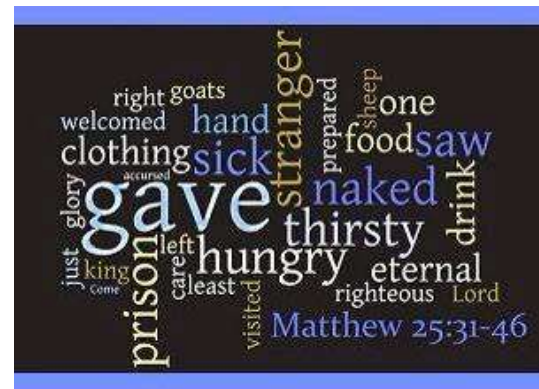


HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2023 CHRIST THE KING

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 26 NOVEMBER

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

WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER

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

Coming soon:

1 Dec Pizza Night
7 Dec Community Lunch
16 Dec Working Bee

Bank details for direct debit:

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

Sheep and Goats— Mathew 25: 31-46

The parables of the last two weeks are about dichotomies—the wise and the foolish, the prepared and the unprepared. This week it is sheep and goats. We sometimes think that responding to others' needs is optional. Jesus demonstrates that failing to respond to the needs of others has direct consequences.

Jesus' return will be sudden and unexpected. Yet we are called to be ready. How? By caring for the poor, strangers and prisoners. This is an expression of God's love which Jesus exemplifies. He expects us to do the same. The present and the future are co-merged. Jesus is present, yet will come again. When he comes he will judge.

How we treat the least in our society is important. That is why the church has been a pioneer in social welfare. In our setting this is through Covenant Care, St John's Care or Embracing Ministries. The poor, neglected, rejected, the isolated, the hungry are God's special people. As Jesus' followers we have a responsibility towards them. To feed the hungry, to support the needy, the homeless and oppressed are

hallmarks of Godly living; important proof of our love.

The final judgement of the Son of Man will sort people as a shepherd separates sheep and goats. Goats are wilful, fierce, and independent. Sheep are innocent, obedient and vulnerable. The selection criteria is how we follow Jesus' pattern of assisting vulnerable outsiders. Caring, generous hearts are expected. Belief alone is not enough, nor membership of a community.

The early church took feeding the hungry very seriously. Acts 6:1 refers to the feeding of widows and prisoners. However homelessness, poverty, incarceration rates and health disparities are systemic issues. Real change that addresses these issues happens at two levels: our individual actions of charity and advocacy for systemic change. Systems are held in place by the collective impact of individual actions or inactions. Matthew's concept of God's family requires Christians to reorient priorities in creative and concrete ways. All we have has been graciously given by God. Collective as well as individual action is the expectation of those in the kingdom.

Clive Rodger

“Come to me, all you who are weary”

St John's Care (SJC) seeks to make connections and build relationships with the people who visit our Centre. It is essential that our clients trust us to treat them as we all would wish to be treated.

Our clients often physically and mentally give a sigh of relief as they spent time at our Centre. At SJC we are not here to judge, we are here to show the love, care and compassion that Jesus taught us.

JB reached out to SJC a month ago. He didn't know where to turn. He did not have any food and had not seen anyone for weeks. He spoke of a medical condition which had led to the cancellation of his driver's licence. This condition left him so weak that he could not walk far, or even read his mail.

We spent over an hour on that initial telephone conversation, and subsequently spent many hours visiting JB at home. These home visits have included welfare checks, telephone calls and providing food.

Through this relationship building, judgement free compassion and encouragement, JB felt accepted and ready to share some uncomfortable truths. Because of the trust and acceptance that JB now felt, he asked if I would contact all the agencies, even his GP to seek assistance. JB needs what we would class as essentials such as: food, a safe place to live, medical support, social support due to medically not being able to read and socialisation. JB also allowed me to take photos of his house to aid the process of seeking a hoarding disorder diagnosis.

JB shared that “SJC really does care about me ... when no one else returned my call you were there.” JB reported that SJC had been the only community agency to ‘do anything ... now they are calling me up.’ SJC will continue this journey with JB as I facilitate and advocate for JB's cooked food supply, NDIS and CATS application, Carer and Blind Society assistance.

With your support SJC continues to supply emergency relief, material support and connections. Giving time, listening, ensuring clients feels heard and respected and giving back dignity helps people break free from disadvantage.

Wendy, Senior Case Manager

Items needed: 1L full cream UHT milk, Milo, Tissues, Honey/Vegemite, Shampoo & Conditioner

Daybreak

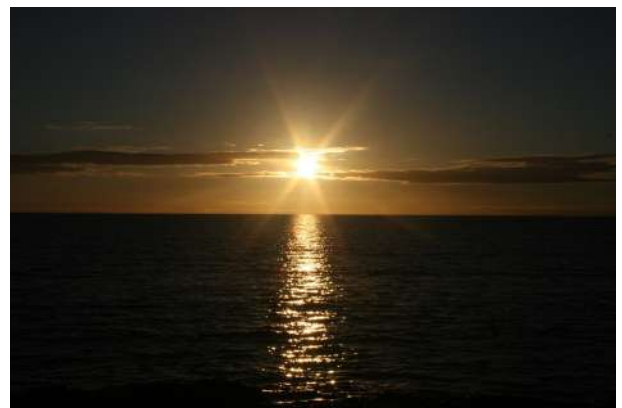
Fill us at daybreak with your mercy, that all our days may sing for joy. Psalm 90:14

I love that first light of the morning as it cuts into the night sky with a gentle, soft presence; the awakening of a new day. It's still, it's quiet and holds all the glory of the moment.

I love the old Irish blessing which says: 'May the blessing of light be on you, light without and light within. May the blessed sunlight shine on you and warm your heart till it glows like a great peat fire, so that the stranger may come and warm himself at it, and also a friend.' What a lovely thought at the start of the day as the sun rises.

May the God of life bless you and keep you today and always.

Anne, servant of the Lord



Sunrise over the sea of Galilee

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

Page One Writers for 2024

Have you enjoyed reading the page one reflections this year? Have you ever wondered about joining the writing team?

Wonder no more! Interested writers are encouraged to contact Megan in the office: office@holycovenant.org.au

Christian Leaders— Kerri Jones

Kerri Jones is a Christian fabric artist. Her works are neither quilts, nor embroidery. She calls them Fabric Mosaics. In her own words:

"My fabric mosaics are intended to be contemporary and "iconic", as opposed to true icons conforming to a prescribed set of rules. They are intended to engage the viewer and assist spiritual contemplation as windows into the transcendent realm.

If, through my work, I can touch hearts and inspire reflection upon the nature of God and his glorious creation, then I will have been true to the mandate in Acts 1:8:"

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. "

The image below is Jones' icon of Hildegard von Bingen



Renovation to move ahead

On Sunday 12 November a special parish meeting was held to hear the latest update on the Rainbow Centre renovation. The project to make better use of the former rectory has been underway since 2021. The rectory has been used extensively for community purposes for more than 15 years providing spaces for kids and youth ministry alongside a multitude of community and spirituality groups. The renovation seeks to:

- create a large community space by removing bedroom walls, bathroom and laundry
- remodelling the ensuite to make it an accessible bathroom
- improve storage space
- improve outdoor areas and disability access
- improve appeal to renters for long-term use in ways compatible with parish needs.

Mark Cooper-Stanbury gave an update on the

project while Bob Arthur presented information about the building fund and interest free loans as a way of funding the project's costs. Consideration was given to the installation of external water and electricity for the community garden; building security with alarms and coded locks; options for kids and youth ministry; and the impact of construction on car parking.

The meeting unanimously resolved to proceed with the renovation at an estimated cost of \$300,000 and to prayerfully consider what gifts and interest free loans might be made available to assist with the the project's completion.

The parish will now present to Bishop-in-Council a request to incur debt in order to borrow the necessary funds through the Diocese's Anglican Investment and Development Fund for consideration at their next meeting on 1 December. We are hopeful that the necessary contracts can be finalised soon after so that construction can begin in February and be complete by May 2024.

Building Fund

Following on from the Special General Meeting on 12 November, Parish Council now welcomes contributions to the Building Fund to support the redevelopment of the Rainbow Community Centre.



The Building Fund has been established in the form of a cash management account with the Anglican Investment and Development Fund (the Diocese's preferred bank), and will earn interest while funds are waiting to be spent.

Any amount is welcome, as a one-off, regular, or periodic payment. The Fund will be available beyond the completion of the current project, to support future capital projects.

You can make a direct deposit to the Fund using online banking (or phone app):

BSB: 702-389

Account: 05210077

If you have any issues or questions, or would like to use a different method to contribute, please talk with the Parish Treasurer—Mark Cooper-Stanbury—on 0408 417 340 or e-mail:

treasurer@holycovenant.org.au

Also discussed at the meeting was the option of making an interest-free loan to the Parish. If you would like to pursue this option, please contact the treasurer.

Parish Council Elections

Parish Council elections will be held on 17 December. Council is comprised of 3 wardens (2 of whom are elected and 1 nominated by the rector) and 8 members (6 elected and 2 nominated).

It will be opportunity elect some new wardens and members to Council.

Parish Council enables us to plan ahead and make decisions that affect our whole community. Wardens play a critical role to think through issues in parish life alongside the rector. Members of council assist with planning, congregational engagement and the realisation of our parish mission and vision.

A mix of people from both 8am and 10am congregations from all walks of life is especially helpful.

Would you consider helping us out in 2024? Why not talk to Wayne or a staff member if you'd be interested to serve in this way.

Small jars wanted

Our jam makers are seeking donations of small glass jars (approximately 200gm-275gm size) with lids. The jam stocks at church and at St John's Care are very low.

Please deliver clean jars to the office, and Megan will arrange for them to get where they are needed.

Anglican News

The November edition of Anglican News is now available: <http://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>

Reign of Christ Sunday



The Christmas Bowl of Remembrance

Today is the first Sunday of the 2023 Christmas Bowl. Since it was founded by Rev. Frank Byatt in 1949, the Christmas Bowl has brought together committed Australian Christians with dedicated local partners around the world, to give hope to people uprooted by conflict and disaster. By joining together through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. **Thank you.**

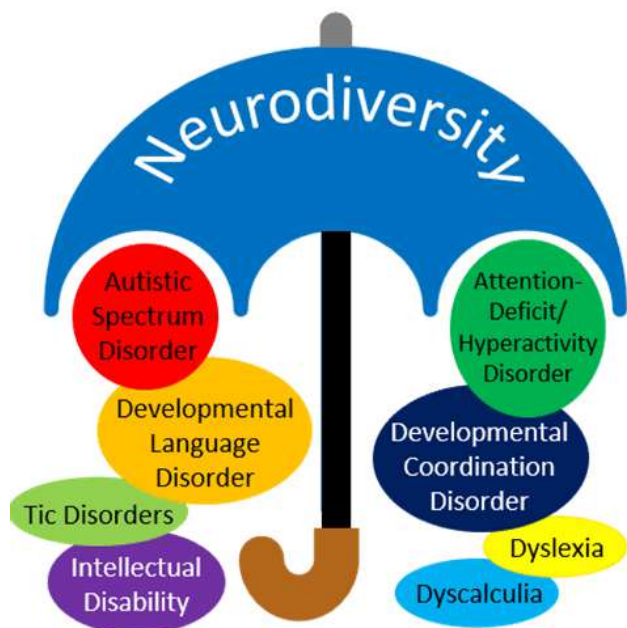


CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

Neurodiversity and Faith

What do neurodiverse and neurotypical mean? A simple explanation is that brains work differently. Most people think in similar ways, so we call that neurotypical. Some people think in ways that are less common, and that's called neurodiverse. Deacon Jon explains it like this: "the neurodiversity of brains means that each has their own particular way of doing things and some ... have big strengths in certain areas while struggling to handle other tasks which neurotypical brains handle intuitively."



Many of the systems and structures of the way faith is traditionally practiced are set up for neurotypical brains. And this means that neurodiverse brains can encounter barriers accessing faith.

"Be still and know that I am God (Ps 46:10). Being still is very difficult for some people with neurodiversity. And they have to concentrate so hard on being still, that they can't absorb any information from the sermon, or Bible reading, or whatever else is happening that they need to be still during.

Another example is 'flat processing'. For some neurodiverse brains, every piece of information coming in gets treated with equal importance. The feeling of clothes on skin, the sound of the kettle boiling, what is being said by the preacher—in flat processing they all receive the same treatment.

Neurotypical brains have hierarchical processing, and that means what's being said by the preacher is (at least in theory) more important than any other input.

Isaiah 55:8-9 says "My thoughts are not your thoughts". Learn more about neurodiversity and faith here: [https://](https://www.christianity.org.uk/article/opinion-neurodiversity-thinking-differently-about-faith)



www.christianity.org.uk/article/opinion-neurodiversity-thinking-differently-about-faith

Chalice at Communion

Sometimes we're asked "When might the chalice return as an option for Communion?"

The chalice is an important part of Anglican spirituality symbolising our shared connection with Christ and each other around God's table. Nevertheless things changed during the pandemic. We adjusted by introducing individual cups rather than foregoing the wine completely. Although restrictions eased some time ago perceptions about risk vary markedly due to appetite, life experience, age or wellness.

The chalice will return in December as an option for receiving the wine. The intinction vessels will not return just yet.

This means that the process of offering the elements will change slightly. Three people will move along the Communion rail: (1) bread with stickers, (2) individual cups with basket, (3) chalice. This will allow communicants to: receive either wine or grape juice from an individual cup; dip from an individual cup; or receive from the chalice.

Receiving the bread and wine is an important moment for spiritual connection. Our goal is to allow people to receive in whatever manner they feel most comfortable while managing risk appropriately.

Wayne

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza, and an end to occupation
- ⇒ Preparations for and achievable outcomes from COP28

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Food and housing security for all Australians
- ⇒ Cybersecurity and its impacts

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Wangaratta
- ⇒ Anglicare South East, Eden
- ⇒ Sapphire Coast Anglican Church
- ⇒ Bimbimbie Park; Albert Moore Gardens, Merimbula, Sanananda Park & Hugh Cunningham Gardens, Tura Beach, and Ross Wotton Gardens, Eden
- ⇒ Wambiri Youth and Conference Centre
- ⇒ Sapphire Coast Anglican College
- ⇒ The Church's ministry in holiday resorts, and the work of evangelism in every parish and institution throughout the Diocese

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including David and Mel Clark; James Collier; Ursula Conan-Davies; Mark and Allison Cooper-Stanbury; and Anthony, Sandra, Audrey and Freddie Cuthbert
- ⇒ 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; Bev Chambers; Gracie Bonnett; Bob and Kath Arthur; Reg Holmes; Hugh MacWilliam and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

- 30 Nov Florence Olsen (d. 1995)
1 Dec Arthur Olsen (d. 2005)

BIRTHDAYS

- 29 Nov Margaret Meggs
2 Dec Connie Gerrity

BIBLE READINGS

- Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

COLLECT

God of power and love,
who raised your Son Jesus from death to life,
resplendent in glory to rule over all creation:
free the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice, and to live in his love.
Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son,
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
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Youth Coordinator

Tobias Nevile
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Wardens

Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
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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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The Revd Connie Gerrity
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The Revd Lynda McMinn
0403 769 991 ellemm99@gmail.com

Resources Team

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