

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 9 APRIL 2023
EASTER DAY

SATURDAY 8 APRIL

Kids' Easter—including egg hunt

SUNDAY 9 APRIL

6am Holy Communion , Service of Light

Celebrant: The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

Preacher: Revd Wendy Robertson

8am & 10am Holy Communion

Celebrant Revd Wendy Robertson

Preacher: The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

WEDNESDAY 12 and 19 APRIL

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch.

SUNDAY 16 APRIL

8am & 10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

SUNDAY 23 APRIL

8am & 10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

No Twilight Service, Kid's or Youth Church during school holidays

Coming soon:

Thursday 13 April. Community lunch.
12 Noon.

Disruption

"Do not be afraid", (v5) the angel says to the women at the tomb. Easy words for an angel to utter, but much harder work for humans to manage. I can imagine both Marys being close to hysterics at that point! Their last three days have been full of nothing but grief and fear, and now this white clad figure whose *"appearance was like lightning"* (v4) is telling them what to do and how to feel? Talk about a disruption to how the Marys thought their Sunday was going to pan out!

The resurrection of Jesus was and is a powerful disruptive force in this world of ours. The freedom from fear which comes in a resurrection life can shift and even shatter world views. As Sister Kathy Brazda says: *"On this day of resurrection, we are offered the hope and promise of Christ, that stones of oppression can be removed and that cloths which hide ugly truths can be taken away. In following the Risen One, may we be moved out of our complacency and towards a more just and peaceful world."*

As I look around Australia in April 2023, I still see many stones of

oppression, and cloths hiding ugly truths.

I am hopeful that the truth of white Australia's black history is now sufficiently well known, and that the vote on the Voice referendum can defy politics. But I am also afraid that the politics of division, fear and othering will prevail.

I am hopeful that real progress is being made towards equality for minority groups across the country. But I see neo-Nazis saluting on the steps of the Victorian Parliament. And again, I am afraid that the politics of division, fear and othering will prevail.

It is in the light of the resurrection that I find certainty. Because the resurrection means the restoration and victory of true justice—God's justice. Even when I question whether my work for social justice achieves anything, I know that somehow, God's justice will prevail. My job is to embody and practice Jesus' resurrection in my work for social justice. What about you? How do you embody and practice resurrection?

Megan Arthur

Overcrowded

G is a mum of 6 children, who are living in overcrowded conditions in a Housing ACT property. They live in a three bedroom house with only one living area and one bathroom for five people.

G described escaping family violence some years ago. The children's father disappeared from their lives once G and the children left the family home. She suspects that he returned to his home country abroad.

As a result, G receives no financial assistance from the children's father, and the family survives off a Centrelink pension. She described experiencing arrears in her utility bills and having no phone credit left.

G also explained that she had recently been diagnosed with depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder, and had been struggling greatly with her mental health. She said that her children are the light of her life, but that she feels burnt out and like she was "going to crack" as there is never any respite for her. She also mentioned that some of her children are struggling emotionally due to their living circumstances and the fallout from experiencing poverty. G asked me I knew of any support to assist her children both emotionally and recreationally/socially.

We discussed making referrals to other agencies for the children, as well as for periodic respite care for G so that she can focus on her mental wellbeing, and successfully were able to arrange these supports.

We also facilitated a referral to a mental health organisation to ensure that G receives support with her depression, anxiety, and PTSD.

Finally, we assisted her with contacting her energy company to ensure she was receiving the ACT Government's Utilities Concession (which she had not been) and helped her to arrange a payment plan for her utilities arrears.

G is incredibly grateful for the support of St John's Care. She told me that, for the first time in a very long time, she feels hope that her circumstances can change, and that she has support going forward.

Belinda Ding Senior Case Manager

Items Required: Easter eggs, washing powder, powdered milk, olive + cooking oil, Cup-A-Soup, toothpaste.

More Progress on the Community Hub

It's great to see the Community Hub being used! Even though it's not quite finished, the painting by the young people looks wonderful. The addition of the Parish name and branding has added an extra dimension to the appearance of the Hub. The presence of a stick and ball library and a water bowl for passing dogs is a delightful addition. Almost all of the seed packets that went into the Hub a few weeks ago are gone, and there's been a fresh set of seed packets added. The library has been pretty much full for a couple of weeks, so we might need to move some books along to make space for more.

Once the Hub is finished, and we have a photo of the construction and decoration teams, the Hub will be registered on the Australian Community Library site.



Anglican News

The Easter edition of Anglican News, featuring Bishop Mark's Easter message, is now available. You can download your copy from the Diocesan website: <http://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>

Save your stamps

Please save used postage stamps, pre stamped envelopes, and envelopes with company, business or council logos. All these are collected, taken to St John's in Reid. From there they are transported to Cootamundra where they are sorted by a group of people in an Aged Care Facility. After sorting, the stamps are sold to stamp dealers with the proceeds going to the work of missions. Over \$5,000 a year is raised for missions through used stamps.

Our drop of point for your used stamps is at the back of the church. There is a calico bag hanging near the exit door labelled stamps. Thank you.

Container returned from Companion House

The folk at Companion House were very thankful for the delivery of scones. The container that the scones were in has been returned to Joh. Whoever owns the container, please get in touch with her to arrange collection.

School Holidays Calendar 7-23 April

Many of the regular groups that meet in the Church or the Rainbow Centre are taking a break during the school holidays. If you are unsure about the schedule, please double check with the people organising your group.



Faithful God

If you believe, you will receive what ever you ask for in prayer. Matthew 12:22

The peace and quiet in the sacred space is just lovely on this autumn morning, though it is fresh. I found myself pondering on prayer after my quiet time talking to God and asking him to take what comes my way today and shower it with blessings for me and those who cross my path. I wondered how much faith we put into our 'requests to God'.

I remember reading this little quote (author unknown). *Do you pray and then believing, grab your boots and parasol, scrub the barrel and get ready for the rain you asked to fall? So, in believing that God will bless my day, and yours and all we do in his name be ready for his response.*

May the faith that gives us hope, may the love that shows the way, may the peace that cheers the heart, be yours today.

Anne, servant of the Lord



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

No Bulletin Sunday 16 April

As Megan is on leave from the Office in the week leading up to Sunday 16 April, we have a bumper edition Weekly Bulletin this week. The next issue of the Weekly Bulletin will be produced for Sunday 23 April.

Learning to Engage—Part Two

Learning to Engage is an article Revd Wayne wrote for the St James Institute. Last week's excerpt explored the history of Australian Christianity since the 1960s through the pattern of focus, forms and formation. This week we look at different approaches to discipleship.

Discipleship as Control

A vision of discipleship grounded in control is comforting, clear and popular today, particularly as the secular world is perceived to be chaotic, dysfunctional and antagonistic towards Christianity. Its oppositional stance brings clarity and purpose, particularly when discipleship is organised around truthfulness.

When Scripture is understood to offer a theological blueprint for every aspect of human life, then discipleship becomes a matter of staying within the divine order while rejecting anything outside it as rebellious and sinful. Such a view is underpinned by an understanding of the gospel focussed exclusively on Christ who came to save sinners, calling them to obedience and fellowship in the church. Acceptance of Jesus' Lordship enables individuals to move in a linear way from chaos to order, darkness to light, rebellion to obedience, sinfulness to salvation.

This focus on authority and obedience allows leaders to make a clear call to action. In a world filled with temptation and error, only self-denial, sacrifice and service in the church is necessary to save some from a lost world. Organising metaphors of exile supplanted older ones of Paul in the Areopagus.

With religious freedom at stake, these images tend to reinforce feelings of alienation and resentment.

Such a focus allows the pattern of control to go unobserved. Loyalty to the tradition becomes the lens by which all readings of Scripture, behaviour and ideas are assessed. Few ask basic questions about why their leaders all think and look the same.

The church's capacity to engage with the world is redefined radically when secularism is viewed as

poisonous. The relationship is no longer a matter of the church influencing the world but how the church might survive its corrosive effects. It blocks or refuses engagement on any terms but its own for the world constantly threatens the church's purity. Consequently, salvation becomes a matter of leaving the world. Even things like discrimination are redefined as obstacles that prevent receiving the gospel rather than as problems which need to be fixed, especially with respect to the flourishing of women and LGBTIQ+ people.

Discipleship as discovery

An alternate vision of discipleship has emerged in recent years focussed on discovery. This vision is more diffuse and has lacked the resources to engage younger Christians. Thankfully, leaders like Archbishop Justin Welby, Bishop Michael Curry and Father Richard Rohr have begun producing material like the Difference Course and the Way of Love to address this shortfall.

From the perspective of discovery, the secular world is seen to be hungry for a compassionate and just Christianity, not a controlling one. The pathway cultivates a vision of Christian identity that focusses on mutual flourishing, collaboration and partnership.

Scripture is read as an invitation to explore the nature of our self, God and the world. Doubts, resistance, questions and revision are integral parts to the process of discipleship which moves in a cyclical pattern of construction, deconstruction and reconstruction rather than a linear one of continual growth. Christians are called to see themselves self-critically in the gospels as people who both need healing and who stand with the powers to prevent the world's restoration.

Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

Next edition—more on discipleship as discovery, and hope for the future.

God's Work at Holy Covenant: Noah's Ark Pet Ministry

Archdeacon Anne

Holy Covenant conveys God's faith, hope and love in many different ways. We will feature a range of ministries by which we create places for everyone. You may wish to volunteer or share this opportunity with a friend.

Most of us know that a pet can make a big difference in our lives. Their presence can lift our spirits, bring us comfort and shower us with unconditional love. They can put a smile on our faces even when we don't feel like smiling.

Let me tell you a story. One of our parishioners passed away recently. She had been in hospital for five weeks. Her cat, her sole companion of 15 years, was home alone with regular visitors to feed her and keep her company but both were fretting for each other. When we knew that this lady was going to pass away in ICU at Calvary, we sought permission for her cat to visit her. Permission was granted, a nurse was assigned to be sure the cat had water etc., and the cat spent the entire day on the hospital before the parishioner passed away. This reunion brought tears to all involved. The cat at last knew where its owner was, the person saw her

much loved companion cat again and knew it was to be rehomed with another family member. It was amazing when we brought the cat home how much more settled it was and its owner passed away knowing they had spent their last few hours together. This assisted her dying immensely. We should never underestimate the power of relationship with our animals and full credit to Calvary for acknowledging that.

Noah's Ark Pet Ministry operates as a ministry of this parish and is available for pastoral support for you and your pets in time of need, and for prayers for your pet and you, and to celebrate their birthdays. The new community hub at Holy Covenant also caters for pets and their owners out for a walk by offering fresh water, balls and sticks to take for play time.

For more information on this ministry have a word with me. You can also check us out on the Noah's Ark Pet Ministry Facebook group page.



Pictured: Miss Clover providing pet therapy at Covenant Care

Volunteers Needed Autumn Community Lunch 13 April 2023 at 12 midday

Our first Community Lunch for 2023 is happening on 13 April. Russell Rollason AM, will be speaking on the topic *Listening to the Voice. Understanding the Uluru Statement.*

In an ideal world, your RSVPs would already be in. If you are able to help out on the day, either in the kitchen plating food, or serving, or you can provide a contribution for dessert, there's a separate sign up sheet for that. Given the large number of peo-

ple already registered for the lunch, extra helpers to set up, serve and pack up are needed. A few more donations for dessert would also be welcome.



PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops
- ⇒ Stability of government and the rule of law in all democratic nations
- ⇒ Earthquake recovery work in Syria, Türkiye, and Papua New Guinea

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Willingness to listen to Australia's First Peoples and a successful outcome in the Voice referendum
- ⇒ Practical assistance for those struggling with housing and food insecurity

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn
- ⇒ Bishop-in-Council and the Ministry Executive, the Anglican Church Property Trust and ADS Board
- ⇒ Diocesan Synod
- ⇒ Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
- ⇒ Diocesan Public Issues Commission
- ⇒ All Saints' Ainslie
- ⇒ All Saints College
- ⇒ Growth of the Anglican Investment Development Fund and The Pelican Foundation

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Clive Rodger; Margaret Martin; Mary Lynn Mather; Doreen and Ian Matters; Tracey Matthews and Russell Rollason; and Ann and Lindsay McDowell.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Colin & Marilyn Tolano; Glenys Wimmer; Ann & Peter Bazeos; Maggie Watts; Alice Farrington; Bev Chambers, Anne Drummond, Gracie Bonnett, Lou Daniels and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

- 13 Apr Ross McGregor Mitchell (d. 2018)
15 Apr Beatrice Alice Woodwell (d. 1987)
Brian Field Cox (d.2021)

BIRTHDAYS

- 9 Apr Annabelle Farrington
22 Apr Ethan Gumbrell

BIBLE READINGS

9 April

Jeremiah 31: 1-6
Hymn to the Risen Christ
Colossians 3: 1-4
Matthew 28: 1-10

16 April

Acts 2: 14, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1: 1-12
John 20: 19-31

COLLECT for Easter Day

Glorious Lord of life,
by the mighty resurrection of your Son
you overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we,
who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the
dead
may be raised from the death of sin
to the life of righteousness;
through him who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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