

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Present but Still to Come

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

<https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUcja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRllOZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

Kids church is on at 10am Sundays in person.

Young Adults at 10:30am Sundays

Meeting in person.

SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER

8am and 10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm – Twilight Conversations

SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER

Confirmation Sunday 5 December with

Bishop Stephen Pickard @ 10am

8am and 10am Holy Communion

Celebrant:

The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

3.30pm—Colours of God (Christmas Afternoon Tea)

5pm – Youth Alpha

Coming up

Community Lunch 11.30am Thursday 7 December

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

Advent begins the church year celebrating three aspects of Christ's coming: first the incarnation that begins in Bethlehem, secondly the coming of Christ into our hearts and thirdly the anticipated second coming of Jesus. We look forward to Christmas too, particularly this year, when we can meet again with family and friends and celebrate together following the lockdowns this year.

Prophetic and apocalyptic. These are appropriate adjectives for today's readings. Jeremiah says "Surely the days are coming". Israel has envisaged an ideal Davidic king who will reign with wisdom, understanding and righteousness and preside over a renewed earth that is not fraught with violence and destruction (Is 11:1-9). For Jeremiah it is righteousness that is paramount. What he means by this is the right ordering of the world for life to flourish. This Branch rules in accord with divine order. The expectation of Israel's kings was the maintenance of social order, executing justice and righteousness, implementing the Lord's mandate for justice among his people. The new Branch, Jesus, will unite the people of Israel within the Lord's beneficial order. It is a vision of restorative righteousness: it gives comfort.

The New Testament readings are full of expectation. This is a special time. We need to read the signs. In Thessalonians the Lord is coming to fulfill the prophets' eschatological vision. How is this manifest? It is in love: *abound in love for one another*

and for all. Christianity works in community, a new community based on love for each other. Embracing Jesus for many Thessalonians meant stepping away from traditional loyalties, both civic and religious. It could and often did lead to social ostracism and persecution. However now believers were part of a new family where people previously separated by race and class became sisters and brothers in Christ.

However, the writer of Thessalonians urges not an inward love but an outwards focused love: a love for all. The Christian community is to show love, compassion, care and respect not only to one another but also to those who reject them. We are urged to abound in love. It overflows, it welcomes, it is a beacon.

Paul also urges us to be strengthened in "holiness" and to prepare to meet Christ when he comes. As we approach Christmas 2021 may we contemplate what it means to live in the in-between-time. Christ has transformed us through his incarnation, death and resurrection providing us with an abundant life. Yet our transformation is not complete. Both we and creation long to see God's promises fulfilled. We yearn for justice that rolls down like mighty waters, that the wolf will lie down with the lamb and swords become ploughshares. We long for the day when mourning and crying and pain will be no more.

In celebrating Advent we acknowledge the wonderful first fruits of God's redemptive love and await expectantly and prayerfully for Jesus' return.

Clive Rodger

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Helping one family bring joy to Christmas

A couple of weeks ago I was out in the St John's Care courtyard helping a volunteer take some food to a client's car when I met D and P, and their two young girls. The family were standing next to their car and appeared reluctant to approach the Centre, so I walked over and introduced myself.

D was a tall man with broad shoulders, and his daughters used him as cover, holding his legs tightly as they hid behind him. As we walked towards the Centre, the couple began to discuss some of the circumstances that had led to them visiting SJC for support.

D had been employed in the pest control industry for over 15 years, working for large organisations before deciding to take the leap and start his own business early this year. He explained how he was initially struggling to handle the demand for his services (especially during the mice plague this year), and eventually hired a full-time staff member to help share the load.

When COVID-19 made its way back into Canberra, D lost most of his business overnight. He reached out to previous clients, however the need for the service was almost non-existent. D began selling some of his equipment, and eventually had to let his staff member go.

Fortunately, D had managed to save some funds, and the family had been chewing into this ever since.

"We have three more weeks before there will be no money left" he said.

Despite their struggles, D and P were only seeking some food for their children, intent on managing their situation and getting by on with the little that they had.

I came inside and began preparing some things for the family. Thanks to our donors, we were able to provide a comprehensive school pack for each of the children complete with lunch boxes, drink bottles and enough stationery and books to last two years. In addition to this, the volunteers put together a large family pack with fresh fruit, veg, meat and dairy.

As I carried the bags out to D and P's family, the girls peered out from behind their father in excitement. I sat down with the girls and showed them through all of their new things - their excitement and happiness was incredibly infectious.

Before the family left, I took P aside and discussed some of the programs we were running this Christmas explaining how she would be able to come in and collect some gifts for the kids without them being aware.

I registered the family to receive a Christmas Hamper, Christmas Treat Bag and presents from our Gift Room in December.

D and P were so thankful for the support provided by staff, volunteers and donors, and particularly praised the way St John's Care allows parents to "put life aside" and provide a positive Christmas experience for their family. Since then, we have been working closely with D, and have secured him an interview working as a pest controller. We look forward to providing you with positive updates on D in the coming weeks and months.

Kind regards, Robbie Speldewinde, Operations Manager

Items required: sweet biscuits, savoury biscuits, Deodorant, Vegemite, Cup-A-Soup, 1 litre full cream milk

OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER

Megan Watts joined the Holy Covenant family in December 2020. She and her partner Richard Arthur regularly attend the 10am service, where Megan is a member of the music team. Prior to joining Holy Covenant, Megan was an active member of Tuggeranong Uniting Church, where she served in many roles from running Alpha kitchens to Deputy Chair of the Church Council.



Megan's personal ministries sit squarely in the social justice field. She is the President of Diversity ACT Community Services, (an LGBTIAQ+ support agency), and has many years of engagement with supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

Megan is looking forward to using her administrative skills to support the Holy Covenant family in exploring ways to discover, understand and grow in our relationships with each other and our wider community.

Christmas donation suggestions

If you would like to make a contribution to St John's Care this Christmas, we are seeking some items to fill our Christmas Treat bags:

- Packet of Lollies (Family pack)
- 1 Litre Juice
- Tube or packet of chips
- Jelly (85 grams)
- Chocolate biscuits or Shortbread
- Popcorn

To supplement the Christmas Hampers and Christmas Treat bags, we will be giving each registered family a \$15 supermarket gift card. We are currently seeking \$15 supermarket gift cards and welcome any support we can receive with this.



Christmas
 @ HOLY COVENANT
Sun 19 Dec
 5pm - Blue Christmas Service
 for anyone experiencing difficult times
Fri 24 Dec
 5pm - Community Christmas Carols
 11pm - Carols, Candles and Communion
Sat 25 Dec
 8am - Classic Christmas Service
 10am - Contemporary Celebration
 with carols and communion
89 Dexter Street, Cook ACT 2614

Great Big Garden Day—Thank You!
 Thank you to everyone who volunteered for or turned up at the Great Big Garden Day. Many thanks to Gill & Anne for running the café, and the sausage sizzlers extraordinaire!



CAMP PELICAN
Summer Camp 2022
 RETURNING TO MANNA PARK
 SPACES WILL BE LIMITED
10-14 | **JAN** | **17-21**
 YEAR 7-10 | 2022 | YEAR 5-7

After all the events of the few years we are excited to return to residential Camp Pelican.

Dear Friends and Supporters of Synergy,

We are excited to announce that residential Camp Pelican will return this summer. While we are still finalising some details we thought it was important to let everyone know that camps are on and when they are happening.

To help our fantastic and enthusiastic volunteer camp leaders with the challenges of COVID management, camps will be shorter and places will be limited. However, we are all looking forward to gathering the Camp Pelican community for a fun time at our camp site at Manna Park. So keep an eye out for future emails that will contain information on how to book.

Looking forward to the coming camping season,
 Ben Paton
 Director
 Synergy Youth and Children



Useful Gifts

NOTE: All your gifts are
 * tax-deductible *

Choose a gift ... Send a card ... Bring hope

Despite COVID and other challenges, through its Christian partners from Indonesia to Nepal and South Sudan, **Tearfund** still provides good news to the most vulnerable in tangible ways.

- **\$25** helps communities access **Safe Water**
- **\$100** brings **Mental Health Support** - connects people with mental illness and their families with trained support workers
- **A \$10 gift for Seeds and Tools** also enables training to feed a family - and others

ADVANCE NOTICE: The **Useful Gift Shop** will NOT operate next week, Confirmation Day, 5 Dec.

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Your final opportunity to make **Tearfund** donations at church will be on Sunday 12 December - in time for the Christmas mails.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022

Much of our world today is either curated or contracted, either way someone else makes it happen. Church is different. Churches that value inclusion and diversity are constructed by those willing to help.

Helping can be as little or as much as you can manage. From doing a reading, sharing intercessions, playing music, operating the cameras or laughing with the kids are some ways your help can go a long way. Helping the accounts to balance, leading a home group or jumping on Council are other ways to help our church grow stronger.

Nominations for **parish council and wardens** are now open. Councillors and wardens help our parish to grow by turning aspirations into plans that are practical and achievable. All it takes is a bit of spark to make something happen, a preparedness to listen to the views of others, and the ability to work with a team.

If you'd like our church to be more outward looking and better at engaging our neighbourhood so that it can thrive, why not consider joining the team?

Have a chat with Wayne, Joh, Allison or Deranie if you're unsure or you know of someone who's just waiting to be asked.

Elections will be held on 19 December. The AGM will occur on Tuesday 1 March.

First Sunday of Advent



Hope for families in Indonesia

Central Sulawesi was hard hit by a huge earthquake and tsunami in 2018. Since then, farms which families rely on for food have been affected by floods, drought and the COVID-19 pandemic. Women are learning to make organic fertiliser and pesticides to help them grow their own food to feed their families. This Christmas Bowl, you are helping communities adapt to climate change and withstand financial hardship when disasters strike. **Please give today.**



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: 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

NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

At the 28th October meeting, Parish Council:

- ◇ Reviewed the draft budget for 2022
- ◇ Discussed the Asset Management plan
- ◇ Reviewed role descriptions for parish council and associated roles and noted that Joh and Wayne had developed around 70 for all volunteer roles in the parish. The next step will be to review roles with volunteers to ensure they are comfortable with the description and can complete appropriate screening documentation, which goes to the Diocese.

Noted that:

- ◇ interviews had been held for the Office Manager position and that an appointment was imminent
- ◇ Covenant Care will not recommence at the beginning of November, due to nurse staffing issues. It may begin later in November, but may need to restart in 2022
- ◇ Parish Council elections will be held on 5 December (as agreed at the AGM).

Memorial Service—Jean Groves

A Memorial Service for Jean Groves will be held at Holy Covenant on Friday 10th December at 3pm.

Advent

@ HOLY COVENANT

Nov 28

Watching with hope

Dec 5

Waiting for peace

Dec 12

Preparing with joy

Dec 19

Love is God's justice



Musica da Camera string orchestra with our own Jodie Petrov as flute soloist



2.30 pm Saturday
11 December
at Holy Covenant

Attendance is limited so bookings essential at <https://www.trybooking.com/BTBFS>

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY LUNCH

THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2021 AT

11.30am

Come and enjoy a pre-Christmas outing in a covid-safe environment. Lunch will be served,



I can't wait to tell you

That Covenant Care is returning to face to face activities on Monday, 29 November and 6 and 13 December. It has been a long wait for our clients, carers and volunteers and we are excited to be back! We worked hard to keep all our clients and volunteers connected during the lockdown but coming together really lifts the spirits. On 23 November, some of our community clients and volunteers enjoyed a delicious morning tea at Armadillo's Café at Gold Creek. Some of our clients will also attend the parish community lunch on 9 December to celebrate getting to the end of 2021.

We are already planning for next year including the postponed Covenant Care 10th anniversary celebrations slated for February and a trash and treasure stall in March where our vast accumulation of treasured items will be available for sale. Sadly, due to deaths and movement to fulltime care facilities, our numbers at Covenant Care are down. Are you a carer for an elderly person or do you know someone who is? If you know someone who might benefit from coming to Covenant Care, please speak with Rhonda or Archdeacon Anne. Also, we always need more volunteers right across the Holistic Care Nursing Ministries program. If you have a little time next year and would like to know more, please talk with us.



PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Hope for international co-operation to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccinations for all eligible people

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Protection for those facing flooding due to La Nina rainfall

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Bishop of Waikato and Taranaki; Senior Bishop of New Zealand Dioceses; and Primate and Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia: The Most Revd Philip Richardson
- ⇒ Pihopa o Tairāwhiti and Pihopa o Aotearoa and Primate and Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia: The Most Revd Don Tamihere
- ⇒ Bishop of Polynesia and Primate of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia: The most Revd Fereimi Cama
- ⇒ Anglicare Australia
- ⇒ Synergy Youth; Synergy Camping Coordinator
- ⇒ Specialist youth ministry teams as they speak with parishes and more generally for Peace in the world, for interreligious engagement and for the challenge of the management of climate change and energy sources.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ Family and friends of Jean Groves
- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Anne and Gary Drummond; Anne Dudzinski; Georgina and Andrew Dudzinski; Sue Dunbar; Alan and Bea Duncan; and Ray and Sue Edmondson.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Bev Barnes, Brianna Smith, Claire Whelband and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Monday: Mavis Enid McLaren (d. 2017)



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Monday	Margaret Meggs
Thursday	Connie Gerrity
Saturday	Sandra Button

NOVEMBER ANGLICAN NEWS

The November Anglican News is now out and is available on the website.

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

This is a link to the website that is a larger size for any printing:

<https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Anglican-News-November-2021.pdf>

COLLECT for 1st Sunday of Advent

Eternal God,
through long generations you prepared a way
for the coming of your Son,
and by your Spirit
you still bring light to illumine our paths:
renew us in faith and hope
that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts
and claim our love;
to whom be glory for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-38

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

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Youth Leadership Team

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Wardens

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Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

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Belonging and Caring

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Curate and Community Chaplain

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain
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Resources Team

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