

# 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

Password: 033643

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

## 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

## SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER

Daylight Saving Starts

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 Conversation

## Coming up

Quiet Afternoon - Sat 9 October from 2-5pm

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

Confirmations will be rescheduled

### 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

SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2021

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*LIVING WISELY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES AND IN CRISIS*

The OT reading is from the Book of Esther in the third Jewish canon, The Writings. Brueggemann describes the Book as “a huge act of subversive, dissenting imagination” (2003, p348).

In Esther we follow the struggle for self-identification as Jewish in an Empire which is becoming increasingly dangerous for diasporan Jews living within it, due to the wicked ambitions of a Persian official, Haman, for imperial power. How does pragmatic wisdom deal with the real threat of abuse of imperial power and injustice directed against the Jewish community? Queen Esther's initial response seems to be one of silence and hiding in the hope danger will pass her by. But her wise cousin Mordecai warns against this (Est 4:13-14), arguing that Esther must act to save herself and her people. Accepting that action against injustice is critical, she assumes the responsibility of becoming an agent of salvation in this crisis. In need of support, she asks her people to fast with her for three days and nights before she attempts her risky plan of approaching the king directly about the issue. She recognises that if her plans fail, it may cost her life: “If I perish, I perish.” (Est 4:16).

Today's readings pick up the story with Esther's success in approaching the king and subverting Haman's evil use of imperial power. For her courage and saving the Empire's Jewish diasporan community, Mordecai institutes a communal celebration, the Feast of Purim. Celebrated even today, it recalls Esther's actions, the transformation of sorrow and fear into

joy and laughter, and commends communal feasting, where “gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor” (Est 9:22-23) are distributed.

We too live with uncertainty and crisis. Covid. Climate change. The erosion of historical Christian privilege as our broader society advances toleration of other faiths and beliefs. How do we maintain our own Christian identity? What do vibrant Christian communities look like? Do we need to learn to continuously negotiate our place and relationships in a changing world, as Jewish people have done for centuries, or do we withdraw into a private Christian world? Can we be leaven in a more pluralistic society? What would “subversive dissenting imagination” look like in our times? And what does loving action and service within our community and the wider world look like?

The James' reading for today finishes his letter in a final commendation of the efficacy of prayer for healing, for making confession of sins and being forgiven. James reminds his community of faith that “the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective” (Jam 5:16). But one can almost hear the silent admonition not to forget acting righteously as well. He also reminds the community of the importance to help those who have wandered away, to find their way back (Jam 5:19-20). On this note of caring action he ends his letter.

*O Lord, in our times of crisis, let us carry our Cross wisely in word and action. Amen*

Marilyn Clark

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## CHILDHOOD TRAUMA IN THE BACKGROUND AND ALL THROUGH HIS LIFE

Let me share a story of W (not his real name) with you, dear reader. We met at the St John's Care Centre when he came in for emergency food relief. I greeted W with a smile and he smiled back at me. But there was something about that smile that kept me thinking.

He was polite and reserved at the same time but looked highly anxious. As W was opening up, his story started to shape my understanding of what he was experiencing in that moment.

W was fostered from birth and lived in many foster homes while growing up. He only learnt his real surname as an adult when he managed to get a birth certificate. His time at school was troubled. Due to a series of unfortunate circumstances, W spent time in juvenile detention and much of his adult life in correctional facilities. He had no reliable friends, no mentors and none of the support network that one could dream about. Much of his memory about those difficult times is somewhat erased, as if a protection mechanism set in to save him from deep suffering day in day out.

W suffers from epilepsy and regularly has seizures, especially when he is not on the right medication which happened often when he was imprisoned. W hesitated before saying, "I hope you won't judge me...I...have this drug addiction which am struggling with, I guess that's how I try to escape my severe anxiety, I started to seek help". W presented as a very warm person with a big heart. What he told me more about his life there were obvious signs that he puts himself out to help those who ask for assistance. This sometimes meant associating with people who are drug users. Unfortunately W didn't have the good judgement in place to differentiate good friends from those who were abusing his friendship. Now he would rather not associate with them so he is not tempted.

We sat in silence for a few minutes, then I asked if W was open to me making a few referrals to support him on his journey to healing. He wanted to find a good psychotherapist who could be supportive and pro-active as well as a men's network community service where he could learn to deal with his anxiety through doing something meaningful like woodwork.

So, after our chat, the SJC volunteers provided him with plenty of wholesome food to take home on the day and I went back to my desk to make a few phone calls. These calls yielded some fruitful connections for W as he was linked with MensLine and LifeLine.

W also mentioned that he might have a job interview in a few days, but didn't have the right clothes to wear, so I referred him to "ThreadTogether" where he could be supplied with new clothes to look good and feel more confident during that job interview. W was thrilled when I called him back and told him that he could come back to SJC more regularly until his circumstances improve. "Oh my god, you guys are amazing, your help is invaluable!", he said with utter joy in his voice.

St John's Care will continue to support those in need, particularly during these difficult times. Huge thanks go to you dear readers and donors!

Kind regards,

Nailia, SJC Case Manager

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

## LOVE GOD

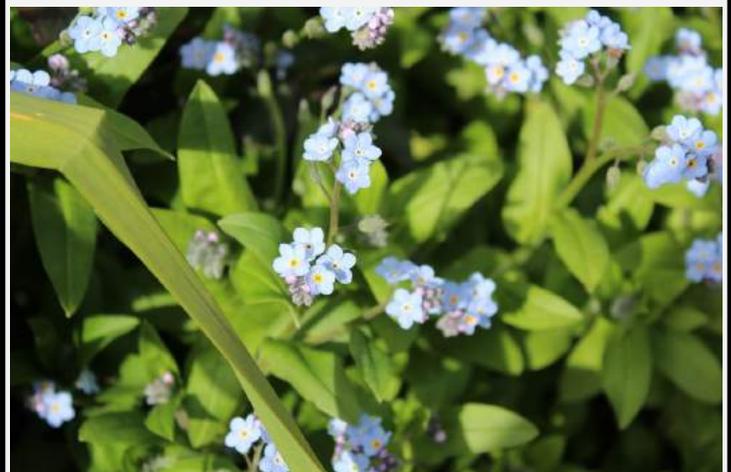
*The Great Love of God O How Lavishly Given. TIS 164*

I often wake up with this lovely hymn on my mind and am still humming it as I get breakfast. The love of God who gave us his Son Jesus and this beautiful world we live in, and the joy of that is something I want to shout to the world. I want to say come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

I had been sharing an agape meal at a zoom service with a small gathering and this beautiful prayer was said: *Beloved friend, stay in love with God. As God's light shines in your lives, shine that light into your world. Our meal here is ended, but God's banquet continues. Take the banquet into the world and never give up until the people are fed. Ah yes, stay in love with God and – go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

Anne, servant of the Lord

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



For-get-me-not

## PARISH FETE UPDATE

We would like to encourage you to keep potting plants. There will be a decision made in December as to how we will proceed with them.

It's a lovely time of the year and we have time on our hands so enjoy the garden and potting.

All else for the fete is on hold until further notice.

Thank you all.

Archdeacon Anne

## my contribution to our future

This is the final week to make a response to our parish plan. Your generosity and enthusiasm has made a big difference.

You can still help by updating your offertory or by filling out the form and sending it to the office by email or post.

Blessings, Wayne

## Mind Matters for the Mature

Supporting mental health and wellbeing

With Angie Hazlehurst,  
Counsellor and Family Therapist

Thursday 7 October 3pm

Online on zoom using the church zoom details

Bring a cuppa and some afternoon tea and join in on the conversation. The session will be interactive, with opportunities to participate (if you like!). All welcome.



## Opportunities to zoom this week!



[https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?](https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=UUpja0SUTXFCNON4MGRiSFVIRlloZz09)

[pwd=UUpja0SUTXFCNON4MGRiSFVIRlloZz09](https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=UUpja0SUTXFCNON4MGRiSFVIRlloZz09)

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Passcode: 033643

**TUESDAY 10:30** Have a Good Yarn has gone online. Bring your cuppa and current project and join the group on the above link.

**THURSDAY 10:30** Join in the fun on the above link and chat to your Holy Covenant community in small groups.

Any problems with connecting, please call Wendy 0481 458 037

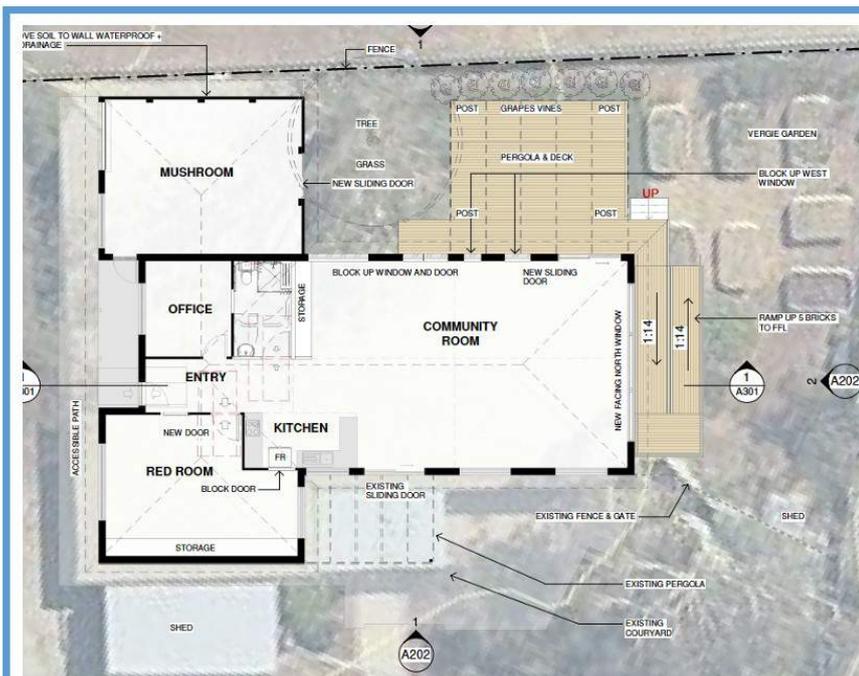
## RAINBOW CENTRE RENNOVATION PROPOSAL

The Rainbow Centre used to be the parish rectory. For more than a decade it has provided meeting rooms for a whole range of activities from meditation and EFM to kid's church and a host of community groups.

Since COVID, we have become acutely aware that many of the rooms are too small. We have also noticed that the bathrooms are unusable for anyone with a mobility impairment. With laundry and showers used for storage, we figured it was time to improve things.

The proposal is to: create a large open space; install an accessible bathroom; remodel the original kitchen; and install a deck and pergola to make better use of the community garden. Such a space would be more usable for parish activities and be very attractive for external groups to hire, giving us a stronger revenue stream.

It is an achievable project given the size of our congregation at present. If you have any thoughts, please talk to Wayne or the wardens - we'd love to hear from you!





**QUIET AFTERNOON - SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER, 2-4.30pm**  
**DRAW NEAR TO GOD IN STILLNESS AND QUIET**

Join us for an afternoon of online guided prayer and reflection as we find refreshment by drawing near to God. With so many things feeling uncertain and places experiencing upheaval it has never been more important to find our peace and refreshment in God's powerful presence. Our time together will be led by Anne Ranse, Rob Maron and Heather Boyd using Scripture, story and poetry with opportunities for journaling, drawing, walking and sharing what God might say to you. So come along, invite a friend and listen to God once more.

**PRAYER POINTS**

**IN THE WORLD**

⇒ For creation, the heavens and the earth that you have made; for the unique and wonderful treasures of this ancient land; for all creatures endangered by human cruelty and greed; for all who work for the preservation of the earth

**IN AUSTRALIA**

⇒ For all who are caught up in crime or addiction, for all who are giving their allegiance to wrong things or feel trapped in circumstances beyond their control

**IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

⇒ Diocese of Wangaratta  
⇒ Anglicare South East, Eden  
⇒ Sapphire Coast Anglican Church  
⇒ Bimbimbie Park/ Albert Moore Gardens, Merimbula, Sanananda Park/ Hugh Cunningham Gardens, Tura Beach and Ross Wotton Gardens, Eden  
⇒ Bega  
⇒ Wambiri Youth and Conference Centre  
⇒ Sapphire Coast Anglican College  
⇒ The Church's ministry in holiday resorts, and the work of evangelism in every parish and institution throughout the Diocese.

**IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY**

⇒ Congregations—12 noon Wednesday  
⇒ Rainbow fellowship/Colours of God  
⇒ Meditation Tuesday Lunchtime— peace and refreshment as they meditate at home  
⇒ Meditation— Wednesday evening - peace and refreshment as they meet via zoom  
⇒ Exploring Faith Matters— peace and refreshment as they meet via zoom  
⇒ For all members of our parish family including Peter and Wendy Ward; Libby Warren; Susan Webb; Prue and Ken Wedgwood; and Audrey and Stuart Wells.  
⇒ 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**

**Saturday:** Stephen Conan Davies (d. 1998)  
Portia Lillian Lloyd (d. 2015)

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

**Saturday:** Caroline Taylor-Steele

**COLLECT for 18th Sunday after Pentecost**

O God,  
your Son has taught us that those who give a cup of water in his name  
will not lose their reward:  
open our eyes to see those who are in need,  
and teach us to set no store by riches and earthly rewards,  
so that, in surrendering ourselves to serve you in your children,  
we may labour for the treasure that endures;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**READINGS**

Esther 7.1-6, 7.9-10; 9.20-22

Psalm 124

James 5.12-20

Mark 9.38-50

**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  
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**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



# 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.

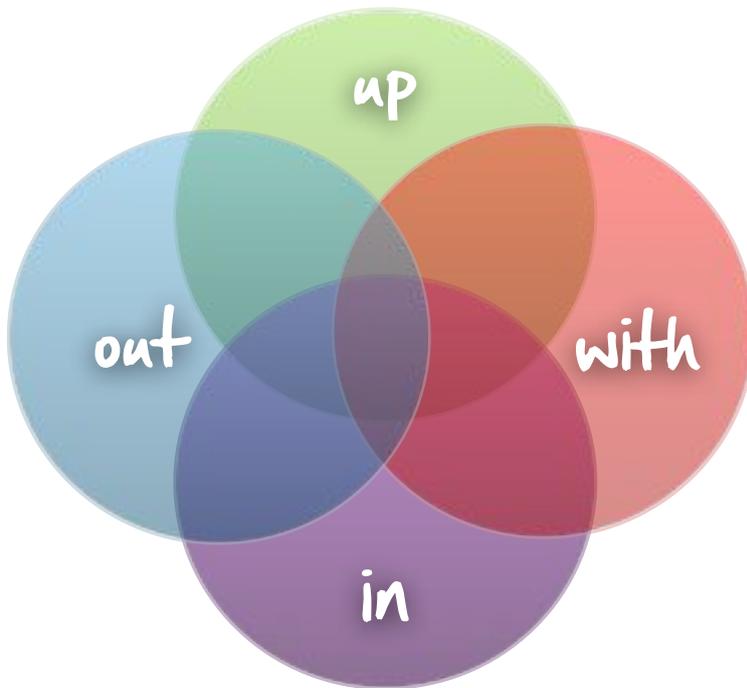
So as you think about God's call, you might want to pray about:

- 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

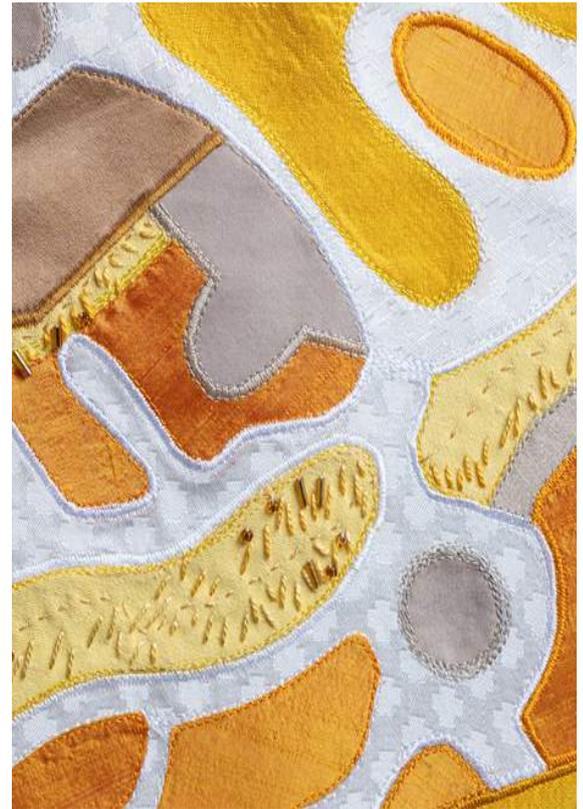
Your generosity makes so many things happen. In 2021 you might wish to consider increasing your weekly giving by 10%.

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.*