

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

8am & 10am Holy Communion
Celebrant & Preacher :
Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

Wednesday Midday service in recess—resuming 7 February

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER

9am Holy Communion
Celebrant & Preacher :
Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

Coming soon:

24 December: 4pm Kids' Christmas & 11pm Carols, Candles & Communion

Christmas Day: 8am Classic Christmas Service

10am Contemporary Celebration

Wednesday morning teas (at 10.30) starting 3 January

Bank details for direct debit:

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

Subversiveness?

(Luke 1:47-55)

This week, we are finishing our time of preparation. The waiting is almost over! The Christ is almost here!

But hang on a minute. Is all we have been waiting for the arrival of a brown, homeless boy child who is the son of God? Or have we been preparing for the birth of a whole new order of love and justice? Why not both?

There's so much sentimentality on show at this time of year, which makes it far too easy to fall into some sort of spiritual escapism. Stars, shepherds, mangers; the whole box and dice can take us out of the 'real world' for a while and distract us from the pain and difficulties we all face. Distraction is not what Mary's Magnificat is talking about.

This pregnant and unmarried young woman has a lot to say about God's justice: *"He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry*

with good things, and sent the rich away empty (vs52-53). Mary's not just waiting for the birth of her baby, she's focussed on a radically new way of being.

The arrival of Jesus is the start of a new way of understanding and using power. It is the power of the servants and those who work together, rather than the power of tyrants and those who seek to dominate. The Christmas story is much more than just individual spirituality, or a judgemental rejection of materialism. Mary and her child call us into radical connectedness with others, particularly those living on the margins. The world that they are bringing about is one of profound generosity and caring.

Even as we share our Christmas gifts, we are also called to share ourselves. This year, let's move beyond giving "things" to giving gifts of love, support, protection, acceptance, understanding, time and challenge. And in doing so, like Mary, may we also be called blessed.

Megan Arthur

Busy Christmas

At St John's Care (SJC)
we seek to support all

who visit our Centre. This support varies according to each client's needs. We illustrate compassion without judgement, giving time and showing respect.

During this very busy Christmas season we continue to see our regular clients, Christmas Hamper clients and new clients referred via other community agencies. What joy it is to share Jesus' love and to celebrate His birth.

During the last two weeks of Christmas hampers and the Christmas Present Room, we have spoken with many people who share that this is the only time they have spoken with anyone. Our volunteers and staff gladly give time to supply Christmas Hampers, guiding gift selection and emergency relief, whilst still connecting with clients.

This week I have had the privilege of three women sharing their domestic violence experiences with me. Of course, it would be inappropriate to share their individual journeys here but suffice to say it is extremely distressing that the frequency of these conversations is increasing.

These women share trauma stories which describe trying to pay their bills by working more hours, cleaning at weekends, losing their family home and trying to protect their family in emergency housing. They speak of the trial of contacting many government agencies to complete a myriad of forms, having to source security cameras, and navigating unenforced family violence orders. They are continually second guessing and constantly questioning... are they being followed; what trauma have their children incurred; why me...?

These women wish to have a quiet life, to be free to love their children and to provide a supportive environment, free from abuse. They are just trying to put food on the table, and share a simple Christmas with their children without more trauma.

Thank you so very much for your continued support that enables SJC to provide Christmas hampers, Christmas presents, emergency relief, time, case management and a sanctuary to those who need it.

Wendy, SJC Senior Case Manager

Items required: Tinned fruit, Pasta Sauce, 1LT UHT milk, Oil, Shampoo & Conditioner

No Bulletin on 31 December

Due to the office closure, there will be no Bulletin published for Sunday 31 December. A slightly curtailed Bulletin will be provided during the January combined services period (7-28 January).

Come, sit with me

Now when he had spoken, a Pharisee asked (invited) him to have lunch with him, and he went in and reclined at the table. Luke 11:37

Christmas is the time of the year when we seem to get many invitations. Invitations to lunch, invitations to dinner, invitations to catch up with friends, invitations to attend various church services and carols in the park and some invitations even come with a gift. But the greatest invitation, the greatest gift, is the one from Jesus who so often says, 'Come aside and sit with me awhile.' In the business of Christmas preparations, let's not forget to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Let's not forget his invitation, and his gift to us of hope, of peace, of love and of joy.

Jehovah - shalom. The Lord is peace.

Anne, servant of the Lord.



God's gifts to us

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

Parish Council Elections

Parish Council is the body that helps our church and its ministries to grow and develop. As there are fewer nominations than positions vacant, no election will be required. The Council for 2024 will be comprised as follows: Council members - 6 elected and 2 rector nominees (R)

- Anne McDowell
- Mark Cooper-Stanbury
- Tim Farrington
- Phil Trigge
- Peter Dent
- Tobias Nevile
- Anna Thorpe (R)
- one rector's nominee - vacant

Wardens - 2 elected and 1 rector nominee (R)

- Allison Cooper-Stanbury
- elected position—vacant
- rector's warden—vacant

Parish members will have another opportunity to fill the vacancies for wardens and Parish Councillors at the Annual General Meeting, scheduled for 6.30pm on Tuesday 13 February

AGM & Annual Report

The Parish Annual General meeting is happening on 13 February 2024. That means that the Annual Report will be published for Sunday 5 February 2024.

Contributions for the Annual Report are most welcome from all groups and Ministries in the Parish. Please get your contribution to the office by 28 January 2024.



Office Closure

The Church office will close between 22 December and 1 January.

On days forecast for over 34 degrees, Megan will be

working from home. If you need to drop into the church during this period, please call Megan first—0450 502 081.



Anglican News

The December edition of Anglican News is now available on the Diocesan website: <https://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>

The article about the 2023 Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast is spine tingling stuff!

Morning Tea message from Merri

Thank you to everyone who has helped provide morning tea or has been part of the roster this year. It is a great way to contribute to our community and also meet new people. If you would like to be part of the roster for next year please put your name on the sheet on the noticeboard before the end of January indicating which Sunday of the month you are able to do and which service. We need a couple more volunteers for next year for both services.

Also if you will be here over January and can help with morning tea following our 9am services, please put your name on the sheet now so that we know who will be able to help in January.

Thanks everyone and Merry Christmas

Rainbow Centre update— 24 December

The Building Fund and interest-free loans figures are unchanged from last week:



If you would like to contribute, grab a brochure from the back of the church, or talk with the Parish treasurer—Mark Cooper-Stanbury—on 0408 417 340 or email treasurer@holycovenant.org.au.

Christmas

Holy Covenant Anglican Church

17 December

A Blue Christmas, 5pm

Christmas Eve

Kids Christmas, 4pm

Carols, Candles & Communion, 11pm

Christmas Day

Classic Christmas Service, 8am
Contemporary Celebration, 10am

89 Dexter St, Cook

Community Info Hub Holiday Season Guide

Do you know anyone doing it tough? The Holiday Season Guide contains information about useful topics like where to find a free meal during the holiday season: <https://vision6.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/ch/55404/1v232/2878980/>

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Showing Love to the most vulnerable

Sisters Srinidhi* and Mahira* are Sri Lankan refugees who have been living in refugee camps in India for decades and aren't able to access medical care outside the camps. OfERR, a refugee-run organisation supported by Act for Peace, has been providing crucial support in the camps for over 40 years. Through the Christmas Bowl you can help send health workers into the camps and provide medical care to those who need it. **Please give today.**

*Names changed for safety reasons

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



summer schedule

MANY OF OUR REGULAR
PROGRAMS WILL HAVE A
BREAK OVER SUMMER

COMBINED SUNDAY SERVICES
FROM 31 DECEMBER - 9AM

MORNING TEAS,
WEDNESDAYS FROM
3 JANUARY FROM 10.30AM

8AM AND 10AM SERVICES
WITH KIDS CHURCH AND
YOUTH GROUP RESUME
4 FEBRUARY 2024

Covenant Care Update

It's the end of the Covenant Care year, and there's been a lot going on!

We have been without a Registered Nurse for some months. As a result the Day Hospice has been reinvented as a Day Respite. That program has run a five week trial, which will be reviewed over the summer break.

We held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Evening

on 30 November. As well as a chance for the staff and volunteers to have a relaxing time in each others' company, we also took the opportunity to acknowledge Bob Arthur's outstanding service to Covenant Care. Revd Wayne provided a wonderful reflection on love and fear, based on a prayer from Michael Leunig. Bob was presented with a certificate of thanks and a letter from Archdeacon Anne.

Jennifer Berrie has retired from her paid employment with Covenant Care. Jennifer has been a member of the Covenant Care team since 2018. Over that time, her work has improved the lives of many vulnerable people. Her administrative work in the Covenant Care office has also ensured that our files are up to date, procedures are appropriate, and risks are as well managed as possible. Thankfully, Jennifer is continuing to volunteer with us in 2024, supporting one of our oldest and frailest clients. Jennifer's unique skills set is impossible to replace with a single person, and as a result the Client Support program cannot continue to operate.

While Archdeacon Anne continues as the program Chaplain, she has stepped down from the Program Director role. Anne has held that position since the inception of the program, and we are deeply thankful for her service. We pray that God will bless Anne in her newly found free time, and that those blessings will be restful, rather than demanding.



Jennifer and Anne

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine & Palestine, and an end to occupation
- ⇒ Catholic couples that are divorced, remarried or LGBTIQ+ and now able to be blessed by clergy in recognition of God's commitment to being with them.
- ⇒ Peace, joy, hope and love to spread worldwide

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Recovery from flood, fire and other disasters
- ⇒ First responders, mental health support teams & domestic violence support services

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of The Murray
- ⇒ Tumut; Adelong; Tarcutta
- ⇒ South-West Slopes Ministry District (the Parishes of Batlow and Tumbarumba)
- ⇒ Ministry to prisoners and prison officers; Kairos ministry.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Andrew Feitz, Jodie Petrov, Oliver and Tobias; Karen Ferguson; George and Connie Gerrity; Quenton Grafton and Carol-Ann Kubanek.
- ⇒ 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; Bev Chambers; Gracie Bonnett; Bob and Kath Arthur; Reg Holmes, Chris Olsson and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

27 Dec	Revd Ruth Dudley (Mills) (d. 2017)
6 Jan	Ronald Earle Grant (d. 2011)
7 Jan	Pierre Willem Elkhuizen (d.2007) Dorothy Joan Williams (d. 2019)
19 Jan	Andre Ronald Eric D'Cruz (d. 2000)

BIRTHDAYS

25 Dec	JESUS
29 Dec	Chris Lee
30 Dec	Megan Mackay, David Barrott
31 Dec	Wendy Robertson

BIBLE READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Magnificat (APBA p31)
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

COLLECT

Gracious God,
whose eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your
will:
prepare our hearts for his coming again
and keep us steadfast in hope,
that we may be ready for the coming of his
kingdom;
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,
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Youth Coordinator

Tobias Neville
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Wardens

Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
6251 2009 kennemorerosemary@gmail.com

Belonging and Caring

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Children & Families Worker

Lou Passmore
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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