail Journeys. **Graham McGowan** has been coping quiet well at home since his fall while alighting from a bus last month and is wisely not travelling by bus any more. Recently he has had a stay in Calvary Hospital North Adelaide to remove a skin cancer from one of his ears. We send our love and prayers to him for a good recovery.

**Fiona Atkinson's** sister, Katherine and husband, Simon are visiting from Ireland. The main purpose of their visit was to inter their mother, Joan's ashes in the same plot where their father is buried in the cemetery at Overland Corner on the Murray River. Overland Corner is an historic locality with the Hotel (circa 1860) having a National Trust listing. The cemetery sits within a 300 hectare Nature Reserve.

## 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  
[ggb59au@outlook.com](mailto:ggb59au@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)