

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



COMING UP

To join us on Zoom, please use the link below.

<https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366)

Password: 033643

SUNDAY 20 JUNE

Seating limited to 75 people per service.

Sign in using Check In CBR App required

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant : Rev'd Connie Gerrity

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Wayne

Brighton

5pm Youth Alpha

SUNDAY 27 JUNE

Seating limited to 75 people per service.

Sign in using Check In CBR App required

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Twilight Conversations

Coming up

Sun 20 June—11:30am Diving Deeper—
Why Sing?

Fri 25 June—7pm Family Trivia Night

Thurs 1 July—11:30am Community
Lunch
7pm Leaving Depression
Behind

Sun 24 July — 6.00pm Parish Dinner

Fri 13—Sun 15 August—Parish Retreat

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 JUNE 2021 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST BELIEF, FAITH AND PRAXIS

I find it hard to grapple with the relevance today of a shepherd boy killing, in single combat, a Philistine warrior (*1 Samuel 17*). With difficult stories, its easy to revert to what I think I know.

Most people hear about David and Goliath in Sunday School where sadly the interpretation is often superficial. We're told that the story purports to tell us how much we can accomplish if we are on the right side, that is, on God's side. We may even go a step too far and believe it tells us that if we kill our enemies and be handsomely rewarded – a case of 'having your cake and eating too.'

For me, this 'easy interpretation' points us in the wrong direction. Yet, we find similar verses that seem to support the view that God's all about smiting our enemies, such as in Psalm 9, "My enemies turn back; they stumble and perish before you. For you have upheld my right and my cause". According to this perspective of 'right smites might' the end (Israel's victory) justifies the means (killing Philistines) enabling us to be simultaneously right, righteous and respected!

This view of the world is the antithesis of Jesus' story. Where was his worldly respect when he was whipped and crucified? And what material rewards did he enjoy as an itinerant preacher who relied on the charity of others for food and shelter? In my view, *Mark 4* captures the essence of what we should be doing. Jesus asks his disciples who are terrified of drowning: "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

Our responses to Jesus' queries will vary but I think it comes down to belief versus faith. Jesus' disciples believed in

him but such belief was blown away in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. What happens in our lives when we encounter stormy weather? Our belief in God is an acceptance, a mental assent, that can be fragile and break when life gets tough, too busy or we are thrown us off balance. By contrast, faith is about trust that determines what we do and how we act, not just what we think. It is this connection from what we believe to how we act, the link from belief to faith, that is called praxis.

What does this all mean for the story of David and Goliath? David's praxis was to do what his faith called him to do, namely, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it, and rescued the sheep from its mouth". Thus, with our understanding of the New Testament, David and Goliath is a story about a boy who was looked down upon yet with faith, action, and with God's grace, saved Israel.

David's actions in standing up and defending his 'flock' was self-sacrifice not a grab for power or material rewards. He did what he had to do; he put his life at risk so save others, just as he had done before as a shepherd boy to save his sheep. Belief alone did not bring David to that point of praxis.

Belief without faith will disappoint us. What we do and knowing the 'why' of what we do, is faith. This faith can transform our lives and those around us. As St Francis of Assisi said,

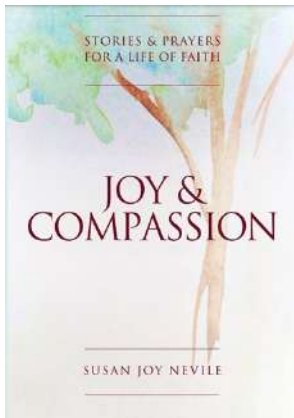
Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

Quentin Grafton

RECTOR: The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton, 0407 408 333, rector@holycovenant.org.au

OFFICE: 6251 6100, office@holycovenant.org.au

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



STORIES FROM THE HEART

Susan Joy's book was launched at an event held at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture. Reflections about Susan Joy's life and work were shared by colleagues, friends and family. This week, Quentin Grafton reflects on the book itself.



I would like to acknowledge the Nambri and Ngunnawal People on whose Country we are coming together. I pay my respects to their traditions and their elders, past, present and continuing. I also recognize that they never ceded their Country.

Others, far better qualified than I, will talk about Susan Joy Nevile and her life. I am here to talk, albeit briefly, about a book 'Joy and Compassion', that we launch here today. As the title suggests, it's a book of stories, it's a book of prayers and it's a book of insights about how we engage with the world, creation, and the people around us.

While the book is, without question, a book grounded in Susan Joy's deep faith, it invites all who seek to see beyond the material world and to picture a deeper, spiritual world that is all around us.

As I stand here, I am this material world. From this perspective, I can tell you that the book is 374 pages long, it is in five key parts: (1) 'We are, we can be'; (2) 'With Us'; (3) 'Along the Way'; (4) 'Encountering Troubles'; and (5) 'We Change, We Become' that contain, in total, 86 'stories'. Each story stands alone. Each begins with a bible reference, a 'story, key questions, and each concludes with a prayer composed by Susan Joy and Maurice Nevile, her husband of more than 30 years.

If I try to stand in the spiritual world, with the book by my side, I can tell you that it speaks to me, as I believe it will speak to you. I read but I hear the words of someone profoundly in touch with who she is and the world that she sees and shares with us. It's like putting on glasses to see and it is deeply moving. It's a gift she had in life and it's a gift that is now shared with anyone who picks up and reads it. Truly, it is a book that can (and I have no doubt will) change lives.

Such change is deeply personal, but it does not happen alone. Now isn't that a paradox? In the words of Susan Joy:

'In the Kingdom (and this is the world we live in right now), small things, small people, can make a big difference. When the tiny seed has grown it becomes something that is not big and grand for its own sake,

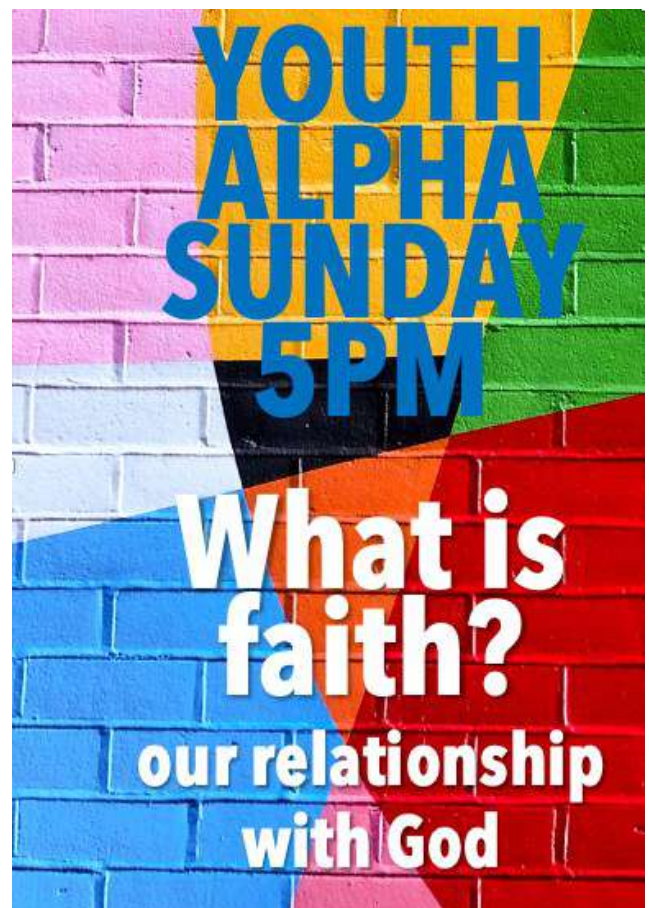
but we are told that the birds of the air can find shelter on its branches'

And she continues:

'Very often we overlook how even the little things we do, and give, can be points of substantial transformation for others, like an act of kindness, an encouraging word, a warm smile, a quiet hug, an ear ready to listen, or a shoulder to lean on. It can mean just being there, present for someone. These small acts are part of the larger picture of our lives, of how each of us slowly become the person of God knows we can be – and it takes a lifetime.'

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, 'Joy and Compassion' will be your companion. If you let it, and let it be with you, it will transform lives.

Quentin Grafton



YOUR OFFERTORIES

Generosity is what allows churches to move and grow. In 2020, regulars were encouraged to make their offertory through direct credit facilities with their banks. It made a big difference for us as giving often falls behind expenses when people go away over winter for weeks at a time. We'd encourage regulars to keep using direct credit so that we can avoid the stress of falling behind.

While many things are back to normal, COVID restrictions mean that we are still unable to pass the offertory plate around the congregation during the service. The plate is still available on the table at the rear of the church. Any who wishes to use offertory envelopes is welcome to do so. New boxes of envelopes are available if you wish to use this method of giving. Don't worry as they have last year's dates printed on them. We figured it was better to reuse and recycle!

DIVING DEEPER

Why do we sing?
a conversation about
music and church

20 June, 11.30am

Our second conversation in our series about worship will explore the question, why do we sing at church? Join us for a conversation that will explore the differences between traditional and contemporary music and how we can enrich the experience here at Holy Covenant, after the 10am service from 11.30am - 12.30pm.



Friday 25th June

TRIVIA NIGHT

A night of fun,
laughter and challenge
for everyone aged 8yrs
and up.

VENUE: HOLY COVENANT CHURCH

TIMES: 7PM FOR A 7.15PM START
FINISHING AT 9PM

Extra details:

- * Please sign up on the notice board.
- * BYO table nibbles and drinks
- * Bring a plate for a shared supper at the end of the night.

Put the FUN into FUNdraising by contributing to Our Famous SILENT AUCTION

- Donate that special something which you are loathe to part with, but would like to see going to a good home
- Is there a service you could provide – window or gutter cleaning, babysitting, ironing, advice to the lovelorn, bake a cake – which would attract eager bidders?
- Offer services as chauffeur for a winery tour? Or a car and trailer for that trip to the dump. Use of a holiday house.
- Raid your cellar for that special vintage
- Do you have a favourite coffee shop, hairdresser or fortune-teller who would donate a voucher in return for great publicity? Or donate one yourself.

Let us have your ideas.

Talk with Bob Arthur (0413 389 897,
rharthur@gmail.com),

Please notify Bob of your intentions and leave
the items in the Parish Office before
Wednesday 21 July



ESCAPING VIOLENCE AT HOME

One day I received a phone call from a YWCA worker asking for an appointment to bring a client she was working with who needed complex assistance. Yes, of course, I replied. A couple of days later, the two ladies walked into our St John's Care

meeting room, one of them introduced B as her client.

B looked abnormally slim and very unwell. I offered her a cup of hot drink as it was a cold day, however, B softly refused stating that she was okay. We sat down, B hardly spoke to start with, it was her support worker from YWCA who started to tell me what situation B was in and her past trauma.

Two weeks prior to our meeting, B left her home together with her 4-year-old son after yet another episode of severe family violence (her partner being the perpetrator). For the past three years, B had suffered continual physical and emotional abuse, and that day she could not take it anymore. She grabbed her toddler and ran onto the streets, called the police and, courtesy of a community service organisation, was allocated a room in a hotel.

B is suffering from a severe case of anorexia and PTSD. She hardly eats anything and is clinically underweight for her height. She said that the only thing that keeps her going is her son M - who is the sunshine of her life.

Being financially challenged and homeless had left them in a terrible situation. B was left with bills that she could not possibly pay. YWCA were assisting, but mainly with domestic violence survivor support. B needed help with the bills.

During their visit we gave B an opportunity to fill up a trolley with food that she could choose herself. To start with, she hesitated. "I hardly need food, it's only for my child", she explained. After 10-15 minutes of walking through our pantry she started to look more interested in 'shopping' at SJC and said with a smile on her face, "Well, maybe I can encourage myself to eat when I cook for my son?"

Half an hour later, she had a huge trolley full of food and other daily necessities but kept saying that she would like to repay St John's Care for the kindness given. Her support worker mentioned that she had not seen B smile at all until that day!

B mentioned that she had no family or friends in Canberra and in the past three months she had ended up in an ambulance three times. She was very worried as she could not afford to pay for her monthly health insurance cover anymore.

Consequently, and as it was quite urgent, SJC decided to support B by paying for two months of health insurance for her and her child. She was filled with joy and gratitude; tears ran down her face and she was speechless.

As B left, she exclaimed, "I would like to repay all the kindness when I get back on my feet and I'll try to keep my promise!" She turned and waved goodbye.

I would like to thank St John's Care donors for their generous help. It makes a real difference to peoples' lives.

Kind regards,

Nailia, SJC Case Manager

Items Required: UHT Milk, Olive Oil, Powdered Milk, Weet-Bix, Pasta Meals.

PARISH RETREAT: 13-15 AUGUST

Hearing from God can be hard when our lives are filled with noise, jobs to do, besides having kids and parents to care for. A quiet time with friends in a peaceful setting can be just the thing to recharge or gain some perspective.

This year's retreat will be held in Mittagong at the Hermitage. It will be led by The Rev'd Gill Varcoe. We need 15 participants to ensure the retreat can proceed. Please advise the office of your interest as soon as possible.

LOVE LETTERS FROM GOD

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16.

What's a blessing?

There is so much wrapped up in that word blessing.

I can 'feel' it now in the quiet and still of the morning. I can 'hear' it in the trill coming from the tiny birds, little notes falling and rising on the morning mist and in the has been, once was, lingering beauty of the last rose of summer and its that little pond of peace that's deep in my soul, my whole being.

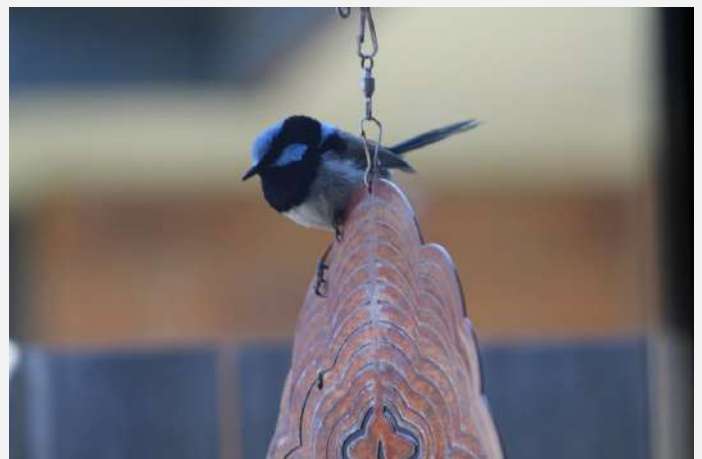
I think I would call a blessing love.

Peter Kreeft said: *The whole world is a love letter from God.* I would add, every blessing is a love letter from God.

Jehovah – shalom. -The Lord is peace.

Anne, servant of the Lord

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



What a blessing

community lunch

the future of food:
healthier, safer
sustainable

Thursday 1 July, 11:30am

with Professor Barry Pogson
ANU Research School of Biology

Canberra Women's Christian Convention

Running from a Gracious God

Saturday 18 September 2021

Helen Bell will be preaching from the book of Jonah

Early bird Registration is now open

Tickets are available at <https://canberrachristianconventions.org.au/womens/>

PARISH DINNER

Saturday 24 July, 6pm

with Dr Andrew Leigh MP

How can churches help a city to flourish?

a signup sheet is available for table seating
volunteers to help
set up and packdown needed

book tickets:

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



HOLY COVENANT FETE

Is a fete on this year? **YES**

Save this date. **Saturday 6 November**
here at Holy Covenant.

A day of fun, fellowship and welcoming
the surrounding community into our
grounds and church space.

Start preparation now to contribute to the plant stall, book stall, trash and treasure, Aladdin's cave, café, BBQ sausage sizzle and whatever else pops up!

Think about how you might be able to help for the day or an hour or two. Sign up sheets will begin to appear soon.

All enquiries to Archdeacon Anne 0406379599 or anne.ranse@gmail.com or in person.

LEAVING DEPRESSION BEHIND

a conversation with
Alistair Jones from Everyman

Thursday 1 July
7pm

Holy Covenant Anglican Church
89 Dexter Street, Cook

Supported by



to register:

www.trybooking.com/BSDXW

ARANDA MEN'S GROUP MEETING THURSDAY 24 JUNE 2021

The Aranda Men's Group will meet at the Parish Centre up at St Vincent's, at 6:15 PM on Thursday 24 June 2021

We will need to sign in using the **Check In CBR App**. If you have problems, someone else can assist.

Cost is \$15 with any excess funds being donated to Vinnies at the end of the year.

If you could please respond by COB Tue 22 June to Paul Pearson (paul.pearson@bigpond.com)

PARISH DINNER VOLUNTEERS

Calling for volunteers for helping with the setup and cleanup for the Parish Dinner on 24 July!

There is a sign up sheet on the board, contact the office or speak to Rhonda Thorpe 0412 203 679

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ We pray for the peoples of the world: for those whose lives are engulfed by misery; for those threatened by famine, disease or war. When we are overwhelmed by helplessness and fear, when we face disasters beyond our control, calm our terrors and still our souls, that we may know your presence and your power

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ We pray for those affected by storms in particular those in Victoria
⇒ We continue to pray for the effective rollout of the COVID vaccinations and the control of COVID infections

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Diocese of Riverina
⇒ Cootamundra
⇒ Temora
⇒ Junee
⇒ Junee Correctional Centre
⇒ Those who work in the justice system

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ Congregations—5pm Sunday
⇒ Belonging and caring team
⇒ Monastery of the Heart—As the MOTH group progresses through the next chapter, “Writing a life”, may we be aware of the many blessings in the twists and turns of our own lives.
⇒ Parish Retreat
⇒ Work Health and Safety
⇒ Wendy (Curate and Community Worker)—that she can continue to listen well when initiating and sustaining relationships with the local community
⇒ For all members of our parish family including Hilary Harris; Violet Hart; Merrie Hepworth; Beth Heyde; Phyl and Reg Holmes; Lucian, Joshua and Lulu Horciu; Nilantha Hulugalle; and Neville and Dorothy Hurst.
⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Judith Ann, Bev Barnes, Anne and Peter Bazeos, Violet Hart, Brianna Smith and Lucia Horciu and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Tuesday: Marjorie Baker (d. 1992)
Thursday: Ruth Eleanor Durie (d. 2019)
Michael Andrew Martin (d. 2019)

COLLECT for Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

O God our defender,
storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid:
rescue your people from despair,
deliver your sons and daughters from fear,
and preserve us all from unbelief;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

READINGS

1 Samuel 17.32-49

Psalm 9.9-20

2 Corinthians 6.1-13

Mark 4.35-41

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

Wendy Robertson 0481458037
children@holycovenant.org.au

Youth Leadership Team

Tobias, Lou and Remus
youth@holycovenant.org.au

Wardens

Deranie Jackson 0408 443 709
Joh Sheehan 6251 7151
Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
6251 2009; rkmore@grapevine.com.au

Belonging and Caring

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton
0407 408 333; rector@holycovenant.org.au

Curate and Community Chaplain

Wendy Robertson
0481458037 warobertson4@gmail.com

Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Manager

Rhonda Thorpe
0487 945 615; nurse@holycovenant.org.au

Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain

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

Honorary Priests

Reverend Anne Dudzinski
0413 994 739; annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au

Reverend Connie Gerrity

0429 423 725; connie@gerrity.id.au

Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday: Peter Sherman

Wednesday: Angela Golubeff

Thursday: Jo James