

# WESLEY NEWS

## MAY DIARY DATES

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

Rev Alison Whish

**Holy Communion**

**EASTER 5**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

**EASTER 6**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>

**ASCENSION DAY**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Mark Dickens

**EASTER 7**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

**PENTECOST**



Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Gary Stuckey

**TRINITY 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

### WHO ARE THESE DEACONS IN THE UNITING CHURCH?

A summary of responses to questions asked when doing a supply at Morialta.

*Jonathan some have wondered why you wear your stole across your body. Is it a personal preference?* No, not personal. When the Uniting Church renewed the Diaconate in 1991, I changed from Minister of the Word to Deacon. An ancient tradition is that deacons wear stoles across the body, pinned at the side to signify that they are the ones ready for action!

*What is the prior history of Deacons in our church?* Before union, Presbyterians had deaconesses (who were ordained). Methodists did too (they were commissioned). It was a way for women to serve the church in stipended ministries because it was thought that only men could be ordained Ministers. The Congregationalists however ordained women and rejected what could be regarded as a subservient order of ministry.

*What is the origin of a diaconal ministry?* We read in Acts chapter 6 that the Greek speaking widows in the church in Jerusalem were “overlooked” in the monetary distribution in favour of the Jewish widows. The church was becoming multicultural. To redress this inequity seven Greek men called deacons were appointed to enact a ministry of service. Later as the church became increasingly hierarchical the diaconate became a lesser ministry. While Anglicans still have deacons it is really only a step on the way up to the “real thing” of being priested!

*What is distinctive about the ministry of Deacon in the Uniting Church?* Over the last century many Protestant deaconess orders struggled against a male dominated church and having lesser roles and authority. A ground swell to renew the diaconate is reflected in the Basis of Union where a commitment was made to explore the ministry of deacon. When implemented in 1991, the role of deacons is to lead the church into more authentic ways of serving the wider world in the name of Christ. Their ministries focus on justice and peace, empowering the disadvantaged, providing advocacy and grass roots organising. Our ministry is one of service – the bowl and towel is our symbol. We are also very aware of the great challenge to share the gospel of grace in a largely secularised society.

*Are there many Deacons in the SA Synod?* There are now about 20 deacons serving in South Australia. Deacons tend to move across Synod boundaries. Many have served in Frontier Services patrol ministries and with Indigenous communities. Incidentally Rev Denise Champion is the first Indigenous Deacon in South Australia. When we serve in congregation placements, you can expect that there will be clear emphasis on challenging the church to be engaged in serving the wider community.

*Is the role of the Diaconate in the Uniting Church changing?* Frankly, I believe that the Uniting Church is in a watershed moment. Our future is going to be quite different from the past. Congregations will have to be more in tune with what is happening in the world. The challenge is to discern where God is saying “no” to all that is dehumanising as well as to discern where God is saying “yes” to new patterns of human existence. If we can do that then we can find powerful ways to be the church in God’s good world.

**Jonathan Barker**



Picture of some deacons serving in SA taken at Ordination of Rev Frances Bartholmeusz.



**Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town**  
27 Grenfell St. Kent Town



## CHURCH SERVICES



### *Holy Week & Easter Services*

We enjoyed some especially spiritually uplifting worship on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day, and we thank all those involved in planning and delivering those services.

### *Easter -Pentecost*

The liturgical season of Easter continues this month and towards the end of the month, services will focus on the Ascension of Jesus followed by Pentecost when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

### *Short Term Worship Arrangements*

Worship services will continue as normal while Graham Bell is recovering from surgery. We have several organists booked to play for services and accompany the choir.

## AGM OF THE CONGREGATION

Our Annual General Meeting was held on **Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. Kay Rooke was unanimously elected for a further 5-year term of office. We extend our thanks to Kay for her willingness to continue to serve in this capacity. Elected members of Church Council are Graham Bell, Jenny Church, Kay Rooke and Jenny Stewart. Rev Dr Jonathan Barker is a member ex-officio.

## RESTORATION OF CHURCH BUILDING

At the AGM, Graham Bell spoke to the meeting about the urgent need to repair and restore the southern transept wall and large stained-glass window. Reports have been received from architects, builders and a stained-glass restorer, with the total cost of the project being in the order of \$150,000.00. An application for a State Heritage Grant of \$20,000.00 to assist with this project has been submitted and we are hopeful that this will be successful. We have some available funds in a Conservation & Restoration Trust Fund that was established with the National Trust of South Australia in 2022 using a bequest from the estate of the late Jean Lang. Even if we are successful in receiving the State Heritage Grant, we will still have insufficient funds to cover the full cost of the restoration so additional fund raising will be required.



## CONSERVATION & RESTORATION APPEAL

This Appeal is ongoing and people are invited to make donations to enable significant restorative work to be carried out on this state heritage listed building. All donations are tax deductible. Please collect one of our brochures to find out how to donate.

## 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.



## NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

We were delighted that **Ivan Miller** was able to join us for worship on Good Friday. Ivan also celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 21<sup>st</sup> April. We send him our congratulations and best wishes.



We are also very pleased that **Graham McGowan** has recovered from some surgery and is back attending worship each week.

Several other members have been unwell recently. **Kim Baker** spent two weeks in Calvary Adelaide Hospital. After extensive tests, the doctors finally discovered that the cause of her symptoms was related to a prescribed medication she had been taking. She is now home from hospital and feeling much better.

**Peter Skellon** is currently also in Calvary Adelaide Hospital. He became unwell at the end of morning tea on the last Sunday in April and was admitted to hospital later in the afternoon.

**Graham Bell** is another of our members under the care of the medical staff at Calvary Adelaide Hospital, having undergone major heart surgery on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Thanks to the skill of his surgeons, his surgery has been successful and after a lengthy period of recovery and rehabilitation he is expected to enjoy much improved health. We thank God for the doctors and nursing staff for their dedication and care and send our love and prayers to dear friends as they recover.



## CONTACTS

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