

WESLEY NEWS

AUGUST DIARY DATES

Sunday 2nd at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

Holy Communion

PENTECOST 10

Sunday 9th at 10.00 am

Rev Mark Dickens

PENTECOST 11

Thursday 13th 2.00pm

CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 16th at 10.00 am

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

PENTECOST 12

Sunday 23rd at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Gary Stuckey

PENTECOST 13

Sunday 30th at 10.00 am

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker

PENTECOST 14



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

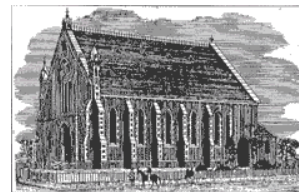
Metropolitan Musical

Theatre Company

Organ Music Society of
Adelaide Music Library

FROM THE MINISTER – THE JUBILEE CHURCH

When I was a student at Prince Alfred College, I regarded myself to be well acquainted with the Kent Town Methodist church. But I had no idea that when the church was founded it was first called the Kent Town Wesleyan Jubilee Church – or just the Jubilee Church. Intrigued I consulted Marlene Edwards' wonderful history of the church and discovered that the word JUBILEE was used because it celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the founding of both the Wesleyan Missionary Society and the Australasian Wesleyan Church. I am aware too that the word Jubilee is used for a whole range of anniversaries including the 50th or golden wedding anniversary of married couples. However, if we trace the biblical origins of Jubilee as a celebration, we shall come up with some thought-provoking surprises, strangely apt for our times.



Let me elaborate. The book of Leviticus details all the laws which flow from the ten commandments. Many now seem quite unrelated to the social reality of our day. Be that as it may, there is a section where we find the injunction to have a jubilee as part of belonging to the nation of Israel. Jubilee was in fact an extension of the commandment to have a sabbath, which was not only the need to have a day of rest but was also a day to remember that once they were freed slaves who were then covenanted with a loving and liberating God. What did this jubilee look like? Whereas a sabbath was on the seventh day of the week, a jubilee year happened after seven times seven years (i.e. 49 years) in the 50th year.

The word itself has Hebraic roots associated with the trumpet sound of a ram's horn. The Greek version of the Old Testament led to our English word and referred to jubilee as "a trumpet-blast of liberty". Why liberty? What was meant to happen in the year of jubilee? Every fiftieth year, all leased or mortgaged lands were to be returned to their original owners, and all slaves and bonded labourers were to be freed. Despite difficulties in banking and land transactions, (there were provisions designed to deal with this) the underlying intent was to ensure that everyone had access to the means of production, whether the family farm or simply the fruits of their own labour. Having had a history of enslavement, bonded labour was best terminated to guarantee that it did not in fact become a cover for slavery.

What I find intriguing is the societal dimension of being the people of God. Justice is core because the natural tendency was as always for some to get richer by having a greater share of land which then led to inequities and social stratification. Land redistribution aimed to prevent excessive wealth and democratised private property. The Jubilee provides an economic structure that regularly dissolves large economic inequalities. Given that every fifty years almost every citizen in Ancient Israel was entitled to a plot of land it resonates with our present times in promoting a form of asset-based egalitarianism, which in turn could justify something like a universal basic income. While originally for an agrarian society, the Jubilee principles of economic justice remain relevant and can be adapted to the modern world.

Do we find echoes of jubilee in the New Testament? We certainly do. When Jesus opened the scroll early in the gospel according to Luke, he identified himself with the servant as described by Isaiah whose agenda was to announce good news to the poor, to liberate the captives and oppressed, to give sight to the blind and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. "Year" here is like the jubilee flourishing of an equitable social order. Then again in Mark, Jesus could be said to have had a Jubilee ideology when he emphasised that wealth must be redistributed as a precondition of the kingdom of God.

While our 161st Anniversary celebration is not associated with a special word, I invite you to join with us as we explore further something in our heritage which still has significance for us as we continue our journey as the people of God into the future.

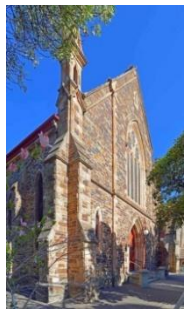
Jonathan Barker



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell St. Kent Town



161st ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



A special service to commemorate 161 years of worship and service to this community will be held in the church on **Sunday 16th August 2026 at 10.00 am**. The worship leader will be **Rev Dr Jonathan Barker**. There will be an augmented Wesley Choir and special music. A celebratory Morning Tea will be held in the Hall following worship.

Please invite family and friends along to make this a truly memorable occasion.

TARTAN SUNDAY



The **Tartan Sunday Service** held on **Sunday 5th July 2026 at 10.00 am** was highly successful. We welcomed representatives of Scottish clans, bagpipers and highland dancers and celebrated 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**, which had made wearing tartan an offence. Rev Dr Anna Grant-Henderson was the worship leader.

RESTORATION OF CHURCH BUILDING



CONSERVATION & RESTORATION APPEAL



We are appealing for donations to enable significant restorative work to be carried out on the southern transept wall and window. 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.

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".

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Vale Ivan Miller

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our dear friend **Ivan Miller** who passed away peacefully on Friday 17th July 2026. Ivan bravely fought on through a year-long period of illness with great strength and courage, supported and cared for by his wife Lidia in their home which he loved.



Ivan was an active member of this congregation and made a significant contribution to the church in a variety of ways. He was a member of the Church Council for



many years, serving as Secretary and later Treasurer. He was also the person in charge of church maintenance and coordinator of groups hiring church premises. Ivan was a great lover of music and was a member of the Wesley

choir and was also a regular bible reader during Sunday worship. We thank God for Ivan's life and his contribution to the life and worship of Wesley Kent Town Church and can take comfort knowing that he is now resting peacefully with the Lord.

A service to celebrate Ivan's life was held in the Florey Chapel at Centennial Park Cemetery on Thursday, 31st July 2026, with Rev Dr Jonathan Barker officiating. We hold Ivan's family, especially his wife Lidia, their children, Roger and Stefanie and grandson, Declan in our thoughts and prayers.



Peter Skellon is now a resident at Eldercare The Lodge at Wayville. He is hoping to continue worshipping with us at Kent Town as often as possible.

We have been delighted to welcome back **Ailin Pan** and **Yung Ho Pok** from Japan. Ailin is a valuable inclusion in the choir.

Doug Baker's wife, Enid, is currently in Flinders Hospital recovering from a stroke. We send them our love and prayers at this worrying time in their life.

CONTACTS

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