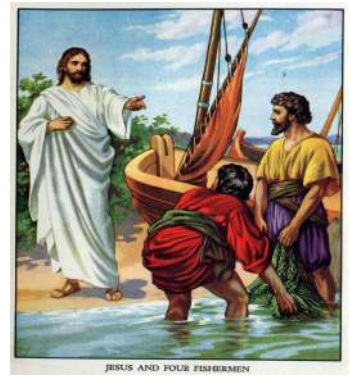


HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 22 JANUARY 2023 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Our Zoom operators are having a break, so there will be no Zoom services until January 29th.

SUNDAY 22 JANUARY

9am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
The Revd Wendy Robertson

SUNDAY 29 JANUARY

8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

In recess:

Wednesday midday communion services (resumes 1 February)
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

Breaking the Rod

Isaiah 9: 1-4

How inspiring are Isaiah's words of the coming Messiah, the glory God will bring into the world, of an end to oppression and exploitation? These words are fulfilled in the Gospel of Matthew, as Jesus begins his ministry in the region of Galilee. They also hold great meaning and worth for us today, because they speak of who God is, what God's kingdom looks like, and something of God's plan.

Galilee is far from Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, and even from Israel's capital Samaria. This land fell early to the Assyrians; was depopulated as invaders took citizens to work in the empire and limit dissent. The lands of Zebulun and Naphtali, along with those east of the Jordan river, were ravaged by war and became an example to the rest of Israel and Judah. This happened in Isaiah's lifetime, so it is not surprising he mentions it – what is surprising is what he has to say about it.

Isaiah doesn't condemn these regions, write them off as deserving their fate for being in a

rival kingdom. (Judah, where Isaiah prophesied, was often a rival to the kingdom of Israel). Rather, he speaks of how they will become a light to the nations, that from them will come a great wonder which will shatter the bonds of oppression and violence. God loves to surprise us, and so it is from these devastated lands, not from a lofty palace, that this wonderful light will shine. And what will this light do, what does it bring? Relief to the burdened and persecuted, justice flowing freely.

God is a breaker of rods, a remover of burdens. God's kingdom is one where the lowly are lifted high and kings and princes are humbled. On the day of Midian, God's people freed themselves of an oppressing foreign power. And so the coming Light will bring about a time where oppression and persecution will end. As followers of that Light, of Jesus the Messiah, we should keep our eyes and hearts open to build this kingdom of God, to act in this great work of bringing freedom, of breaking rods and staffs.

Tobias Nevile

Anglican Board of Mission

The 2023 Anglican Board of Mission project book is available in the office. If your family or small group is interested in supporting any of the projects, please see <https://www.abmission.org/projects/>

Gaza Child Nutrition Project

The Ahli Hospital in Gaza recently treated two-year-old Hala for malnutrition. Her mother, Shorouq, joined the women's community health and empowerment sessions which form part of the Anglican Board of Mission project in Gaza. Shorouq's husband had become violent after an accident which affected his mental health. Following the training, Sorouq said:

"I acquired more and more knowledge. My health awareness increased through the woman-to-woman approach. The community mobiliser visited me twice a month ... [teaching] communication skills, gender, and protection concepts, as well as other important topics. All of this knowledge and skills positively impacted my life.

For more information, please visit <https://www.abmission.org/projects/holy-land/gaza-child-nutrition-project/>



Give God the Glory

That my heart may sing your praises and never be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever. Psalm 30:12

I love the way God comes in so many disguises. Sitting in the sacred space on these beautiful summer mornings I am blessed so much by the presence of God.

One flower in particular caught my eye and stopped my wandering thoughts with its beauty, its perfect formation, its shifting colour in the sunlight as if the master creator was still at work in it. What a magnificent creation but even more so, what a magnificent creator.

O give God the glory for all his creation.

May the peace of God fill your life every single day.

Anne, servant of the Lord



Give God the Glory

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

Found!

If you lost a Restaurant Gift Card, one was found outside the church on Sunday 15 January. It is available for collection from the church office.



Office hours 25-26 January

The Office will be closed on Wednesday 25 January, as Megan is transporting her mother to multiple radiation treatments that day. The Office will be open on Thursday 26 January from 10am-3pm.

#alwayswasalwayswillbe

#ChangeTheHeart

Have a Good Yarn

Interested?

Tuesday 24
January, 11am -
12.30pm

Contact
Sandra

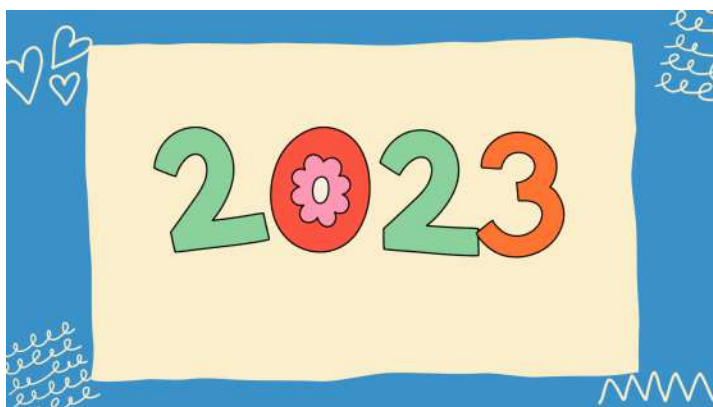
PH:
0408 438770



February Rosters

New year, new rosters!

The 'unavailability' list for February is on the back noticeboard. Have you added your details yet? If you want to take on a new role in 2023, please add your name & details to the list. The February rosters will be sent out in late January.



GROWING SPIRITUALLY IN 2023

The massive Sequoia trees of California might grow large but they grow slowly. Similarly, our spiritual lives emerge through many small steps over a long time. It too requires care and attention.

Being With is a 10-week series that helps us pay attention to how God is present within our lives through our everyday experiences. We'd love you to join us.

To run the group, we need a few folks who can learn the ropes as host and storytellers who offer hospitality and manage group life.

The course will help us to see Jesus not as someone who does things FOR us but as God who travels WITH us through all of life's challenges. It'll be an opportunity to discuss things like presence, the person of Jesus, the church, God's mission in the world, the cross and resurrection.

Starting Wednesday 15 February 2023, 7.30pm – 9pm

A COURSE EXPLORING
CHRISTIAN FAITH AND LIFE

Being With

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

Being
With

Calling all seedy Gardeners

Do you collect your own seed?

Holy Covenant is starting its very own 'Seed Library'

We need a variety of vegetable and ornamental seed. If you can help please collect your seed, labelling it with variety and date and bring it to church.

Talk to Joh for more information.



Fresh produce for those struggling

Do you grow your own fruit and veggies and find yourself having a surplus of at this time of year? Are you concerned about those in our community on low incomes who are really struggling with the cost of living and are unable to afford fresh fruit and vegetables?

We have an easy, no cost way for you to be a blessing to those struggling. Please bring your excess produce and leave it in the box on the kitchen counter marked "fresh food donations". These will be distributed to Companion House and St John's Care (depending on quantities).



Lids4Kids

If you have been on site in recent weeks, you will have seen the Rainbow Bench which Lids4Kids have donated to us. It's made from 15,000 recycled plastic bottle lids, which were hand sorted at the Rainbow Centre.

The Rainbow Centre is no longer a collection or sorting point for Lids4Kids. Please see the message below from Timothy Miller, founder of Lids4Kids.

"On behalf of all of our Lids4Kids ACT volunteers and collectors, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to you, your team and your entire congregation for your ongoing support of our charity over the last two years.

Had we not had a location during COVID-19 where collectors could donate their lids and volunteers could sort them, I honestly don't think Lids4Kids would still exist in its current form without your generosity, kindness, patience and support. Thank you"



Common Grace January 26 Events 2023

There are multiple ways to join together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across these lands now called Australia as we mark January 26th as a Day of Mourning, Survival Day, Invasion Day. For details see: https://www.commongrace.org.au/jan26_events_2023

Competition closes 26
January

Design competition!

Feeling bored in the summer
holidays?

Instead of netflix, create a
design for the community hub.
The winning design (s) will be
painted onto the hub and for
all the community to admire.

All colourful, creative, eye-
catching designs welcomed.



PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Iranians facing execution for anti-government demonstrations
- ⇒ Ukrainian civilians living under threat of missile attack, and mourning those who have died
- ⇒ Withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine
- ⇒ Reliable information on the COVID situation in China, to better inform international risk assessments

⇒ IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ People affected by flood, fire, heat and COVID
- ⇒ Preparations for the Parliamentary debate on the wording of the Voice referendum question
- ⇒ Truth telling and compassion in the lead up to January 26

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Sydney
- ⇒ St John's, Wagga Wagga
- ⇒ Wagga Wagga Base Hospital
- ⇒ St Martin's College
- ⇒ The Riverina Anglican College
- ⇒ Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre, Wagga Wagga
- ⇒ Chaplaincy work in hospitals, universities, colleges, schools, the workplace, prisons, defence forces, emergency services and border protection; Exploratory Ministry Chaplaincy Unit members; Archdeacon for Chaplaincy; trial ministry on Converge chaplaincy (community chaplaincy).

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Digby Habel; Jenny Hall; Gwen Hallows; Hilary Harris; Merrie Hepworth; Beth Heyde; Phyl and Reg Holmes; and Lucian, Joshua and Lulu Horciu.
- ⇒ 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; Alice Farrington, and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 22 Jan Meg Brighton
- 24 Jan Andrew Dudzinski

BIBLE READINGS

- Isaiah 9: 1-4
- Psalms 27:1-10
- 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
- Matthew 4: 12-25

COLLECT for 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Loving God,
the light of the minds that know you,
the life of the souls that love you,
and the strength of the hearts that serve you:
help us so to know you that we may truly love you,
and so to love you that we may faithfully serve you,
whose service is perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,
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Assistant Minister & Community Chaplain

The Revd Wendy Robertson
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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
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Children's Worker

Lou Passmore

Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Manager

Megan Arthur
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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
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Honorary Priests

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The Revd Connie Gerrity

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Resources Team

0419 255 002