

WESLEY NEWS

JULY DIARY DATES

Sunday 5th at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Anna
Grant-Henderson

TARTAN SUNDAY
PENTECOST 6

Thursday 9th at 2.00pm

CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 12th at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

Holy Communion
PENTECOST 7

Sunday 19th at 10.00 am

Rev Brian Morgan

PENTECOST 8

Sunday 26th at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Gary Stuckey

PENTECOST 9



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 TARTAN AS A SYMBOL OF CULTURAL IDENTITY

Around the world these days there is a growing emphasis on cultural homogeneity. The most oppressive example is probably in China where Tibetans and Uighurs have had to give up their languages, religions and cultural practices. If a nation promotes a monocultural identity, it ignores the fact that a nation like ours includes minorities who have cultural identities which will differ from the majority. This would include not only immigrants but First Nations people as well. The message to them would seem to be that they do not really belong.

Tartan Sunday is a great reminder of the Scottish cultural heritage. The tartan became a symbol of Scottish identity, from the 17th century onward. This was despite a ban under the Dress Act of 1746 lasting about two generations following the Jacobite rising of 1745. The English ascendancy's policy was really a policy of assimilation. Did it work? No! Scottish cultural practices just went underground



until 1822 when King George IV visited Scotland, the first to do so in nearly two centuries. He asked those attending the official gatherings to wear their family tartans. Sir Walter Scott organised the trip and further encouraged people in Scotland to wear tartan again. Since then, the tartan and highland dress has become symbolic of the unique Scottish cultural heritage and is special to the Scottish diaspora around the world.

It is interesting that the earliest Christian community, whose original cultural identity was specifically Hebraic-Jewish, should very quickly spread its message to peoples of the ancient world with multiple cultural identities. The day of Pentecost lists 15 different "nations" present (although the text actually says "every nation under heaven"). This event affirms two things – first the fact of there being different peoples and languages – but second, that all are part of the one human race (the symbol being understanding each other despite language differences). The early church soon became a tapestry of different cultural identities while having to live within the dominant Roman imperium. Later Constantine made Christianity the official religion and it would seem that began an emphasis on cultural homogeneity with the mandated use of the Latin language. Again, did it mean cultural assimilation was totally successful? No.

I want to share with you that I for one, value the multiculturalism which we enjoy in Australia. In fact we may be the most successful multicultural nation in the world. Yes, many may still struggle to shake off the assimilationist ideas of the past; the rejection of the First Nations' request to have a Voice to Parliament may be such an example. However, the multicultural reality is here to stay. Across the nation we now have a wonderful variety of peoples who in recent times have made Australia home. It is also good to recall that as we enter the 50th year of being the Uniting Church in Australia that in 1985, we declared that "we are a multicultural church". Last Saturday my wife and I attended the Souk event held at Flinders University. (Souk is a middle eastern term for market.) It was a marvellous example of so many different cultural groups buying and selling, socialising, eating and being entertained. As descendants of English, Scottish and Cornish migrants, we could not have felt more "at home" on that day!

Jonathan Barker



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell St. Kent Town



TARTAN SUNDAY

A Tartan Sunday Service will be held on **Sunday 5th July 2026 at 10.00 am**. On this occasion, we welcome representatives of Scottish clans, bagpipers and highland dancers as we celebrate together the reclaiming of Scottish independence from the



English on the **anniversary of the Repeal Proclamation of 1782, annulling the Act of Proscription of 1747**. Please invite family and friends along to enjoy the occasion. Morning Tea will follow the service.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

We are delighted to announce that Rev Dr Jonathan Barker has agreed to a three month extension of his placement with us which will now conclude at the end of October 2026. We have been very appreciative of Jonathan's spiritual leadership, guidance and pastoral care and look forward to the extra time we will have together.

RESTORATION OF CHURCH BUILDING



CONSERVATION & RESTORATION APPEAL

The loose panel in the stained-glass window in the southern transept of the church has been secured by a building company called G-Force. Scaffolding was erected in the southern gallery then the builders came back another day and stabilised and covered the affected panel. Afterwards the scaffolding was removed. We were expecting that all the lower panels would be covered with plywood but fortunately this was not necessary and only the affected panel is covered. From an aesthetic point of view this is much better. It is a relief to not have to worry that the window will collapse with the next strong gale.



You may also remember that we submitted an application for a state Heritage Grant of \$20,000 towards the cost of the repair of the stained-glass window and the southern transept wall. We should hear whether we were successful in securing this grant soon. We are appealing for 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 to our Conservation & Restoration Trust Fund that has been established with the National Trust SA.

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 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"**.

NEW TENANTS

We are pleased to welcome a new Christian Church Community, **El Shaddai Revival Church** who have commenced using the church as a place of worship each Sunday evening. El Shaddai is a prominent name for God in the Hebrew Bible and in English is translated as "God Almighty". They describe themselves as a Christ-centred church grounded in the Word of God and passionate about sharing the love and power of Jesus Christ with the world. They are a church family where believers grow in faith, encounter God's presence, and walk together in love and unity.

The **Phonograph Society of SA** will now meet in the back hall every second Friday from 7.00pm to 10.00pm. They would welcome new members.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Peter Skellon is still in respite care at Lourdes Valley Residential Care facility in Myrtle Bank but is looking to move into full time residential care at a facility closer to Kent Town because he is keen to maintain his connections with the church. His friend Graham kindly brought him to church a couple of weeks ago and also to one of our Wednesday morning teas. **Graham McGowan** has been away for a few weeks enjoying a cruise along the Queensland coast with one of his daughters.

Ailin Pan and **Yung Ho Pok** will be visiting us again from Japan and will be back here on 2nd July. It will be a delight to see them again.



CONTACTS

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