

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



**SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2023**  
**ALL SAINTS**

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSEVIRII0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366  
Password: 033643

## **SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER**

8am & 10am Holy Communion  
Preacher: Revd Lynda McMinn  
Celebrant: 8am Revd Lynda McMinn  
10am Revd Connie Gerrity

## **WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER**

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

## **SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER**

8am & 10am Holy Communion  
Celebrant and Preacher:  
Revd Wendy Robertson

Coming soon:

11 November 9.30am—Fete

12 November 11.45am —Parish Meeting

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

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

## **Leadership Character**

Leadership in any organisation is critical. Our texts today focus on the character of leaders. Leaders mobilise people towards a vision, a common goal. They inspire others, take responsibility for outcomes, take risks and often challenge the way things have been done. Leaders are change makers.

The Bible treats all who believe as saints. Yet Peter denied Jesus on three occasions. Paul prays for affliction to be taken from him. Mother Teresa (1910-1997) was outstanding in her work with the outcast and poor in India and was widely recognised as a living saint. Yet she suffered from depression and at times felt the pain of God's absence. Saints are not perfect. We are blessed and encouraged by their lives, and the ministries of many saints in our own lives.

In Joshua 3.7-17, Joshua is appointed by God to command the priests and is encouraged to be "strong and courageous". It is God who appoints, it is God who exalts, it is God who is with Joshua in his leadership. Joshua's obedience was critical.

In 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Paul describes his leadership as "like a

father with his children". He urges Godly living. He expresses care, deep love and respect.

Leadership character is the theme of Matthew 23: 1-12. Excellence in character will always be a better indicator of true leadership than charisma. Jesus castigates the scribes and Pharisees, noting their authority but also that they do not practise what they preach. They use their leadership role for personal glory. The piety they sought to impose on others was external, not penetrating the heart. It was a hypocritical observance of Mosaic commandments: fake badges of piety designed to bring glory to the wearers and increase their spiritual prominence within the community.

Jesus is clear: true leadership should be servant leadership. "All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted." Instead of seeking titles and position leaders need to serve with humility. Leadership is for the opportunity to serve others. Leadership is about character and ultimately the biblical criteria for good leadership is service to God and the building of God's kingdom.

*Clive Rodger*

## Functional Literacy

Over a month ago a refugee from Sri Lanka entered St John's Centre (SJC), limping and very distressed. They had a little spoken English, with a first language of Tamil but without functional literacy in any language. Over many weeks SJC supported them with emergency relief and case management. We looked at referral pathways that would be helpful to them.

Being a refugee without functional literacy caused huge barriers to inclusion. We provided emergency relief which helped with their current limited situation of couch surfing. They also spoke with us about their history and their journey travelling from Sri Lanka on a boat with their partner and children. They reported how their two children had lost their lives on the boat journey to Australia. They spoke to the trauma of navigating the legal system in Australia. They reported their thankfulness for the acceptance and assistance SJC were giving them.

Through case management we studied maps and pictures to assist in journeys around Canberra. We explored language translations and referrals to assist with refugee support as well cultural and language limitations. We assisted with information to help with legal challenges relating to refugee status, homelessness, cultural counselling and health support.

These seeds sown are often all we will know about. In this case, I can report that through one referral for refugee support we were informed that this couple have now been supplied with support and housing.

At SJC we put the client first, seeking to assist in their self-stated life goals and encouraging them towards self-determination. Self-determination acknowledges that we can never know what someone else is going through, because it is their experience, not ours. We also seek to illustrate unconditional positive regard, empathy, respect and compassion. We sincerely thank you for your valuable partnership as we continue to sow the seeds of hope of a new tomorrow.

Wendy Senior Case Manager

**Items Required:** Coffee jars, cooking oil, tinned fruit, 1L UHT full cream milk

## The fullness of joy

*The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything. Julian of Norwich*

So many words can be said and written about the wonders of God, the beauty of his creation and the joy of our lives being filled with his love. Sometimes we don't need many words, sometimes we just need quiet and space and a focal point for meditation such as the surrounds of a sacred space. Therein lies many blessings. What can be more beautiful, more reflective, than gazing on a garden full of bluebells?

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

*Anne, servant of the Lord*

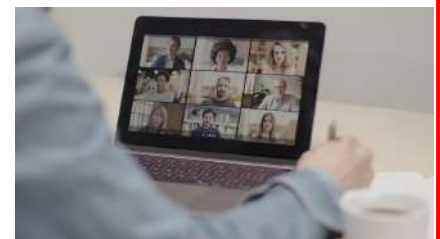


A garden full of bluebells

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

## 8am service Zoom changes

Zoom will be available for the 8am service on 12 and 26 November.



In December Zoom at the 8am service will return to the usual 1st & 3rd Sundays until single Summer morning services begin on 24 December.

**Prayer of Peace for Israel & Palestine:** <https://www.ncca.org.au/prayer/prayer-for-our-troubled-world/item/3205-a-prayer-for-peace-in-israel-and-palestine-202310>

## A National Act of Recognition

In the aftermath of the Voice Referendum being voted down folk have different thoughts. Some believe the wisest outcome prevailed. Others are feeling deep grief. Whatever our views, many appear to be feeling our nation is now in a rather uncertain vacuum and are asking, "Where do we go from here?"

A National Act of Recognition is ready to step straight into that vacuum.

Some will recall we had planned our next Truth

Telling gathering at Kamay Botany Bay for last weekend. We postponed until later because we did not believe asking everyone to deal with two major campaigns in the same month was the right way to treat the Australian people.

We invite all Australians, of whatever race, creed or belief to journey together to Kamay Botany Bay on **Saturday 2nd March 2024**. There we will bring early factual records into the open and place them under public scrutiny. This will allow all our people to examine those records for themselves, and come to their own mind about them. We believe this will genuinely help all people to have a far deeper understanding of our true history since colonisation and, as a result, lead us to having a deeper understanding of each other. Done in a very loving way, this will help to place all of us on the road to becoming one people.

Our new website is [www.actofrecognition.org.au](http://www.actofrecognition.org.au)

We hope you can join us at Kamay Botany Bay, Kurnell, next March.

*Reverend Lindsay McDowell and the  
Recognition Team*



## Fete Preparations

The fete is next Saturday! Thank you to everyone who has been preparing items for the fete. You may have already seen some publicity signs on neighbourhood streets.

Most people have so far managed to hold off dropping off their contributions—thank you. Contributions for the bookstall & trash & treasure can be dropped off from **Tuesday 7 November**—please contact the office to check that someone is onsite to accept your donation before arriving. Other donations can be delivered from **2pm on Friday 10 November**.

**Plant stall:** The plant stall is looking to be bigger and better than ever and hopefully lots of you have plants ready to go! Please drop plants off at the back of the Worship Centre where the labyrinth is (behind the sanctuary) on Friday if possible so Jodie can get as much set up as possible that afternoon after 3:30. Also, to assist the helpers, if you could label all plants (e.g., on a paddle pop stick) with both their name and variety, if known, particularly in the case of vegetables, that would be terrific. There will be extra sticks available on Friday afternoon if you need some. Happy gardening!

**Trash & Treasure:** a reminder that we can't accept electrical items.

**Cake Stall:** Almost time to start baking! Don't forget to include details of the ingredients.

**Volunteers for stalls:** Most stalls are well staffed for the first session, but more volunteers are needed for the afternoon session.





## Christian Leaders— David Hayward

Hayward is a pastor turned artist, painting, drawing and thinking about what it takes to be free to be ourselves. He encourages anyone interested in deconstruction, spiritual journeying, freedom of thought or looking for their authentic selves to join him while he searches too.

Hayward is best known for his cartoons, which challenge problematic norms in religious spaces and life in general. They inspire, provoke and start difficult conversations.

As well as cartoons, Hayward creates contemplative paintings and charcoal drawings. These works depict what freedom looks and feels like. It's spacious but not empty. Solitude but not lonely. One but one with all things.

After 30 years as a pastor, Hayward left the ministry in 2010 to focus on his art through NakedPastor—his website and what is now a global community of independent thinkers who support

each other on their journeys to spiritual freedom.

You can learn more about Hayward and his work from his website: <https://nakedpastor.com/>. He can also be found on most social media platforms. Hayward has a regular online newsletter, which contains links to blog posts, artworks and more.



## Support for Moheshkhali

Those who attended last year's Parish Dinner will remember Sister Jane Keogh and Faisal Amin, who were our guest speakers. On October 28 Faisal sent out a request for support for the people in his home region of Moheshkhali, following recent damage from cyclone Hamoon.

"In back Home my villagers and entire Moheshkhali people are struggling to survive without food and most of them are homeless now. Two days ago there was a big cyclone and destroyed almost all the houses and streets are blocked with trees. People can't travel and can't go out for work and no electricity. All my 27 students lost their house in cyclone. I never even seen a big cyclone like this one before in my life. My father also lost his fish pool in 2014 in a big cyclone and we were devastated. I can feel it.

At the moment they all need help. I'm going to

support them as much as I can with at least 1 week's food so that they can survive.

If you friends want to donate to my Moheshkhali people please use my bank details below. I already organised a team in Moheshkhali to support who have lost their houses in cyclone and I'm going to distribute food from tonight

Commonwealth Bank  
Mohammad Faisal  
BSB 062904  
Account 10592289  
Thanks very much my friends."



## Giffords say goodbye to Holy Covenant

It was just 50 years ago that John and Elaine Gifford came to Canberra for John to become National Accountant with the Bible Society. We arrived in Aranda with three daughters under five. Knowing no-one, we were immediately welcomed into the church that met in the local primary school.

Now we have nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. We're moving to a retirement community in Sydney (Constitution Hill in Northmead) to be nearer to family.

Holy Covenant has been a place of change and growth as we have both taken on various roles in the parish. For Elaine, spiritual development and a wealth of leadership experience were part of my (unexpected) journey towards ordination. Bible Study, Sunday School, Parish Council and committees, Scripture teaching in schools followed by training at St Mark's National Theological Centre and being Parish Administrator under two rectors all gave me a solid parish grounding.

We left at the end of 1990 when Elaine was made deacon. For three years I was the founding co-ordinator of St John's Care while being deacon and then priest at St John's, Canberra. Over the years I had various diocesan roles too. After two years as Assistant Priest in Batemans Bay I was Rector of Deakin for seven years, then for my final three years of active ministry I was Goulburn Mental Health Chaplain while being Associate Priest at the Cathedral.

Holy Covenant always remained our home parish, and we were welcomed back five years ago, not

only by those we have known all that time, but by the current congregation. We'll miss you all, but will look back with gratitude and warm memories as we enter this new phase of our lives.

Our email address and mobile numbers will remain unchanged. Our address will be G33/1 Centenary Ave, Northmead 2152.

*Elaine Gifford*



1989: John, Lara, Michelle, Roslyn & Elaine



2004: John & Elaine at the Cathedral.  
Photo by Leon Oberg of the Goulburn Post

### Parish Meeting: 12 November

Parish Council wishes to call a special meeting to update members about the proposed renovation of the Rainbow Centre, and to consider ways in which this work might be funded.

**When:** 11.45am 12 November

**Where:** Worship Centre

**More information:** a letter from Council has been emailed to Parish members. Hard copies of the letter are available at the Worship Centre

## PRAYER POINTS

### IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Israel, Gaza & the West Bank, an end to occupation and the return of hostages
- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops

### IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Safe management of increasing COVID infections
- ⇒ Food & housing security for all Australians
- ⇒ Those impacted by fire
- ⇒ Those impacted by gambling

### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Bathurst:
- ⇒ St Mark's National Theological Centre, Canberra
- ⇒ Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture Colloquium for Ageing Perspectives & Spirituality
- ⇒ All being prepared for ministries, both ordained and lay in the Diocese and beyond
- ⇒ Vocations to the sacred ministry (priesthood & diaconate), the process of selection of candidates. The clergy appointment selection process – Clergy Appointment Board chairs; and board members both parish and Diocesan.

### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Raphael, Belinda, Kate, Lucy and William Wood; Rika and Roger Amos; Bob and Kath Arthur; Richard and Megan Arthur; and Merri Bacon.
- ⇒ 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; Bob and Kath Arthur; Ellie, Prue & Ken Wedgwood; Reg Holmes; and anyone known to us personally

### COMMEMORATIONS

- 5 Nov Paul Bruce Free (d. 2010)  
9 Nov Margit Alice Halsey (d. 2010)  
Alma Featherstone (d. 2013)

## BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Nov Gareth James  
9 Nov Wendy Elkhuisen  
10 Nov Deborah Greenaway

## BIBLE READINGS

- Revelation 7:9-17  
Psalm 34:1-10, 22  
1 John 3:1-3  
Matthew 5:1-12

## COLLECT

Eternal God,  
neither death nor life can separate us from your love:  
grant that we may serve you faithfully here on earth,  
and in heaven rejoice with all your saints who ceaselessly proclaim your glory;  
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

### Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,  
0407 408 333 rector@holycovenant.org.au

### Assistant Minister & Community Chaplain

The Revd Wendy Robertson  
0481 458 037 hccommunitychaplain@gmail.com

### Youth Coordinator

Tobias Nevile youth@holycovenant.org.au  
0468 969 372

### Wardens

Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

### Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore  
6251 2009 kennemorerosemary@gmail.com

### Belonging and Caring

The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton  
0407 408 333 rector@holycovenant.org.au

### Children & Families Worker

Lou Passmore holycovenantkids@gmail.com  
0411 338 361

### Covenant Care Program Manager

Megan Arthur  
0487 945 615 nurse@holycovenant.org.au

### Covenant Care 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

The Revd Lynda McMinn  
0403 769 991 ellemm99@gmail.com

### Resources Team

0419 255 002