

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 2022 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUlpMjQ0YkRlQkN0N4MGRlSEVIRll0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher :
The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
12 midday Colours of God Christmas
lunch & service
5pm Twilight Conversations

WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER

12 Midday Communion Service
and lunch

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Preacher: Archdeacon Anne Ranse
Celebrant :
The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
5pm Twilight Conversations

Coming Up:

Community Lunch 8 December
Pizza Night 9 December

Bank details for direct debit:

Bank: Commonwealth
Branch: Jamison Centre ACT
BSB 062 907
Account No: 802588
Name: Holy Covenant Anglican
Church

Shalom

In this conflict ridden world of ours it's always a challenge to think and write about peace. And in the lead up to Christmas, sometimes the concept of peace simply disappears into a flurry of finalising this, that and the other thing before the shutdowns that happen across the Christmas-New Year period. Is it work deadlines, travel plans, shopping, decorating, or posting cards and letters so that they arrive in time? Is it trying to squeeze all the social gatherings into the limited time available, until exhaustion sets in? And how much worse does this get when you need to manage poverty, disability, interpersonal conflicts, or even situations of family and domestic violence?

What would it mean this Advent if we actually began to embrace God's shalom—the well-being, peace, salvation, harmony, goodness, justice and love for our enemies that we find in the Gospel?

The psalmist talks about this in detail, describing the one who will *"defend the cause of the poor [and] give deliverance to the needy"* (Ps 72, v4). If we are living Kingdom lives, then we are a part of that process of creating justice. Our decisions and actions must contribute to creating a way of life that makes it possible for all to thrive equally. Generosity and

kindness are not just in spirit, but also in action.

This world of ours looks to find ways to divide everyone. Even among Christians we often find more division than unity—"pro-life" vs "forced birthers", "conservative" vs "progressive" are only two examples. It's incredibly difficult to remember that we need to fight the "powers and principalities" that Paul discusses in Romans, rather than individual people. Justice will not flow from alienation. Are there ways that we can opt out of the polarizing habits of the world and enter into a shalom-bringing inclusiveness that welcomes all, and seeks to celebrate common ground wherever it can be found?

Too often we seek to find peace by excluding those who challenge and disagree with us, which isolates us. Or we think we can find security by making pre-emptive attacks on our enemies, which only puts us more at risk. We cannot find God by running away from the realities of this world. Finding God is much easier when we engage in the risk of listening, discussing, serving, providing hospitality and seeking justice.

This Advent, let's give ourselves to create shalom for others as well as ourselves. I suspect that in doing so, shalom will find us, and God will truly be within us.

Megan Arthur

Isolation

G called the St John's Care Centre (SJC) a few weeks ago in tears and unable to see a way to move forward. She had been happily married for 35 years until her husband Q passed away last year.

After Q's passing, G's mental and physical health declined rapidly, and she struggled to complete simple tasks around her house. This was especially hard on her when she had to go through their home and decide what to keep, and what to throw away.

G had not only lost her husband but also the main source of social interaction in her life. Living in a town outside Canberra, and with limited mobility, G's ability to access support from services was limited.

With a single government income, she also began falling behind on rent and her bills, skipping her medication, and going without certain grocery items. G's breaking point came when she began missing meals due to her financial circumstances. She reached out to a friend who lived nearby who told her to get in touch with St John's Care.

At first contact, G and I spoke on the phone for almost an hour, and she explained how isolated, and helpless she had felt this year, and how reluctant she had been to ask for support. We organised G's friend to bring her in to the Centre, and the three of us sat down together.

SJC was able to organise an affordable amount to be taken from G's income and put towards her bills each fortnight. Additionally, we paid off her debt so that she had a clean slate. We provided her with fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, non-perishable items and cleaning supplies, and signed her up to receive a Christmas hamper from us. So that the pair could return for assistance when they needed to, we provided fuel vouchers. Lastly, we were able to fill her scripts.

A few days later G called to thank me. She said that both she and her friend had benefited from some social interaction, and the chance to connect with others. They had decided that they would come in weekly for food.

Thank you to everyone who helps support our clients through difficult times. It means the world to them.

Warm regards, Robbie Speldewinde, Operations Manager

Items required: shampoo, conditioner, juice poppers, 1 litre long life FULL CREAM milk, honey, Vegemite

Christmas items required: Shortbread biscuits, Christmas pudding

If you would like to donate to the St John's Care gift room, the following **gift cards** would be useful: Kids, Teen, Her, Him, H&M, Smiggle, Xbox/EB Games

Congratulations Crafty Crew

The Crafty Crew was asked for 1000 recycled Christmas Cards for St John's Care. A challenge which the group have conquered!! They have made 1045 cards. The cards will be used in Christmas parcels given out over the Christmas celebration.

Well done team. I salute your efforts! I am pleased the morning tea each meeting helped.



Gillian Painter

Christmas

**Holy Covenant
 Anglican Church**

18 December
 A Blue Christmas, 5pm

Christmas Eve
 Kid's Christmas, 5pm
 Carols, Candles & Communion, 11pm

Christmas Day
 Classic Christmas Service, 8am
 Contemporary Celebration, 10am

89 Dexter St, Cook

Living Water

I will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Isaiah 12:3

It was in great wonder that I stood and looked at the massive Eucalyptus trees in the very dry, sandy Todd River bed and wondered when they had last drunk from deep waters. Their trunks were well above the sand and their massive exposed roots held them together, stopping them from toppling over. When I put my ear to their trunk, I could hear the rushing of water going up and into every branch, nourishing the entire tree from deep, deep down in the earth.

Oh, it reminded me so much of how our roots go deep into the love of Christ who nourishes us with living water. Even in times of spiritual dryness, that living water is still there holding us up. If our roots are well imbedded in Christ, we can stand strong in all circumstances.

May the peace of God fill your life every single day.
Anne, servant of the Lord



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

Deep rooted

Parish Council for 2023

At the Annual General Meeting we voted to have a Parish Council of 6 elected members and 3 appointed by the Rector with an additional 3 wardens, with 2 elected and 1 appointed.

To date we have 4 interested members for Council with two wardens, one appointed, but no treasurer. Although Council can operate in a slimmed down fashion, a broader range of experience and skills always makes for better outcomes as we look to find ways to grow next year. If you are interested in help your community to walk Jesus' way of love better by helping those around us to flourish, why not talk to a team member?

Parish Council Election 2022

**Voting is a
super power.**

Use it well.



HELPING OUT

AT HOLY COVENANT IN 2023

EXERCISING FAITH BY HELPING OTHERS

Churches should be places of abundance and not scarcity. Abundance happens when we share our gifts. We feel energized and encouraged to trust God and explore new things. How might you help others next year?

1

JOINING A SMALL GROUP

Work, rest and play are important things that fill up the diary. Feeding our souls by meeting God and others is also important as we discover more about God and our self. Groups for study, meditation, dinner, knitting and craft operate while new leaders are welcome.

HELPING WITH WORSHIP

Worship is an opportunity to meet with God. We love having new people in the sanctuary helping by reading, praying or with communion. Lots help behind the scenes to make Sunday happen especially with music, hospitality, greeting, audio-visual and web teams.

2

PROVIDING SOME PASTORAL CARE

Everyone thrives when people care about each other. Caring can involve praying for others, helping with Holistic Care, Colours of God, writing cards, while welcoming newcomers over coffee is always fun.

3

JOINING THE COUNCIL TEAM

Identifying priorities, juggling priorities and helping with stewardship are just some of the ways the wardens, council members and treasurer help us to grow. Council is looking for people with the capacity to turn dreams into reality.

4

5

CHILDREN AND YOUTH*

There's a stampede when the kids and youth head for their programs every Sunday. When we have good leaders who want to see kids and young people grow in faith we have great programs. If you'd like to learn or help there are many opportunities to be found.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Being a good neighbour is our goal. That's why we have a garden, pizza night, well being sessions, dinners for women and men, play group, Halloween party and other events to build connections and friendship with people who don't go to church.

6

7

CARING FOR OUR PROPERTY

The building and grounds are bigger than you think. With plans to renovate and refresh we need people who like to roll up their sleeves and make things special. Between gardening and odd jobs, there is always room for extra hands.

*Screening and safe ministry training requirements are necessary for many roles and often highest for activities involving children and vulnerable people. Role descriptions are available.

WHERE YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Your skills and talents can make a great deal of difference in the following areas. If you are interested in helping out, why not talk to a member of the ministry team?

Member of Parish Council

Treasurer

Bookkeeper

Music team

Kids church helpers

Welcome and inclusion

Synod representative

Clergy Presentation Board

I'd like to help with something else

I have an idea that could benefit our community:

Name:

Contact details

(email or phone)

St John's Care Presents Collection

Thanks to everyone who has already added items in the St John's Care (SJC) Christmas Presents box. Steve delivered those donations to St John's Care on Wednesday. There will be another run to SJC next week. (They provided food to 43 families on Monday!)



Christmas Bowl

It's been 11 years since the civil war broke out in Syria, and thousands of Syrian refugees are still living in neighbouring countries like Jordan. Your Christmas Bowl contributions support Syrian refugees by providing vital food rations and psychosocial care.

Christmas Bowl donation envelopes are available at the back of the church, or you can donate online at <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/>



Advent Spirituality 2

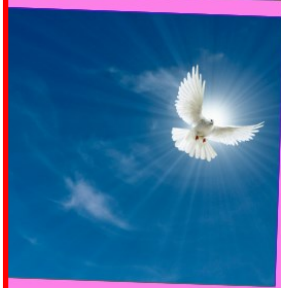
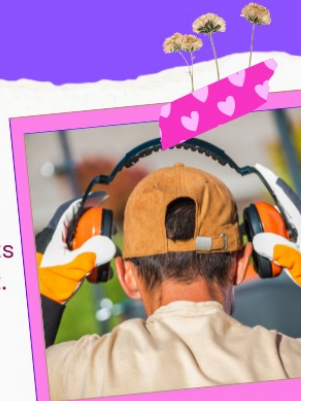
Advent means 'coming' in Latin. It's an opportunity to explore spiritually how God comes into our often noisy and distracted lives bringing hope, peace, joy and love.

This series explores practical ways for us to grow spiritually during this busy season.

needing peace

Finding peace at Christmas can be a struggle. Not only is there lots of noise but old wounds can be reopened when expectations go unmet and tired arguments resurface. We hurt, feel afraid and lash out.

We might wonder, how did it all come to this?



wanting peace

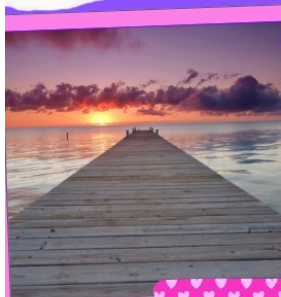
Peace rarely happens when we expect the other person to change their mind, attitude or posture. It takes courage, patience and fortitude to make for peace, especially when we have been hurt, feel powerless or refuse to acknowledge that we've done anything wrong at all.



making peace

Christ is our peace (Eph 2.14). Jesus did all things necessary to make for peace by breaking the powers that lock us into endless arguments and ceaseless conflict with his life and very body.

Jesus opened a new relationship with God and the doorway to a new world.



praying for peace

Peace is a process that begins with a dream that tomorrow can be better than today. It often involves listening to everyone's story and letting go of things that cloud the way. Prayer helps at each step by enlarging our hearts, building courage and healing wounds so that something new can emerge.

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Continued vigilance on childhood immunisations
- ⇒ An end to the war in Ukraine, and the withdrawal of Russian troops
- ⇒ Sensible COVID management measures

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Action on the housing crisis
- ⇒ Improved safety in youth detention centres and jails
- ⇒ Empowerment of First Nations communities as we work to Close the Gap

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Ballarat
- ⇒ North Goulburn, West Goulburn & Marulan Parishes
- ⇒ Wollondilly Gardens Self Care Units
- ⇒ NSW Police Chaplaincy
- ⇒ F5 Refresh Ministries Chaplaincy Unit, West Goulburn
- ⇒ Goulburn Correctional Centre: Anglican Chaplain
- ⇒ Spouses and families of clergy and lay ministers and stipendiary lay ministers (SLM).

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Jey Hoole; Evelyn, Elizabeth, Hannah, Mary and Sarah David-Hoole; Jenny DeBont; Elaine and Brian Dennis; and Remus Douglas.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Colin & Marilyn Tolano; Glenys Wimmer; Anne & Peter Bazeos; Maggie Watts; Pam Lane & family, Phillip Moss and family; Alice Farrington, and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Saturday: **Delma Alice Margaret Murry (d. 2001)**

COLLECT for 2nd Sunday of Advent

God of all peoples,
whose servant John came baptising
and calling for repentance:
help us to hear his voice of judgement,
that we may also rejoice in his word of promise,
and be found pure and blameless in that glorious
Day
when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of
Peace;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,
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Children's Worker

The Revd Wendy Robertson
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Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

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Belonging and Caring

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
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Honorary Priests

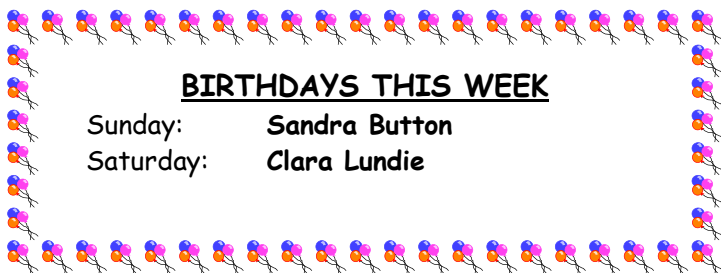
The Revd Anne Dudzinski
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The Revd Connie Gerrity

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Resources Team

0419 255 002



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Sunday: **Sandra Button**

Saturday: **Clara Lundie**

READINGS

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-21

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12