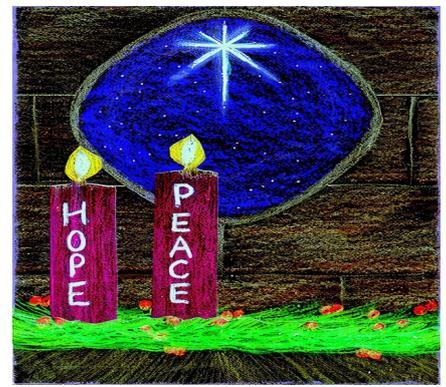


HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 5 DECEMBER

Confirmation Sunday 5 December with Bishop Stephen Pickard @ 10am
8am and 10am Holy Communion
Preacher: Bishop Stephen Pickard
Celebrant
The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton
3.30pm—Colours of God (Christmas Afternoon Tea)

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER

8am and 10am Holy Communion
Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton
Celebrant: Revd Connie Gerrity
5pm – Twilight Conversations

Coming up

Community lunch 11.30am Thursday 9 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

UNCLE JOHN IS BACK

Luke 3: 1-6

It's that time of the year when John the Baptist comes to visit us for two weeks – a bit like an uncle who comes to stay at this time every year. He helps with the sudden flurry of maintenance that's been put off, before the important cousin arrives.

John has an urgent message for the Jews who have been waiting too long for their Messiah to arrive. He raises their expectation that the time really is near.

The task they have been putting off is repentance of sins. Forgiveness could follow. He cries out urgently. Crowds come to see him, for perhaps God has sent a prophet again. Do they hear his message of repentance? Yes. Do they take it to heart? Many do. They want to be ready for the Messiah to save Israel.

Life can be a mess like William Slim Drive at the moment. Now it is being leveled, straightened, filled and smoothed. It is getting deep layers and then top layers of different gravels. There are many barriers alongside.

Do we hear the same message to prepare us spiritually for Christmas, for an opportunity to improve our faith path? Look at bumpy, even rough relationships. What needs digging down to a deeper level rather than covering over with a present?

What could be smoother, straightened out and supported by a basic layer of honesty about feelings, regrets or hopes?

We can take some of John's expectations that Jesus is coming and that God is acting, always acting. If we put off this real and necessary preparation for Christmas, we can be left with an emptiness after, a relief that it is all over. Yet a new love of others, a new knowing of being lovable, a new trust in God's presence in your life can be the best present of all.

What are the barriers we need to break down? The glitter of commercialism. The pressure and busyness and unmeetable standards in work and family situations. Also secular apathy and distorted immature views of the church and Christianity.

Here is another thought from a poem by Kayla McClung, provided by Frances McKay at the quiet day last weekend.

"Are we willing to let go our illusions of how life ought to be

and say yes to how life is in all its ambiguity,

at the same time being open to transformation? Are we willing to prepare a way

in the wilderness of our life and in the world to come

for the Lord to come?"

I found this challenging. How about you? How about us as a faith community?

Look forward to God's answer when he comes this Christmas. It will be good news.

Revd Anne Dudzinski

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The Lord bless you and keep you. Numbers 6:24

How lovely are the spring flowers? It's like God opened a window in heaven and poured out his blessings. Joyce Rupp says: The loveliness of a single flower in radiant bloom can sing my drooping spirit into joy. How true. How very true. I can't look at a rose bud, or poppy capsule, or pending daffodil and not sense the blessing to come and as for the sweet peas, how can such a glorious perfume fill that small pod?

I read this prayer by Frederick Buechner: "Lord, catch me off guard today, surprise me with some moment of beauty so that at least for the moment I may be startled into seeing that you are here in all your splendour, always and everywhere, barely hidden, beneath, beyond, within this life I breathe."

The great Love of God O how lavishly given
Anne, servant of the Lord



Bryan is famous!

Who saw the "Meet your Vendor" article about Bryan in a recent edition of 'The Big Issue'?

If you haven't seen the article yet, you can find a copy of it up on the Noticeboard.

Great work Bryan!



Nungalinga College: Empowering Indigenous Christians - Student Accommodation Appeal

Nungalinga College is the premier Combined Churches Training College for Indigenous Australians. The College is formally supported by the Anglican, Uniting & Catholic churches. Holy Covenant has supported the College through previous fundraising appeals

The College has received grant funding for two student accommodation units, but that funding depends on the college raising \$44,000 for the construction of a third unit. Each unit will provide accommodation for 30 students.

If you would like to direct some of your Advent/Christmas giving towards the college, you can donate online at www.nungalinga.edu.au/donate or call 1800 645 147. Donations to Nungalinga are tax deductible.

Prayer points for Nungalinga:

- new staff for 2022
- application to ASQA to accredit a 'Certificate II in Indigenous Translating'
- funding application for the 'Art & Faith' Centre.



Memorial Service—Jean Groves

A Memorial Service for Jean Groves will be held at Holy Covenant on Friday 10th December at 3pm. Could those attending please bring a contribution for afternoon tea.

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, with sandwiches and delicious slices and we will sing Christmas carols.

There is a sign up sheet on the board if you would like to attend. Donations of slices would be appreciated, also help on the day. **Please sign up by Sunday 5 December.**

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

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.

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, 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.



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Prayer points for Holistic Care Nursing Ministries:

- A safe return for face to face activities
- The Covenant Care Memorial Service on Monday 6 December

Confirmation Congratulations!

Please join us in prayers of welcome and thankfulness for the people being confirmed on Sunday:

Iona Louise Blue Brighton

Ella Grace Dann

Sarah Keeley Dann

Chloe Kiara Dann

Hannah David-Hoole

Mary David-Hoole

Oliver Feitz

Simon Arnold John Mitchell

NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

At the November meeting, Parish Council:

- Endorsed the draft budget 2022 for presentation at the Annual General Meeting
- Agreed to move the Parish Council elections to 19 December as confirmation has been set for 5 December
- Agreed that the Annual General Meeting for 2022 would be held on 1 March
- Agreed to establish a fundraising committee to look at creative ways of growing our income
- Agreed to engage SQC Group to develop detailed construction documents for renovation of the Rainbow Centre.

*Joh Sheehan
Parish Council Chair*

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



Kippax Kids Holiday Happenings

for Primary aged children

presented at

Kippax Uniting Community Centre



Hardwick Cres, Holt (opp Kippax Fair)

10 am - 2 pm

Thursday 20th & 27th January 2022

Different craft, games, stories and activities each day

Cost: \$5 per child, \$10 for two or more
in a family (covers craft and morning tea).



BYO lunch and hat. Do not attend if unwell.

Bookings essential - 6254 1733

An activity of Kippax Uniting Church



**This is a Covid
Aware event**



Musica da Camera
string orchestra
with our own Jodie
Petrov as flute solo-
ist



2.30 pm Saturday 11 December
at Holy Covenant

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

DINNER CLUB

1st Tuesday of the Month

Is meeting on 7 December at 6pm

Good Food! Good Company! Good Vibrations!

At the Southern Cross Club in Jamison

Please confirm attendance with Hilary 6251 8166

Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture

Issue 8 of Engage is now available for download from the
[Centre website](#)



AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE
WISDOM FOR THE COMMON GOOD

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ Scientists working to understand the Omicron COVID variant

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ People facing a challenging Advent/Christmas season

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Diocese of Bathurst
⇒ St Mark's National Theological Centre, Canberra
⇒ Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture Colloquium for Ageing Perspectives & Spirituality
⇒ All being prepared for ministries, both ordained and lay in the Diocese and beyond
⇒ Pray for: Vocations to the sacred ministry (priesthood & diaconate), the process of selection of candidates. The clergy appointment selection process – Clergy Appointment Board chairs; and board members both parish and Diocesan .

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ Family and friends of Jean Groves
⇒ For all members of our parish family including Wendy and Jono Elkhuzen; Pat Ewing; Tim, Annabel and Naomi Farrington; Andrew Feitz, Jodie Petrov and Oliver and Tobias.
⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Bev Barnes, Phyll Holmes, Brianna Smith, Claire Whelband and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Friday: Delma Alice Margaret Murry (d. 2001)



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| Friday | Clara Lundie |
| Saturday | Maxine Rose |

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 2nd Sunday of Advent

God of our salvation,
you straighten the winding ways of our hearts
and smooth the paths made rough by sin:
keep our hearts watchful in holiness,
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose Day draws near, your Son, 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

Malachi 3:1-4
Song of Zechariah (APBA p 425)
Philippians 1:1-11
Luke 3:1-6

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

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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
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Curate and Community Chaplain

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Manager
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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain
Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
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Honorary Priests

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Reverend Connie Gerrity

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Resources Team

0419 255 002