

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 27 AUGUST 2023
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTxFcN0N4MGRiSEVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST

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

WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST

12 Midday Communion Service and
lunch

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

8am & 10am: Creation Sunday, Holy
Communion Celebrant and
Preacher: The Revd Wendy
Robertson

Coming soon:

Thurs 31 August: Parish Dream
conversation

Fri 1 Sept: Pizza Night

Sept 8-10: Diocesan Synod

Sat 16 Sept: Working Bee &
Gardening Workshop

Bank details for direct debit:

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

The defiance of women

This week's Old Testament reading catapults us ahead in Israel's story and into chapter one of Exodus. We pick up the story of Jacob's descendants.

Joseph has been forgotten, and the Hebrew guest workers are now feared slaves in Egypt. But fear jostles with economic interests. Hebrew slaves provide a cheap, plentiful labour force (*Ex 1:10-11*). Pharaoh's fear results in oppressive (*Ex 11-14*), violent laws. The Hebrew midwives are ordered to kill all Hebrew baby boys (*Ex 1:15-16*). They defy Pharaoh's orders (*Ex 1:17*) and lie to protect themselves (*Ex 1:18-19*). So Pharaoh's command is generalised: all Pharaoh's people are ordered to carry out the death sentences (*Ex 1:22*). The text records no protest from Hebrew men at these shocking orders.

A sudden scene shift focusses on a particular Hebrew family, at the birth of a baby boy. The father is scarily silent. His wife is not. And we read the birth story of Moses.

His mother, unable to further hide her son, makes a *tebah* (an Egyptian word) meaning a container or coffin. She shuts him into the coffin, and assigns his coffin to the killing river.

Pharaoh's daughter finds and opens it, and names and claims the baby inside. Moses means "son" in Egyptian. This Hebrew baby boy is saved by the actions of three nameless women, who all disobey Pharaoh. This death sentenced Hebrew child is raised in Pharaoh's palace.

A critical theme emerges: "who is sovereign in Egypt?". Watch for switches in the text between *Pharaoh* and *king*. Pharaoh is a god in the Egyptian pantheon. When 'Pharaoh' is used, his divine power and status is claimed. The word 'king' denotes a ruler, with no divine status implied. Its use is subversive, denying Pharaoh's divine sovereignty. Indeed another divine sovereign is active in Egypt, notably God, who is not yet known by Pharaoh. This theme dominates Exodus 1-15.

Marilyn Clark

BEING GREAT NEIGHBOURS

Our Parish Dream 2023-2026

At Holy Covenant, we believe in abundance and sharing God's faith, hope, and love with others. Our inclusive and compassionate approach sets us apart.

Below are some ways you could support our mission.

Take a moment to consider each area and make a note for yourself about how you could respond.

STEP 1

talk about your dreams

Share with someone what you might like to see happen at church. Sharing our hopes and dreams allows abundance to grow.

I hope to see:



STEP 2

get involved

Take a moment to observe what's going on in the church community and how it makes you feel. Where might your hands help and make a difference?

I could help by:



STEP 3

make a contribution

Think about your financial giving and consider a regular bank transfer. Such support ensures continuity and reduces uncertainty week to week.

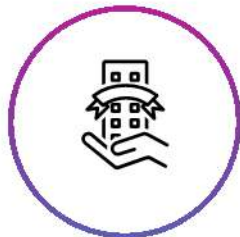
I could give each week:



STEP 4

look long-term

Your generosity over the next 10-20 years can make a lasting impact, whether through a bequest or an interest-free loan. Why not talk to the Treasurer about some possible options?



my main action will be:

Growing Energy

'Energy is wasted on the youth,' my grandma often said as she watched teenagers filled with endless possibility sit on the couch watching TV.

Energy levels fluctuate throughout our faith journey too. There is often a surge when people come to faith in their teens and early 20s. Everything is new and exciting. God feels close and real. Faith is something to be learnt and mastered.

By midlife our energy levels often drop. As juggling family and career take over fitting church in gets tough. Caring for teens and older parents gets harder. The inner voice gets harder to hear. Things that were once black and white turn into shades of grey. As we struggle with the cacophony of noise in our life we can wonder, God where are you?

Rebuilding faith happens slowly as we learn to engage with love more fully. We recognise that those around us are flawed and forgiven. We can find ourselves reaching beyond the confines of perfectionism that once defined our faith. The fog lifts when we discover new perspectives, once unthinkable, are now open to exploration. Most surprisingly, our energy returns once more.

Holy Covenant is a place where its ok to examine faith afresh. Faith is never lost when hopes shifts and love deepens. It simply changes. When we walk this way of love, we find ourselves becoming better neighbours who are more able to hear, see and value those around us for who they are rather than for what we'd want them to be.

Our parish dream is about seeing how God's Spirit renews life everywhere. Regardless of how much energy you have God is at work in us all. Why not pick up a response sheet and share your hopes and dream with us?

Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

Isolated & grieving

L emailed us asking for a phone call. When I called L explained that she was a person who normally visited SJC; she loved to walk and enjoy nature and enjoyed spending time with her friends over a cup of coffee. She told me that everything she loved and enjoyed doing no longer made sense since her husband passed away.

L has experienced the loss of many family and friends. She told me that she would like to be the person she was years ago. She often makes plans to leave the house but when the day comes, she doesn't have the will or the strength to follow through. L has several severe allergies which makes it difficult and very expensive for her to do her weekly shopping. The money that L receives automatically pays her rent, prescriptions, utility bills, leaving her with little to buy her groceries.

I told L that SJC would support her with food on a weekly basis, and that I would personally bring her everything she needed for her week according to her dietary requirements. I told her that on the day I was going to drop off the food she had to come with me to get a coffee. L started to laugh and agreed with the proposal.

I invited L to our community lunch; she told me that she didn't feel ready. I told her that I would visit her on Friday and that I would bring lunch. I arrived that Friday and L was waiting for me, she was very happy and smiling; we sat in her garden to enjoy the delicious community lunch.

At the end of lunch L became very nostalgic. She told me that it had been a long time since she had enjoyed a meal with someone; and that after losing her husband, and some family members, her life had turned into deep sadness. I told L that grieving takes time, there is no timetable for it. We all suffer and heal in different ways. The bereavement and mourning process can trigger many intense and unexpected emotions. I assured her that SJC would be there to support her in whatever ways we could as she faced these challenges.

We would like to thank the donors and volunteers who allow us to make positive changes in the lives of those who need it most, and to enable them to succeed in their own way.

Karen Medrano SJC Case Manager

Items Required: Olive oil, Cereal, Shampoo and conditioner, Tinned meat e.g. Irish stew or braised steak

Leaping faith

God will always leave a witness. 1 Kings 11:36

In the sacred space the air is filled with the fragrance of God emanating from the glorious daphne bush and the clusters of violets. I am drawn to reflect on our loving God who wants us all to share his fragrance with others. Often, we don't see the result of our evangelising but recently I saw it as I reflected on an elderly Christian lady who befriended a lonely lady at her home and brought Christ to her. When that lady went into a nursing home, she took Jesus with her and recently when she passed away her closest friend there started to go to the chapel service to seek what her friend had. Here was faith 'leaping' from one person to another - where to next, I ponder.

May God's fragrance continue to fall from us all onto another, and then to another.

Anne, servant of the Lord



The fragrance of violets

Leftovers from the silent auction

There are items that were donated for the silent auction that did not sell on the night. If you would like your donation back, please collect it from the office.

Any items still in the office on 7 September will be donated to the Covenant Care Trash & Treasure stall at the fete.

Season of Creation—September

Across September, we will be celebrating the joys of God's creation in some different ways. Our series on Christian leaders will focus on people working in the environmental/science fields. Sunday 3 September will be our Creation Sunday service.

The Creation Sunday service at 10am will be led by the children and young people. They would like to encourage those attending to wear green, bring along a pot plant (if you have one) and be prepared for a more interactive than usual service.



Anyone interested in providing an article for the Christian leaders series is most welcome. Please email your contribution to office@holycovenant.org.au

Do generous Christians have a future?

This uncomfortable question has emerged at a time when sectarian groups are exerting their influence in all parts of the church across every denomination. The dinner is an opportunity for people to connect and discuss the development of a theologically generous church for tomorrow's Australia.

The Broad Church Network is a Canberra based group coordinated by Revds Lynda McMinn and Wayne Brighton, that participates in God's mission by encouraging generous spirits, effective hands and abundant hearts. Please note that registration covers venue cost only. Guests will need to order and pay for their meal at the bar. The dinner is open to everyone. To register - <https://events.humanitix.com/broad-church-network-synod-dinner-2023>

First Aid

Qualifications

Parish Council has requested an updated list of those in the Parish who have First Aid qualifications. If you are happy to be on that list, please email the office.



Christian Leaders—Brené Brown

Maybe stories are data with soul

Brené Brown is a Christian academic whose research focuses on courage, vulnerability, empathy and shame. Brown's TED talk *The Power of Vulnerability* is among top five of all time. She has written multiple New York Times #1 bestselling books, and has a hit Netflix show. Quite unusual for a woman who considers herself a shame researcher.

Brown describes her Christian faith through metaphor. *"Church wasn't an epidural, it was a midwife. It just stood next to me and said 'Push, it's supposed to hurt a bit'".*

Like Nadia Bolz-Weber, who we talked about last week, Brown speaks the truth about how to live as a broken and breakable person, and does so with swearing and earthy language. Also like Bolz-Weber, there are elements of Brown's philosophy and theology that can jar with an Australian way of thinking. Brown can take an individualistic approach to shame, courage and vulnerability. And sometimes we need to take a communal approach to concepts like these.

Megan Powell du Toit, an Australian Christian leader also worth knowing more about, puts it like this: *"I want to urge a vulnerability that isn't centred on the good for me that results. I want to turn our eyes to the vulnerability of the cross, so that we might all take up our crosses and live for God and others."*

There is much that we can learn and apply from Brown's research and writings. The challenge for us is to make sure that in doing so we have the courage to be vulnerable and to talk about messy realities. Perhaps people will be more willing to listen to us when we show that we are a part of the messiness of their realities?

Megan Arthur

“**Sometimes
the bravest
and most
important
thing you can
do is just
show up.**”

— BRENE BROWN



Our annual fete is happening on Saturday November 11th. (Please save that date in your diaries!) Archdeacon Anne did a wonderful job of coordinating the fete last year. We are hoping that there's someone else out there willing to take on the role this year.

Archdeacon Anne will be there to provide assistance, as will all the stall coordinators. If you are interested, please contact the office.

BEING GREAT NEIGHBOURS

our parish dream
2023-2026

Come explore
our dream
together with
a night of
conversation
and prayer

Thursday
31 August,
7.30pm

I. Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt a 4 voices

Saturday 2 September 2023, 7.30pm
Sunday 3 September 2023, 2.00pm

St Christopher's Cathedral,
Franklin Street, Manuka



Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt

The Lord is my Faithful Shepherd

BWV 104, 85, 112, 233



Greta Claringbould



Maartje Sevenster



Bianca Porcheddu



Andrew Koll
(Director)



Richard Butler



Andrew Fysh

For more info and to purchase tickets, please visit www.canberrabachensemble.com

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ The impacts of climate change, and work to reduce those impacts
- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Preparations for the Voice referendum
- ⇒ Progress in the new Murray-Darling Basin plan

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Willochra
- ⇒ Parishes of Cobargo, Bodalla-Narooma, Moruya & Batemans Bay
- ⇒ Boomerang Meeting Place, Mogo
- ⇒ Open Sanctuary @ Tilba Tilba
- ⇒ St Peter's Anglican College
- ⇒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministry, Bimbadeen Training College, Cootamundra.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Frances Mackay; Megan Mackay; Hugh and Sarah MacWilliam; Jenny Madden; Jean Main; Rob Maron; and Bec and Benjamin Marston.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry & Sandra 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

27 August	Yaroslav Mamchak
29 August	Joan Richards (d. 2007)
31 August	Susan Joy Nevile (d. 2019)
2 September	Peter Henry Hall (d. 2015)

COLLECT for 13th Sunday after Pentecost

O God, fount of all wisdom,
in the humble witness of the apostle Peter
you have shown the foundation of our faith:
give us the light of your Spirit,
that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of
the living God,
we may be living stones for the building up of your
holy Church;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,
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Assistant Minister & Community Chaplain

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Wardens

Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

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Covenant Care Program Manager

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Covenant Care 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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The Revd Lynda McMinn

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Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS

27 August Megan Arthur

BIBLE READINGS

Exodus 1:8 to 2:10

Psalms 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20