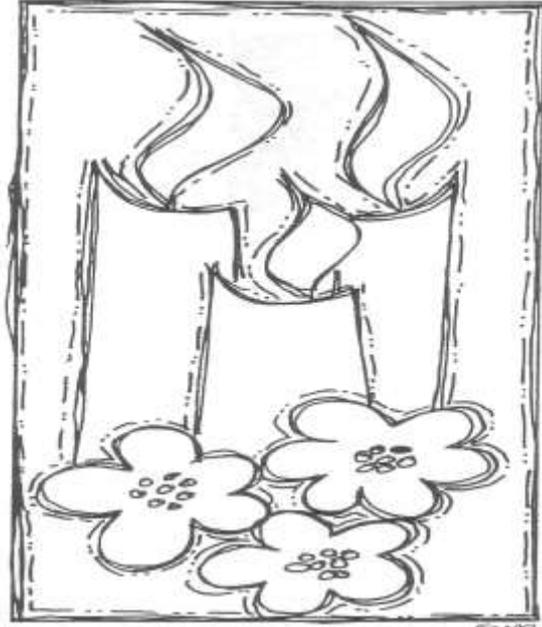


HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH JAMISON

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



WEEKLY BULLETIN

13 DECEMBER 2015

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



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.



SERVICES TODAY

8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Reverend Connie Gerrity
Preacher: The Venerable Anne Ranse

10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION, Children's Church and Youth Group

Celebrant: The Reverend Connie Gerrity
Preacher: The Venerable Anne Ranse

6.00 pm Taize Service



Please join us for morning tea after the Services

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday 14.12.15	10.00 am 10.00 am 1.30 pm	Worship Centre Kangara Waters Ret. Vill Calvary Ret. Village.	Covenant Day Care Communion Service Communion Service
Tuesday 15.12.15	12.30 pm 7.30 pm	Worship Centre Rainbow Centre	Meditation and BYO Lunch Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 16.12.15	12 noon 2.00 pm 6.00 pm	Worship Centre Worship Centre Rainbow Centre	Holy Communion and BYO Christmas Lunch Ever Active Exercise Class Meditation
Thursday 17.12.15	9.30 am 7.30 pm	Rainbow Centre Rainbow Centre	Scrabble EFM
Friday 18.12.15	10.00 am	Worship Centre	Playgroup
Saturday 19.12.15	6.00 pm	Worship Centre	Benedictus Contemplative Church

The Holistic Care Nursing office is open from 10am – 2pm Monday and Thursday.

WEEK BEGINNING 20 DECEMBER 2015

Thursday 24.12.15	9.30 am 4.30 pm 11.00 pm	Rainbow Centre Worship Centre Worship Centre	Scrabble Children's service Midnight Eucharist
Friday 25.12.15 25.09.15	8.00 am 10.00 am	Worship Centre Worship Centre	Holy Communion Holy Communion

Last **Taize Service** for the year **today** at 6pm.

It will have an Advent theme with a shared meal afterwards. Please bring a plate.



Many parish activities will be in recess for several weeks. We hope to have a list in next week's bulletin of when activities will resume in 2016.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Advent 3: Luke 3: 7-18. Welcome or Warning?

As I reflected on the readings for this week, I couldn't help thinking of the words that we pray during the Confession: 'Lord Jesus Christ, in whose heart is both welcome and warning'. The Zephaniah (3:14-20) and Philippians (4:4-7) readings are full of reassurance and hope in a context of difficulty. Zephaniah's message speaks of restoration of fortune and reputation, and homecoming from enforced exile in Babylon. This passage speaks of a God who not only welcomes and heals instead of judging, but one who delights in God's people.

Similarly the Philippians reading is filled with reassurance. Paul urges his readers not to be anxious, but to rejoice because 'The Lord is near'. He says: 'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.' These words have the authenticity of one who writes from personal experience. Paul was familiar with hardship – personal disability as well as persecution and imprisonment. How often these words have comforted those going through hard times. We learn, however, that they don't usually mean that God waves a magic wand to give what we request. And some give up at this point saying prayer does not work. But the act of 'supplication with thanksgiving' is ultimately a prayer of surrender, a vote of trust in the outcome. I say 'ultimately' because surrender is often a gradual process and there is a place for pouring out our hearts (sometimes stormily) en route. Eventually perhaps the storm subsides and we trust that 'all will be well', even if it is not on our terms, and even if our heartache persists longer than we hoped.

In contrast to the above, John the Baptist addresses those who come to him: 'You brood of vipers!' No one could accuse him of being a people-pleaser or particularly welcoming! Yet people flocked to him. What were they hoping for? John's words imply they were primarily concerned with their own safety, their fear of 'the wrath to come'. He encourages them instead to remember their obligations to each other, to share with those in need and not defraud or abuse power. But it isn't enough to do these things as an insurance policy against judgment. These acts of generosity or honesty are to be the fruit of repentance (v.8) – the deep and pervasive change of heart and mind that Jesus asks of his followers, where entitlement and self-protection are replaced by gratitude and compassion as we surrender to the Spirit's purifying work in us (v.16). Where in our personal and public lives do we discern the welcome and/or warning of God? Where is a change of heart and mind being asked of us and our institutions?

- *Frances MacKay*



FROM ST JOHN'S CARE



It is with great pleasure that I present our statistics for November.

St John's Care Emergency Relief Clients:

Number of clients: 343 (an average of 16 people per day)

Female: 170 (50%) Male: 173 (50%)

Returning clients: 286 (83%)

Clients with a Centrelink Reference Number: 303 (88% of clients)

Clients that identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander: 74 (22% of clients)

Clients born overseas: 64 (19% of clients)

Clients identifying as being homeless: 22 (6% of clients)

Services Provided:

Food: 423 adults and 297 children assisted

Clothes: 34 people assisted

Blankets: 13 people assisted

Concession bus tickets: 68 people assisted

Prescriptions paid for: 11 people assisted

Telstra Vouchers: 3 people assisted

Registration, water, electricity or gas etc paid: 25 people assisted

Youth Care Canberra

New referrals: 7

Active clients: 13 (including new referrals)

□ Male: 6 Female: 7

Community Lunch (Approximately 110 people attended our monthly community lunch)

I find the following of particular interest:

The numbers seeking emergency relief were 14% up on the previous month - October (301) and November (343)

88% of our clients are on a Centrelink benefit

83% of our clients have been to our service before

We had 43 people attend the Centre on last Friday, which may be a record

I met with all the other Emergency Relief providers in Canberra recently and they were all experiencing increased numbers of people seeking assistance. I note that in December last year we had 522 clients which means that we expect this month to be a very very busy time.

We had 49 people attend the first day of our Present Room.

Wish list: vegemite, tinned meat and pasta

Stuart Davis-Meehan - Director

PRAYER POINTS FOR THIS WEEK

IN THE WORLD

- We pray that the dislocation of populations around the world might not overwhelm those with the power to respond; that all who work for the good of refugees and displaced persons might share the joy of everyone they help along the way to a new life of peace and security.

IN AUSTRALIA

- Be amongst us, Lord, as the guest at our every celebration. Inspire us to express in worship, in service, and in every part of our lives that deep joy rising within us that bubbles over from knowing that we are released, forgiven and made new again. Let us rejoice, for nothing can separate us from your love and grace.

WORLD WIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH

- We pray for the church in Kisangani Congo and Kita Kanto Japan.
- In the Australian Church we pray for the bishops, clergy and people of the dioceses of Melbourne and Newcastle.

IN OUR DIOCESE

- ♦ We pray for the clergy and people of the parishes of St. Philip's O'Connor and St. Simon's Kaleen-Giralang.
- We pray for work amongst needy, unemployed and homeless people of all ages, especially St. John's Care, Reid.

MISSION

- ♦ We pray for the work of TEAR Australia in Kenya and Nepal.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY.

- Encourage us to recognise your Spirit working amongst us, as the gifts you give us are acknowledged, equipped and commissioned for the building up of the Church. Pray for joyful fulfilment in the ups and downs of our congregational life, that forgiveness, reconciliation, and happiness may be the hallmarks of our life together.
- We pray for Anne Dudzinski taking the Services at the Retirement Villages tomorrow.
- We pray for the those preparing our Christmas Services.
- We pray for the following members of our parish family: Ian and Eileen Sykes; Richard Taylor, Caroline Taylor-Steele, Oliver, Tim and Pam; Graham and Pam Thomas; and Dennis and Caroline Thorncraft.
- We pray for those in special need of prayer: Phil Perman, Beryl Daniels and any known to us personally.

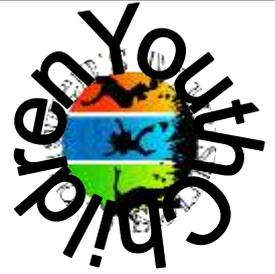
COMMEMORATIONS—nil



HOLY COVENANT PRAYER VINE
REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

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

WORDS FROM OUR YOUTH LEADER ...



Gingerbread for Sale

Last Saturday youth group with the help of Clare Bleijs made a mountain of gingerbread. It has been very popular with groups who use the worship centre throughout the week, however we still have plenty of \$2 and \$5 bags for sale. Great Christmas presents! The money raised goes to support our sponsor child Songezo Baleni from South Africa. Songezo is 9 years old and speaks Xhosa. Songezo's favourite day is Sundays because he goes to Church. Songezo says his role model is his grandfather. The sponsorship which HC Youth raises supports Songezo's community in education, health and food security training. This year we have sent Songezo letters and photos and it is a privilege to pray for him and his family each week in youth group.

Children's Church, Godly Play and Youth Group

Today is the last week for our children and youth ministry programs during the 10am service. I'd like to thank the volunteers who have prayerfully, creatively and diligently supported this ministry throughout 2015. You have been a gift and an inspiration each week. If you would like to be part of this ministry in 2016 please let me know. We require helpers to support the teachers and a commitment once or twice a term shares the load. It is a blessing to minister alongside the children and youth of the parish. Children and Youth Programs will begin again at 10am on Sunday 7th February. A welcome back BBQ will follow the service (please note this is week later than previous years).

Playgroup

I would like to thank Christine Mitchell, Doreen Matters and the other occasional helpers for the wonderful job they do in offering this ministry of hospitality each week to the play group families.

Looking ahead

In 2016 my role will be changing from oversight of youth and children to a focus on the children's ministry. The past 5 years as youth worker in this Parish have been an absolute blessing. I am so thankful to God for calling me here and sustaining me in a very special ministry. Highlights have been getting to know the youth, our camps at Silverwattle, Blackstump and Beyond, Lenten Bible studies and working with the youth leaders. Thank you Holy Covenant for your support, encouragement and enthusiasm.

Advent blessings,
Katherine Rainger

IN THE PARISH

END OF AN ERA

The Nursing Home in Bindel Street, Aranda was opened in late 1971. Over the years it has been called Allambee, Canberra Nursing Home, Amity Aranda and, most recently, BUPA Aranda. It has now closed and all the residents have been transferred to BUPA Calwell.

Holy Covenant has provided a ministry to the nursing home since mid 1972 – for over 43 years. In early years the parish provided a Sunday service each week: two each month by the Anglican congregation and two by the then Joint congregation. In more recent years there has been an Anglican service on the first Sunday of the month, and worship services on the other Sundays were provided by the Uniting Church, Baptist Church, Churches of Christ and the Lutheran Church. St Vincent's Catholic parish provided a weekly mass on Saturday evenings.

Holy Covenant's other ministry involvements with the nursing home over the years included sing-alongs and afternoon tea, Christmas carol singing, bedside communions and funerals. Many parishioners, past and present, have been involved in these ministries.

It has been a privilege for Holy Covenant to have been able to provide Sunday services and associated pastoral care to the residents of the nursing home and we thank all involved for the love and care they extended to the residents and staff.

- *Paul Shelley*

St John's Care—query about recent statistics

We received a query about the statistics cited in a recent article from St John's Care regarding domestic violence against women. It stated "87% of victims of "domestic violence" are women and 98% of perpetrators are men". The quote was taken from the following source:

Australian Government, Australian Institute of Criminology
Key Issues in Domestic Violence – Research in Practice No. 7
Anthony Morgan and Hannah Chadwick ISSN 1836-9111
Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology, December 2009

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/rip/1-10/07.html>

2012 personal safety statistics from the ABS are available at this link:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4906.0>

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS ...

There were more nominees than positions for Parish Council 2016. Accordingly, voting will be conducted after each service today. Your votes are important to us, so please lodge your voting slips with the Returning Officers before leaving today.

TODAY

Attention all Ministry Team leaders—Annual reports need to be emailed to Libby at the office by the end of January for the AGM in February.

Advent vigil for asylum seekers

From Advent Sunday (November 29) to Christmas, Sister Jane Keogh will be standing, sitting and walking in front of Parliament House in solidarity with asylum seekers and refugees on Nauru and Manus Island and in Australia. Jane Keogh is a member of the Roman Catholic Brigidine Sisters and has worked for justice for refugees and asylum seekers for the past 14 years.

More details on the Noticeboard

A letter from Tikondane—one of our sponsorship recipients

Dear friends of Tiko at Holy Covenant Anglican Church,

You will be able to see just how grateful we are for your wonderful help, when you find out why our thankyou is late: there is no electricity here a lot of the time. Instead, there is a lot of time spent on our 85 members for all of their many problems – hunger for one, but also the fact that they were able to buy some land and now need to build a house in a hurry, otherwise the land will be sold to somebody else.... Sounds crazy to us, eh, but it is true.

We want our crew to grow their own food, so that they are independent of income and donations at Tiko, so they need their own land. And they are all subsistence farmers and we have a programme '19 steps out of poverty for the subsistence farmer', in spite of global warming, so in the end we will be fine, if we are helped by wonderful people like you.

Thanks again from all our hearts. We feel we have to send you information on the crowdfunding that Tiko friends in Holland are organizing, but our heart is not in that. If our friends would send their donations to them rather than to us from now on, we would be in very dire straits. Also we do not like the idea of two parts of tiko, one for the visitors, and one for the crew – we pride ourselves on being a big family. Anyhow, time will tell. You may like the pictures, though?

For now many many thanks again for your wonderful support. With best wishes for the festive season and for a good New Year, yours ever **Elke and the Crew.**

IN THE PARISH

From the Communications Team

Dear Parishioners,
With over 100 responses to the survey we are amazed by your support. We also appreciate the views and comments you have provided to us. We will use the survey to guide the Parish and keep a good balance between traditional and digital to hopefully better meet the needs of all.



A GIFT FOR CHRIS

Next **Sunday 20 December**, after the 10am service we will sadly be farewelling Chris Lewis and his family as Chris takes up his new ministry with All Saints Ainslie next year.

Please bring a plate to share for morning tea. All are welcome.

The parish will be giving Chris a farewell gift. If you would like to contribute to this please place your offering in an envelope marked "Chris's Gift:" and place in the offertory plate or leave at the office or make an online transfer.



To all who came to the working bee yesterday to prepare our church and grounds for our Christmas celebrations..

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Rescuing child soldiers

Your gift will help pay the salary of a community organiser so they can rescue child soldiers in Burma. Please share Christmas. Give to the Christmas Bowl appeal.

Thank you for your support!

Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

FREECALL 1800 025 101
ACTFORPEACE.ORG.AU

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 64 493 941 795

Christmas Bowl

Envelopes are available from back of church.

**New Year's Eve Labyrinth
Walk for Peace**

31 December 2015 4pm - 7pm
Australian Centre for
Christianity and Culture
Labyrinth 
15 Blackall Street Barton

Come and create Come and walk
Come and pray Come and reflect
Stand up for peace. Come
whatever your age, creed, race,
gender, religion Come for a short
while or the whole time. Come,
for peace.

For information and to register
interest: Susanna Pain,
Associate Director, Liturgy, Art
and Spiritual Care Australian
Centre for Christianity and
Culture. 0418637469
susanna.pain@gmail.com

**LIGHTING OF THE
ADVENT CANDLE**

In Him was life and that was
the light for all people.

**The true light that gives
light for every person was
coming into the world.**

WANTED URGENTLY:

Someone with graphic design
skills and the necessary software
to re-build the parish logo.

Please contact Paul Shelley
epshms@grapevine.com.au or
0419 255 002



TO THREE OF OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE
RECENTLY RECEIVED AWARDS

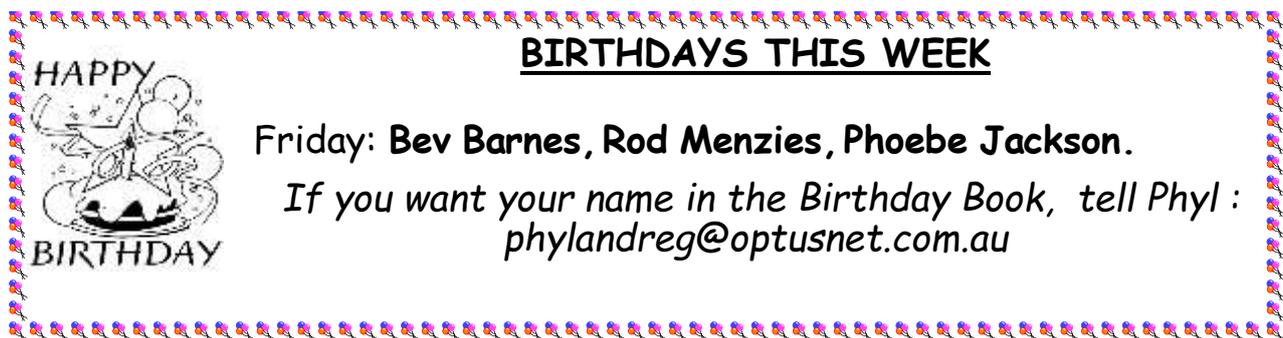
VAL NEWTON - The Mary Potter Values in
Action Volunteer Award from Calvary Hospital.

- * **MEL BROWNING** - Values in Action Award for excellence in
quality and compassionate care in her work as a physiotherapist.
- * **SAM BROWNING** - Order of Australia Student Citizenship
Award for his individual citizenship through varied contributions to
community service.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Friday: **Bev Barnes, Rod Menzies, Phoebe Jackson.**

*If you want your name in the Birthday Book, tell Phyl :
phylandreg@optusnet.com.au*



MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR	The Revd Paul Wallis 0428 537 672	Email: revdpaulwallis@gmail.com Day off: Friday.
HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST	Revd Anne Dudzinski 6278 6087	Em: annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au
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
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Libby Warren Office: 6251 6100	Email: office@holycovenant.org.au

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE Open 10 am - 2 pm Tuesday to Thursday	89 Dexter Street, Cook, ACT 2614 PO Box 98, Jamison, ACT 2614 Tel: 6251 6100	Email: office@holycovenant.org.au Web Page: http://holycovenant.org.au
WARDENS	Kathryn Body 0403 500 882 Deranie Jackson 6254 4769 TBA	
BULLETIN EDITORS	Phyl Holmes Wendy Elkhuisen	Email: weeklybulletin@holycovenant.org.au Hm E: phylandreg@optusnet.com.au

DETAILS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2015

Fourth Sunday in Advent

8.00 am

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Reverend Anne Dudzinski
Preacher: Katherine Rainger

10.00 am

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Reverend Anne Dudzinski
Preacher: Katherine Rainger



SENTENCE:

Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love

Zephaniah 3: 16-17

READINGS:

Zephaniah 3: 14-20
 Song of Isaiah (APBA p391)
 Philippians 4: 4-7
 Luke 3: 7-18



8 am HYMNS

271
 289 v1-3
 264
 265
 282

PRAYER

Most holy and most generous God, you have more laughter in store for us than we can ever imagine.

As we step one more week closer to Christmas, convey us from the trivial to the profound, from worry to eagerness, from brief pleasures to that divine joy which nothing on earth or in heaven can ever subdue.

Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

AMEN



	8.00 am	10.00 am
Sidespersons	Carol & Peter Sherman	Helen & Harris Boulton
Readers	Sandra Ross Rosemary Kennemore Anne Ranse	Jayne Murray Doreen Matters Harris Boulton
Intercessor	Bob Arthur	James Ellis
Organist	Heather Shelley	Pam Lane
Ministry of the Word	Luc Rose	Paul Shelley
Deacon	Anne Ranse	Anne Ranse
Cup	Luc Rose Rosemary Kennemore	Paul Shelley, Doreen Matters, George Gerrity, Phyl Holmes Extra bread: Paul Wallis
Morning Tea	Mary Lynn Mather Jocelyn Kirkland	Helen Boulton Dorothy Hurst
Children's Church		Karen, Prue, Rika, Katy M. Tea: Thorpe's