

WESLEY NEWS

**DECEMBER
DIARY DATES**

Sunday 4th at 10.00am
Rev Mac Macdonald
Holy Communion
ADVENT 2

Sunday 11th at 10.00am
Rev James Winn
*Baptism of
Eve Willow James*
ADVENT 3

Monday 12th at 4.00pm
Church Council

Sunday 18th at 10.00am
Rev James Winn
Lessons & Carols Service
ADVENT 4

Sunday 25th at 9.00am
Rev James Winn
CHRISTMAS DAY

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

WARNING.....WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS

This Christmas you will need to be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some *signs* and *symptoms* of The Advent Virus are:-

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very worrying symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- Increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this message out to all your friends. This virus has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out by it.

Oh dear! If only it were true! Wouldn't it be marvellous to think that the Advent season and Christmas itself had such infectious power that the world would be at peace, that justice and mercy would prevail and that we would not be in fear of morally bankrupt politicians and corporate moguls as they strut the world stage?

You can, of course, let the Advent and Christmas virus infect you. It's not like an influenza virus which comes like a thief in the night taking over your life without your permission and forcing you to cope with headaches, muscle and joint pain and constant, so very constant, sneezing. It's more like prescription medicine which you need to take. You need to invite the Advent virus into your life.

How is this done? Perhaps we need to start by going with Mary and Joseph as they go door knocking in Bethlehem looking for accommodation and develop a genuine sense of empathy for them and for all those throughout history and today who share their plight. Perhaps we should go with them to Egypt as they flee in fear of their lives. Maybe we could think of the families in Aleppo or Mosul as they flee in fear of their lives, seeing friends and family butchered by the instruments of war.

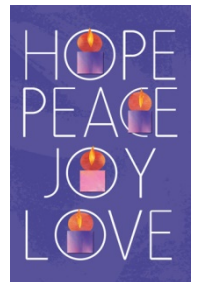
We could join the shepherds who, having heard wondrous news about this newborn child, travelled to Bethlehem to see this infant for themselves. Maybe we need to come to the manger in awe at the good news of the angels? If we let that experience sink in we would possibly leave, as the shepherds did, glorifying and praising God. Or, perhaps, we could join the wise men from the east who came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Will we pay Jesus homage as the wise men are reported to have done? Will we open our treasure-chests and offer him our gifts? Perhaps it is because our homage is so qualified and our gift-giving so measured that neither our peers nor our youth seem overly interested in the Christian way.

Let me invite you to join the angels, the shepherds and the wise men this Advent-Christmas season as we travel to Bethlehem and gather around the manger. You may well be surprised at what happens to you.

Have a merry and peaceful as well as holy Christmas, enjoy celebrating with your family and friends, and let the Advent virus in. You may well be surprised at the result.

Grace and peace,
Jim Winn

Wesley Uniting Church
Kent Town



2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Special Services: Tenebrae Meal & Service, Harvest Thanksgiving Service, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Day, shared services with PAC, RSCM Annual Choral Festival, 151st Church Anniversary, 50th Anniversary of Ordination service.

Events: Uniting Women's Conference, hosting Wattle Racing Pedal Prix Team, afternoon tea with College Green residents, rededication of War Memorial Window.

Social Activities: Monthly "Come-to-Lunch" gatherings, morning teas, visit to Mark & Pat's farm, Working Bees.

Concerts: Winter/Spring Concerts, July to November.

Spiritual Growth Opportunities: weekly Services of Worship, Planning Day, study & discussion Group.

We are grateful to our leadership group who put so much work into organising and running these events – our ministers, the members of Church Council, organist and choir, as well as other church members.

2016 WINTER/SPRING CONCERTS

This series, with its varied program and talented musicians, was greatly appreciated by the audiences of over one hundred on each occasion. The assistance of church members in ensuring the smooth running of the concerts was appreciated and our sincere thanks belong to the small group of ladies who arranged and managed the afternoon teas, and to the people who donated food.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Elizabeth & Frank Brookes have been on a holiday to Singapore, Vietnam and China. Unfortunately they contracted Influenza Type A while away and this has marred their trip somewhat. **Trevor & Lee Leane** have been enjoying a cruise to Perth. **Graham & KK Stacey** are heading off for a short trip to New Zealand before joining us again for Christmas. **Robert Corbett** has had further surgery but is recovering well, and **Catharina** is rather battered and bruised following the removal of 2 wisdom teeth. **Catherine Courtney** is still not in good health but we hope she will be back with us soon. **Annis Bennett** is finding it difficult to get out and about. She too has been greatly missed. **Robin Douglas** is home from hospital, but husband, **John** is not well. Please remember them, and others in need, in your prayers.

CARETAKER

Justin Harris, our caretaker, has resigned and this will take effect from the 12th December, 2016. We thank Justin for his services to Wesley Kent Town and wish him, and his family, well in the future

ORGAN RECITAL Sunday 8th January, 2017, 3.00pm

Malcolm Archer will be the Director of the Annual Summer School of the Royal School of Church Music being held in Adelaide from 4th to 11th January 2017. On Sunday 8th January at 3.00 pm, he will give an organ recital at Wesley Church Kent Town. He has a distinguished and worldwide reputation as a choral and orchestral conductor, organ recitalist, teacher, composer and editor. Malcolm Archer has worked at Norwich, Bristol and Wells Cathedrals, and as Organist and Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral in London. He is currently Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College in England. Admission charge is \$20.



ORGAN UPGRADE

The number of pipes in the organ has increased. A Tuba from the former Maughan Church organ has been relocated and installed at Kent Town. It fulfils a plan to add to the majestic sound of the instrument. The generous donations received have made this possible.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

We prepare for the coming of Christ during this season and accordingly the church is decorated with an Advent Wreath, Nativity Scene and Christmas tree. There is a basket under the tree where you are invited to place grocery items to be donated to Uniting Communities.



SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday 18th December 2016 at 10.00 am

This special service, relating the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus through Bible readings and music, features an augmented choir led by organist, Graham Bell.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25th December 2016 at 9.00 am

A worship service celebrating the birth of Christ and the coming of love into the world will be held on Christmas Day.

Please invite family and friends to both of these services.



JUST A THOUGHT

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

~Mahatma Gandhi

CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL

The Christmas Bowl is the Christmas Appeal of "Act for Peace", the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Envelopes are available, and the Christmas Day offering will be donated to this appeal.



CONTACTS

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Church Council Chair: Dr Mark Symons
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Church Office: Tracy Shepherd

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