

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



**SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2022**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUplQ05YTXFCNDN4MGRlSEVIRllOZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

## **SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER**

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

## **WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER**

12 Midday Communion Service  
and Christmas lunch

## **SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER**

8am and 10 am Holy Communion  
Celebrant : The Revd Connie Gerrity  
Preacher :  
The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton  
5pm Blue Christmas

### **Coming Up:**

**Working Bee: 17 December**  
**Kid's Christmas: 5pm 24 December**  
**Candles, Carols & Communion:**  
**11pm 24 December**

### **Bank details for direct debit:**

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

### **Joy and Justice**

This week's psalm has brought home to me the link between joy and justice: *"Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry"* (Ps 146 vs 5-8).

The psalmist goes on to describe in detail those salvific works of God that bring joy to the world: creating (v. 6a), sustaining (v. 6b), liberating (v. 7a), redeeming (v. 7b), and healing (v. 8). To be a part of the family of the God the psalmist describes is to participate in this work. Revd Jean Spangler describes the call of Psalm 146 this way: *"to feed the hungry is to worship. To open the eyes of the blind, lift up those who are bowed down is to join one's voice, one's life, with that of this ancient psalmist in praise of the God of Jacob"*.

At this time of year, it's very easy to get caught up in what I call 'Christmas washing'. It's a particularly nasty version of 'whitewashing', which is an attempt to coverup unpleasant realities with a fresh and distracting coat of paint. In December it's very easy to donate food, presents and even cash to charities, and to get a warm inner glow because we have 'brought joy' to someone in need. Please know

that I'm in no way criticising anyone for putting gifts into our St Johns Care collection. That's an important part of our support for vulnerable people in our community. What I am doing is asking whether that's all God expects of us?

Research tells us that complex social issues – issues of human rights, economic development, education – require far more than community service as a solution. And that means that churches and Christians must do much more than a seasonal food drive or Christmas offering if we are to avoid 'Christmas washing'.

In this period of Advent, which is a time for reflection and preparation, I encourage us all to look for ways to worship our God and work for change at the same time. Our donations to St John's Care meet an immediate need. If we also participate in the #RaisetheRate campaign we can help fix our social security safety net for good so that it keeps people out of poverty, with an income of at least \$70 a day. Similarly, we can volunteer at a school breakfast club, and be a part of the work to raise the age of detention for children from 10 to 14. What is the community need/system change that speaks to you?

May your Advent reflection lead you further in your part of God's salvific work, and may you bring joy to the world.

*Megan Arthur*

## Refugee Challenges

Y is the husband of M and father of three boys. Y and M have another child due in

the new year. They fled their home country to Australia to seek a life free of violence and persecution. Since arriving in Australia, Y reports experiencing poverty, chronic financial stress, housing stress and being unable to support his family. There have been times when the family has not eaten regular meals.

Y's current visa prevents him from working or receiving income support from the Australian Government. M receives a small allowance from the Government. The family's income is less than their rent, and they have been unable to pay their utility bills.

Y and his wife are feeling very stressed and anxious. There are times when they wished that they had not come to Australia. The stress is having a negative impact on M and she is worried about the health of the baby. They cannot see their lives improving, and they worry that the family will be plunged into homelessness.

St John's Care (SJC) immediately supported the family with food and will continue supporting them to access food on a regular basis. This will help to reduce some of the financial stress that they are experiencing and ensure the family can eat multiple meals each day. SJC has also supported one of the children in the family to obtain an electronic device for her schoolwork.

Additionally, SJC has linked up with the Canberra Refugee Service to employ a multi-agency approach in supporting the family. We've also contacted Roundabout Canberra, who will support them with items for the new baby.

Sadly, this story is very common for refugees and asylum seekers who have arrived in Australia. These members of our community are often given visas with conditions that do not afford them the ability to provide for the basic necessities of life or to better their situation. As a result, they are heavily reliant on services like SJC

SJC offers these families hope and comfort that support is available to them. We do so bearing in mind the principles of compassion, dignity, and respect.

The work of SJC volunteers and staff, as well as the generous donations of the community are invaluable in the lives of clients like Y and M. SJC will continue to support Y, M and their growing family over the coming months and aim to find ways to alleviate the stress in their life. SJC will also help them to establish links with other organisations and the broader community as they make their new lives here in our beautiful city.

**Items required:** large cans of tuna, tinned soup, cooking oil, honey, shampoo, conditioner

**Christmas items required:** coffee 100g, 800g tinned fruit, tea bags 50 pk



### Farewell and Thank You!

As well as Christmas preparations, this is the season for Defence force postings. And this year, that means we are saying farewell to Gemma, Andrew and Patrick Stark. We will miss them all. Patrick's *saue dress sense* and Gemma's work as our Parish Council Treasurer will be a challenge to replace.

We wish you all the best for your travels to Queensland, and your new life there.



### A touched heart

*Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see their God. Matthew 5:8*

My gaze rested on a spent rose, visible from my sacred space. It had come to bud, flourished in its life and brought awe and wonder to many a passerby, but now it was fading. It had run the race of life and rested quietly on the bush, dropping its petals one by one.

As my gaze deepened into meditation I reflected on an elderly lady in our church service in the nursing home; a beautiful Christian soul who faithfully attended the services and participated, even in her dementia. Since I saw her last her health had deteriorated and she had transitioned into a day bed and was seemingly asleep. I looked at her and thought, 'she is on her way to God.' As communion was distributed, she was gently tapped on the shoulder to see if she was conscious. Her eyes opened wide and in a very clear, strong voice she said, 'I am still here!'. She received her communion before falling back into sleep. It was a wonderful God moment that truly touched my heart. I read this quote some time ago: 'A touched heart means that in some way God has come.'

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anne, servant of the Lord

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



I am still here!

### Supporting St John's Care

As the Christmas season approaches, and things over at St John's Care (SJC) reach absolute fever pitch, let's take a moment to be thankful for the members of our congregation who facilitate our parish donations to SJC and otherwise participate in that vital ministry.

Steve Daniels and Merrie Hepworth—thanks for all that you do in collecting, transporting, sorting and packing donations. You make the gospel real.

THANK YOU  
THANK YOU  
THANK YOU  
THANK YOU  
THANK YOU  
THANK YOU  
THANK YOU

HAVE A NICE DAY

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

## St John's Care Presents Collection

As well as the items from congregation members, it's been great to see contributions coming in from some of the people who are in the Worship Centre from our external hiring groups like yoga, Tai Chi and the various choirs. Thanks everyone!



## 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 3

Advent means 'coming' in Latin. It's an opportunity to explore spiritually how God comes into our 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 joy

I wonder what brings you joy? Not just a brief moment of happiness but a deep sense of satisfaction, delight or wonderment? We all experience joy differently. For some it comes from nature, for others its relational, for a few it comes through achievements or success. However it comes, we all need joy.



## wanting joy

It's easy to live without joy and to get by being miserable feeling empty, flat, grey and soulless. Joy can be elusive when our world can't or won't change leaving us to feel stuck or helpless. If joy is hard to find, why bother even trying to look for it?

## finding joy

God feels your breath, hears your heart, knows your struggles and sees all the threads that hold life together. You bring joy, wonder and delight to God. After all, God put on flesh in order to meet you, hear from you, heal you and bring you home.



## praying for joy

Joy is a spiritual gift that can arrive through prayer. Simply say, 'I invite you to be with me now. Help me to see, hear and know the joy that I bring you. Help me to let go of the worries, fears and unmet expectations that weigh me down.' Then listen through the stillness for the love song that comes from God.



### Parish Council Members for 2023

Parish Council is the body that helps our church to grow its ministry and the capacity to sustain all that we do. At the 2022 Annual General Meeting, it was determined that Council should have 6 elected members with 3 appointed by the Rector. In addition there are 3 wardens, 2 elected and 1 appointed who help form a smaller executive group.

No election was required on 4 December as there were fewer nominations than positions.

To date we have 4 members for Council with two wardens but no treasurer as yet. The members of Council for 2023 are:

Anne McDowell

Wendy Robertson

Tobias Nevile

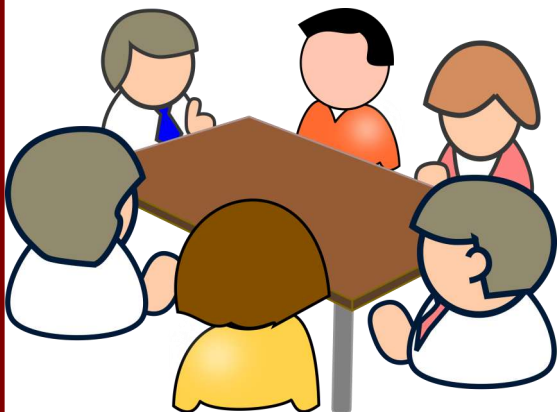
Tim Farrington

Allison Cooper-Stanbury (warden)

Joh Sheehan (rector's warden)

While Council can operate in this slimmed down fashion for a time, a broader range of experience and skills always makes for better decision making outcomes.

We are looking to find ways to grow next year and people with imagination, energy and commitment can make a great contribution. If you are interested in helping your community to walk Jesus' way of love, why not talk to a team member?



### End of year calendar changes

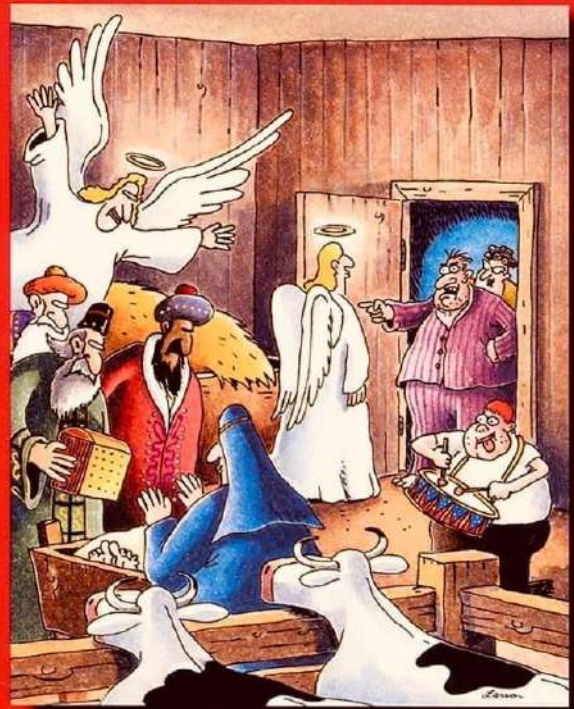
Many of the activities that happen in the Worship Centre and the Rainbow Centre are wrapping up for the year over the next couple of weeks, if they haven't already done so. If you are part of one of these groups, please make sure that the office knows about the date of your final session for the year, and if/when you will be resuming in 2023. Thanks to all those group leaders who have already let Megan know about last sessions and 2023 plans.

Please note your diaries for the following:

Holy Covenant & HCNM Offices closed: midday 22 December-8 January 2023

Combined Sunday morning 9am service: 1-22 January 2023

Thanks to Bea Duncan for the Far Side cartoon—Gary Larson has a wonderful sense of humour!



*"Look, buddy, we live next door, and all night long we've been puttin' up with the singing angels, the crying baby, the stinking frankincense, and that big, bright star. But I tell ya, that damn pa-rum-pa-pum-pumming has gotta stop!"*

### Parish Council News

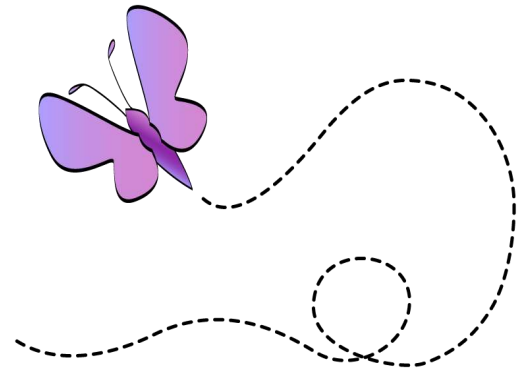
At its November meeting, Parish Council

- noted:
  - that there are some vacancies in council for 2023
  - elections for synod representatives and presentation board would occur at the AGM
  - approved a working budget for 2023. This will be presented at the AGM
- wished HCNM well in their nomination for the volunteer award
- thanked:
  - Gemma for the extensive work she has invested at Treasurer this year, (Gemma is moving to Queensland next week)
  - Anne McDowell & Joh Sheeha for the work and time they have invested into ensuring the parish is compliant with Diocesan Safe Ministries requirements

### Covenant Care Memorial Service

On Monday 28 November, Covenant Care held its annual Memorial Service. This service is an opportunity to remember the members of the Covenant Care community who have died in the previous year. Family members are invited to attend the non-denominational service, which is led by Archdeacon Anne Ranse.

This year we celebrated the lives of Pat Ewing, Eva Lawley, John Macnaughtan, Janet Williams, Zillah Williams, Christina Yan-Song Liew, and Judy Dau.



### Gardening Bee—17 December

We are thankful for our faithful, but ageing and tired group of volunteers who attend our regular gardening bees. More team members are desperately needed, lest the grounds become a sea of periwinkle and weeds.

**Date:** 17 December

**Time:** 9am-12 midday

Tasks for the 17th include:



- transporting some broken furniture to the tip
- Gardening - with a special focus on the South-

west corner. This is starting to look really good, thanks to a small weeding & mulching team. We would like speed up our process and make it less labour intensive by laying some heavy plastic to solarise the weeds; Summer is a critical time for this. Could you help by; mowing/whipper snipping about 4 square metres of weeds and laying the plastic?

- bringing a trailer and making a recycling or tip run
- laying plastic, cardboard or mulch

If you can help, but aren't available Saturday, please contact Joh Sheehan 0418644282.

A shout out to Russell Rollason who has been who has been weeding the bank behind the kids' play area. Your work is seen and appreciated Russell!

Last  
yarning  
session  
for 2022



Come and share  
a festive morn-  
ing tea. Knitting,  
crochet and oth-  
er fibre based  
craft encour-  
aged but not  
compulsory.

### Congratulations Revd Wendy!

Saturday 26 November was a big day for Revd Wendy Robertson and by extension the Holy Covenant family. Revd Wendy's ordination as a Priest took place at St Saviour's Cathedral. As the pictures show, she was very happy and well supported by the folk of Holy Covenant.



Revd Wendy commemorated this next step in her faith journey by celebrating communion at our Sunday morning services on 27 November.

Thanks  
to Bob  
Arthur &

Fran Tilden for the photos.



## PRAYER POINTS

### IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops
- ⇒ Free and fair elections in Fiji
- ⇒ Indonesia's new criminal code and freedom of expression in Bali

### IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ GPs, health workers and first responders
- ⇒ Safety on our roads and in our shopping centres
- ⇒ Students, teachers and families as schools prepare for the end of the academic year
- ⇒ Territory governments and public servants as they explore possible voluntary assisted dying legislation

### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Gippsland
- ⇒ Burgmann Anglican School, Gungahlin
- ⇒ Gungahlin, St Simon's, Kaleen-Giralang- Lawson, St Paul's, Ginninderra, & Charnwood Parishes
- ⇒ South Sudanese Anglican Ministry (SSAM) Chaplaincy Unit (located at Ginninderra)
- ⇒ The Canberra Sudanese community
- ⇒ Exploratory ministries in this Diocese especially those that are emerging to full time ministry units

### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ 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; 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; Rika Amos and anyone known to us personally.

### COMMEMORATIONS

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

## COLLECT for 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

### Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,  
0407 408 333, rector@holycovenant.org.au

### Children's Worker

The Revd Wendy Robertson  
0481 458 037 hccommunitychaplain@gmail.com

### Youth Coordinator

Tobias Nevile youth@holycovenant.org.au

### Wardens

Joh Sheehan (Council Chair) 6251 7151  
Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

### Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore  
6251 2009 rkmore@grapevine.com.au

### Belonging and Caring

The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton  
0407 408 333 rector@holycovenant.org.au

### Curate and Community Chaplain

The Revd Wendy Robertson  
0481 458 037 hccommunitychaplain@gmail.com

### Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

#### Program Manager

Megan Arthur  
0487 945 615 hcnmprogrammanager@gmail.com

### Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

#### Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM  
0406 379 599 anne.ranse@gmail.com

### Honorary Priests

The Revd Anne Dudzinski  
0413 994 739 annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au

The Revd Connie Gerrity

0429 423 725 connie@gerrity.id.au

### Resources Team

0419 255 002

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Sunday: **Maxine Rose**

Tuesday: **Allison Cooper-Stanbury, Zoe Rose**

Friday: **Katie Wood, Naomi Farrington**

Saturday: **Clare Lawlor**

## READINGS

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Psalm 146

James: 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11