

WESLEY NEWS

DECEMBER DIARY DATES

.....
Sunday 1st at 10.00 am
 Pastor Andrew Kieselbach
Holy Communion
ADVENT 1



Sunday 8th at 10.00 am
 Rev Doug Hosking
ADVENT 2

Thursday 12th at 2.00pm
CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday 15th at 10.00 am
 Pastor Andrew Kieselbach
ADVENT 3

Sunday 22nd at 10.00 am
 Rev Mark Dickens
ADVENT 4
Service of Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 25th at 9.00am
 Rev Mark Dickens
CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 29th at 10.00 am
 Rev Mark Dickens
CHRISTMAS 1

.....
**COMMUNITY
MORNING TEA**

**In hall Wednesday
10.30 am – 12.00 noon**

COMMUNITY SHED

**Open Wednesday, Friday
& Saturday mornings
9.00 am – 1.00 pm**

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

Australian Music Theatre
Choir

FROM THE MINISTER:

Christmas - A Season of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love

As December begins, the festive season brings with it the warmth of summer, the scent of Christmas bush, and a spirit of hope, joy, peace, and love. While the northern hemisphere wraps itself in winter's chill, here in Australia, we gather to celebrate the magic of Christmas under the wide blue skies, surrounded by the beauty of nature and the warmth of family and community.

This month, as we prepare for Christmas, let's take a moment to reflect on the deeper meanings of the season. Whether we're enjoying a Christmas barbecue on the beach or a traditional family dinner, the themes of hope, joy, peace, and love are universal—and they are needed more than ever. Christmas in Australia comes at the end of a long year, a time when we reflect on what has been and look ahead with hope. In a world that often feels uncertain and divided, Christmas offers a powerful reminder that hope can flourish even in the most challenging times. The message of Christ's birth—one of new beginnings and unshakeable promise—is a beacon of light that reminds us that better days are ahead, no matter the storms we may face.

In Australia, we are familiar with the resilience required to face natural challenges - bushfires, droughts, floods, and more. But through it all, the spirit of hope remains strong. This Christmas let's take heart in the knowledge that, like the sun shining brightly over our summer days, hope continues to rise, illuminating the path forward for us and for future generations.

Christmas is also a time for laughter, connection, and celebration. Whether it's around the Christmas table, on a summer picnic, or enjoying a festive day at the beach, joy is found in the moments we share with others. For many, Christmas is not just about giving and receiving gifts but about creating lasting memories with loved ones, sharing in the simple pleasures of the season, and giving thanks for the beauty of life.

Joy is also in the spirit of community that thrives throughout Australia. From small towns to bustling cities, people come together to celebrate and spread cheer. As we gather with family and friends—whether in a backyard or by the sea—let's embrace the laughter and light that make this season so special. In times of celebration, joy is contagious, and the happiness we share has the power to uplift others.

Amidst the excitement of Christmas preparations and the busy summer season, peace is a gift that often requires intentionality. In Australia, the laid-back lifestyle and the natural beauty of our environment offer opportunities to pause, breathe deeply, and find moments of stillness. Whether it's a quiet walk along the coast, time spent with a loved one, or simply sitting under the stars on a warm evening, peace is something we can cultivate within ourselves and extend to those around us.

This Christmas let's also be mindful of the need for peace in our communities. The year has been a challenging one for many, and the holidays provide an opportunity to reconcile, heal, and move forward together. Peace is not just the absence of conflict—it's the presence of kindness, understanding, and empathy. As we come together to celebrate, let's be agents of peace in our homes, our workplaces, and in our wider communities.

Above all, Christmas is a celebration of love. It's the love that unites us as a nation, the love we share with our families and friends, and the love we give to those in need. The Christmas story itself is a reminder of God's immense love for humanity—a love that was made manifest in a humble manger, bringing light to a dark world. It's a love that calls us to reach out, to care for one another, and to show kindness to those who may feel forgotten or overlooked.

Continued over page



Wesley Uniting Church Kent Town
27 Grenfell Street, Kent Town



FROM THE MINISTER (CONT:)

Christmas is also a time to reflect on the importance of caring for those less fortunate. It's a season where we are reminded of our responsibility to love our neighbours—whether they live next door or across the globe. From donating to charity drives to offering a helping hand to those in need, love is shown not only through grand gestures but in everyday acts of kindness.

As we celebrate Christmas in Australia, let's remember that the true gifts of the season aren't wrapped in paper or tied with ribbons, but are found in the enduring qualities of hope, joy, peace, and love. Whether you're spending the holiday with family on a beach, around a barbecue, or in the warmth of your home, may these gifts fill your heart and extend to those around you.

May your Christmas be filled with the light of hope, the warmth of joy, the calm of peace, and the embrace of love. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pastor Andrew Kieselbach

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.

RECENT SPECIAL EVENTS

The two November special services, **Remembrance Day Commemoration and St Andrew's Day**, were enjoyed by all those present. Many favourable comments were received about the organ music and choral work. We thank the regular members of the choir and the extra singers who joined them. Special thanks are extended to Graham Bell our organist and choir master who puts so much work and thought into the selection and presentation of the work. **This year Mary Hackett-Jones' sons, Frederick and Arthur, were the Bible bearers.**

QUIET CENTRE

Discover our **Quiet Centre**, open from 12.45pm-1:45pm every Wednesday. Experience a time of peace and reflection in our church, with opportunities for meditation and guided spiritual insights. Join us as we explore the tranquility of silence and simplicity.

Come and Find Your Quiet Centre

COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

These are held in the middle hall every Wednesday morning and a good cross-section of people continue to attend. A very sociable atmosphere prevails. If you are looking for some company, please join us on a **Wednesday between 10.30am and 12.00 noon and enjoy "Cuppa, Conversation & Connection"**. You will be very welcome!

The Morning Tea will go into a short recess finishing on Wednesday 18th December 2023 and resuming on 5th February 2024.

COMMUNITY SHED

The Shed is open every **Wednesday, Friday and Saturday morning from 9.00am until 1.00pm**. If you would like to participate, please feel free to call in and try your hand.



FAREWELL SERVICE

On **Sunday, 9th February 2025**, a special Farewell/End of Placement Service will be held to say thank you and goodbye to Rev Mark Dickens and Pastor Andrew Kieselbach. If you would like to make a donation towards farewell gifts, please speak to Ivan Miller, our treasurer.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus.

Please invite family and friends along to our two special Christmas services.

❖ *Service of Lessons & Carols*

Sunday 22nd 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.

❖ *Christmas Day Service*

Wednesday 25th December at 9.00am

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



CONTACTS

Ministry Team:

Rev Mark Dickens

mdickens@pac.edu.au 0407 714 217

Pastor Andrew Kieselbach

akieselbach@pac.edu.au 0438 823 677

Pastoral Care Contact: Kay Rooke

jkrooke@aapt.net.au 0427 840 019

Organist & Choir Director: Graham Bell

ghb59au@outlook.com 0422 073 436

Church Council Chair: Jenny Church

churchjenny3@gmail.com 0418 855 644

Church Council Secretary: Jenny Stewart

doug-jenny-stewart@bigpond.com 0400 279 684

Church Office:

office@wesleykenttown.org.au 8362 2544

Website: www.wesleykenttown.org.au