

WESLEY NEWS

MARCH DIARY DATES

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Wednesday 2nd March
ASH WEDNESDAY



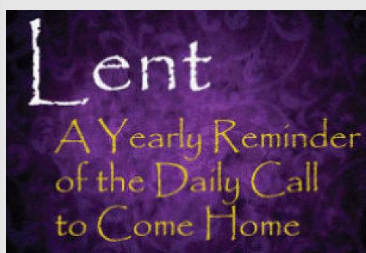
Sunday 6th at 10.00 am
 Rev Mac Macdonald
Holy Communion
LENT 1

Thursday 10th at 2.00pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 13th at 10.00 am
 Dr Donald Sinnott
LENT 2

Sunday 20th at 10.00 am
 Rev Mark Dickens
LENT 3

Sunday 27th at 10.00 am
 Rev Dr Jonathan Barker
LENT 4



MUSIC @ WESLEY

Choir Practice
 Wednesday evenings in the church at 7.30pm.

WESLEY IS HOME TO **Young Adelaide Voices**

Adelaide Harmony Choir
Metropolitan Musical Theatre Company

Organ Music Society of Adelaide Music Library

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN!

Reflections on the meaning of Lent

In a sense we have been observing a kind of Lent ever since March 2020 when the World Health Organisation officially declared the Covid 19 virus to be a global pandemic! Why? In the Middle Ages, ships arriving in Venice from infected ports were required to sit at anchor for 40 days before landing, in quarantine. This word is derived from Italian, quaranta giorni which means 40 days. First used in the English language in 1663, it was the 40 days during which persons who might spread the plague were isolated from the rest of the community. However, while this may be very interesting, it is good to recall that the 40 days of Lent was traditionally to do with Jesus' journey to the climactic event of his dying on a cross and the resurrection. What are its origins?

Lent well illustrates the ever-changing nature of church customs and liturgies. Originally there was no Lent or even Good Friday in the church - only Easter Day, on which both death and resurrection were firmly held together. Then quite early, Easter became the day for Baptisms (still a custom in some churches). As preparation candidates underwent three days of fasting leading up to Easter Day. This was the origin of Good Friday - a journey from cross to resurrection. Everyone fasted for three days along with the baptismal candidates. In time this was extended to 40 days linking it with the journey of Jesus, which began with his fasting in the desert as a preparation for his ministry.

In the middle-ages, priestly dominance led to an over-emphasis on penitence, so Lent became a penitential season. Even though the Protestant Reformers thought this was overdone, (they shifted the emphasis back to Easter Day) they restored the emphasis on the journey to the cross while retaining a modified emphasis on penitence by encouraging "self-denial" so beloved in the later Methodist tradition.

I would like to suggest that the motif of JOURNEY is still a good way of making sense of Lent for today. Lent can be a good time to put us in touch with aspects of our personal journeys with which we often struggle. For example, the struggle:

- with priorities over and against so many demands
- with being disciplined while affirming the flowering of human experience
- with taking proper care of ourselves but being available for others
- with being attached to things or nostalgic about the past and having to "let go"

One way of reflecting on our own journey is to use characters that made their way with Jesus such as Peter, Mary Magdalene, James and John – or to identify with modern day pilgrims like Martin Luther King Jr, Mother Teresa or Nelson Mandela.

This year as you reflect on your own life's journey, consider who has inspired you on the way? Who do you walk with now? Dare to name life struggles which require new decisions! What is required to reinvigorate your response to the call to journey with Jesus as the way, truth and life? The Sundays leading up to Easter are a great opportunity to reflect on your pilgrimage, as our Sunday services will again trace the journey of Jesus to the cross and its amazing aftermath. Let your Lenten Journey begin!

Rev Dr Jonathan Barker



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
 27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE



The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held on **Sunday 27th February** and featured an **augmented Wesley Choir**. **Rev Dr Jonathan Barker** was

the worship leader and delivered an interesting sermon linking the Transfiguration with Harvest and the fragile earth on which we live. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful music presented by the augmented choir. Members of the congregation again excelled in their generosity so that a marvellous display of produce adorned the front of the church. All produce has been donated to Uniting Communities Eastern Services.

CHOIRS

Our regular Wesley Choir returned in February after its annual break. The congregation seemed most grateful to have them back leading the musical aspect of our worship each week. **The next augmented choirs will be in Holy Week beginning with the special Palm Sunday service and again on Good Friday and Easter Day.**

LENT & EASTER

- **Ash Wednesday, start of Lent:**
Wednesday 2nd March
- **Palm Sunday:**
Sunday 10th April
- **Good Friday:**
Friday 15th April
- **Easter Day:**
Sunday 17th April



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

We thank members who have already responded to last month's invitation from Church Council to provide an emergency contact number just in case an accident or significant health-related episode should occur whilst at worship or other church function. The invitation is still there to advise of a next-of-kin or other family/friend emergency contact so we know who to call for you. This contact will be held securely and *only be used with your agreement or if you are taken to hospital by car or ambulance*. Contact details can be given to Kay Rooke 0427 840 019.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Beryl Kennett is travelling to Tasmania where her son and family live. She is looking forward to spending some quality time with them.

Rosanne Pillar sends her best wishes to everyone at Kent Town. Two years ago when she was walking along the street to the church for the PAC Christmas Carols Service, someone reversed out of their driveway and hit her, injuring her hip. Ever since she has experienced considerable pain and this makes it difficult for her to sit for any length of time. Rosanne is very pleased to hear that we will be receiving ministry from PAC chaplains a little later this year. She has had a long association with the school and established a Charles Wesley music prize there a couple of years ago.



We were pleased that **Raelene Chelley** managed to make it to church for the Harvest Thanksgiving. She has chronic arthritis which causes her a great deal of pain. She will be undergoing shoulder surgery next month which hopefully will relieve that problem, however the arthritis in her hands makes driving difficult.

Penelope Hackett-Jones is generally laying low to avoid catching Covid. She would like to come to church but can't cope with having to sing with a mask on. (I am sure we can all relate to that). She gains a great deal of pleasure from spending time with daughter, **Mary** and the grandchildren. **Arthur and Frederick** are both at school now, and Penelope is pleased that they are receiving "good and sensible religious instruction".

Cherry & Daniel Brookes have a new baby daughter, **Charlotte Mae**, born on 7th January 2022 a little sister for **Courtney** and **Justin**. It was a difficult birth and the baby had a few post natal issues too, but both Cherry and Charlotte are doing well now. Courtney celebrated her 4th birthday on 3rd March.

It was with deep regret that we received the sad news last month that **David Clark** had passed away. He was appointed organist/choirmaster (which he always referred to as Director of Music) here at Kent Town in 2002 and continued in this position until he resigned due to illness in 2010. At the time of his appointment he was music director at Newland Memorial Church Victor Harbor. David drove to Kent Town at least twice a week and on Sundays was accompanied by his father Rev Walter Clarke. He held the post with great enthusiasm and introduced innovations into the musical life of Kent Town. Over a number of years David had collected several ranks of organ pipes from instruments which were no longer in use and he donated a number of these pipes toward the augmentation of our pipe organ. After his resignation from Kent Town, David continued, until quite recent times, with musical activities on the South Coast. David was also a cousin of Ivan Miller and a close personal friend of Peter Skellon.



CONTACTS

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