

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=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRll0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

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

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

SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER

Pet Blessing online at 8am and 10am.

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

Quiet Afternoon - Sat 9 October from 2-4.30pm

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

Confirmations—Sun 5 December with Bishop Stephen Pickard

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 3 OCTOBER 2021

CREATION SUNDAY

Creation Sunday is designed to encourage us: to give thanks for the wonder and bounty of God's creation, to repent for the ways in which we have damaged and miss used the earth's resources and to pray for wisdom to be generous and wise stewards of all God created. So how are we doing?

We are totally dependent on the earth and its resources for our life and well-being, yet we are seriously degrading many elements of God's creation and putting our lives in danger. I would like to challenge us today to think hard about God's creation.

I suspect that most if not all of us have a respect for God's creation and do all we can to preserve it. I also suspect that we get great enjoyment from living and walking in God's creation. Listening to the birds, watching the whale's breach, taking in the beauty of the glorious flowers and trees and marveling at God's hand in it all but in the back of our minds lurks those words 'climate change' and endless mountains of waste and destructive plastics.

To live in this beautiful world of God's creation we need a balance - every individual doing the best they can to preserve it and at the same time enjoy it.

We are familiar with the words in Matthew's gospel Ch 6:25-34 where Jesus tells us to consider the lilies of the field. If we had been there in the fields with Jesus as he spoke these words, I guess we would have gone on pondering them every time we saw the lilies in the field, or a bird fly by. So, too we should ponder on all of God's creation, reflecting on it and perhaps how it would be if many aspects of it were no more.

Christian prophets for centuries spoke out against injustice and ungodly behaviour in the societies of their time. I should think that in this 21st century the church has a prophetic responsibility to speak out for the whole of God's creation? Are we hearing it?

Archdeacon Anne

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UNEXPECTED SURPRISE

Late last week I had just finished delivering food to a client and returned to my office when I received a phone call from a woman in distress. Her voice was rushed and her breathing was heavy - it was difficult to make out exactly what she was saying.

After a minute or two, the sense of panic had dropped and the conversation was more coherent.

T was a mother of two children under the age of 10 and had lived in their family home with her husband for many years.

Up until last year, T had worked as a private cleaner and had amassed a list of regular clients.

When COVID-19 hit the ACT in 2020, T lost most of her work in the space of a few days. During this time, the family managed to get by on T's husband's salary, however they were living less comfortably and had to sacrifice all extra-curricular activities. To add to this, T inadvertently began caring for 2 young relatives while their parents disputed custody through the court systems.

As 2021 rolled around, T and her family were eager to move past the challenging year that had been and onto more positive things. She reached out to some of the clients she had previously worked for, and was ecstatic to line up some work, however this was incredibly short-lived.

Shortly before commencing work, T received a call from Child Protective Services who informed her that the children in her care were given a Relative Placement – this meant protective services had concluded that the children were unable to live with their parents and/or guardians, and were to live with T until further notice.

This completely flipped T's life on its head –but she was determined to provide the best possible life for the children.

“We began to fall behind on school fees, utility bills and rates. To top it all off, school holidays are about to begin and we have no money to entertain the children with. My daughter's birthday is next week, and I am unsure if we can afford groceries let alone a birthday present.

If there is any kind of assistance we could get from you, it would mean the world to me”, she said.

I began putting together some groceries, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables. Additionally, we found some age-appropriate gifts for her daughter's birthday, and enough art supplies to keep the children occupied over the holidays. I found some new clothing that had been donated recently, and drove out to visit T.

T's hands covered her mouth in shock as I carried the bags of goods to her front door – relief visibly filling her body.

T has since contacted SJC and would like to pass on the following message:

“I would like to deeply thank you, the volunteers, the staff and everyone who supports your organisation. I do not know what I would have done without your support, you

have made such a big difference in our lives. My daughter absolutely loved her birthday gifts, and the kids have been playing outside for days.”

Thank you to everyone who allows us to support those who need it most.

Robbie Speldewinde
Program Coordinator

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 donate to St John's Care

BSB: 702-389 ACC: 0520 9490

Thank you

FEAR NOT!

Fear not for I am with you. Isaiah 41:10

I hear so many say, 'O yes, I trust God,' yet they are compelled to look under the bed at night before they hop in! I think all of us have probably done that at some stage in our life but that's before we really and truly put our full trust in God, before we really and truly knew him.

When I look at the spring flowers of the garden that faithfully reappear every season and the new fresh green growth on the barren winter nakedness of the trees I am inclined to believe in full trust.

I see the baby birds growing up in the so fragile looking nest that seems to just cling to a branch, vulnerable to the wind, yet it stays there. Now that is trust.

There is so much going on in the world that can alarm us but.- Trust in the Lord with all your heart.(Proverbs 3:5)

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ

Anne, servant of the Lord

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



Trust!

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.



EXPLORING FAITH MATTERS

Exploring Faith Matters will be in recess for the next two weeks and will resume on Thursday 14 October.

Merri Bacon

Opportunities to zoom this week!



[https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?](https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05yTXFCND04MGRiSFVIRlloZz09)
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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



ROAD TO REOPENING

The ACT Government have indicated the pathway to reduced restrictions as vaccination targets are achieved. The reality is that

some transmission of COVID in the community will occur when restrictions ease. Consequently, it will be important for us to maintain good hand hygiene, social distancing and follow our reopening plan.

As a church, we value our freedom to love and serve our neighbours. Consequently, the ministry team encourages all volunteers and participants in our worship and activities to be vaccinated, noting that some may have a medical exemption or not be old enough to receive it. Unvaccinated adults and those concerned about their health should continue participate using ZOOM during this transition period. Our leaders and sidespersons will **not** be checking anyone's vaccination status.

Our reopening is likely to proceed through a series of steps:

Step 1 from 15 October

- face masks (indoors and outdoors) and QR Codes required
- worship recommence on 17 October with 25 attenders (register via Trybooking). Video music will be used.
- activities in Rainbow and Worship Centres can recommence with capacity limits of 25 in each venue

- No morning tea at worship
- Funerals up to 1 per 4 sqm or 36 people permitted
- Home and pastoral visits of up to 5 people can recommence among those who are vaccinated
- Visitors to follow requirements and policies of residential aged care facilities
- Wendy and Tobias will be in touch about Kid's Church and Youth Group arrangements

Step 2 from 29 October

- face masks (indoors only) and QR Codes required
- worship attendance can increase to 36 people based on 1 per 4 sqm
- morning tea at worship recommences
- Funerals up to 1 per 4 sqm or 36 people permitted
- Home and pastoral visits of up to 10 people can recommence among those who are vaccinated

Step 3 in November / December

- face masks (indoors only) and QR Codes required
- in-person music to resume
- larger groups in Rainbow and Worship Centres may be possible as density requirements lessen to 1 per 2 sqm

Further advice from groups and parish activities about their reopening plans will be provided shortly. Thanks for all your patience and prayers as we look to resume in-person activity in the weeks ahead.

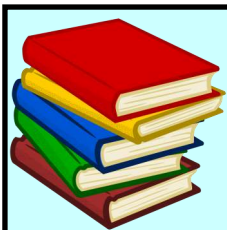
Wayne

**A Spring Poem from Richard
'Canberra Speaking'**

Richard Scutter is well known by the church. As one of his activities he has been writing poetry.

His online poetry can be found at:

<https://mywordinyourear.com/2021/09/23/canberra-can-canberra-speaking/>



RUNNING OUT OF READING MATERIAL DURING THE LOCKDOWN??

No need to worry, the Street Library in the foyer of the church can meet your needs. Take one and leave one or just take

one. And while you're there you can help yourself to the container of wool!

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

PRAYER FOR THE SHELLEY FAMILY

Please pray for the Shelley's with the loss of their son, Luke.

Luke was Paul and Heather's eldest son. Luke's wife is Elissa and his children are Emma and Liam

THANK YOU FROM HEATHER AND PAUL

Heather and Paul Shelley would like to thank the parish community for their love, prayers and flowers following the recent death of their son, Luke.

Luke's funeral will be at Norwood Park at 1.30 pm on Friday 8 October. Because COVID restrictions severely limit the numbers attending, the service will be livestreamed. Please contact Heather and Paul on epshms@grapevine.com.au or 0419 255 002 if you would like the livestream link.

JOIN US FOR MEDITATION DURING LOCKDOWN

If anyone would like to join with others in meditation during lockdown we have two groups meditating. Tues meditation group will be meditating at home for 20-25 mins at 1pm on Tuesdays using the Weekly Reading from the World Christian Meditation Community which can be found at <https://wccm.org/mailings/weekly-readings-teachings/> and their meditation timer can be downloaded as an app or found at <https://wccm.org/> Wed meditation group is currently meeting via the Parish Zoom from 6pm-7pm on Wednesdays. Contact Merri Bacon merri.bacon@bigpond.com

NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

At the September meeting, Parish Council discussed:

- Tightening of COVID restrictions, which necessitate Sunday services only having the Rector and AV Team in attendance with Deacon participating from home.
- Ongoing implementation of Diocesan requirements for Safe Ministry screening, including developing for role descriptions for volunteer roles.
- Wellbeing program – 'Mindfulness for the Mature' has been rescheduled for Thursday 7 October at 3pm.
- Plans for the Rainbow Centre redevelopment- including latest parish feedback.
- Recommendation from Finance review group that further 'wider works' donations be deferred until November meeting.

Sandra Ross
Parish Counsellor

RECRUITING AN OFFICE MANAGER & BOOKKEEPER

We are seeking a proactive manager who will assist in the efficient and effective operation of a growing church office by managing its business operations, daily activities and support to the ministry team.

We are also seeking a bookkeeper to assist our treasurer with managing our accounts.

Position descriptions are available from the rector on request.

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD IN STILLNESS AND QUIET
A QUIET AFTERNOON, SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER, 2 - 4.30PM

*Then Jesus said to his apostles,
"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place.
You need to get some rest."
(Mark 6.31 NIRV)*

Join us for a time of quiet reflection and an opportunity to draw near to God so that God might draw near to you. Come for the whole afternoon or as much you can.

When joining in, find a quiet and comfortable place. If you are indoors you might wish to shut the door from household distractions. You might also wish to find a place in the garden to enjoy the sunshine, wind and the sound of birds in the trees.

Have a Bible, notebook, pen, pencils or paints handy or nearby. During each reflection time there will be an opportunity to respond by writing, drawing or creating something beautiful.

Feel free to have a coffee or water whenever you need.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 2pm | Welcome, introduction and instructions – Wayne Brighton |
| 2.15pm | Reflection 1 – Heather Boyd |
| 2.37pm | <i>music to draw back</i> |
| 2.40pm | Reflection 2 – Rob Maron |
| 3.02pm | <i>music to draw back</i> |
| 3.05pm | Reflection time & break |
| 3.27pm | <i>music to draw back</i> |
| 3.30pm | Reflection 3 – Anne Ranse & Lectio Divina on Matt 6.25-34 |
| 3.57pm | <i>music to draw back</i> |
| 4.00pm | Sharing – Wayne Brighton |
| 4.20pm | Final prayer and blessing – Anne Ranse & Wayne Brighton |
| 4.30pm | Finish |

Join us online over Zoom

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Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Passcode: 033643

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ Gracious God share with us your heart for creation. That we may cherish all life, working together to heal the damage we have done. Knowing that in all our struggles you are beside us, to inspire, strengthen and transform us

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ In your kindness watch over refugees and asylum seekers, those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost, and those who have been exiled from their homes. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be, and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need

⇒ For all affected by the lockdown and Covid-19

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Diocese of Armidale

⇒ St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn

⇒ Friends of St Saviour's Cathedral

⇒ Lucas Tooth Scholar: Susan Bridge (ATO), Oxford University

⇒ Anglican Women of Australia

⇒ Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Goulburn Health Service

⇒ Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn

⇒ The Cathedral Chapter, and all aspects of the work and ministry of St Saviour's Cathedral, the mother church of the Diocese

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ Congregations—8am Sunday

⇒ Children's Ministry

⇒ Parish Council/Wardens

⇒ Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

⇒ Rainbow Playgroup—that all parents be strengthened to cope with the additional demands of caring for children under COVID restrictions without the usual community support

⇒ Lids4Kids

⇒ For all members of our parish family including Megan Watts; Tony Willis; Raphael, Belinda, Kate, Lucy and William Wood; and Rika and Roger Amos.

⇒ 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, the Shelley family and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Wednesday: Lewis Berian James (d. 2002)

Saturday: Alexandra Marion Winders (d. 2020)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Monday: Carol Kubanek, Barry Pogson

Tuesday: Wayne Brighton

Wednesday: Anne Ranse

Thursday: Doreen Matters, Colin Lyons

COLLECT for Creation Sunday

Creator,

the strength of all creatures, we honour you. Listen to the thoughts of your people.

We honour your Spirit who renews the world and calls us to care for your creation.

We give thanks for the morning light, the birth of hope and fresh vision.

We give thanks for the earth
a glorious gift that sustains us all.

We give thanks for those who help us to care for it.

We give thanks to Christ, whose mercy and grace inspires us to lovely embrace all that is and will yet be. **Amen**

READINGS

Genesis 1:20-25

Romans 8:18-25

Matthew 6:25-34

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

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children@holycovenant.org.au

Youth Leadership Team

Tobias, Lou and Remus

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Wardens

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Joh Sheehan 6251 7151

Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore

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Belonging and Caring

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Curate and Community Chaplain

Wendy Robertson

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Program Manager

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM

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Reverend Connie Gerrity

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Resources Team

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