

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH JAMISON

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

BULLETIN - CHRISTMAS DAY 2016



Welcome to our worship and fellowship today! 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.30 pm

FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Celebrant: Revd Katherine Rainger

9.00 pm

Christmas Eucharist with Carols

Celebrant and Preacher:
Revd Canon Margaret Campbell

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00 am

Contemporary Christmas Celebration with Eucharist and Carols

Celebrant and Preacher:
Revd Canon Margaret Campbell



ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY IN RECESS		RETURNING
Sunday	Children's Church & Youth Group Rainbow Fellowship	5 February 2017 5 February 2017
Monday	Covenant Care Crafty Crew	6 February (10 am) 20 February (9.30am)
Tuesday	Meditation & BYO lunch	Mid January (12.30 pm)
Wednesday	Service and lunch Ever Active Class Meditation	3 February (12 noon) 18 January (2 pm) Late January (6 pm)
Thursday	Scrabble Book Club	5 January (9.30 am) 23 February (2 pm)
Friday	Play Group	3 February (10 am)



***From Sunday 1 January to Sunday January 29 2017
One Service only: 9.00 am Holy Communion
Sunday 5 February: 8 am and 10 am Holy Communion***

The Parish Office will be closed from
23 December to 3 January 2017
inclusive.

**Have a
Blessed
Christmas
Season**
From the Staff

*Love is born
With a dark and troubled face
When hope is dead
And in the most unlikely place
Love is born:
Love is always born.*

*Michael Leunig:
When I Talk to You*

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Dear friends,

One of the advantages of wearing a clergy collar is that people expect you to talk about God. I have been a part of some amazing impromptu conversations. One that I remember started with the question 'do you believe in miracles?'

Christmas is a good time to ask yourself that question, because the most amazing miracle of all time is that the creator of the universe, whom we call God, chose to become a part of this world that he had made. By being born a defenceless baby to a young woman whose man initially thought he should end their engagement because she became pregnant. By living in an occupied country with a despotic ruler who reacted to news of the baby's birth by killing all baby boys in the region, so that he should not survive. By fleeing, as refugees, and taken in by others until it was safe for them to return to their country.

That is, of course, the story of Christmas. But in a library of 66 books, called the bible, that story only takes up two chapters in two books. It is the answer to the *how?* of the story of God's love.

To understand the *why?* of the story* you need to read the Hebrew Scriptures (which we sometimes call the Old Testament) which tell the journey leading up to God becoming one in the world. The Christian Scriptures (which we sometimes call the New Testament) tell the *what?* – what happened next. We are the living story of what is still happening today.

Jesus is called Immanuel, which means God is with us. And all through the time that Jesus was with us he lived with conflict, condemnation, injustice, discrimination. Jesus demonstrated how to live in peace, mercy, justice, compassion and love. John Bell, of the Iona Community, says of Jesus:

Light looked down and saw darkness.

"I will go there," said light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

"I will go there," said peace.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

"I will go there," said love.

so he,

the Lord of Light

the Prince of Peace

the King of Love,

came down and crept in beside us.



(Wild Goose Worship Group, Cloth for the cradle, 2008)

Do you believe in miracles? Today we celebrate the miracle of God creeping in beside us, and being with us still. I pray you can discover this miracle for Christmas and beyond. May the love of God, the light of Christ and the joy of the Holy Spirit abide with you this day and forever. Amen.

- **Margaret**

*A concise summary of *why?* is also found in John 3.16-17

PS: Do I believe in miracles? You bet 😊

WITHIN THE PARISH

FROM PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Council held its last meeting for 2016 on Tuesday evening, over a meal together.

- The next PC meeting will be on Tuesday 31 January, when new members of PC for 2017 will be invited to participate.
- The date for the AGM in 2017 has been set for Tuesday 21 February, 7.30pm. The Rector will appoint three members of the PC at the AGM (or up to a month after it).
- The Treasurer reported that we are on track financially and will complete the year with revenue slightly above target.
- Consideration was given to a draft budget for 2017, which will be refined further before the AGM, and to priorities that may be implemented for major maintenance, minor works and equipment - such as a new projector and screen (already approved in principle), new technology and Rainbow Centre modifications to support children's and youth activities, and new storage for the vestry. Action is being taken to upgrade security for the Rainbow Centre.
- The Rector spoke of her intention to strengthen children's and youth ministry; this will be an important aspect of strategic planning and related stewardship in mid 2017. She is also going to set up a Facebook community information page for Holy Covenant.
- An update will be sought in the first three months of 2017 for information to go into three parish publications (Information Booklet, Directory, and Roll) together with formal permission for personal information to be used in various contexts.
- Reports were received with thanks from the various ministry teams. Most are running smoothly but future Covenant Care funding is uncertain and a submission is being made to the Government.
- Parish Council considers that the parish is ending the year on a very good footing, and looks forward to 2017 with both hope and confidence.



I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL YOU...



. . . that through the Holistic Care Ministry and on behalf of you all I have distributed 9 hampers for Christmas to people in need.

They were very gratefully received and some with tears at the thought of having something to put on the table for Christmas. A big thank you to Belconnen Rotary for the donation of the bulk of the contents in the hampers. As an extra I was able to give a young mum with two small children and a sick husband a nativity scene that was given to me to find a home for it. She wept and hug me with thanks.

So many in our community need our assistance and there are many we are helping. But the HCN ministry needs more volunteers to enable us to do this. If you are considering doing some volunteering next year then maybe the HCN ministry is for you. Prayerfully consider this thought over the holiday period. All volunteers are welcome and I would really like two active people who could commit to 1-1/2 hours a week or fortnight for specific tasks. A very big thank you to those who already give of their time to this amazing ministry.

Christmas blessings,
Archdeacon Anne

CUPPA AND CONVERSATION

At a loose end in January? We will be having morning tea again this year. Please come guys and gals as it provides an opportunity to catch up with friends or make new ones.

When: 10am— 12 noon every Wednesday in January.

Where: In the Worship Centre



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.

WITHIN THE PARISH

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY IN 2017

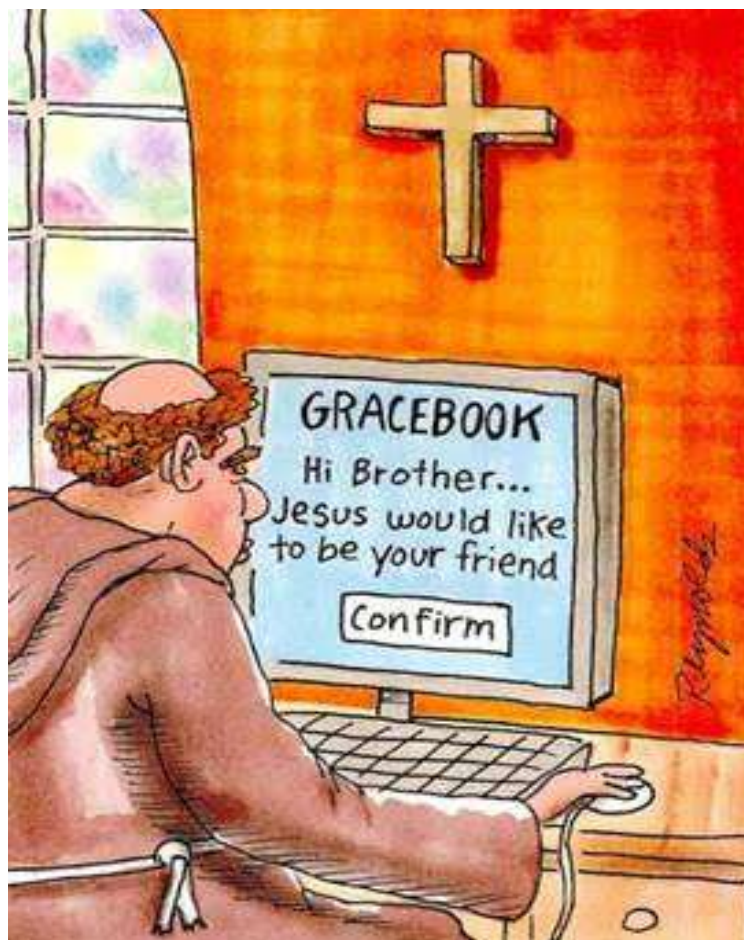
Education for Ministry is both theological discussion and theological reflection in a group learning community. If you are interested in learning more about EFM and thinking you would like to join us next year there will be an information and registration evening (date to be advised). In the meantime you can speak to Merri Bacon 6251 1110 or Nic Platt 6251 6170.



REMINDER TO STAFF AND MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

We would like to have your
Annual Reports for 2016 by
Thursday 26 January 2017 so they
can be made available to
parishioners before the AGM on
Tuesday 21 February

ANGLICAN NEWS for
December is available from
the Diocesan Website.
Click on the Anglican News
button on the right hand
side.





- ◆ From 1 January to 29 January inclusive - only one Service
 - ◆ Tuesday 31 January - Parish Council Meeting
 - ◆ Tuesday 21 February - Annual General Meeting
 - ◆ October 13 -15 - Retreat at Galong
- ◆ 9—28 April 2018 Margaret will be leading a trip to the UK exploring our Christian heritage , finishing at Iona. Details from Canon Margaret.



The Christmas Bowl appeal

ACT FOR PEACE

Leaflets and envelopes are available
from the back table

Prayer Vine requests over Christmas and January

Any prayer requests from 25 December to 15 January please send to pastoralcare@holycovenant.org.au

From 15 Jan to 31 Jan please send to phylandreg@optusnet.com.au

From 1 February the prayer vine will revert to prayervine@holycovenant.org.au



How beautiful upon the mountains,
and among the coastal cities and towns,
and across the red outback plains,
are the feet of those who bring good tidings,
who publish the coming of peace,
who bring good tidings of great joy,
who publish salvation,
who says to God's people:
Your God certainly reigns!

To you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. this day
Christ is born indeed! Hallelujah!



MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR	Revd Canon Margaret Campbell 0417 423 472	E: rector@holycovenant.org.au Day off: Monday HC Office: 9.30am-4.30pm (T,W,Th)
PASTORAL CARE CO-ORDINATOR	Revd Anne Dudzinski 0413 994 739	E: pastoralcare@holycovenant.org.au
HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST	Revd Connie Gerrity 0429 423 725	E: connie@gerrity.id.au
HOLISTIC CARE NURSE	Archdeacon Anne Ranse 0406 379 599 (new phone no.)	E: nurse@holycovenant.org.au Days: Mon & Thurs (10am - 2pm)
HONORARY DEACON	Revd Susan Joy Nevile 0431 133 852	E: susanjoyn@gmail.com
CHILDREN'S WORKER	Revd Katherine Rainger 0401 142 851	E: children@holycovenant.org.au
YOUTH LEADERS	Elle Platt 0434 960 967 Jeremy Platt 0466 661 860	E: youth@holycovenant.org.au

PARISH DIRECTORY

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BULLETIN EDITORS	Phyl Holmes Wendy Elkhuisen	Email: weeklybulletin@holycovenant.org.au

DETAILS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 1 January 2017

9.00 am

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant and Preacher: Revd Canon Margaret Campbell

