

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2023 TWENTY-FOURTH 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 12 NOVEMBER

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

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

8am & 10am Holy Communion
Celebrant : Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
Preacher: 8am Revd Dr Brighton
10am Bishop Carol

Coming soon:

12 November 11.45am —Parish Meeting

24 November : Movie Night

Bank details for direct debit:

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

Be Prepared

Be prepared is the famous motto of the Scouting movement, founded in 1907. The parable of the ten virgins is also about preparedness. Ancient Jewish weddings often lasted a week, accompanied by music, feasting and celebration. Timing was unpredictable and in this parable the groom is late.

Once the groom arrived, the door was shut with no possibility of late access. The foolish bridesmaids came without oil for their lamps. They asked those who were prepared to share their oil. No go. To share would jeopardise them all. "Go to those who sell oil and buy some yourselves!". While they were out shopping for oil to sustain their task the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready were wise and those ill prepared were locked out. The foolish virgins' negligence and lack of preparation was terminal.

Though the ten virgins appear the same their readiness differentiates them. The lamps looked good, but inside they were empty. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and be ready. Some things you can't borrow because giving them away jeopardises everything. This is the

case with our preparedness for Jesus' second coming. We often think of God as always forgiving and giving second chances. However there comes a point when we are late and locked out. When Jesus returns we must be ready. Spiritual preparation cannot be bought or borrowed at the last minute. Our relationship with God is our own responsibility.

How do we stay ready for Jesus' second coming? Like many of the parables the story is perplexing. It is not about generosity. It is about judgement and responsibility. Matthew's gospel has an emphasis on judgement and utilises sanctions as motivation. This seems counter intuitive to a gospel of love. But concern for the future can help us make wise decisions. Wise decisions mitigate anxiety and fear.

The ten bridesmaids parable is a counterpoint to the Sermon on the Mount. Both the Beatitudes and the final judgement point to the way being prepared as a way of life. We are urged to be vigilant in preparation for the Lord's return, to live with joyful expectancy, cognisant of and not complacent about the second coming of Jesus.

Clive Rodger

Nothing left

Renting in Canberra is expensive. Almost nothing in Canberra is affordable for people on welfare or minimum wage especially for families.

The only affordable option for many low-income families is government housing. Priority applications from families facing homelessness, or escaping domestic violence, can take over a year to process. Crisis accommodation is always full, as vulnerable families in these services have nowhere to live except government housing, when it becomes available. People on the waiting list can pay upwards of 60% of their income on rent.

L receives the disability support pension. His wife, T, works part time as well as supporting him and their primary school aged children. Rent is just under half of their income and while they try to make ends meet, other costs are increasingly being paid by credit card. The family car broke down the same week as L's specialist appointment, and with nowhere else to turn, the family sought support from St John's Care (SJC).

After getting an understanding of their circumstances, I arranged a weekly visit to SJC for support with food including for their children's lunch boxes. We will help L with his PBS scripts (3 scripts every 3 months) and we assisted with the payment of their electricity bill.

T and L shared their concerns about Christmas, noting how fast it was approaching. I gave them some information about our Christmas hampers and present room and encouraged them to register. T and L were incredibly happy and said that receiving weekly food allowed them to concentrate on paying off their debts.

Many of our clients are struggling with unaffordable rent, some with significant rental arrears and the increasing cost of living. Here at SJC, we will continue to support people who are struggling. I thank SJC donors for their generous help. Thanks to you we have been able to bring hope to T and L and their children.

Karen Medrano SJC Case Manager

Items Required: Tuna pasta bake sauce, tinned fruit, tinned veg, spreads, 1L UHT full cream milk

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>

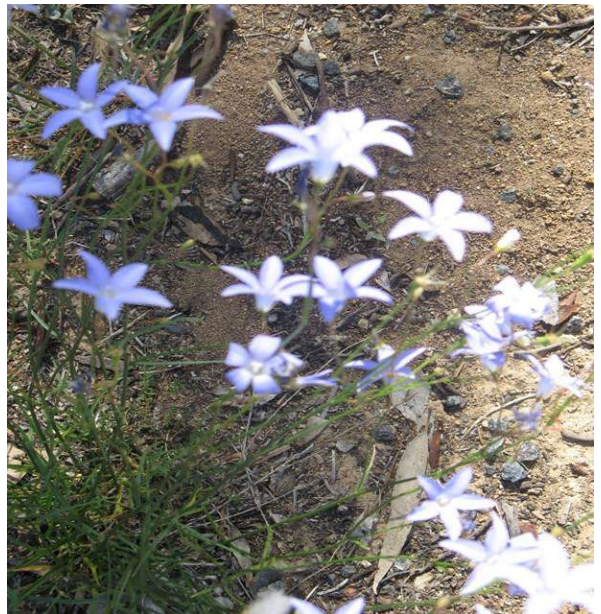
I saw the face of God

The Lord has decided the number of the stars and calls each one by name, Great and mighty is our Lord. Psalm 147:5

I saw it in the puddle of life-giving water by the roadside. I saw it in the sky night stars being tucked away behind soft pink clouds in the sunrise. I saw it as the sun shone through the crimson maple leaf. I saw it in the Currawong as he calls his mates into the dawn. I saw it in the single crystal-clear rain drop that hung from each leaf and single blade of grass. I saw it in the soft blue, perfect formation of the bluebells that clutched the side of the road. I saw it. I saw the face of God and my soul sang: How great thou art! World famous musician Pablo Casals said: *I find God in the smallest and the largest things. I see God in colour and design. No two things are alike, no two voices the same.*

Be blessed by the face of God that surrounds your day.

Anne, servant of the Lord



A garden full of bluebells

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

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 two weeks ago. 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

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

*Reverend Lindsay McDowell and the
Recognition Team*



Thank you!

Many thanks to all those who made the fete possible—Archdeacon Anne & Carol Kubanek for coordinating the whole shebang; stall coordinators; volunteers; bakers; gardeners; those who donated items and those who attended on the day.



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. Copies of the plans for the renovation are on display in the Worship Centre.



Christian Leaders— Dr Julia Baird

Julia Baird is a journalist, broadcaster and author based in Sydney, Australia. She co-hosts The Drum on ABC TV and writes columns for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and *Harper's Bazaar*. Her first book, *Media Tarts*, was based on her PhD in History about the portrayal of female politicians. *Victoria*, her biography of Queen Victoria, was published to critical acclaim and was one of the New York Times' top ten books of 2016. Her third book, *Phosphorescence*, was a multi-award-winning international bestseller.

Baird's newest book *Bright Shining* was published on 1 November. In this work, Baird explores grace. Grace is both mysterious and hard to define. It can be found when we create ways to find meaning and dignity in connection with each other, building on our shared humanity, being kinder, bigger, better with each other. If, in its crudest interpretation, karma is getting what you deserve, then grace is

the opposite: forgiving the unforgivable, favouring the undeserving, loving the unlovable.

But we live in an era when grace is an increasingly rare currency. The silos in which we consume information dot the media landscape like skyscrapers, and our growing distrust of the media, politicians and public figures has choked our ability to cut each other slack, to allow each other to stumble, to forgive one another.

So what does grace look like in our world, and how do we recognise it, nurture it in ourselves and express it, even in the darkest of times?



Support for Moheshkhali

The recovery journey continues in Moheshkhali, after cyclone Hamoon. Here is a recent update from Faisal Amin, who was a speaker at our Parish Dinner last year:

"Most of my students in Moheshkhali lost their house in last week's cyclone. You guys donated to my food project last week. I have distributed food in 11 villages in Moheshkhali for long 3 days. Now I'm trying to repair/fix my students' houses as they are currently homeless. As far as I know, my students are away from studying for almost 10 days because they don't have a place to study at their house and no electricity.

This is one of my students' houses that I'm trying to fix as house project no 1: I will try to fix a few of the houses if I can. My team and my father are working hard to make it happen.

If you friends want to donate to my Moheshkhali

people please use my bank details below:

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

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 the 9am

combined Summer morning services begin on 24 December.



Christmas Bowl

<https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/48633>.

Yes, it really is almost Advent. The annual Christmas Bowl appeal begins in three weeks. This year we have an online donation page:

If you have any questions about the Christmas Bowl appeal, please have a chat with Megan in the office.



Spirituality and creativity (art and music)

The Centre for Ageing and Pastoral Studies invites everyone to an evening soiree. Delicious refreshments, musical moments, scintillating discussions about ageing, spirituality, creativity and music!

Special guest: Judy Clingan AM.

When: 6-7.30pm Thursday 16 November

Where: The Pavilion, Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture, 15 Blackall St Barton

Cost: \$15

Bookings via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/evening-soiree-spirituality-and-creativity-art-and-music-tickets-645670256117>



Community Movie Night

Bring your family and friends along to enjoy company, conversation and a movie. We are hoping to make this a regular event .

24 November

MOVIE NIGHT

06 PM START **9.30 PM FINISH**

89 Dexter St Cook ACT

<https://www2.holycovenant.org.au/>

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ A just peace in Israel, Palestine & Ukraine, and the withdrawal of occupying troops

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ Those affected by fire, flood and heat

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Diocese of Grafton

⇒ Holy Covenant, Jamison: Wayne Brighton (Meg); Anne Ranse; Anne Dudzinski; Connie Gerrity (George); Wendy Robertson (Lachlan); Lynda McMinn

⇒ North Canberra Hospital, Bruce

⇒ Clare Holland House (ACT Hospice), Barton

⇒ Coral Park/ Bill McKenzie Gardens: Chaplain

⇒ St James', Holt

⇒ Anglicare activities in caring for and supporting older people in both in home and out of home care including nursing homes, hostels, independent living units and in the general community; for staff; and volunteers.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ For all members of our parish family including Bruce and Beverley Barnes; Trish Barnes; David Barrott; Pater and Ann Bazeos; John Blue; and Graham and Graciela Bonnett.

⇒ 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; Damorara Priya Dasi, and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

18 Nov Bruce Manning Pratt (d. 2010)

COLLECT

Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent
and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert,
watching for your kingdom,
so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes
we may go out joyfully to meet him,
and with him enter into the marriage feast
that you have prepared for all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,
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Assistant Minister & Community Chaplain

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Youth Coordinator

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Wardens

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Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
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Belonging and Caring

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Covenant Care Program Manager

Megan Arthur
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Covenant Care Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
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Honorary Priests

The Revd Anne Dudzinski
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The Revd Connie Gerrity
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The Revd Lynda McMinn

0403 769 991 ellemm99@gmail.com

Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS

11 Nov Jane Trigge

13 Nov Joh Sheehan

15 Nov Jenny Hall

16 Nov Valda Bromhead

17 Nov Tony Willis

18 Nov Oliver Feitz

BIBLE READINGS

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:1-13