

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



**SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**FORMING CHARACTER THROUGH LIVING WISELY IN OUR DAILY LIVES**

## COMING UP

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

<https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlloZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

No kids church 19 Sept, 26 Sept, 3 Oct.  
Resumes 10 Oct

## SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Due to COVID lockdown, worship will be provided online only.

8am and 10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm—Twilight Conversations

## SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Due to COVID lockdown, worship will be provided online only.

8am and 10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm—Youth Alpha

## Coming up

Pet blessing will be online for 10 October at 8am and 10am. Bring your pets!

Confirmations will be rescheduled

Quiet Afternoon - Sat 9 October from 2-5pm

## Bank Details for Direct Debit are:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank

Branch: Jamison Centre, ACT

BSB: 062 907

A/C No: 802588

Name: Holy Covenant Anglican Church

The OT scholar Roland Murphy reminds us of the subtlety of the Book of Proverbs which is worthy of consideration: *"A moral code undergirds it, but the real intent is to train a person, to form character, to show what life is really like and how best to cope with it. The favoured approach is to seek out comparisons between the human situation and all else (animals and the rest of creation). It does not command so much as it seeks to persuade, to tease the reader into a way of life."* (*The Tree of Life*, 1996, p15). Walter Brueggemann adds the important rider, that though Proverbs is preoccupied with everyday life, *"the defining point of reference... is the role of God whose intentionality pervades every detail of human life"* (*An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2003, p307).

In today's Proverbs reading we encounter the astonishing poem, sometimes called The Capable or Good Wife, but perhaps more helpfully, The Wife of Noble Character (Prov 31:10-31). It is an acrostic poem where each line of the poem begins with a successive letter of the alphabet in correct order. This profound image of a wise living wife, which closes the book of Proverbs, compares with that of Lady Wisdom, which recurs through Chapters 1-9, suggesting the two images may be linked. Certainly the image of The Wife shows her engaged in wise behaviour and good choices in living her life. She ensures her family's material and social needs (Prov 31:12-19, 21-22, 24, 26), she cares for the poor

(Prov 31:20), and is God fearing (Prov 31:26,30). Her choices shape her character: she is strong, unafraid, trustworthy, caring, kind, wise, happy and dignified. By the example of her wise daily living and her teaching her children's characters are being shaped and honed. She not only brings honour on her husband and family but she herself is trusted and honoured by the family and within the community (prov 31:28-31). Whilst her portrayal is "larger than life", her diligence, concern for others, wise behaviour and love of God point her out as a role model for the women of ancient Israel to emulate.

The James' reading once again hits directly upon another practical situation that was clearly vexing his community of faith, namely, the intemperance of speech and arrogance of some of the teachers within that community of faith. Teachers, like the wisdom sages of old, occupied a critical role in the community as transmitters of knowledge and wisdom, to shape good character and to teach others to live wise and godly lives. Given their important communal role James contends that they may be more strictly judged for their failures to the community. As James argues words can destroy and curse; words can bless and nourish (Jam 3:9-10,12). What a contrast to the wisdom displayed by The Wife of Noble Character. Far from requiring rebuke, she is praised and honoured.

*Merilyn Clark*

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## IT IS HUMAN INTERACTION THAT PEOPLE NEED THE MOST

When COVID-19 made its way back into the ACT a couple of weeks ago, and the lockdown began, we noticed a reduction in the number of people attending our Centre. St John's Care staff began calling people who had previously accessed our service to gauge how they were coping during lockdown and to reassure them that we were open and offering our support. After calling clients, 2 common trends or themes repeated themselves.

1. Many of our clients needed support but were hesitant to leave home in fear of being infected by COVID-19.
2. Others who we spoke with were not in need of food, but in need of someone to talk to, and some human interaction that is evidently lacking in the current lockdown environment.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of clients requiring deliveries, and someone to speak with over the phone. Here is one of the many stories.

I was at my desk making wellbeing phone calls when I began speaking with a young man who had not been to the centre for almost six months. K was a young man in his 30's who lived in a private rental with his wife and 10-week old baby.

He had recently lost his job due to COVID and was struggling to make ends meet for his young family. K explained that his main concern was that their lease was expiring in a fortnight, with the homeowners returning to live in Canberra.

"I had known about the end of the lease for months, but I had a steady job, great rental references and enough money that I thought I could find another rental. All of that has now changed", he said.

The cyclical nature of tenants moving in and out of rentals had been impacted by COVID-19, with many tenants now choosing to stay put. This, coupled with vacancy rates for rental properties in Canberra being less than 1% left K feeling helpless.

Over the next few hours on the phone, K and I walked through the process of applying for Centrelink, and got the ball rolling on an application for housing with Onelink. As the afternoon wore on and our Centre closed, I packed some fresh fruit and vegetables, groceries, meat and dairy into the car. For the young baby, I put together a pack complete with nappies, wipes, toys and some clothes.

I approached his house and pulled into the driveway. As I walked over with grocery bags in my hands, I saw K standing inside with mask and gloves on. I put the bags down on his doorstep, and K's voice trembled.

"I don't think you know how much what you have done today has helped my family and I. There are services who have brought us some food which has been amazing, but often it's the human interaction that people need most".

We will continue to support K and his family over the coming months and look forward to achieving positive outcomes with them.

St John's Care will continue to reach out to our clients and offer our support to those experiencing isolation during

lockdown. We would like to thank all of our supporters for staying behind us as we navigate through these interesting times.

Robbie Speldewinde,  
Programs Coordinator

**Items required:** Vegemite, Tinned Fruit, Shampoo + Conditioner, Cup-a-soup

We understand that shopping is not that easy at the moment. So, if you would like to donate so we can do the shopping for you.

Please go to our website at <https://www.stjohnscare.org.au/>

Or

St John's Care

BSB: 702-389

ACC: 0520 9490

Thank you

## GOD'S CREATION

*Morning has broken like the first morning. TIS156*

The sun did nothing spectacular when it came over the horizon on one cold winter morning, but minutes later amidst the morning fog and icy frost it hung ghost like from the shifting fog that had covered its face, a breathtaking perfect circle of colourless shifting silver and all was so still and quiet except for the beautiful solo from a lone magpie. It was a very special moment, a God moment and I recall a quote from Macrina Wiederkehr who said: '*Such things, such experiences are where we meet God face to face without dying.*' Every new day is like looking God straight in the eye, its as simple as that.

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anne, servant of the Lord

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



Day is breaking



## RETREAT - A QUIET TIME DURING A TIME OF QUIET

The retreat scheduled for 29-31 October at the Hermitage in Mittagong has been cancelled. With the ACT and the NSW Local Government Area in lockdown it seemed prudent not to proceed. Wayne is discussing alternative options with the team about a day retreat that might be done in person or online in October. Stay tuned for more details.

### PRAYER POINTS

#### IN THE WORLD

⇒ We give thanks for all who serve with relief and volunteer agencies, for all who work to bring justice and peace to your broken world

#### IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ We pray in thanksgiving for these ancient peoples who have enriched and sustained our continent over all that time. We praise God for the people who nurtured the land here in our parish that we call home

⇒ For all affected by the lockdown and Covid-19

#### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Diocese of Perth

⇒ Young District Anglican Ministry

⇒ Mothers' Union

⇒ Embracing Ministries

⇒ Pray for: Ministry in our neighbouring Dioceses of Riverina, Bathurst, Wangaratta, and Sydney

#### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ Congregations—5pm Sunday

⇒ Belonging and caring team—that we all look out for each other in this time of lockdown

⇒ Monastery of the Heart—May all who come to MOTH weighed down by the problems of humanity leave giving thanks for the wonder of human life in Christ

⇒ Work health and Safety

⇒ Curate and Community Worker (Wendy Robertson)

⇒ For all members of our parish family including Marilyn Tolano; Jenny Tomkins; Anthony, Susan, Elizabeth and Michael Troy; and Hugo Walker.

⇒ 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, Lucia Horciu, Kerin Cox, Wendy and Peter Ward and anyone known to us personally.

#### COMMEMORATIONS

**Monday:** Thomas Gould (d. 1997)

## COLLECT for 17th Sunday after Pentecost

God and Father of all,

you have taught us through your Son that the last shall be first,

and have made a little child the measure of your kingdom: give us the wisdom from above,

so that we may understand that in your sight the one who serves is the greatest of all.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

### READINGS

Proverbs 31.10-31

Psalm 1

James 3.1-12

Mark 9.30-37

## MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

### Children's Worker

Wendy Robertson 0481 458 037  
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  
0481 458 037 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

**Monday:** Belinda Wood

**Wednesday:** John Painter

# finding our future

## our parish plan

### 2021-2024

Everyone has their own reason for coming to church. For some it's about connecting with God or following their passions. For others, church is about healing or renewal. Some come out of obligation. Most are here because it's where we want to be.

Whatever your reason, we all reach up to God with open hands to have more faith, a deeper hope, and richer love. We reach in to build friendships that last through the storms. We reach out to a world that's hungry for love, looking for hope yet uncertain

about faith. We work with others to build a better world. We find that we don't need to carry all that baggage by ourselves.

Holy Covenant is a place for everyone. We are community of friends who can help you to become all that God made you to be. We value inclusion, diversity, compassion, justice and freedom. We welcome all who want to discover, understand and participate in God's kingdom so that our neighbourhood will thrive.

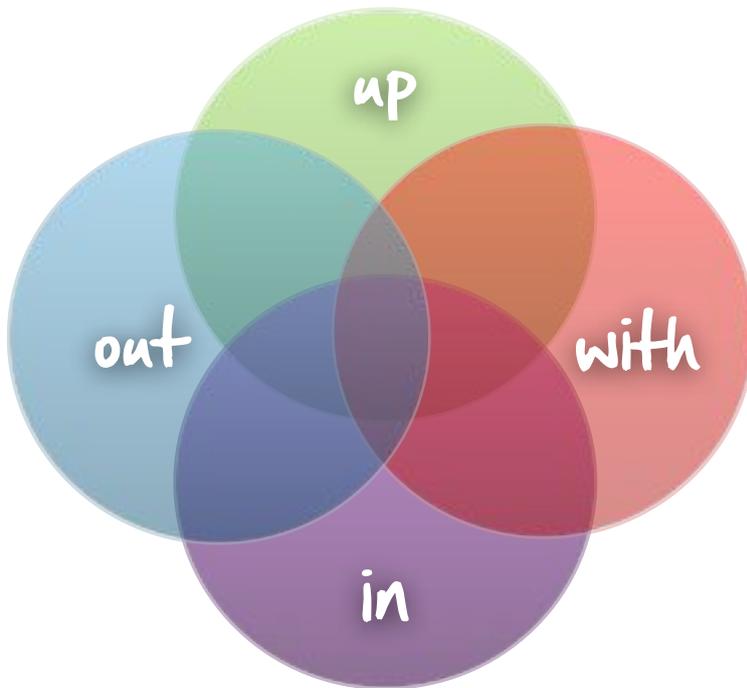
So as you think about God's call, you might want to pray about:

- the future that God wants you to discover
- the seeds that God has planted in you that are waiting to grow
- how might you make a difference by helping or getting involved
- how you can help us redeveloped the Rainbow Centre
- how can we help you to find the faith, hope and love that you are looking for?

<p><i>We grow up into God by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday morning services (8 &amp; 10am)</li> <li>• informal evening service (5pm)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday noon service</li> <li>• Colours of God (adults with disabilities)</li> <li>• worship at aged care</li> <li>• Meditation groups</li> </ul>	<p><i>We nurture faith by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kid's church (5-12yrs)</li> <li>• Youth group (13-18ys)</li> <li>• Youth Alpha (13+)</li> <li>• Fruitful Fridays (13+)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring Faith Matters</li> <li>• Monastery of the Heart</li> <li>• Diving Deeper</li> <li>• small groups</li> </ul>
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*We grow by reaching out to others through:*

- Community chaplaincy
- Holistic Care Nursing Ministry
- Pet ministry
- pastoral care through listening, baptism, weddings, funerals



*We grow with our neighbourhood through:*

- Playgroup
- Community garden
- Becoming well (mental health)
- wider works (financial support for other groups like St John's Care)
- environmental and justice programs

*We grow as a community through:*

- camps
- pizza nights
- women's afternoon teas
- men's dinners
- have a good yarn

# my contribution to our future

Yes, I want to help Holy Covenant become a place for everyone so that our church and neighbourhood can thrive.

Name: .....

Contact: .....

I would like to get involved by exploring:

.....  
 .....

I would like to help Holy Covenant grow by making a special gift for:

- the community chaplain  
 renovating the Rainbow Centre  
 another area of ministry .....

	Other amount		\$80
	\$250		\$60
	\$200		\$40
	\$150		\$20
	\$100		\$10

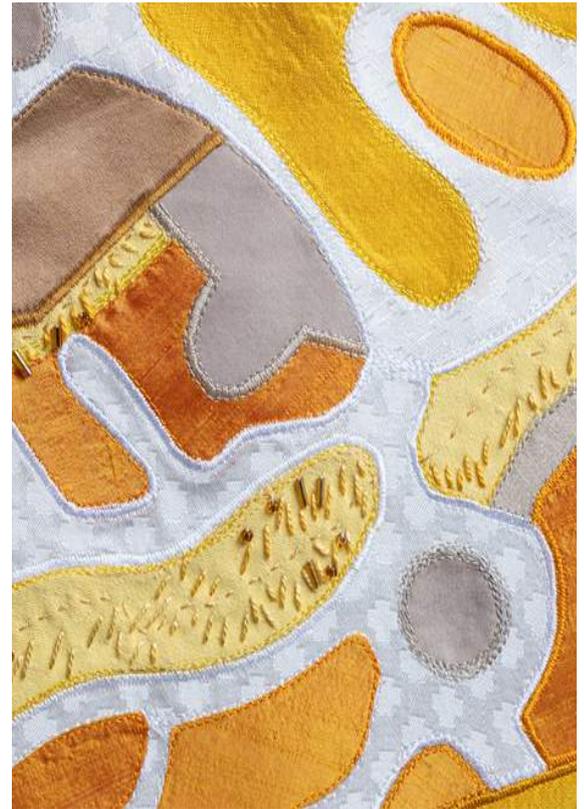
Your generosity makes so many things happen. In 2021 you might wish to consider increasing your weekly giving by 10%.

Giving regularly through an automatic deduction (direct credit) means that the parish can better meet its monthly expenses. Offertories fall behind during the winter months when up to a third of parish members are away either on holiday or due to sporting commitments. Of course, our giving does not stretch like it used to. We encourage those using this method to review it each year.

Offertory envelopes are an important way for regular attenders, who might not feel comfortable with electronic options, to help our church to grow.

You can also make a legacy gift through making a bequest in your will. Gifts of between 1–5% from an estate can allow us to build a trust fund that could yield a regular income stream over time. Such gifts can enable our church to undertake larger projects that would otherwise be beyond our normal capacity to achieve.

	Direct Credit (our details below) Bank - Commonwealth Bank Branch - Jamison Centre, ACT BSB - 062 907 A/C No - 802 588 Name - Holy Covenant Anglican Church
	Offertory envelopes
	Make a legacy gift through a bequest



## A PRAYER FOR MY CHURCH

Good things grow through prayer. You might wish to pray the prayer below, or otherwise commit to praying regularly for our church.

*Generous God,  
 you have given us so much.  
 Everything we have comes from you.  
 Through your goodness we have so much to share.  
 May we who struggle for time make room in our diaries for your kingdom.  
 May we who find change hard make room for new people who may look, sound and act differently.  
 May we discover the wideness, deepness and breadth of your future as your disciple.  
 May all our offerings be used for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.  
 Amen.*