

WESLEY NEWS

DECEMBER DIARY DATES

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Sunday 6th at 10.00 am
 Rev Alex Rodgers &
 Rev Mac Macdonald
Holy Communion
ADVENT 2

Thursday 10th at 2.00pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 13th at 10.00 am
 Rev Alex Rodgers
ADVENT 3

Sunday 20th at 10.00 am
SERVICE OF
LESSONS & CAROLS
ADVENT 4

Friday 25th at 9.00 am
 Rev Alex Rodgers
CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 27th at 10.00 am
 Rev Mac Macdonald
CHRISTMAS 1

MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice
 Wednesday evenings in the
 Church at 7.30 pm

ARTS @ WESLEY

Patchworkers & Quilters
 Monday mornings in the
 Susannah Wesley Hall
 9.30am
 Contact Pat: 8331 9816

WESLEY IS HOME TO

Young Adelaide Voices
Adelaide Harmony Choir
Metropolitan Musical
Theatre Company
Organ Music Society of
Adelaide Music Library
Adelaide Chamber
Singers

December already; 2020 is drawing to a close and what a year it has been!

“Life is never easy. We all pick up scars along the way. We get hurt, we struggle, we fall, and we fail. But we are also resilient. With the right encouragement and inspiration at the right time we are able to find strength, creativity, and perseverance to overcome great suffering and great obstacles. We have times of joy and celebration, and days when just getting out of bed is more than we can manage. For all of its pain and difficulty, we still have an unquenchable longing for life. We just don’t always know what we need that will lead us to meaningful, fulfilling, and vibrant life. We too easily get distracted by what promises a good life but fails to deliver. And that’s why we need faith. An authentic spirituality gives our lives meaning, empowers us to discover where life can truly be found, and teaches us to fall in love with life, even with all of its suffering. Every year the Liturgical calendar leads us on a journey of learning to negotiate the seasons and experiences, the emotions and insights, of human living. As we navigate through the festivals of the year so we learn what God’s values and priorities are, and we learn about our own strengths and weaknesses as we seek to follow the way of Christ. Every year begins with Advent, the season of waiting, and Christmas, the season of fulfilment. These two related seasons remind us that our Divine Lover is always seeking to enter our lives and lead us into a deeper experience of love and life. They remind us that God is not distant, but is found in human flesh and experience. And they teach us why life is worth living, and how we can live in such a way that we love life intensely.”



John van der Lear

ADVENT WREATH

1st CANDLE (purple) - The candle of **HOPE** (sometimes called the Prophecy Candle. We can have Hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE (purple) - The candle of **PEACE**. The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of a Messiah who would be the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6).

3rd CANDLE (pink) - The candle of **JOY** (sometimes called the Shepherd’s Candle). The angels sang a message of Joy, “Joy to the world, the Lord is come!” (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE (purple) – The candle of **LOVE**. The angels announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us because he loves us. (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE (white) – The **CHRIST CANDLE**. The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins. His birth was for his death; his death was for our birth. (John 1:29)



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
 27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

After such a long run of being COVID-free in South Australia, the recent outbreak sent us all into another lockdown.

Unfortunately, this caused the cancellation of two special events, the second of our Spring Concerts and the St Andrew's Day Service. This was met with disappointment as we had been looking forward to them.

Prince Alfred College also had to cancel their Choral Service which was to be held in the church on Monday 30th November.



We did appreciate the **Remembrance Day Service on the 8th November, however,** and enjoyed the worship led by Rev Mark Dickens and the beautiful music provided by the organ and augmented choir.

THINKING OF THOSE IN NEED

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 in the porch if you would like to make a donation. The Christmas Day offering will be donated to this appeal.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Quite a number of our people have been on the sick list and we pray for a return to good health for all of them.

Doug Stewart spent 12 days in the Royal Adelaide Hospital but is glad to be home again now. He has several health issues which are being carefully monitored.

Fiona Atkinson has undergone a number of procedures to remove skin cancers and cover them with skin grafts. A couple of the grafts haven't taken and so she has required some additional surgery to deal with that.

Joan Atkinson is also in the RAH because of a serious eye infection caused by an injection to treat glaucoma. The affected eye has required two operations and her sight is seriously impaired. She recently had another operation to insert a new lens into the other eye to improve the vision in that one. Fiona says that, despite these issues, she remains very cheerful. Currently she cannot receive visitors because of the COVID situation.

Margaret Harkness is still in the new Calvary Hospital but is closer to being allowed to go home. The plan is for her to stay with her daughter Sonia who will keep a watchful eye on her as she regains her strength.

It is with regret that we report the passing of **John Cunningham**, aged 80, on Saturday 21st November 2020. John was a former member of Wesley Kent Town and sang in the choir while David Clarke was the organist and choir director. A number of years ago John moved to Victor Harbour/Encounter Bay where he was very active in Rotary and other community service activities. He also sang in the choir at St Jude's under the direction of David Clarke. John died as a result of injuries sustained about 3 weeks earlier in a freak car accident. He was flown by helicopter to the Royal Adelaide Hospital where he underwent several surgical procedures and was placed in an induced coma as medical staff worked to try to pull him through, but unfortunately he succumbed to his injuries.

It was good to catch up with **John & Doreen Cooper** at the Remembrance Day Service. It was also a delight to see **Mary Hackett-Jones** and her 3 children, who have all grown so much. **Marlene Edwards** joined us for worship one Sunday recently. Most of you would know that Marlene is the author of our church history book, "The House of God, The Gate of Heaven".

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

The first Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of the Christian Year. It is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus.

❖ Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday 20th December at 10.00am

This special service, relating the Christmas story of the birth of Christ through Bible readings and music, features an augmented choir led by organist, Graham Bell. It has a long tradition in the history of Wesley Kent Town.

❖ Christmas Day Service

Friday 25th December at 9.00am

This family service celebrates the birth of Christ and the coming of Love into the world.



Please invite family and friends along to these services.



Love came down at Christmas

CONTACTS

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