

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



**SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUplbD05YkFECkN0N4MGRlSEVIRllOZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

## **SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER**

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

## **SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER**

5pm Kids' Christmas  
11pm Carols, Candles and  
Communion

## **SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER**

8am Classic Christmas Service  
10 am Contemporary Celebration

### **In recess:**

Wednesday midday communion  
service (resumes 1 February) and  
Sunday Twilight Conversations  
(resumes 29 January)

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

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

### **Love and Justice**

This week, we light the candle of love. How do love and justice work together in God's plan for us? Both Isaiah and Matthew have some suggestions for us in this space. And I'd like us to focus on how love, peace, hope and joy all work together.

Love, peace, hope and joy often attract negative coverage, because people see them as a Pollyanna-ish, or unrealistic. A tweet I read recently stated: *"People speak of hope as if it is this delicate, ephemeral thing made of whispers and spider webs. It's not. Hope has dirt on her face, blood on her knuckles, the grit of the cobblestones in her hair, and just spat out a tooth as she rises for another go."*

We can, and should think about peace, joy and love in the same way. Notre Dame de la Paix, our Lady of Peace, is the same Mary whose Magnificat describes the God of justice who casts down the mighty, fills the hungry, lifts the lowly and sends the rich away.

Consider the love of a parent whose child has broken laws and moral codes. Despite all the hurt

their child has inflicted upon them, the parent still loves.

Remember Mary Magdalene in the garden on Easter Sunday morning as she personified the Psalmists words *"Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning."* (Ps30:5).

We find these strong, earthy, powerful emotions in Isaiah's vision. In chapter 7, the prophet speaks of both love and hope in the child Immanuel—God with us. This is the love of God bringing hope to a desperate people, encouraging them to persevere and maintain their pursuit of justice. In Matthew, the love of God is manifest in Jesus. This tough and formidable love will travel from the manger to the cross.

Jan Ribbentrop suggests that people who seek to be transformed over the long haul need to begin by breathing in hope. *"Inhaling hope...allows a sustained ability to exhale justice."* With that hope, may we also breathe in love, peace and joy, to sustain us in bringing kingdom justice to all the world.

*Megan Arthur*

### Hope for a better future

At St John's Care (SJC) we try to create a place of refuge and kindness - even

if only for a short time as people go about their lives.

T, his wife and three small children arrived in Australia six months ago and have been coming to see us in the months following. The family are very humble people. They are seeking a better, safer future with greater opportunities for their three small children.

T has many wounds from life in his country. He needs help with post-traumatic stress and depression, back injuries, nightmares, anxiety and much more. His wife has anemia as well as depression. She is very busy trying to organise herself with the housework and the care of their small children. Sadly, they recently lost all of their close relatives (parents and siblings) who died leaving them in isolation and with deep suffering.

Finding services to help them in their new country has been challenging. SJC is looking after them until they can get back on their feet. We are helping them navigate their way through the Australian systems which differ so much from what they are used to.

T pays 50% of their income on rent. The other half is used to pay their bills, leaving them without money for any extras including food and medicine. Medical costs are prohibitive, and their small children are often sick. T sees us regularly for help with both food and medicines. SJC are able to help with prescriptions on the PBS. However, many of the supplements required for his wife's conditions are not cheap.

SJC works with refugees and others in our community to assist those in need and help them to get on their feet again and gain independence. This is one of our hardest tasks as Centrelink payments are not enough for people to survive in our community. Many of our clients go without food and medicines so they can have, or keep, a roof over their heads.

All clients who come to the SJC Centre are greeted with respect, compassion, and kindness. Our volunteers give comfort and care through our emergency relief and an empathetic ear. Considering all of this, we take every opportunity to thank all those in our churches and community members who have recently donated to SJC. These donations - be they gifts-in-kind or financial donations - help us provide the items we need to support vulnerable people and families doing it tough in the community. The staff and volunteers at SJC cannot thank you enough for your generosity and ongoing support. Warm regards, Karen Medrano, Case Manager

**Items required:** Muesli, cooking oil, cereal, jelly e.g. Cornflakes, Weetbix

**Christmas items required:** Christmas Cake, Bon Bons

### Blue Christmas

There's been some questions from members of the congregation about Blue Christmas — around the what and why of this special service.

So here's some information for you!

Christmas can be a very difficult time, particularly for

people who are processing trauma, grieving or otherwise dealing with loss. Death, disease, poverty and abuse don't disappear just because it's Christmas. The traditional carols, bells and excitement can be off putting at least for someone in this situation, and at worst can drive people away.

A Blue Christmas provides a quiet and contemplative worship service as an alternative to more upbeat traditional gatherings. This approach to Christmas is created specifically for those who are experiencing grief and struggling with loss.

Our Blue Christmas service is happening at 5pm on Sunday December 18th. Perhaps there's someone in your circle who needs this service this year?



*Blue Christmas*

### Kids' Church Rainbow Rug

This gorgeous rainbow rug for kid's church was made by members from our 8am and Wednesday midday

services and pizza night. With thanks to Hilary Harris, Ruby Dahl and Joan Mckie.



### Bring good news

*How beautiful on the mountain are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'* Isa 52:7

I still recall one of the most precious Christmas gifts I could receive from anyone. I remember some years ago one of the small children at church came up to me at the greeting of the peace; putting her small hand in mine, she placed a tiny red star in my hand and said, 'This is for you, to remind you that Christmas is coming.' She was all of four years old. It reminded me of the Wise Men and the guiding star they were given and the star that shone so bright for the shepherds just over Bethlehem. It's amazing the impact of something as simple as a star given at the right time!

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anne, servant of the Lord



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

Shepherds' field chapel door Bethlehem

### 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**

Kids & Community Christmas, 5pm  
Carols, Candles & Communion, 11pm

**Christmas Day**

Classic Christmas Service, 8am  
Contemporary Celebration, 10am

89 Dexter St, Cook

## Morning Tea

Sharing a cuppa after a service is a great way to build community within our congregation. Thank you to all our wonderful helpers for Morning Tea this year, who have made that community building possible. (If you are able to help again next year please let Merri Bacon know.)

If you are new to Holy Covenant and looking for a way to connect with others, helping on morning tea is a great way to do that. We can always use a few more helpers for both services.

If you would like to join the roster for 8am or 10am please let Merri know on [merri.bacon@bigpond.com](mailto:merri.bacon@bigpond.com) or let Megan know in the office.

Those who are available over January please put your name up on the signup board or contact the office with the details.



## 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 4

Advent means 'coming' in Latin. It's an opportunity to explore how God comes into our often noisy and distracted lives. Hope, peace and joy can open the door to the final theme of Advent - love.

## needing love

People may need water, food and shelter to survive but it is love that enables us to thrive. When we are loved, we feel valued and respected. We become full and equal human beings when we are trusted, supported and cared about. Put another way, love is always uplifting.



## offering love

As much as we need love, it is not something that we can demand, buy or obligate. It can only be offered freely. Paul described love as patient, kind, truthful, hopeful and enduring without thought of selfish gain (1 Cor 13). As we offer love to others we can find ourselves experiencing love in return.



## walking in love

Isolation is love's greatest challenge. When we are hurt, tired or lonely our inclination is to withdraw from others. Thankfully, we can learn to walk in love by turning to see those around us, learning from Jesus, praying for others, being refreshed through worship, and blessing others through words and deeds.



## praying with love

Jesus told his disciples to give and forgive, teach and to heal, to show compassion and generosity (Matt 10.8). Why not write down the names of three people closest to you. They might be those you like or find hard to be with. Each day, pray for God's blessing for one person and see what happens?

## Community Christmas Lunch

The annual Community Christmas lunch was held on Thursday December 8th. Rhonda Thorpe and her team of volunteers provided a tasty two course meal, and the singing of Christmas carols was ably led by Paul and Heather Shelley.



A total of 24 people attended, including parishioners, clients from Holistic Care Nursing Ministries, and even a local politician.

(There were originally plans for MLAs Peter Cain and Jo Clay to attend, but Jo ended up in an Assembly committee on the day.)

Our outreach into the wider community is gaining some traction—as well as responses from local and federal politicians, we had an offer of assistance

with the event from someone who has no previous involvement with Holy Covenant. Hopefully next year we can build on that traction and see even more people becoming a part of our community through the lunch program.

Many thanks to Rhonda, Trish Barnes, Jennifer Berrie and Anne McDowell for their hard work in making the lunch happen. Also to Jenny Hall for ordering and collecting the platters of sandwiches.

We are planning four community lunches next year. If you would like to be a part of the organising team, please let the office know.



## 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!

### 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

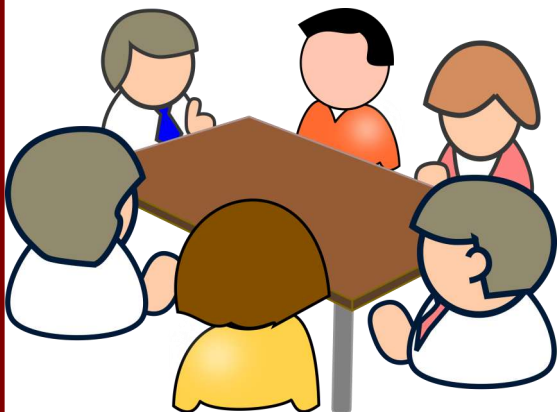
Tim Farrington

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

### 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 this week)
  - Anne McDowell & Joh Sheehan for the work and time they have invested into ensuring the parish is compliant with Diocesan Safe Ministries requirements

## Kids & Community Christmas

Revd Wendy and her team are putting together a kids' and community Christmas Eve celebration. Weather permitting, it will be happening next to the Jamison playground.

Bring a picnic, bring your best carol singing voices, bring your friends!

## Jamison Community Christmas Carols

Saturday, 24 December 2022

5pm

Next to Jamison playground

Inquiries: [hccommunitychaplain@gmail.com](mailto:hccommunitychaplain@gmail.com)

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## 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
- ⇒ Sensible COVID safety measures during Christmas gatherings
- ⇒ Improved relationships between Australia and Pacific nations

### IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ The Chincilla community, and others impacted by the recent shootings there
- ⇒ South Australian Riverina communities
- ⇒ Students, teachers and parents as the school year ends
- ⇒ Safety and resilience for first responders

### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of North West Australia
- ⇒ Boorowa, Yass Valley & Murrumburrah-Harden Parishes
- ⇒ Christian unity at local, national and world levels, National Council of Churches in Australia, Churches Together NSW, ACT, ACT Churches Council.

### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Wendy and Jono Elkhuisen; Tim, Annabel and Naomi Farrington; Andrew Feitz, Jodie Petrov and Oliver and Tobias; and Karen Ferguson.
- ⇒ 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

Friday: **Robert Noel Copper (d. 1996)**

## COLLECT for 4th Sunday of Advent

Gracious God,  
you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace,  
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour:  
so fill us with your grace,  
that with her we may rejoice in your salvation,  
and in all things embrace your will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for 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: **Bev Barnes, Rod Menzies,  
Phoebe Jackson**

Wednesday: **Lachlan Robertson**

Friday: **Ian Sykes**

## READINGS

Isaiah 7.10-16

Psalms 80.1-7, 17-19

Romans 1.1-7

Matthew 1.18-25