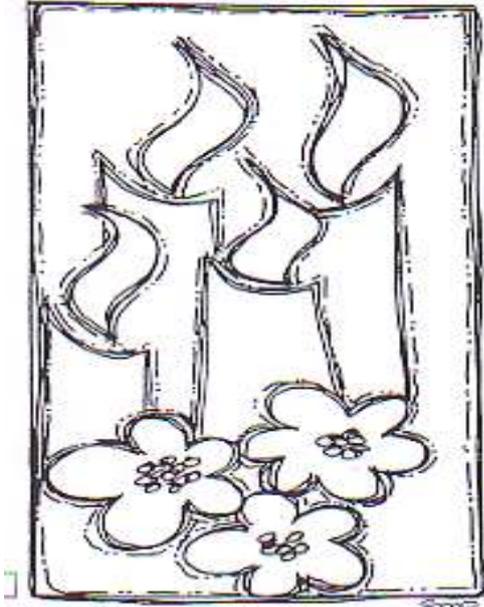


# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH JAMISON

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



## WEEKLY BULLETIN

**20 DECEMBER 2015**

## FOURTH 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 Anne Dudzinski  
Preacher: Katherine Rainger

**10.00 am**     **HOLY COMMUNION**  
Celebrant: The Reverend Anne Dudzinski  
Preacher: Katherine Rainger



*Please join us for morning tea after the Services*

# THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

<b>Tuesday</b> <b>22.12.15</b>	12.30 pm	Worship Centre	Meditation and BYO lunch
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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2015

**Thursday 24 December: 4.30 pm Family Christmas Service**  
 Celebrant: Katherine Rainger

This is a family/child friendly service, where dressing up to tell the Christmas Story takes place! This is a great service to bring your family and friends with young children!!



**11pm Midnight Eucharist**

**Friday 25 December:**  
 8 am Holy Communion  
 10am Holy Communion

**From Sunday 27 December through till Sunday 24 January :**  
 9 am Holy Communion

ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY IN RECESS		RETURNING
<b>Sunday</b>	Children's Church & Youth Group	7 February 2016
<b>Monday</b>	Covenant Care	1 February 2016
<b>Tuesday</b>	Craft Crew Meditation & BYO lunch	15 February (9.30am) 5 January (12.30 pm)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Service and lunch Ever Active Class	3 February 18 January
<b>Thursday</b>	Scrabble Book Club EFM	7 January 18 February Late January
<b>Friday</b>	Play Group	5 February
<b>Saturday</b>	Benedictus	30 January

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

### Advent 4 Luke 1: 39-45

### MARY'S STORY

- *What good is it if Mary gave birth to the Son of God ... and I do not also give birth to the Son of God in my time and in my culture?*
- (Meister Eckhart 1260-1328)

Only five sleeps until we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity. Today we focus on Mary's role in the story, which in Luke's gospel unfolds in three movements: the Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38), the Visitation (1:39-45) and the Nativity (Lk 2:1-20). Luke's vivid dramatisation of this story has caught the imagination of artists and poets throughout the ages. In addition to the external details of setting and dialogue, the text suggests some of Mary's inner reactions. When greeted by the Angel, we are told that 'she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be' (v. 29). And she was not afraid to ask! Later when the shepherds shared what they had been told about Jesus' birth, the word 'pondered' is used again: 'But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart' (2:19). Maybe there is more to Mary than we have noticed!

The text also suggests her unfolding understanding of her role in God's redemptive story. Although young and of limited education and life experience, she is given an inspired, prophetic voice beyond her years. Mary's Song or *The Magnificat* (Luke 1: 46-55), which occurs after her visit to Elizabeth, shows an amazing vision of God's plan of salvation and her wonder at her role in it.

So what does Mary's story ask of us? There is of course her availability to God and willingness to expand her understanding of God's call to her that we could well imitate. St John of the Cross, 16<sup>th</sup> C. Spanish mystic, goes further. You may initially be startled by this poem (an extract is given below), but I see it as a variation on the imagery in the Eckhart quotation. (I am also reminded of the passage in Matthew 25 where Jesus says that he comes to us in the sick, imprisoned and hungry.)

*If you want,  
the Virgin will come walking down the road  
pregnant with the holy,  
and say,*

*"I need shelter for the night, please take me inside your heart,  
my time is so close."*

*Then, under the roof of your soul, you will witness the sublime...  
as she grasps your hand for help, for each of us  
is the midwife of God, each of us.*

(From Daniel Ladinsky (ed): *Love Songs from God*)

Do we *want* to do that? Where and to whom might we be being invited to provide shelter and support, to midwife the holy?

- Frances MacKay



### PEOPLE DOING IT TOUGH AT CHRISTMAS

The lead up to Christmas is a particularly busy time for St John's Care. When I took on the role of Director, I didn't appreciate just how busy it would be.

We open our present room from the 8<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December from 9.30am – 2pm. In the first 6 days we have assisted 208 families with presents for their children and family hampers. We have had tremendous support for our Present Room this year with a wide range of organisations donating toys and hamper items including Rotary (Canberra and Belconnen), Canberra Rotaract, Commonwealth Dept. of Employment, Girls Grammar, Brindabella Business Park (Café Avion), PwC, National Blood Authority, Campbell High School, Canberra Youth Theatre and The Snow Foundation in addition to our regular church supporters and a wide range of individuals.

There is also a great deal of work required to get the Present Room ready and I would like to particularly thank Rhonda, Jack, Steve, Joan, Joyce and David.

We are also busy preparing for our Christmas Day lunch when we expect to feed up to 300 people, if last year is any guide. Once again we have been overwhelmed with the generosity of people wanting to volunteer on the day. At last count we have 50 people willing to spend some of their Christmas preparing, serving and cleaning up on the day. Many will also be "Table Hosts" ensuring that all are welcome and enjoy the day.

In addition to our special Christmas offerings, we are also experiencing a significant increase in the number of people seeking assistance from our Emergency Relief Centre. We recently had 43 clients, a record number for one day and over the past week have been helping on average 25 clients per day, which is well above our usual average of 14.

Christmas can be quite a traumatic experience for people who are doing it tough, so if you get a chance to be charitable, have a conversation, share a smile or some love with someone, please take it. I was reminded at St James', Holt last Sunday about the importance of "generosity" in our faithful lives.

We will be closing over the Christmas break from 2pm on 24<sup>th</sup> December until 9.30am on 4<sup>th</sup> January and we will not be doing our usual Friday lunch in January.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas! I hope it is full of joy and time spent with family and loved ones.

**Wish list: vegemite, lentils, honey, toothbrushes and pasta sauce.**

**Stuart Davis-Meehan, Director**



# PRAYER POINTS FOR THIS WEEK

## IN THE WORLD

- Pray for the confounding of those who cause war and suffering, that peacemakers might be lifted up, the poor fed and justice reign. We pray that what divides us and brings destruction to human community – injustice, exploitation, violence, religious extremism, greed and so on – should be quenched by love and hope in a world remade in your image.

## IN AUSTRALIA

- We pray for those who struggle with grief, pain and loneliness that Christmas sometimes brings. And for those who are in despair that there is not even enough money to give their children basic necessities as gifts.

## WORLD WIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH

- We pray for the Church in Ghana and North India.
- In the Australian Church we pray for the bishops, clergy and people of the Dioceses of Tasmania and The Murray.

## IN OUR DIOCESE

- We pray for the clergy and people of the Parishes of St Paul's, Turvey Park with Tarcutta and St Alban's.
- We pray for ministry to prisoners and prison officers.

## MISSION

- We pray for the work of Australian Board of Mission in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.

## IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY.

- We pray for all those who will join us in celebrating the birth of Christ over the next few days. May we be a welcoming community, ready to open our hearts and minds to those who enter into this worship space.
- We pray for the those preparing our Christmas Services.
- We pray for the following members of our parish family: Rhonda Thorpe; Rhys, Anna, Lucy and Georgia Thorpe; Marilyn and Colin Tolano; Philip, Jane, Emily, Sarah, Louisa and Matthew Trigge; and Anthony, Susan, Elizabeth and Michael Troy.
- We pray for those in special need of prayer: Phil Perman, Beryl Daniels, Bishop Alan Ewing and any known to us personally.
- We give thanks for the life of Heather Ryan and pray for her family as they mourn their loss.

## COMMEMORATIONS

**Wednesday:** Robert Noel Cooper (died 1996)

**Monday:** Thomas, Apostle and Martyr

**Saturday:** Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Hear our Prayer,  
O God. †

## IN THE PARISH

### WE SAY FAREWELL TO CHRIS LEWIS

TODAY

Please join us for morning tea after the 10am Service to thank Chris for his contribution to the parish during his two years with us. And to wish him and Rebecca, Georgina, Benjamin and Alyssa God's blessing as Chris takes up his new appointment at All Saints' Ainslie next year.



If you'd like to contribute to a gift for Chris please put it in an envelope marked "Chris's Gift" and place in the offertory plate or leave it at the office or make an online transfer.

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS ...

#### Parish Council 2016:

Wardens: Merri Bacon  
Kathryn Body (Rector's Warden)  
Nicholas Platt

Council: Naomi Cole  
Evelyn David-Hoole  
Catherine D'Cruz  
Vera de Vere  
Beth Heyde (Rector's appointment)  
Gareth James (Rector's appointment)  
Carol Kubanek  
Tobias Nevile  
Ken Wedgwood (Rector's appointment)



Congratulation and thank you for offering your commitment to the Parish

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We need the power of love,  
not the love of power.  
– Anonymous

#### KEEPING IN TOUCH

The Weekly Bulletin arrives at the website on Fridays and you can listen to the sermons again—or if you missed one, usually by the end of Sunday.

Check out the website—you might be surprised at what you find!

### WORDS FROM OUR YOUTH LEADER ...



#### Children's Church, Godly Play and Youth Group

Last week was our final 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.

#### Camp Pelican 2016

Please keep the Diocesan summer camping program "Camp Pelican" held in Tathra in your prayers. Holy Covenant has youth going as campers and as leaders. Karina Harris is the chaplain on the 5/6 camp. Pray for fun, safety, spiritual nourishment and friendships. January 10th-15th (Yr 10,11,12); January 17th-22nd (Yr 7,8,9 and Year 5/6).

Advent blessings,  
Katherine Rainger



### **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>

### **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.



### EARLY REMINDER TO STAFF AND MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

We would like to have your  
Annual Reports for 2015  
by **Thursday 28 January 2016**  
so they can be made available  
to parishioners before the AGM

#### 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

### The Youth Care Canberra One Day International Cricket Breakfast

Wed 20 January 2016

Funds raised go towards outreach  
services to young people at risk,  
including those who face  
homelessness and violence.  
Including the St. John's Care  
Youth Programme.

More details and how to obtain  
tickets on the noticeboard.



Thank you for your support!

Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Giving girls an education +

Your gift can help train female teachers in Afghanistan and provide a brighter future for girls. Please share Christmas. Give to the Christmas Bowl appeal.

**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](mailto:epshms@grapevine.com.au) or  
0419 255 002

The flowers in the church today have been donated by Robin Rawson in memory of her mother, Enid a former parishioner who died on 22 December a few years ago. We give thanks for her life and our memory of her.

**Flowers for Christmas** If you have any flowers that Kath Arthur may be able to use for Christmas, please contact Kath on 6251 3283 or [kandrarthur@gmail.com](mailto:kandrarthur@gmail.com).

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Wednesday: **Ian Sykes** Friday: **Jesus.**

If you want your name in the Birthday Book, tell Phyl :  
[phylandreg@optusnet.com.au](mailto:phylandreg@optusnet.com.au)

## MINISTRY TEAM

<b>RECTOR</b>	<b>The Revd Paul Wallis</b> 0428 537 672	Email: revdpaulwallis@gmail.com Day off: Friday.
<b>HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST</b>	<b>Revd Anne Dudzinski</b> 6278 6087	Em: annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au
<b>HOLISTIC CARE NURSE</b>	<b>Ven Anne Ranse</b> 0439 139 209	Email: nurse@holycovenant.org.au Days: TBA
<b>HONORARY DEACON</b>	<b>Revd Susan Joy Nevile</b> 0431 133 852	Email: susanjoyn@gmail.com
<b>YOUTH AND CHILDREN WORKER</b>	<b>Katherine Rainger</b> 0401 142 851	Email: youth@holycovenant.org.au
<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<b>Libby Warren</b> Office: 6251 6100	Email: office@holycovenant.org.au

## PARISH DIRECTORY

<b>PARISH OFFICE</b> 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
<b>WARDENS</b>	<b>Kathryn Body</b> 0403 500 882 <b>Deranie Jackson</b> 6254 4769	
<b>BULLETIN EDITORS</b>	<b>Phyl Holmes</b> <b>Wendy Elkhuisen</b>	Email: weeklybulletin@holycovenant.org.au Hm E: phylandreg@optusnet.com.au

## DETAILS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2015

**9.00 am**

### HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Paul Wallis



HOLY COVENANT PRAYER VINE  
REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

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

**SENTENCE:**

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

*Luke 1:45*

**READINGS:**

Micah: 5:2-5a  
 Song of Mary (APBA p.31)  
 Hebrews: 10:5-10  
 Luke 1:39-45



**8 am HYMNS**

621 (457)  
 289 v1-4  
 219(i)  
 211(ii)  
 161

**PRAYER**

Loving God, you have chosen the weak to put the powerful to shame, give us the courage of your holy daughter, Mary. Encourage us to rise above that which is deemed normal, and beyond that which is comfortable, and to confront the future with thanks and praise. Then may things come to life in us that exceed expectation, and beckon others to your glory. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. **AMEN**



	8.00 am	10.00 am
<b>Sidespersons</b>	Hilary Harris, Tony Willis	Reg Holmes, Jey Hoole
<b>Readers</b>	Steve Daniels Tony Willis Anne Ranse	Dorothy Hurst Neville Hurst Anne Ranse
<b>Intercessor</b>	Bob Arthur	Bruce Barnes
<b>Organist</b>	Kath Arthur	Rhys Thorpe
<b>Ministry of the Word</b>	Tracey Matthews	Joh Sheehan
<b>Deacon</b>	Anne Ranse	Anne Ranse
<b>Cup</b>	Tracy Matthews Anne Ranse	Anne Ranse, Phyl Holmes, Leo Wimmer, Neville Hurst Extra bread: Paul Wallis
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Margaret & David Megs	Danni Ellis Carol Kubanek
<b>Children's Church</b>		In recess