

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



**SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 2021**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## JOYFUL JUSTICE

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

<https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUtpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRll0Zz09>

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 12 DECEMBER

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

### SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER

8am and 10am Holy Communion  
Preacher and Celebrant:  
The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

### Coming up

**18 December:** Working Bee 9am–midday at the Parish Centre

**Christmas Services:** see p.3 for details.

**Office Closure:** The Office be closed from 27 December, and will reopen on January 4. In case of emergency, please contact Wayne on his mobile.

#### 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

Think about John as a Menulog delivery courier – an underpaid food deliverer on bicycle or motorbike. Like John, they are solely focused on their destination. They go where they are directed and they take whatever was given to them to take. The recipient receives the food (or message). It is not about the delivery worker, or about John. It's about what they bring.

John told people exactly what he believed God would have him tell them, so those people could be prepared when the Messiah came.

His message of repentance and forgiveness is the same to prepare us for Jesus coming afresh to us this Christmas season.

John targets his advice to those who ask him what to do next – how to show inward repentance in outward ways. These people had enough clothing and food. They should share generously with those who do not have enough. The tax collector and the soldier are to learn to be satisfied with their legal wages, avoiding corruption and exploitation of others. It is not hard to see current examples of individuals or organisations with similar issues.

We pray for justice and reform, but today's readings are about Joyful Justice. The other three readings, from Zephaniah, Isaiah and

Philippians use words of resounding joy – 'Shout for joy' 'He will exult with joy over you' 'rejoice' 'with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation' and more.

Despite the Roman oppression, the Jews of John's and Paul's time could rejoice because Jesus gave them salvation from a past life of sin and slavery and gave the promise of joyous life with God after this one.

Theologian Paul Tillich writes about the meaning of joy.

He says that it is not easy to attain. It is always a rare and precious thing. There are those who attack Christianity because they believe that it destroys the joy of life.

Tillich thinks that we can be suspicious of the gifts of nature, culture, and our creativity. We do not affirm our world and ourselves; and if we do, we try to atone for it by self-reproaches and criticism of those who really enjoy themselves.

For Tillich, joy in the Bible is not any different from joy of life. He explores the difference between seeking pleasure for itself and pleasure with joy.

Can we capture the deep meaning and joy of the birth of Jesus as we prepare ourselves?

*Rev Anne Dudzinski*

**RECTOR:** The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton, 0407 408 333, [rector@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:rector@holycovenant.org.au)

**OFFICE:** 6251 6100, [office@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:office@holycovenant.org.au)

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.holycovenant.org.au>



## 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.

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.

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



## Useful Gifts

Choose a gift ...

Send a card ...

Bring hope ... as **Tearfund**, through its overseas Christian partners, brings good news to the most vulnerable in tangible ways

- **\$25 for Good Food** helps farmers thrive and so bring better nutrition to many
- **\$100 for a Community School Class** creates a brighter future for students lacking resources or in difficult environments
- Buying a **\$5 Early Learning** Gift Card helps children from marginalised backgrounds.

**LAST DAY TODAY** The Holy Covenant **Useful Gift** Shop concludes TODAY, 12 December.

### Stay awhile with me.

*My beloved has gone down to the garden, to the beds of spices, to browse in the garden and gather lilies. Song of Songs 6:2*

I have come to my sacred space with no shoes on today as I feel God is there before me, waiting, waiting for me to sit and just be. As I do that my eyes fall on the garden and on a flower in front of me, a glorious fuchsia and for several minutes I contemplate on what I am seeing: I look deep into its colours and envisage the creator with his palate of paints deciding which colours to use. 'This one? no, this one - perhaps that one - and I think of all the flowers in the garden with their different shapes and colours and sizes, intrinsic detail, and marvel at the joy God must have had in making them and painting them just for me, just for you, his beloved. It seemed a long time that I sat with God in no hurry to go anywhere. Macrina Wiederkehr says contemplation is like going to heaven for awhile.

Jehovah - Shalom the Lord is peace.

*Anne, servant of the Lord.*



**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**

## 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.

All donations can be dropped at 45 Constitution Avenue in Reid from 9:30am-2pm Monday to Fridays.

## 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.

## Community Christmas Carols with a Kid's Nativity Play

24 December 2021  
 5pm

Outside Jamison,  
 next to playground

Bring chairs/rugs to sit on and your  
 Christmas cheer!

With assistance from Holy Covenant Anglican Church



## 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).

*Joh Sheehan  
Parish Council Chair*

### FROM THE TREASURER

Offerings in November were \$19,325 – very close to budget. Total income was also close to budget (if we exclude the budgeted income from the fete that we didn't have)! However, we did raise \$520 from plant and café sales on the Big Garden Day.

Operating expenses were well below budget for a variety of reasons. The monthly parish contribution to the Diocese will resume this month following a 3-month suspension.

A draft budget for 2022 has been endorsed by Parish Council for presentation at the AGM. Predictions of our end-of-year financial situation suggest that we will end the year with a surplus on both a cash and accrual basis rather than the budgeted deficit.

*Paul Shelley  
Treasurer*

# 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



### A festive yarn—17 December

The 'Have a Good Yarn Group is holding its final gather-



ing in the Worship Centre on Friday 17 December at 10.30am (not the usual Tuesday that week. Members with partners or friends and a small plate of festive food are joining for a Christmas themed morning tea to celebrate the final yarn gathering for 2021. This wonderful group of yarners are looking forward to regrouping in early 2022.

Interested? Contact Sandra on 0408438770, or email [sandraross@ozemail.com.au](mailto:sandraross@ozemail.com.au)

### Holy Covenant's Financial Position (end Nov 21)

	November 21	Year to 30 Nov	Budget 2021	EOFY Predictions (accrual)
Income	\$23,015	\$263,580	\$276,200	\$281,000
Expenditure	\$14,283	\$247,962	\$311,800	\$278,400
Surplus/Deficit	\$8,732	\$15,618	(\$35,600)	\$2,600

## PRAYER POINTS

### IN THE WORLD

⇒ People impacted by the eruption of Mt Semeru in Java

### IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ Pacifika, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people spreading culturally targeted and translated messaging to ensure their elders are correctly informed about COVID vaccines

### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Diocese of Grafton  
⇒ Holy Covenant, Jamison  
⇒ Christ Church, Hawker  
⇒ Calvary Hospital, Bruce: Anglican Chaplaincy Team  
⇒ Clare Holland House (ACT Hospice), Barton: St John's Canberra  
⇒ Chaplaincy at Coral Park/ Bill McKenzie Gardens  
⇒ St James', Holt  
⇒ Pray for: Anglicare activities in caring for and supporting older people in both in home and out of home care including nursing homes, hostels, independent living units and in the general community; for staff; and volunteers.

### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ Family and friends of Jean Groves  
⇒ For all members of our parish family including Karen Ferguson; Sujatha George and Sivaprasad Sunil; George and Connie Gerrity; Elaine and John Gifford; Quentin Grafton and Carol Kubanek; and Elizabeth Grant.  
⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Bev Barnes, Phyl Holmes, Brianna Smith, Claire Whelband and anyone known to us personally.

### COMMEMORATIONS

**Sunday:** Gunaseeli Lamech (d. 1985)

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**Monday** Allison Cooper-Stanbury  
**Thursday:** Katie Wood, Naomi Farrington  
**Friday:** Clare Lawlor  
**Saturday:** Bev Barnes, Rod Menzies

## 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 3rd Sunday of Advent

Almighty God,  
you sent your Son into a world  
where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff  
and evil clings even to what is good:  
let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption,  
so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for 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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Song of Isaiah (APBA P391)

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

## 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