

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



In-person public worship has restarted but on a restricted basis. Please use the URLs below so that we can manage attendance and contact information. Registration available from Monday. We will also continue to worship online via ZOOM video conferencing. To join us, use the link below.

<https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTxFcN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTxFcN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09)  
Password: 033643

Kid's church will be meeting in the Rainbow Centre for the last time this year.

## SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

Seating limited to 75 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

No registration required (sign-in only)

10am Holy Communion

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNEKE>

Celebrant:

Rev Connie Gerrity

Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Blue Christmas

For Christmas services see page 3.

## SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER

Seating limited to 75 people per service.

9am Holy Communion

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNEKG>

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM

### 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

## SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2020 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### MARY'S CHOICE

In his book *Peculiar Treasures*, Frederick Buechner writes about the archangel Gabriel's visit to Mary "She struck the angel Gabriel as hardly old enough to have a child at all, let alone this child, but he'd been entrusted with a message to give her and he gave it. He told her what the child was to be named, and who he was to be, and something about the mystery that was to come upon her. 'You mustn't be afraid, Mary,' he said. And as he said it, he only hoped she wouldn't notice that beneath the great, golden wings, he himself was trembling with fear to think that the whole future of creation hung now on the answer of a girl."

You can imagine all the lesser angels gathered around, looking down and holding their collective breath. "What will she say? Will she do it?" Because they all knew the way God works is only by allowing people freely to answer "yes."

Freedom of choice, the exercise of free will, has always been at the top of God's priority list when it comes to interaction with human beings. And God will never force a "yes" from anyone or trick anyone into a response of love. God never makes obedience the best choice if people don't truly have the option of disobedience as well.

God respects our freedom. That is made clear from the beginning of the biblical account in Genesis. Rather God always reaches out to us in love inviting us to respond to that love by freely saying yes to God.

That challenge to say 'yes' reaches a culmination in this moment, described in our gospel when an angel stands before a girl, answering her questions, his knees knocking together, trying to keep the quiver out of his voice, as he and all the angelic host and even God wait. Will she do it? Will she say, "Yes"? We know the answer Mary gave: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word." With this answer, all the heavens rejoice, and the plan is set in motion that will bring the true Light of God's presence to shine in the darkness bringing new hope, new peace, new freedom.

The answer Mary gives to the archangel answer are words for us too. They are words that change everything. During Advent, we hear about how to prepare for the coming of the Lord—how to become more and more people of hope and love and joy and peace. Advent provides us with time for self-examination, for repentance, a time for drawing close to the God who is always rushing to meet us with open arms of love.

God is always calling us to greater commitment. God invites us to offer ourselves in the same trust as Mary, who though she was afraid, answered God's call with joy. May we too answer that call and so share with Mary in God's great work of bringing love and healing to our world.

Connie Gerrity

**RECTOR:** The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton, 0407 408 333, [rector@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:rector@holycovenant.org.au)

**OFFICE:** 6251 6100, [office@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:office@holycovenant.org.au)

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.holycovenant.org.au>

**SHARING CHRISTMAS CHEER WITH AT RISK YOUNG PEOPLE**

St John's Care/Raw Potential are needing gift cards to give to our at

risk young people to help them feel the love this Christmas! Are you able to help?

General gift cards that cover a range of shops are great (but no alcohol stores thanks). Westfield, Rebel Sport, JB Hi-Fi, or supermarket cards are always welcome.

Specific needs include:

- A **Bras n Things or Myer** voucher for young person who needs a specialist bra-fitting due to chronic back pain.
- A **Lowes or any menswear store** voucher for a young guy who lost everything in a fire and needs suitable work clothes. He is about to start volunteer work to get real work experience. This will help him to start a career in disability work.
- A **Kmart/Target** voucher for a young couple recently moved into their first home after being homeless for a long period. In need of homewares.
- A young woman who was victim of DV and has been homeless for several years, and could really use a makeover to boost her confidence and self-esteem. A **haircut and facial or make-up** voucher would help immensely?
- A family with 5 hungry teens who are really struggling to make ends meet. **Any help appreciated.**
- A young woman with complex trauma and mental health issues and facing homelessness. A **Supercheap Auto** voucher to help her keep her car on the road would really help.
- A **Clothing store** voucher for a young woman currently struggling in boarding-house accommodation who needs summer clothes and likes pretty things.
- A young guy doing trades labouring needs work boots and hi-vis work clothes. A voucher for **Big W or work wear store** would be very welcome.

There are many others, but if you're able to spare a few dollars for a gift card, please pop a card into an envelope marked "Raw Potential" and drop it into St John's Care - 45 Constitution Ave Reid between 9.30am - 2pm.

Most of the young people we support don't "do" Christmas. After years of being disconnected from families, Christmas is just too hard.

Your kind gift can really help change a young life.

Merry Christmas!

Kind regards,

Gabe Penn, Team Leader Raw Potential

**Items required:** 1 Litre Cooking Oil, 500ml Olive Oil, tinned vegetables, very small long life milk.

**COVENANT KID'S CHRISTMAS PLAY**

Would you or someone you know like to be in Covenant Kid's Christmas Play on Christmas Eve at 5pm?

Please come along to rehearsals straight after the 10am service today or

Thursday 24 December 3pm

Contact Wendy Robertson 0481458037 for more information

**UNFOLDING PARASOLS**

*O Love that will not let me go. TIS 602*

Much of what we see in our world can bring such healing to our rushed and anxious spirit if we just stop a moment and pause. Be still. And when you do you see the wonder that puts a hush in your spirit and a smile on your face. I mean just look outside. Have you seen the magpies kicking up the tan bark, as Annie Dillard would say, or the unfolding parasols of the glorious roses, and the growing size of the baby Pee-Wee birds that nested not long ago in the gum tree? And as for the sunset across the water, that can only be described as a pathway leading straight to the golden ball of the sinking sun. Ah, go find His love, it will lift your spirits.

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anne, servant of the Lord

<https://comewalkwithme-reflections.blogspot.com>



The pathway of the sinking sun

**ST JOHN'S CARE CHRISTMAS PRESENT BOX**

- Any presents placed in the box now will be used throughout the year to help with birthdays and other occasions.
- Please place unwrapped donations of gifts and toys in our box for distribution through the St John's present room.
- Wrapping paper is also welcome, as are gift cards for teenagers. Please see the notice board for other suggestions.

## Get real man

we are talking about God  
the creator of the universe  
we are talking about real power!  
you have absolutely no idea man  
beyond your understanding!

apart from making miracles happen  
he showed us in like fashion that  
even in the most horrendous injustice  
he was here to support our lives  
no matter the pain

what an unbelievable gift  
isn't it just wonderful -  
that he came here, today, for you and me!  
and that he is a little crazy,  
get real man!

*Richard Scutter Christmas 2020*



### WEDNESDAY MORNING TEAS IN JANUARY

Come and enjoy a cuppa and a  
chat in January. Often it is a time  
when not much happens, so

come and join us on the following Wednesdays:

Wednesday 13 January 2021  
20 January 2021  
27 January 2021

From 10am through to around 12noon.

### ANGLICAN NEWS

The December Anglican News is now out and attached. A larger version is available on our website for any printing required.

To the page:

<http://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>

Straight to the pdf on the website (larger size for printing):

<https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Anglican-News-December-2020.pdf>

## WHAT IS A BLUE CHRISTMAS?

Elvis Presley's music speaks in surprising ways. In 1957 he released the song, Blue Christmas, the first verse of which was

*I'll have a blue Christmas without you*

*I'll be so blue just thinking about you*

*Decorations of red on a green Christmas tree*

*Won't be the same dear, if you're not here with me.*

The song speaks to how hard it can be to get into the Christmas spirit when we're missing family. It's even harder when we are separated from them because of distance, estrangement or grief.

Our Blue Christmas service is a quiet time for reflection and to remember the good times. So if you're missing someone or know someone who is, why not come along to this quiet time together – even though Elvis won't be there.

## PARISH COUNCIL 2021 ELECTION RESULTS

Wardens include Joh Sheehan (rector's warden) and Deranie Jackson (people's warden). An additional warden will need to be elected at the AGM on Tuesday 16 February.

As there were the same number of nominations as vacancies, the following members are elected to Parish Council:

Paul Shelley (Treasurer)  
Allison Cooper-Stanbury  
Sandra Ross  
Wendy Robertson  
Anthony Troy  
Tobias Nevile  
Carol Kubanek (Rector's appointment)

The following members have stepped down. We are very grateful for their contribution over a challenging year:

Jayne Murray  
Bec Marston

The rector has the capacity to appoint two additional members to Council and will do so in the next month.

**Blue Christmas 20 Dec 5pm**  
**missing family and friends**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**Kid's Christmas 5pm**  
**Candles and Carols 11pm**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**Traditional Carols 8am**  
**Contemporary Family Service 10am**



**AT HOLY COVENANT**  
**89 Dexter Street, Cook**

### Zoom for Christmas Services

Zoom will only be provided at the **10am service** on  
Christmas day



### SERVICE CODES FOR UPCOMING WEEKS

Summer program will run Dec 27 - Jan 24 with only a single service at 9am and no evening conversation. As we have a combined service, registrations will help manage numbers.

Dec 24 - 5pm Kids <https://www.trybooking.com/BNELK>

11pm - Candles and Carols <https://www.trybooking.com/BNELQ>

Dec 25 - 8am <https://www.trybooking.com/BNELV>

10am <https://www.trybooking.com/BNELY>

Dec 27 - 9am <https://www.trybooking.com/BNEKG>

Jan 3 - 9am <https://www.trybooking.com/BNEKK>

Jan 10 - 9am <https://www.trybooking.com/BNEKM>

Jan 17 - 9am <https://www.trybooking.com/BNEKQ>

Jan 24 - 9am <https://www.trybooking.com/BNEKR>

Jan 31 - 10am <https://www.trybooking.com/BNKAX>

Normal service schedule will resume Jan 31.

### WHEN ACTIVITIES RESUME:

Tai Chi	Resumes 03.02.21
Wednesday Midday Service	Resumes 03.02.21
Crafty Crew	Resumes Tuesday 02.02.21. NOTE change of day!
Book Club	Resumes Thursday 18.02.21
Tuesday 1pm meditation	Resumes 02.02.21.
Kid's Church	Finishes 20.12.20. Resumes 07.02.21

#### CHANGE OF DETAILS

We are currently updating the Parish Roll. If any of your details have changed recently could you please let the office know.

### OFFICE HOURS

The office will be closed from Thursday 24 December 2020 until 5th January 2021.

For emergencies please call the rector on 0407408333.

Wayne will be on leave from 27 December 2020 until 18th January 2021

### PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE DECEMBER

Parish Council met briefly on 10 December as part of its end of year celebration.

- Council considered only the rector's report and a draft budget for 2021.
- It thanked Bec Marston and Jayne Murray for their contribution during the year as they are both stepping down.
- It thanked Wayne for his leadership over a challenging year.

- It approved the creation and funding of a curacy / community chaplaincy position for 12 months in 2021 (11 hrs per week) and that Wendy Robertson be appointed to the role in January.

The AGM will be on Tuesday 16 February 2021 with the first meeting of Council is scheduled for Thursday 25 February 2021.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Finding strength in love after fleeing Syria**

Life was already tough for Syrian refugees living in Jordan. And now, the economic crisis unfolding as a result of the coronavirus has made the situation even worse. This Christmas your gifts will help refugees in Jordan to stay safe through the pandemic. Your kindness will translate into lifesaving food rations, hygiene kits and medical care. What a wonderful way to share God's love. **Please give today.**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

## COLLECT for 4th Sunday of Advent

Gracious God,  
 whose eternal Word took flesh among us  
 when Mary placed her life at the service of  
 your will:  
 prepare our hearts for his coming again  
 and keep us steadfast in hope,  
 that we may be ready for the coming of his  
 kingdom;  
 for his sake, who lives and reigns with you  
 and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## PRAYER POINTS

### IN THE WORLD

⇒ We pray for the world still in the throes of the COVID pandemic and pray that the newly developed vaccines will bring relief

### IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ We pray for all who are travelling—for care and safety for all their journeys

### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Riverina
- ⇒ Cootamundra Parish
- ⇒ Temora Parish
- ⇒ Junee Parish
- ⇒ Junee Correctional Centre Chaplain—Natalie
- ⇒ Pray for those who work in the justice system

### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ Belonging and caring team— that everyone has a lovely Christmas, reunited with families, remembering how important they are
  - ⇒ MOTM Let us give thanks for a year spent in a growing awareness of the Lord's presence in our lives
  - ⇒ Parish camp and parish retreat—they'll go ahead and be of great benefit to a growing parish in 2021
  - ⇒ Work Health and Safety
  - ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Gareth, Jo, Hannah, Isobel and Elanor James; Jayne Murray, Russell, Aidan and Emma Judd; Rosemary and David Kennemore; and Kate King.
- We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Andrew Hill, Phil Bloomfield, Judith Ann, Bev Barnes, John Blue, Anne and Peter Bazeos, Violet Hart and Lucia Horciu and anyone known to us personally.

### COMMEMORATIONS

Wednesday: **Robert Noel Cooper (d. 1996)**

## READINGS

- 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 7.16
- Psalm 89.1-4, 89.19-27
- Romans 16.25-27
- Luke 1.26-38

## MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

### Children's Worker

Wendy Robertson 0481458037  
[children@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:children@holycovenant.org.au)

### Youth Leadership Team

Celeste (0474 547 531), Remus, Sarah and Tobias  
[youth@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:youth@holycovenant.org.au)

### Wardens

Paul Shelley 6251 1568  
 Joh Sheehan 6251 7151

### Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore  
 6251 2009; [rkmore@grapevine.com.au](mailto:rkmore@grapevine.com.au)

### Belonging and Caring

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton  
 0407 408 333; [rector@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:rector@holycovenant.org.au)

### Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

#### Program Manager

Rhonda Thorpe  
 0487 945 615; [nurse@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:nurse@holycovenant.org.au)

### Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

#### Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM  
 0406 379 599; [anne.ranse@gmail.com](mailto:anne.ranse@gmail.com)

### Honorary Priests

Reverend Anne Dudzinski  
 0413 994 739; [annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au](mailto:annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au)

Reverend Connie Gerrity  
 0429 423 725; [connie@gerrity.id.au](mailto:connie@gerrity.id.au)

### Resources Team

0419 255 002

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**Monday: Lachlan Robertson**

**Wednesday: Ian Sykes**

**Friday: JESUS**

**Wednesday 30th: Megan Mackay**