

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 2023
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRlSEVIRll0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 13 AUGUST

8am & 10am: Holy Communion
Celebrant: Revd Wendy Robertson
Preacher: The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST

8am & 10am: Holy Communion
Celebrant: Rev Wendy Robertson
Preacher: The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

Coming soon:

Sat 19 August: Working Bee
Sat 26 August: Trivia Night

Bank details for direct debit:

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

Intergenerational family strife

The Old Testament readings move onto the fourth generation of the line of promise from Abraham, through Isaac, to Jacob (renamed Israel) and now to his sons. The themes of interpersonal family rivalries, jealousies, thwarted hopes and desires haunts this family. Such dysfunctions result in spiteful conspiracies and sometimes violent actions being taken against other family members. These themes are again invoked in this story. Jacob's favouring of Rachel over Leah introduces jealousies between his wives. Now his favouring of Rachel's firstborn, Joseph, over his other sons will play out tragically.

Joseph is not only favoured materially (*Gen 37:3*). He also has the ear of his father. He has shown himself willing to "spy" on his brothers and report on them to their father (*37:2,14*). His brothers are well aware of the depth of Jacob's love for Joseph (*37:3-4*). Unsurprisingly, hate and contention are nurtured by Jacob's attitude and actions.

Finally family tensions erupt into violence: some of the brothers want

Joseph murdered (*37:18-20*). Joseph is betrayed by his brothers; they strip his coat from him and imprison him in a pit. Surprisingly, Reuben, Leah's firstborn, seeks to preserve Joseph's life (*37:21-22*). But before he can carry out his plan, traders of slaves and goods appear on the scene (*37:25*). Leah's fourth son Judah, also works to save Joseph's life. He hatches the plan to sell him to the Egypt-bound traders (*37:26-27*). The lie concerning his death is delivered to Jacob who is grief stricken.

Such rivalries and strife induce suffering, leaving their own scars in this dysfunctional family. But they do not have the last voice in the story. Rather, through these stories a hope is shaped that transforms this family into a nation and a people that belong to God. A hope that transforms these very people, in spite of failure and conflict, into patriarchs and leaders of that nation. A hope that God is with them through all their vicissitudes, in spite of misdeeds and the selfish desires and ambitions of their own hearts. A hope that is ultimately shaped in messianic terms to reveal Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Merilyn Clark

What's Your Dream?

Churches can be hard places for faith, hope and love to thrive. It's much easier to become a nostalgic cemetery than a nursery for new life!

The reasons why faith, hope and love struggle at church are not hard to find. Inconsistencies can emerge between what is said and done. Personalities clash. Styles go out of fashion. Those bits that work for us bore others to tears. It can also be hard to contribute when we are feeling tired, uncertain, or overwhelmed by the rest of our life.

As people of faith, we come to church to meet with God, each other and to learn for ourselves about what God is doing in the world.

Our parish dream (2023-2026) is one way to bring God's work into focus. As the leadership team has explored the way ahead, a number of great opportunities are apparent:

- developing under 25s ministry, particularly the leadership gifts of women and girls which are often overlooked when so many other churches continue to encourage submission
- deepening spiritual growth, especially when so many churches encourage conformity rather than helping people to find answers to important questions
- enticing worship, specifically by developing the strength of our music and worship teams on Sunday
- enhancing outreach by finding effective ways to engage with spiritual searchers in our neighbourhoods
- strengthening pastoral care by finding ways to connect with younger families
- improving our facilities by completing the Rainbow Centre redevelopment
- fruitful partnerships, particularly to amplify our influence by working with others
- developing our ministry team, by encouraging

small groups to multiply.

- Churches often over-estimate what they can do in a year while underestimating what they can achieve in five years. We believe all the things identified are in reach and achievable.
- By naming our dreams we discover those who wants to help. When we find our friends, we find that the pathway forward emerges from the shadows. As the pathway becomes clear our capacity to plan grows stronger.

In the weeks ahead you might like to:

- talk to team members about your dreams for the parish
- update your regular financial giving and consider a regular bank transfer, if appropriate
- consider your passions and how you might wish to help or
- think long-term about leaving a bequest or offering an interest-free loan to help the parish over the next 10-20 years.

Holy Covenant is your church. I'm glad to be sharing the journey with you as we find ways to be a great neighbour in our city.

Revd Dr Wayne Brighton



A turn for the worst

St John's Care (SJC) has supported D for many years. D is middle aged and lives with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) She also has a physical disability which limits her mobility. Despite these challenges, D has been employed on a casual basis for over 5 years. This work provides D with some additional money, a sense of purpose and accomplishment, as well as social interactions.

D has experienced an unexpected decline in her physical ability. During one of her visits to SJC, D told me about this deterioration, and her need to receive specialist support interstate. The decline in her physical ability also meant that D may need to transition out of the home that she had lived in for more than 15 years, and into something that was more appropriate for her.

I was proud of D for being able to discuss this difficult topic with me, something she would have struggled with when I first met her years ago. D was concerned about the costs of travelling to see a specialist, and I assured her that SJC could support her through this. A few weeks ago, D visited SJC so that we could book a bus ticket and overnight accommodation for her. We provided her with some food and a backpack to take with her.

On Monday the following week I received a call from D who was simply broken and incomprehensible. Her specialist had suggested that she needed more regular support, and recommended she look at moving houses. When she returned to Canberra, she found her house had been broken into and ransacked. Her valuable belongings were gone, and what was left had been damaged or strewn across the floor. It was devastating to hear D tell me about her experience. The emotion in her voice was palpable.

Unlike many of the stories that we share with you, D's story does not have a happy ending yet. D's house has been cleaned, her windows fixed, and some of her belongings replaced, but the negative effects of that weekend will be long lasting. D has not returned to work and has lost a significant amount of trust in the community in which she lives.

We are continuing to work closely with D. We are hoping to soon have her moved into a house that is more suitable for her, and just as importantly, somewhere she feels safe.

Robbie Speldewinde Operations Manager

Items Required: Tomato Sauce, Tinned meat e.g. Irish stew, steak and onion etc., Olive oil, School lunch fruit snacks

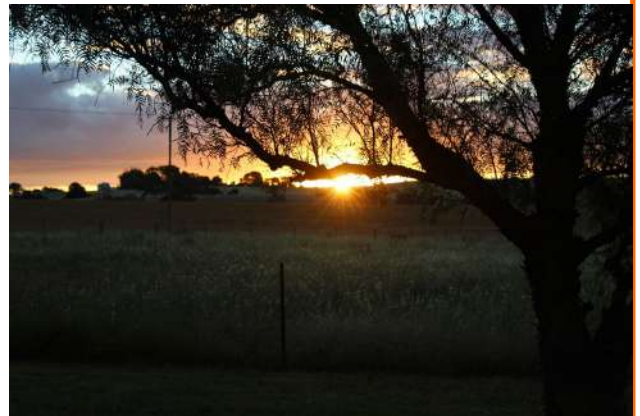
Where I am there you are also

We love the place, O God, wherein thine honour dwells, the joy of thine abode all earthly joy excels. it is the house of prayer wherein thy servants meet and thou, O Lord, art there. (William Bullock)

The more I visit my sacred space the more I feel the presence of God waiting there for me. It's like his hand is on my empty seat and he is patting it saying, 'Come sit with me awhile. 'It's such a peaceful, quiet shelter away from the pending tide of the daily rush. A place where one is enfolded in love. A place wherein all I look out and see is of God: 'Where I am there you are also and there is nothing on earth that you are not in.' The flowers, the buds on the trees waiting to burst into spring blossom, the perfume of the Daphne floating in the air, the puppy on its morning walk with its person, the birds singing in the new day, the clear blue sky - there is ever so much of God's love to be seen. Wherever your sacred space is, that place you have created to spend special times with God, may you also be filled with his presence. May you also feel he is waiting there for you. May you pause awhile and thank God for all that is and all that will be.

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

Anne, servant of the Lord



The presence of God.

Free webinar: Spirituality and Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is a serious issue that affects many older Australians, causing harm and distress within relationships built on trust. Join the Centre for Christianity and Culture for a thought-provoking webinar led by Dr. John Gilchrist, and delve into the legal position and redress for victims, with a special focus on financial abuse and neglect. Prof. Elizabeth Mackinlay will shed light on the spiritual and psychological aspects of abusive behaviour.

Register now to secure your spot. Together, let's raise awareness and promote understanding about elder abuse.

Date: Wednesday, 16 August, 2023

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-lets-talk-about-spirituality-and-elder-abuse-tickets-577828118457>



AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE
WISDOM FOR THE COMMON GOOD

tearfund

Update | August

Restoring hope: tackling waste

Heather Rayside, who works in Tearfund's international programs team, was confronted by the impact of human trafficking and exploitation she witnessed in Vietnam.

"I was horrified that in our day and age there were over 40 million people caught up in it. That figure has now risen to 50 million."

Heather is celebrating women's empowerment and prioritising creation care through her online business. Along with her work with Tearfund, Heather runs an online boutique of giftware, fashion accessories and homewares. Most of the collection is created by women who have been affected by trafficking and exploitation across Asia.

"I source products from social enterprises that are known as freedom businesses, being specifically established to tackle the longer-term issue of rescued people being at high risk of being re-trafficked," she explains. "Simply put, my business enables these freedom businesses, along with some fair trade certified manufacturers, to sell their products to Aussies and New Zealanders who want to contribute to the end of human trafficking when they shop."

Heather says her Christian faith is central to what she is doing through her business.



If you don't know... why not find out?

Learn a little about history
from an Aboriginal point of view

Christian Leaders— Florence Li Tim-Oi

Li Tim-Oi received her theological education at Canton Union Theological College. After working for two years in All Saints Church, in Kowloon, helping refugees in Hong Kong who fled mainland China in the midst of the Second Sino-Japanese War, Li Tim-Oi was sent to help with refugees in Macau at the Macau Protestant Chapel. Six months into her new post, she returned to Hong Kong to be ordained as a Deacon on 22 May 1941

The Japanese occupation of Hong Kong and of parts of China had made it impossible for Anglican priests to get to neutral Macau, where there was no resident Anglican priest; Li Tim-Oi was, despite not being ordained a priest at that time, given permission by Bishop Hall to give the sacraments to Anglicans.

In January 1944, Li Tim-Oi travelled through Japanese-occupied territory to Shaoqing where Hall ordained her as a priest on 25 January 1944. After the end of the war, to avoid further controversy, she resigned her licence (though not her priest's orders).

The Communist government in China closed all churches from 1958 to 1974, during which time Li Tim-Oi was forced to undergo political re-education because she was designated as a counter-revolutionary. The Red Guards even forced her to cut up her own church vestments with scissors.

When Hong Kong ordained two further women priests in 1971, Li was officially recognised as a priest in the Diocese. She was appointed an honorary assistant priest in Toronto in 1983, where she spent the remainder of her life.

Holy Covenant has been gifted an icon of Li Tim-Oi, which is on display in the Chapel, and pictured here. We are grateful to Noel Jeffs for this gift. (Noel is an Anglican Franciscan Friar, writer and poet.)



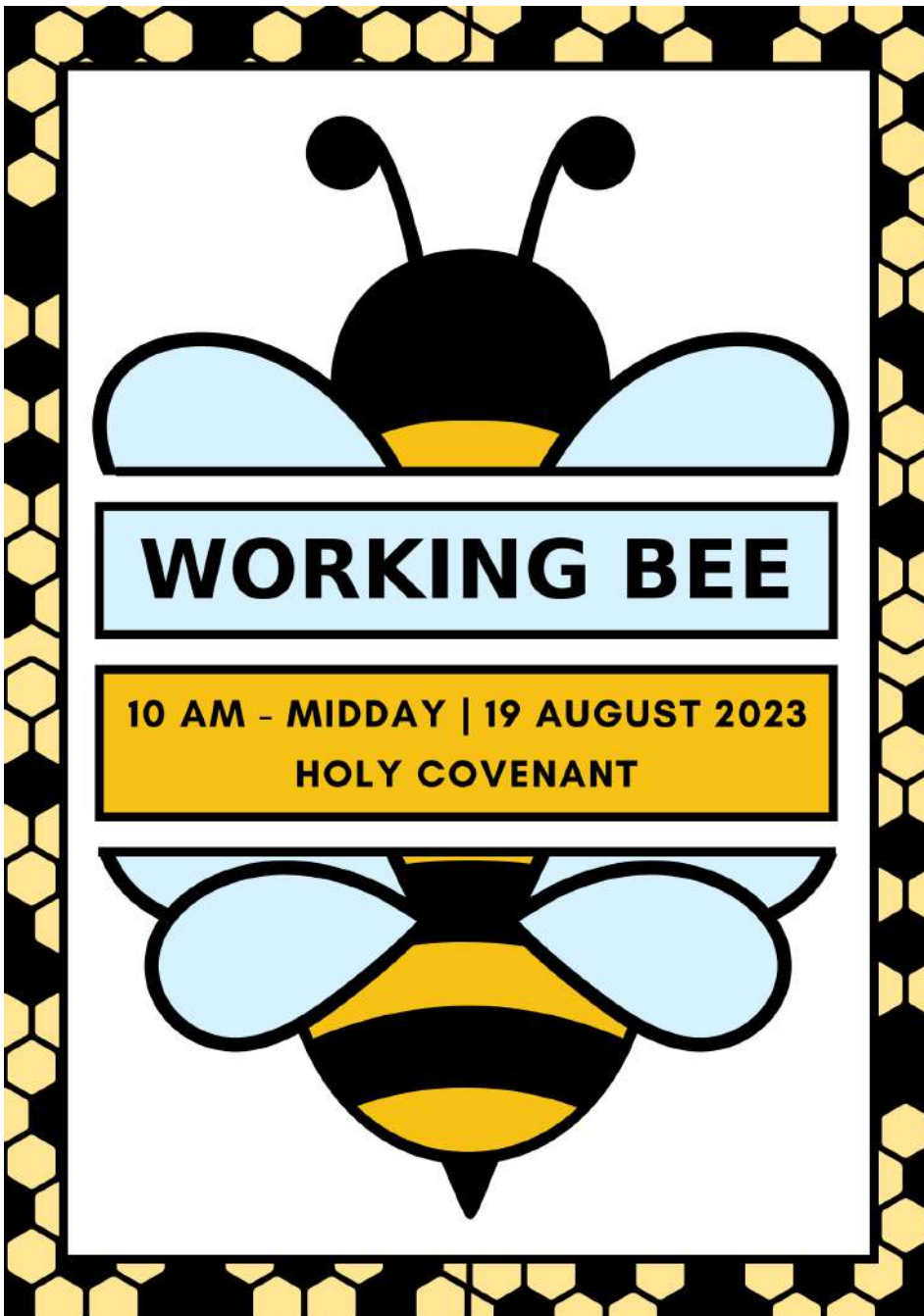
Wear It Purple Trivia Night

- **When:** Saturday 26 August
- **Where:** Holy Covenant Anglican Church
- **Time:** 6-10pm
- **Cost:** Free (donations to Wear It Purple encouraged)
- **Book:** <https://events.humanitix.com/wear-it-purple-trivia-night-m9whev90>

A fun evening of games, food, friendship and community building, while raising funds for LGBTIQA+ young people.



Artwork by Lawson 'Wukawe' Dodd (Kaurna / Narungga / Ngarrindjeri)



Shepherd Seminar: War, Ethics and Faith

Wars remain a constant feature in our world and are an increasing concern for many of us. However few of us have thought personally about what war would involve and the decisions we might face. Dr Deane Baker is an ethicist at UNSW Canberra who works with the Australian Defence Force. He will share his insights into the ethical questions involved in war and especially how these fit with Christian morals and beliefs.

Date: Monday 21 August

Time: 7.30-9.30pm

Venue: Good Shepherd

Anglican Church,

157 Carruthers St Curtin, or

online at [https://
gchurch.org.au/](https://gchurch.org.au/)

Nungalinya News

'Faith and Family Wellbeing' is in its third year in 2023. Partnering with Tearfund, the course covers some of those hard topics: cycles of trauma, grief and mourning, and domestic violence. However, through a well-being lens, there is always hope for healing through the mercies of God which are new every morning!

Nungalinya staff travelled to Numbulwar and Ngukurr in June as part of the Faith and Family

Wellbeing course. They had the opportunity to share some time with students and their families, support church leaders, attend a funeral and support a graduation for Nungalinya



Have you heard?

As well as the Day Hospice, Covenant Care has a community program which cares for people who are socially isolated, lonely, struggling with life's issues and generally need some help to reengage with life.

Part of the community program is taking these clients on an outing, approximately 8 times a year, to somewhere nice and different for morning tea, brunch or lunch. This is a mid-week activity about once a month or so. It's a wonderful program for these people. Currently there are between 4-10 clients who go and 7 volunteers from our program who do the pick up and driving.

BUT we have hit a glitch. We need a volunteer to offer to coordinate this part of our program. This position entails calling the clients to see if they would like to attend an outing that they have been notified of previously through the Covenant Care administration; arrange the drivers and letting them know who needs picking up, and transporting to and from the venue. This is a lovely time out at venues ranging from the café at Arboretum, Parish Community Lunches, or a morning at Mulligans Flat,

just to mention a few.

Is this something that you could give some time towards? If yes, please contact the Covenant Care Program Manager Megan on 0487 945 615 or email nurse@holycovenant.org.au Thank you.

Archdeacon Anne
Program Director
Covenant Care



A Covenant Care excursion to a local cafe

Dinner Forum—22 August

Christians for an Ethical Society annual dinner forum is happening in August.

In movements for justice and social change, inspiring and maintaining hope is seen to be vital.

Hope is a source of energy, keeping us connected to possibility, holding open the space for action that might otherwise be closed by cynicism and despair. But where is hope itself sourced?

In Christian understanding, hope is not a natural phenomenon. It's not optimism, the tendency to anticipate that things will just get better, or naturally improve. Rather it has to do with the nature of the future that calls us and commitment

to participate in its realisation. Hope is both gift and practice, a fruit of prayer.

In this talk, Sarah Bachelard will reflect on the ground and work of hope from a Christian perspective, and explore what might be the distinctive contribution of this quality of hope to the needs and possibilities of our time.

Where: Bella Vista restaurant 84 Emu Bank, BELCONNEN ACT 2617

When: Tuesday 22 August—6.00 for 6.30pm

Cost: \$60 per person

RSVP: admin@ces.org.au by 15 August 2023

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Safety and humanitarian visas for former Australian employees and contractors in Afghanistan, and their families
- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine, and the withdrawal of Russian troops

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Preparations for the Voice referendum
- ⇒ Food and housing security for vulnerable people

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Ministry with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia
- ⇒ St Paul's, Manuka & St David's Red Hill:
- ⇒ St David's Close Self Care Units, Red Hill
- ⇒ Aged Care Chaplaincy
- ⇒ Calvary John James Hospital
- ⇒ Parliamentary Christian Fellowship
- ⇒ Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, all members and senators, and reconciliation of First Peoples of Australia.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including David and Rosemary Kennemore; Stephanie and Nick Kizimchuck; Pam Lane; Anne and Martin Lange; Jenny Lange; and Clare Lawlor.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Glenys Wimmer; Ann & Peter Bazeos; Alice Farrington; Bev Chambers; Gracie Bonnett; Ewan Garside; Bob and Kath Arthur and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

- 15 August Aiyathurai Jagaraj Lamech (d. 2008)
19 August Ian Main (d. 2004)

COLLECT for 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Mighty God and ruler of all creation,
give new strength to our faith,
that we may recognise your presence
even when all hope seems lost.
Help us to face all trials with serenity
as we walk with Christ through the stormy seas of
life

and come at the last to your eternal peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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The Revd Lynda McMinn
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Resources Team

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BIRTHDAYS

16 August Jamie Gumbrell

18 August Isla Robertson

BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 37:1-28

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22

Romans 10:4-15

Matthew 14:22-36