

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH JAMISON

To grow in Christ together, to equip for service, to care for all.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

14 DECEMBER 2014

THIRD SUNDAY
IN ADVENT



TODAY IN THE PARISH

8.00 am **HOLY COMMUNION**
Celebrant and Preacher: Revd Dr Sarah Bachelard

10.00 am **HOLY COMMUNION**
Celebrant and Preacher: Revd Dr Sarah Bachelard



We offer a special welcome to visitors and pray that you will feel at home in our community.

You are warmly invited to share Communion with us, either by drinking from or dipping the wafer in the chalice, or to come forward for a blessing.

Reflection after Communion – please feel free to light a prayer candle in the Chapel at the back of the Church following Communion.



Please join us for morning tea after the Services

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday 15.12.14	9.am-3.pm	Worship Centre	Covenant Care
Tuesday 16.12.14	12.30 pm 7.30 pm	Worship Centre Rainbow Centre	Meditation and BYO Lunch Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 17.12.14	12 noon 2.00 pm	Worship Centre Worship Centre	Holy Communion and BYO lunch Ever Active Exercise Class
Thursday 18.12.14	9.30 am 6.00- 6.30 pm	Rainbow Centre Chapel	Scrabble Meditation
Saturday 20.12.14	9.00 am 4.45 pm 6.00 pm	Church Grounds Rainbow Centre Worship Centre	Working Bee Choir Practice Benedictus Contemplative Church



**WORKING BEE NEXT SATURDAY
(20th)**

It is the pre-Christmas clean up, inside and out, and we need as many as possible to help with window cleaning, sweeping leaves, weeding, collecting rubbish, etc.



**Christmas Eve - Carols at BUPA
Aranda Nursing Home, 2pm.**

All welcome, bring your smiling faces and singing voices so that we can share joy and Christmas cheer with the residents and staff.

Singers and instrumentalists needed. The more, the merrier!

Meet in foyer at BUPA at 2 pm on Christmas Eve

THIRD WEEK IN ADVENT: John 1:1-8, 19-28

For three years I was Chaplain at the Black Mountain school for children with profound disabilities and on one particular day I was helping a class to get ready to go outside into the playground. I was tasked to assist a wheel chair bound boy who was about 12 years old and who vary rarely spoke. I put his twisted, distorted little feet into his socks as carefully as I could and then his slippers and as I was fastening the Velcro straps I felt a small hand on my head, stroking my hair, a small distorted hand and a voice as clear as a bell came from the boy's mouth. 'Are you Jesus?' he said. I was speechless and sank even lower to the floor as a wave of humility swept over me. I eventually looked the boy in the face, found my voice and managed to say. 'No, I am not Jesus, but Jesus is my friend.'

Christ's coming into the world was to bring life, to be a light to all people and that light was to shine in places of darkness, that darkness would not extinguish the light. John the Baptist came to proclaim the coming of this 'light', to testify to it and to prepare the hearts of people living in darkness. To prepare them for Christ's coming. As he encounters the representatives of the religious leaders of Israel John is challenged about his identity. 'Who are you?' they ask. Maybe the Messiah, or is he Elijah, or a prophet. After all that is how the religious leaders expected the Messiah to be proclaimed, not by this man from the wilderness, rough and rugged looking. John replies. 'I am not the Christ, not Elijah, not the prophet. I am one who is not even worthy to do up the sandals of the coming Christ. My task is to prepare the way for his coming. To prepare the hearts and minds of all who gather to hear his witness of the Christ. John was not in the least what the authorities were expecting, he came right out of left court in their thinking and expectations.

Are we to be the witnesses, the people crying out in our world that the Messiah is coming? To this we are to say a resounding YES and then we ask ourselves, 'where can I, where will I go and be a witness, me, who is one unworthy. I say, just be that witness in your daily lives. Just do the things a follower of Christ should do, love the unlovable, care for the needy, visit the sick, be an active person in your faith community, lead a life of loving and serving the Lord and Christ will come and be with you and you will be a witness. 2 Peter 3 says: You should live Holy lives and serve God as you wait for and look forward to the coming of the day of the Lord.

Advent blessings
Anne Ranse



After my concerns with a client who was imploding last week, I felt much encouraged when I received this email:

“Hello Team at St John’s Care Reid,
My Name is Harry and in the earlier part of the year when financially in dire straits you guys were fabulous in helping me with some Telstra vouchers for an exorbitant runaway bill and food stuffs and a chat and cuppa now and then,
Life is progressing up and I am getting a bit more work which is easing the financial burden of The DSP a fair bit but anyhow to the point, I would really love to come and work for as long as you guys needed me on the XMAS day Community lunch, I am handy in the kitchen and willing to do whatever is necessary so that I can put back a bit of some of the great support I have received on my journey back to better health. I can be reached via return email and as said really keen to help out on the day with a bit of whatever needs to be done...”

It was lovely to receive this vote of thanks and I look forward to meeting with Harry on Christmas Day.

Once again we have had an amazingly busy week:

- In the first five days in December we helped 110 clients. An average of 22 clients a day. Our norm is 16 a day so this is a big increase. It might not seem to be a problem but it means that in one week we have given away: 110 bottles of Pasta Sauce, 110 plus litres of milk, we always try to give extra to large families, 110 tins of fish, baked beans, spaghetti, fruit, soup, tinned meat, pasta, tubes of toothpaste, toilet paper and soap and the list just goes on and on. It is a huge increase
- Friday Lunch we served 135 meals. This week it was a BBQ and Pavlova Dessert. For this meal we used 160 sausages, 120 hamburgers and 100 small steaks, 8 lettuces, 10kg of tomato and many other salads. It was fun but hard work. We are not funded for these lunches but they are a really important part of our community.
- This week we opened the Present Room on Tuesday. First day we assisted 47 families, today it was 41. In the two days we have been in operation so far we have provided gifts for 222 children.

There is such an increase in need in our Community, it is quite mind blowing. The next big gig is Christmas Day. Last year we served 380 meals. What will it be this year???

I really need help on Tuesday 23 or Wednesday 24 December with preparation for the Christmas Lunch: carving hams, cutting the cooked chickens, washing lettuces etc. Please put your hand up if you can help.

I can be contacted on 62487771 or 0424529492.

My wish list for this week: tinned fruit, pasta sauce and longlife full cream milk.

Many Thanks, Sue Jordan



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

PRAYER POINTS FOR THIS WEEK

IN THE WORLD

- Pray for renewed determination to bring peace and prosperity with justice and hope in hopeless situations around the world, especially in Israel-Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

IN AUSTRALIA

- Pray for the Muslim community in Australia, for an end to racial and religious abuse, and for bridges between all Australians of whatever creed or colour.

WORLD WIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH

- We pray for the Church Japan, Tanzania and Uganda.
- In the Australian Church we pray for the bishops, clergy and people of Melbourne, Newcastle and North Queensland.

IN OUR DIOCESE

- We pray for the clergy and people in the parishes St. Luke's Deakin, St. Peter's Weston, All Souls, Chapman
- We pray for Aged Care Chaplaincy and the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship.

MISSION

- We pray for the work of the Australian Board of Missions in Hong Kong and Papua New Guinea.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- We pray for the Parish Council meeting this week and for those groups who are meeting for the last time this year..
- We pray for the Clergy Appointment Board as they seek the way forward.
- We pray for the following members of our parish family - Alan and Bea Duncan; Ruth Dunnicliff-Hagan, Tony and Colman; Ruth Durie; James, Danni and Amelia Ellis; Andrew Feitz, Jodie Petrov, Oliver and Tobias; and Karen Ferguson.
- We pray for those in special need of prayer: Phil Perman, Sandra Button, Anne Dudzinski.



HOLY COVENANT PRAYER VINE

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Phone Merri Bacon on 6251 1110 or email
merri.bacon@bigpond.com

CLERGY APPOINTMENT BOARD

An overview of the process for clergy appointments is on the sign-up board. You may find it helpful in understanding what has to happen before we have a new Rector.

TODAY we are saying goodbye to three of our parish families:

- ♦ Anna, David and Benjamin Quinlan to Pambula (see below)
- ♦ Elizabeth St George, Vongsa Barbour, Alissa and Layla to Laos
- ♦ Roslyn, David and Alex Nimmo to Melbourne

We will miss you all and pray God' will bless you in your new home.



The Quinlan family are moving to Pambula in the middle of January (Our new address will be PO Box 311 Pambula. Mobile phone numbers and email address will remain the same as currently in the parish roll. Visitors very welcome!



TO ALL the wonderful people who encouraged the shoppers at Jamison yesterday to buy food for St. John's Care. A great result.

ALSO to the cooks of the parish who filled the table with goodies enticing the shoppers to indulge. A good morning all round. It was also a great opportunity for the parish to connect with the local community.

And for all those who prepared a great meal for our Community lunch last week. A great time was had by all.

ST. JOHN'S CARE CHRISTMAS BOX

is now waiting to receive your gifts.
It's over near the choir.

Sue Jordan is particularly in need of gifts for teenagers - gift cards are a great idea and can be purchased from Coles or the Post Office shop.

Food for hampers is also needed plus of course the usual toys etc. but **NOT** soft toys - they still have plenty left over from last year.





YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

TODAY - Last youth group of the year. We'll welcome the new members of youth group and continue the party! + youth group on Morning Tea roster.

Godly Play and Children's Church:

TODAY is transition Sunday where children can attend their groups for 2015. Godly Play is for preschool-year 2; Children's Church is for year 3-6 and Youth Group is for year 7-12. We will resume on 1 February (start-up breakfast at 8.30 am)

Thanks again to our wonderful volunteers who minister with our youth and children.
Katherine Rainger

Advent blessings as we enter into the mystery of Christmas.

INCOMING PARISH COUNCIL

Following our parish election last weekend and the appointment of the rector's nominations for parish council, we are pleased to advise that our incoming parish council members are (in alphabetical order):

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Bob Arthur | David Lescinsky |
| Merri Bacon | Chris Olsson |
| Evelyn David-Hoole | Elle Platt |
| George Gerrity | Russell Rollason |
| Carol Kubanek | |

People's Wardens: Kathryn Body, Deranie Jackson

We thank our councillors and all who nominated for their willingness to serve our parish in this role, and commit ourselves to pray for them in the coming year.

WANTED - Parish Book Keeper

We need someone with experience in data entry to be part of the small team which manages the Parish Finances. Eight to ten hours work per month using a modern accounting package. An honorarium will be paid.

**Enquiries to the Treasurer,
Bob Arthur – 0413 389 897.**

We are most grateful to Audrey Wells who has performed this role efficiently and faithfully for the last three years.

IN THE PARISH

Reflections on my SOMA trip to the Seychelles

Tobias Nevile

From the 17th to the 29th of November, I went to the Seychelles with a group of fellow young and young at heart Christians. We went on a mission trip, to share God's love with the people of the Seychelles, to encourage them and help them grow, and to learn and grow ourselves. I am thankful that I was able to go on this trip, as already I can see how it has changed me and my relationship with God.

This trip developed my relationship with God, and showed me what God is capable of. I was challenged, encouraged, and changed by my experiences in the Seychelles. The opportunities to share my story and testimony helped me develop my abilities at speaking, and helped my self confidence. There were opportunities both to pray for others and be prayed for, and I had powerful moments with God doing both. I'm thankful for the chance to meet such wonderful people as the Seychellois, learning from them about God's hospitality and the generosity we are called to in Christ. A scripture passage that jumped out to me and stayed with me through the trip was 1 John 4: 7-21, and particularly verses eleven and twelve, which call us to "love one another" and tell us that God's love is "made complete in us".

I find myself today much more aware of God's love and how it has impacted me. Convinced now of that love, I look at the world in a new light, through a different lens; I look for love, where it can break down among us and dwell within us. Today, I am also humbled from seeing God's power in the world. Seeing God's Spirit and love break into life, to see lives changed, peace and joy brought where before there was conflict, was amazing. God is truly incredible. And the intimacy we can have with our God, through Jesus, is one of the most incredible things of all. The devotional times and prayerful reflections, as well as being an active part of God's body at work in the world, has taught me that I am special. God does love me, for me. I'm not just another page in a book, one face in a sea of humans. God knows me, knew me by name long before anyone else. I think now, I am able to recognise that and begin to comprehend it in my mind.

I am hugely thankful for all prayers and thoughts during this trip, it was an amazing time and it has already begun to shape me as I grow up as a Christian.



ACT FOR PEACE - CHRISTMAS BOWL 2014

Christmas Bowl Appeal envelopes are available from the table beneath the notice board

- ◆ With your gifts our partners in Iraq have already been responding to the ongoing displacement of communities.
- ◆ The National Council of Churches in the Philippines is working to maintain the hope and dignity of indigenous communities.
- ◆ Health Care for Tamil refugees in South India.
- ◆ Clearing landmines and other unexploded remnants of war.

IN THE PARISH

KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATIONS

We have now held two Kitchen Table Conversations in the parish (advertised in October Bulletins) which were attended by ten people on each occasion, who engaged in lively discussion on topics of their own choosing.

The basic questions we addressed were:

Session 1 What is important to you? What are your biggest concerns for the future? What are your greatest hopes?

Session 2 What changes are needed? How can we make the changes happen?

These were fruitful discussions, where divergent opinions could be aired with no aim of consensus and the summaries, carefully written up by our scribe, duly reported back to Voice of the People along with those of 21 other groups across Canberra. The process concentrated specifically on dialogue and respectful listening, not debate or advocacy, about how ordinary citizens feel and think about the system we live in and some of the things that need to change. You might call it open source democracy at work.

Jean Groves 8 Dec. 2014



HC'S REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

For anyone who would like to join us, we will gather tomorrow night 15th December from 6 till 7pm at Deranie's place (30 Northmore Cres. Higgins) to write Christmas cards to refugees in detention. All welcome. Contact Deranie 6254-4769 derania@hotmail.com for more info.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 17 February 2015 (Shrove Tuesday)

starting at 6 pm with a shared meal.

Team leader annual reports need to be sent to the office three weeks prior to that - by **Tuesday 27 January 2015** please. so it can be photocopied and included in the AGM documents.

Thank you all for the great work you have done this year and for successes achieved.

EDUCATION for MINISTRY

Is a program of study and learning, to reflect theologically on the text of the bible and issues we face in the world today. It is comprised of four major areas, New Testament, Old Testament, Church History and Christian Ethics.

There is an information sheet on the noticeboard and further information can be obtained from Merri Bacon 6251 1110 merri.bacon@bigpond.com



ANGLICARE CHRISTMAS CARDS. there are still some left. They are in a box on the back table and payment is via the honesty box.

CONGRATULATIONS

- ♦ To Dylan and Sally Mordike who were married at Holy Covenant 20 years ago last week.
- ♦ Audrey Dargan— one of 10am octogenarians—who has just graduated from ANU with a Masters Degree in General Studies.

There is a small silver pearl ring in the Lost Property basket—it may be precious to someone.

Bank Details for Direct Debit are:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
 Branch: Jamison Centre, ACT
 BSB: 062 907
 A/C No: 802 588
 Name: Holy Covenant Anglican Church



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Today: **Elizabeth St. George**
 Thursday: **Bev Barnes, Rod Menzies, Phoebe Jackson.**

If you'd like your name in the birthday book, please tell Phyl.
phylandreg@optusnet.com.au

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE



In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of Christ, our Life and Light, into our world.

People of God, come, for the light of joy beckons us together.

From our solitude,
we are called into community;

from our brokenness,
we are called into wholeness;

from our fading,
we are called into fullness;

and from our wandering,
we are called to the path of new life.

The Joy candle is lit

People of God, come, for the lights of hope, peace and joy beckon us together.

**Come, let us worship;
 let us wake up to coming of the day.**

Let us pray
 Come, great spirit of Joy, and fill our hearts and minds today. Come, enlivening comforter, and give us the courage to proclaim and celebrate all that ignites the divine flame within us. Lead us on the path towards new life, for we are ready to hear your words and know your presence. Come, for we are your people, longing to be renewed. **Amen**

MINISTRY TEAM

LOCUM	Revd Dr Sarah Bachelard 0401 009 156	Email: sarah.bachelard@gmail.com Days off: Monday, Friday.
HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIESTS	Revd Anne Dudzinski 6278 6087; 0413 994 739 Revd Sarah Gibson	Email: annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au Email: tshsb.gibson@gmail.com
HOLISTIC CARE NURSE	Ven Anne Ranse 0439 139 209	Email: nurse@holycovenant.org.au Days: TBA
HONORARY DEACON	Revd Susan Joy Nevile 0431 133 852	Email: susanjoyn@gmail.com
YOUTH AND CHILDREN WORKER	Katherine Rainger 0401 142 851	Email: youth@holycovenant.org.au
ADMINISTRATOR	Libby Warren Office: 6251 6100	Email: office@holycovenant.org.au

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DETAILS FOR NEXT SUNDAY – 21 DECEMBER 2014

8.00 am

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: Revd Dr Sarah Bachelard
Preacher: Katherine Rainger

10.00 am

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: Revd Dr Sarah Bachelard
Preacher: Katherine Rainger



TODAY

SENTENCE: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

Luke 3.4: Isaiah 40.5a

READINGS:

Isaiah 61; 1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

2 Thessalonians 5: 12-28

John 1: 6-8, 19-28



8 am HYMNS

(Dudman)

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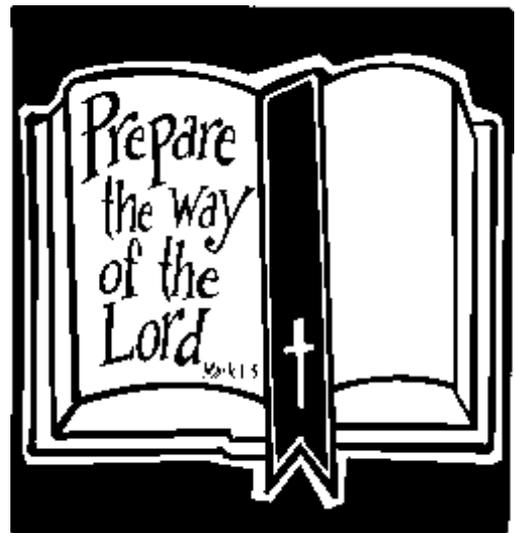
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PRAYER

Most Holy Friend, you come among ordinary people, and call us to share the peace and laughter of your new age. Continue to help us to be alert, that the repetition of the familiar story may not dull our hearts to the wonder, and that we may joyfully bear witness to the Light that nothing can ever smother. Through Jesus Christ who lives and loves with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever one God of grace and glory!

AMEN!

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	8.00 am	10.00 am
Sidespersons	Ann and Peter Bazeos	Reg Holmes, Jey Hoole
Readers	Rosemary Kennemore Peter Hall Anne Ranse	Phyl Holmes Reg Holmes James Ellis
Intercessor	Jennifer Collier	George Gerrity
Organist	Kath Arthur	Heather Shelley
Word and Prayer	Steve Daniels	Tobias Nevile
Deacon	Anne Ranse	
Cup	Steve Daniels Anne Ranse	Tobias Nevile, James Ellis George Gerrity, Rob Maron Extra bread: Sarah Gibson
Morning Tea	Jenny Hall, Kathy Lake	Youth Group
Children's Church		Rhys, Susan Joy M. Tea; Murray/Judd