

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Kids church is on at 10am Sundays

Young Adults at 10:30am Sundays

SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER

8am and 10am Holy Communion

Preacher and Celebrant:

The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm – Blue Christmas Service

FRIDAY 24 DECEMBER

5pm Community Christmas Carols &

Children's Nativity play @ the

playground near Ricardo's Cafe

11pm Carols, Candles and Communion

SATURDAY 25 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY

8am Classic Christmas Service

10am Contemporary Celebration with

Carols and Communion

SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER

9am Holy Communion

Preacher and Celebrant:

The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

Coming up

9am Services until 23 January

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

MARY AND ELIZABETH

(LUKE 1: 39-55)

Two brave women. Elizabeth is an example of all who hope and wait and wait for something such as a baby, eventually giving up hope and then being surprised by God.

Mary is an example of those not ready to have a baby but also being surprised by God. God planned both children.

Mary visits the older Elizabeth in her village of Ein Karem, not far from Jerusalem. There is such joy and excitement that Elizabeth's baby, the future John the Baptist, senses it and leaps in the womb.

Elizabeth is not boasting. She has endured years of shame for not producing a son. She is humble enough to say to Mary

“Blessed are you....and why has the mother of my Lord come to me”.

This joyful meeting will be repeated many times this Christmas. After all the COVID restrictions on visits, especially visits that were needed and could not happen, perhaps the

focus in your families will be less on the house, the food, the gifts and more on the people being together. The Holy Spirit was with those two women. May the Holy Spirit be present and rejoice when you have contact, even if only on the phone

Mary bursts forth with the words we call The Magnificat. I took myself to Ein Karem, a lovely village. On a wall outside the Church of Visitation are decorated ceramic tablets with the words in 52 languages, row on row. Anyone walking past can see and read them.

Mary's words proclaim to us that God values the world and people differently from how society does. Great things can come from little ones and insignificant people. So we know that God values each of us.

Jesus brought a new order to the world, a new human community, based on God's values. God is on the side of those pushed aside.

Mary is called blessed because she recognized and accepted what God was doing.

Let us be joyful too as Jesus visits each one of us.

Rev Anne Dudzinski

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A couple of weeks ago I received a call from a staff member from an organisation supporting victims of domestic violence. The staff member explained that the organisation had been supporting a young teenage mum (E) in her attempts to flee her abusive partner with her 2-year-old son.

Over the past 24 months, E's partner's abusive patterns had progressed from verbal threats and abuse to physical threats towards her and her child. E reached out for support, and thankfully found a Domestic Violence support organisation who have been working with her closely since. The support team put E in temporary accommodation where she was able to live without the threat of her ex-partner hanging over her head.

With consent, the staff member gave me E's contact details and told me E was expecting a call from me. I sat down at my desk, closed the office door, and dialled her number. A subdued voice met me on the other end of the line, it was quite clear that she was distressed and apprehensive.

I began speaking about St John's Care, and the positive outcomes we achieve for our clients in many different ways. E was appreciative of the call, and I could hear the sincerity in her voice as she thanked me. I left her with our work number, and the assurance that we would be able to support her and her son moving forward if she saw necessary.

The next morning, I received a phone call from E. The reluctance and timidity were still clear in her voice, however it was obvious that she was eager to receive support from St John's Care. We spoke for a while on the phone, and E began to divulge some of the details of her abusive relationship, and the fear that she experienced daily. It is heartbreaking to hear her recollections of her abuse.

E says that she could cope with the abuse being directed at her, but decided to leave when she feared her son was also in danger.

I offered to visit E, and take some fresh food and groceries to her, she gratefully accepted. I hung up the phone and began packing some fresh fruit, veg and meat into some bags. As I pulled up to her accommodation, I was met by a small lady with a young boy in her arms, they smiled and waved as I parked.

As I carried the bags up to her room, E's son excitedly ran his hands through the bags, eyes full of excitement as he grabbed out items. As we got to E's room, it was clear that she had minimal space to store food appropriately. I let E know that she could access our food pantry as regularly as she needed to, and I booked E in to receive a Christmas hamper and visit our gift room.

E broke down in hysterics, and repeatedly thanked me and St John's Care for "caring about her". This serves as a reminder that it is often the small actions and gestures that can mean the most to those around us.

E has since visited the gift room, received a Christmas hamper and a treat bag. We will continue to support E and look forward to bringing you positive updates in the coming weeks/months.

As my favourite Dr Seuss quote goes "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world".

Robbie Speldewinde, Operations Manager

Items required: Dishwashing tablets, Cup-a-soup, Vegemite, Savoury Biscuits

MORNING TEAS IN JANUARY

Please come and join in a cuppa and chat on Wednesdays in January in the Worship Centre.

05 January

12 January

19 January

26 January, this is Australia Day so we can decide later whether we do this one.

Time: between 10am and 12noon.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

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



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.

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

A smell that is heavenly

O what a gift, what a wonderful gift - who can tell the wonders of the Lord? Let us open our eyes, our ears and our hearts; it is Christ the Lord it is he! TIS 278

It was the sweet smell, a smell that is heavenly coming from the deep crimson Buddleia bush which drew me into my contemplation today in my sacred spot and it reminded me of the words of an elderly lady who visited the chapel in the nursing home when her husband was dying, and left me a note, written in a shaky hand, on a small torn off piece of paper which said. "Rev'd Anne, can you smell God? When I came to the chapel today it was filled with this beautiful perfume yet there were no flowers in the chapel. So lovely was it that I just wanted to sit awhile and be. Was this God?" she asked.

Be enriched by the things that come to us when we see in the light. (Of God). May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways.

Anne, servant of the Lord.

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!



Thank You

Holy Covenant's Useful Gift Shop raised **\$1875** for assistance and empowerment through Tearfund's Christian partners

Elaine Gifford, coordinator

You can still contribute through usefulgifts.org/



Fourth Sunday of Advent



Sharing God's love this Christmas

It's been 10 years since the civil war broke out in Syria with thousands of families still living in neighbouring countries like Jordan. The challenges refugees face no longer make front page news, and now COVID-19 has made life even harder. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner provide support for families, including food rations and hygiene kits, along with psychosocial care. **Please give today.**



Christmas Bowl



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

Parish Council

Many different roles are needed to help a church to operate. Parish Council is our governance body. Its role is to help our church make the best use of our resources so that our capacity for ministry can grow. It helps with planning and development of ministry as well as ensuring that we are a safe place for all who come.

Council is comprised of two kinds of members, those elected by people that attend Holy Covenant and those nominated by the rector. Every member brings skills and perspectives to help the team know and respond to God's call for us. We are currently looking for a treasurer and another warden.

The new Council will formally start at the end of the Annual General Meeting, which is scheduled for 1 March 2022.

Joh Sheehan: Rector's Warden (Continuing)



"I have been worshipping at Holy Covenant for over a decade. I like the way we walk the talk and live our values. I am the rector's warden, have been on Parish Council since 2017 and am the current Chair."



Allison Cooper-Stanbury: People's Warden (Continuing)

(Vacant: People's Warden)



Wendy Robertson: Rector's Nominee: "I love serving the Holy Covenant community in my 'triple c' role (chaplain, children, curate), and I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to parish council making wise decisions."

Vacant—Rector's Nominee (Treasurer)

Parish Councillors (nominees for 2022)



Anne McDowell: "Holy Covenant has been my spiritual home since 1997. I am keen to be able to work with others, finding different ways to progress and grow the parish's vision so we can all grow and flourish, showing love and compassion to others, following the example given by our Lord Jesus. "



Mick Lundie: Mick and family have been in Canberra and attending Holy Covenant for a year. "I like how welcoming our church is to all and enjoy a cuppa and a chat after the service."



Anthony Cuthbert: "I have been part of the HC community for nearly 10 years and enjoy the interactive approach to services. Being part of Parish Council helps join the three parts of our community together to support the operation of Holy Covenant."



Timothy Farrington: "What I like about Holy Covenant: I feel like I have come home and in the midst of family and friends. It is as if no time has passed at all. I was welcomed and invited into the community from the moment I arrived."

Anthony Troy: Anthony and family have lived in Canberra almost 20 years and worshipped @HC for a few weeks fewer. "Why do I volunteer – our community does great things."



Tobias Neville: Tobias has been a member of Parish Council for several years. He is often found enthusing about many things at the 10am service

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ First responders, recovery workers and families affected by increasingly severe weather events

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ Reopening borders, family reunions and the return of international students/skilled migrants.

⇒ COVID booster shot programs

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Diocese of Perth

⇒ Young District Anglican Ministry

⇒ Mothers' Union

⇒ Embracing Ministries

⇒ Pray for: Ministry in our neighbouring Dioceses of Riverina, Bathurst, Gippsland, Wangaratta, and Sydney

⇒ IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ Family and friends of Jean Groves

⇒ For all members of our parish family including Cassandra Wiles; Douglas, Zoe and Jamie; and Patrick Guinness

⇒ 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

Thursday: Robert Noel Cooper (d. 1996)

COLLECT for 4th Sunday of Advent

Gracious God,
you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son:
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.
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

Micah 5:2-5a

Song of Mary (APBA p.31)

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

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Youth Leadership Team

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Wardens

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Curate and Community Chaplain

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

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Honorary Priests

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Reverend Connie Gerrity
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Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday Lachlan Robertson

Thursday: Ian Sykes

Saturday: JESUS

DECEMBER ANGLICAN NEWS

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

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