

WESLEY NEWS

OCTOBER DIARY DATES

.....
Sunday 2nd at 10.00am

Rev James Winn

HOLY COMMUNION

PENTECOST 20

Sunday 9th at 10.00am

Rev James Winn

PENTECOST 21

Monday 10th at 4.00pm

Church Council

Wednesday 12th midday

Come-to-Lunch

Royal Coach Hotel

Sunday 16th at 10.00am

Rev David Purling

PENTECOST 22

Wednesday 19th 2.00pm

Winter/Spring Concert

Sunday 23rd at 10.00am

Rev Mac Macdonald

PENTECOST 23

Sunday 30th at 10.00am

Rev James Winn

PENTECOST 24

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice

Wednesday 7.30pm

ARTS @ WESLEY

Patchworkers

& Quilters

Monday morning

Contact Pat 8331 9816

WESLEY IS HOME TO

.....
Young Adelaide Voices

Adelaide Harmony Choir

Metropolitan Musical

Theatre Company

Monteverdi Singers

As you get to read this letter it will have been one year since I commenced as your interim minister at Wesley UC, Kent Town. It has been quite a year!

I decided that I would read the minutes from each of the Church Council meetings I've attended since commencing before writing this month's letter. It's quite amazing what we have managed to achieve together.

Of course, not everything envisaged in these meetings has come to fruition and I suspect that some of you may be saying, "Just as well!"

Reflecting on this past year I found myself wondering what was the most significant thing I had learned and what it was that I had enjoyed most. The more I thought about it, the more challenging the questions became.

In current Australian politics there is a longing in some quarters to return to the presumed Anglo monoculture of earlier Australian life. The truth is, however, that despite how much early white Australian life may appear to have been a monoculture from our present perspective, it never was a monoculture. Interestingly enough, indigenous Australia never was and still isn't a monoculture. While early white Australian life may have been more frugal and less complex than it is today there is no way we can go back to these earlier and, presumably "simpler" times. To think we can is delusional. To promote the idea that we can is a lie.

If there is anything I have learned this year it is just how profound the truth of not being able to go back to former glory is as true for Christianity and, of course, the Church, as it is for Australian society. The truth is that if we want future generations to discover and value what we have discovered and valued in Christian faith and community, we will need to be open to taking a leap forward rather than a step back. From our perspective we may not recognise the church of tomorrow. What is more there is no God "out there" who is going to rescue us. If the Christmas story, the story of God dwelling with us, means anything, it means that we are charged with living out and expressing the divinity which is within each one of us.

How to engage the community around us, including our own friends and families, is, I think, the challenge which faces every Christian congregation. It is certainly one of the challenges for Wesley. Part of the purpose of our Planning Day held earlier in the year was to help do just this. Believe me, the desire to have meaning in life is as real today as it always has been. Opportunity knocks!

What have I enjoyed most in the past year? I have really appreciated the growing friendship of a goodly number of people and the comfortableness of my working relationships when it comes to the worship and business of the congregation. They are a real joy. I have enjoyed the opportunities I have had to preach and I've been honoured by the interest that has often been shown in my sermons! I really doubt that they are anything profound but I am glad that people have found them to be helpful on occasion. I am pleased that "Come to Lunch" has been as successful as it has been and that our small study group which is currently studying Peter Rollins' book, *The Divine Magician*, has provided opportunity for some deep, reflective and provocative conversation. I also have a great time conducting weddings and baptisms even though preparing for them can be quite time consuming. This is an area of potential development both in terms of lifting the profile of the congregation and as a ministry to engage with the wider community. I have met some fabulous people as a part of this ministry.

The end of my interim placement is not yet in sight. I believe that sometime reasonably early in the coming year the wheels and cogs of the placement process and the movement of God's Spirit will coalesce and a person will find him or herself called to ministry here at Wesley, Kent Town. In the meantime I will continue to enjoy ministry with you and I thank you for all the good things and blessings you have brought to my life.

Grace and Peace
Jim Winn

Wesley Uniting Church
Kent Town



It was with great sorrow that we learned of the sudden passing of **Mary Davidson, AM**, who had been a member of our congregation for the past two years. Mary was much loved and was greatly respected for her community work. She will be sadly missed.



THANK YOU JIM

Rev Jim Winn has just completed his first year of ministry with us and we thank him for his dedication to the Wesley Kent Town people. We have appreciated his friendship, leadership, insight and spiritual guidance. In particular, we are grateful for the encouragement to find new ways of moving forward together as a congregation.

REDEDICATION OF WAR MEMORIAL WINDOW



A rededication of the stained glass war memorial window in the Mark Symons Hall will be held on **Sunday afternoon, 13th November 2016** following the Anniversary of Ordination Service. This window has recently undergone major restoration and has been reinstalled in the main hall where it was first positioned 96 years ago as a memorial to the young men who attended the Kent Town Methodist Sunday School.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION SERVICE

A special service will be held on **Sunday 13th November 2016 at 2.00 pm** to recognise 50 years of faithful service as ordained ministers of Rev John Maddern, Rev Jim Murton & Rev John Woodhouse. As there are only 3 ordinands this year, the Church Council has decided to broaden the scope to make this a "Celebration of Ordained Ministry". The service will be led by Rev Jim Winn and Rev Sue Ellis (Moderator Elect Uniting Church in South Australia) with Rev David Purling as the guest preacher. Organist Graham Bell will conduct an augmented choir for this occasion.

SMALL GROUP STUDY

A small study group led by Rev Jim Winn, is meeting every Tuesday morning at 10.00 am. in the minister's vestry. The group, comprised of 8 members of the congregation, are discussing a very thought provoking and controversial book called "The Divine Magician" as a basis for their reflection.

2016 CONCERT SERIES

The next Spring concert will be held on **Wednesday 19th October at 2.00 pm**. It features Bass Baritone, Robert Dawe and organist/pianist, Damien Mansfield. All concerts are held in the Church with a generous afternoon tea to follow in the hall. Admission is \$10 at the door

COME-TO-LUNCH

Our next monthly lunch will be held at the **Adelaide Royal Coach Hotel** on **Wednesday, 12th September at 12.00 noon**. The hotel is located at 24 Dequetteville Terrace Kent Town, on the corner of Bartels Road. Parking is limited so please plan to arrive early.

JUST A THOUGHT

The secret of happiness – be content with what you have.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Penelope Hackett-Jones is travelling in Cornwall before heading to France for a 3-week tour, where she hopes to work on her knowledge of the French language. She writes that "she was quite taken aback by the huge crowds in the small Cornish coastal villages, and it is not even the peak tourist season! Doc Martin has certainly put the place on the map." **Beryl Kennett** has returned home after travelling in France with her daughter for a month. Unfortunately she took ill and ended up in hospital there for a brief period. We are sorry that her holiday was marred and hope she will soon be back to full health. **Deborah White** returned home safely from Italy. Whilst she was not personally affected by the recent earthquakes, as she lives north of the affected area, she reported graphic stories of the devastation that has taken place. We are delighted to have her back in the soprano section of the choir which has been quite depleted in recent weeks. **Trevor Leane and wife Lee** took a week's bus tour to Ceduna recently. They had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. **Graham & KK Stacey** have been in Adelaide and worshipping with us again. Unfortunately it will be quite a short visit because Graham will need to travel to Hobart soon for his work on the Antarctic Icebreaker project. We do appreciate having them with us even for only a short time. **Raelene Chelley** has been well enough to worship again with us following some successful knee surgery. We hope her health continues to improve. **Fernetta Bartlett** had a brief stay in hospital but has now recovered reasonably well and managed to participate in some lively discussion in the study group.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Here is an idea for us at Wesley to consider this Christmas. Start the **Reverse Advent Calendar** when you start your regular Advent Calendar. Take a basket or box, and every day leading up to Christmas, add something useful to the box (tinned food, cleaning stuff, toys, whatever you think would be welcome). Then, on Christmas Eve (or just after), donate the entire basket and contents to your local charity, e.g. Uniting Communities. Rev Jim Winn would like to hear your view about this.



CONTACTS

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Monday – Thursday 10.00am – 3.00pm (school term)
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