

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 9 JULY 2023
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRlSEVIRll0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 9 JULY

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

WEDNESDAY 12 JULY

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch.

SUNDAY 16 JULY

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

Coming soon:

Thurs 27 July: Can you spot a scam?
Sat 29 July: Parish Dinner

Bank details for direct debit:

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

Proved right by Deeds

Matthew 11:15-19, 25-30

Jesus always seems to have the right thing to say! I would hate to debate Jesus or go against him in a comedy club, because I would certainly come up short.

In this passage, we see Jesus using that skill to challenge, surprise, and encourage his followers. We can almost sense Jesus' smile when acknowledging that God revealed the truth not to the wise, powerful elite, but to the poor, the small people in society. It says something substantial about who God is.

Jesus' message goes out to those in need of comfort, in need of love and gentle care. He does not call for the wealthy, the pious, or the strong, but the weakened and exhausted. God promises rest and hospitality, and this promise can make all the difference in our lives. We see this in much of Jesus' ministry. Like the proclamation of liberation and healing in Nazareth (Luke 4:18), we see that the core of Jesus' ministry is good news for the poor and the forgotten, a promise to those in need of grace, love and peace, and a challenge to any power

structures of the world which may seek to oppress, exploit, or discard people, children of God. There is even encouragement on how we might follow Jesus' example, since wisdom is proven by deeds – and we can see what wisdom and deeds Jesus calls us towards.

But it is worth remembering that if you oppose injustice and resist oppression from the status quo, it will find a reason to discredit you. John the Baptist was decried as possessed by demons, and Jesus was discredited as unclean and a drunkard. Ultimately, both men were preaching messages of change, which threatened the authority and prestige of the powerful. And so, reasons to dismiss, distrust and disregard them were given. As Christians, we should be aware that if we intend to resist injustice and bring peace and love into the world, it could ruffle feathers. There is the possibility of being cast in a poor light. But that is following in the very fine example of Jesus, so we can take some comfort in it.

Tobias Neville

Generational disadvantage

CJ came to St John's Care in distress this week as she had lost her job and had no income. She couldn't pay for food, prescription medications or day-to-day living expenses. CJ is a single person solely responsible for paying rent and bills.

CJ's grandparents and her parents experienced poverty. She left home as a teenager due to her parents being too poor to support her, and problems with family violence. CJ left school in year 10 to get a full-time job to support herself and has worked as a cashier since. She has never been able to achieve her dream of going to university to study teaching.

I supported CJ to meet with Centrelink to discuss her circumstances and apply for the Job Seeker payment. Unfortunately, because the Centrelink process took nine weeks, she has now received an eviction notice. Even if Centrelink provided income support now, her rental arrears are so great that she fears she cannot repay the debt. Her family lives interstate and she has no friends to call on should she become homeless. She fears that she will end up on the streets and is worried about her safety and the harsh winter weather.

The next step of supporting CJ was calling OneLink, a Canberra-based organisation that links people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with services. This was a proactive move to place CJ on wait lists for support should eviction eventuate, as well trying to prevent homelessness occurring in the first place. As her anxiety has been exacerbated by the situation, I referred her to a local mental health counselling service. When CJ's situation has stabilised, we will look at more long-term goals.

Poverty is transmitted intergenerationally. Poor parents have children who are statistically likely to experience poverty themselves. While the poverty cycle can be broken, research tells us that this is incredibly hard to achieve due to a wide range of factors. These include a lack of education and employment opportunities, violence and mental illness, which lead to poverty and other forms of disadvantage. Organisations such as St John's Care can provide support to help break that cycle. Our case managed clients receive intensive support as we seek to address the many factors that create disadvantage. Our aim is to alleviate their circumstances, so that they have the 'space' to deal with the other challenges that they are experiencing. Much of the work that we do with our clients is problem solving, in order to reach realistic goals which help them to move forward.

Belinda Ding Senior Case Manager

Items needed: olive oil, shampoo, fruit cup (school lunches)

9

WAYS TO MAKE THINGS GREAT

BY HELPING AT HOLY COVENANT

jamming with the music team by playing or singing



helping with hospitality after services or pizza nights



reading, praying or leading in the sanctuary



creating small groups for fun, growth or study



pastoral care for those in times of need



welcoming guests and inviting them out



helping with kids church, youth group, camps or adventure activities



sound desk, cameras, computers, copying, service sheets & social media



These are our ideas.
 Maybe you have another gift or talent you'd like to share?
 Why not talk to Wayne or Wendy and see what happens

Anglican News

This month's edition of Anglican News is available at <https://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>

What's your favourite article this month? Revd Wayne's or one of the others?

Productive Yarning

The yarning group have been very busy recently. Many thanks for the warm items that have been delivered to St John's Care, and for the wonderful collection of Pocket Pals to assist children with anxiety.



If you enjoy working with yarn and chatting with other people, why not join the yarners in the Worship Centre on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays? You are welcome to work on your own projects, or create items to donate. Contact Sandra Ross for more information: sandraross@ozemail.com.au.

The Lord is near

I am always aware of the Lord's presence; he is near and nothing can shake me. Psalm 16:8

There are things to be seen and things to be heard all around us if we attune our eyes and ears, if we are in a state of awareness; otherwise they become lost so much so that at times we completely miss them.

Noel Davis said it well when he wrote: 'The tiny bird singing in the old banksia tree, the family of wrens spilling joy through the garden. Lord meet me there.'

Unaware of our surroundings, rushing into the day, so much can be missed.

Mane Nobiscum Domine - Remain with us Lord.

Anne, servant of the Lord



Not just a cluster of weeds



**Let's work for real change
by respecting the
knowledge, culture and stories
of our First Peoples**

Parish Dinner 2023

It's good to see online bookings coming through, and people putting their names down on the list of tables. Last time we checked, there were more names on the tables list than tickets purchased, but there's still lots of time to book your tickets.

After much consultation and consideration of specific dietary needs, the menu has been finalized. After our French meal last year, this year we are eating Italian food. As is traditional for this event, table groups are expected to arrange their own antipasto (entrée) course.

Mains: Lasagne (meat or GF vegan option), Tuscan baked chicken (includes vegetables in the bake) (GF), & salad.

Dessert: Tiramisu, Fresh fruit (vegan, GF), Gelato (vegetarian, GF)

The sign up sheet for cooks are on the back wall, near the table sign up sheets. Recipes will be provided.

When: 29 July, 6-9pm

Where: Holy Covenant Parish Centre

More information: <https://events.humanitix.com/parish-dinner>



Silent auction: Remember to chat with Revd Wendy about donations for the silent auction. In **the week before** the Parish Dinner, donations can be dropped off at the office marked 'for silent auction'.

Christian Leaders—Christine Sloan

'You were thirsty and I gave you a drink of water, you were hungry and I fed you.' Matthew 25:35

I have been inspired by so many Christian leaders many who are before us in the media, in books of history and highly spoken of from various platforms and are well known but I want to introduce you to one who lives right here in Canberra, a silent achiever who you have probably never heard of. Her Name is Christine Sloane, a proud Wiradjuri woman, and for many decades she has run the Aboriginal Church in Canberra never giving up despite low numbers. Chris's always said: 'I am so grateful for the missionaries who came to Australia among the first settlers and brought the word of God with them'

Recently Chris received Canberra's 2023 Community Spirit Award for her work and her faithfulness. It was a very humbled Chris who accepted this award. For Chris, to be a leader means no more than seeing the needs of others and filling in that gap, with the love of Christ. Her aim has always been to work hard to improve the lives of the First Nations people locally. To do this she runs a hostel for Aboriginal men who have recently moved to Canberra, leading the Aboriginal church, offering counselling, advice, homelessness support and food hampers to those in need. What inspires me about Chris is her ability to tackle huge tasks and get the job done to the benefit of those she is caring for. She lives a life of unselfish love. She showers hospitality on others with her wonderful, abundant cooking skills and she is a faithful, loyal follower of Christ, the

foundation stone of all she does.

Archdeacon
Anne

Photo courtesy
of ABC Canberra



Join in Prayer for the Referendum

adapted from the Common Grace newsletter

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Leaders consistently remind us that our actions and conversations around the referendum need to be grounded in prayer.

Senior Aboriginal Christian Leader Aunty Jean Phillips reminds us that we need God's guidance as we come together to understand and discuss the Voice:

"To me all of these issues need to be based on prayer and asking God to guide us and to help us. We need to be coming together at the foot of the cross and acknowledge the history of this nation, which has not been a very good history, and it's only as we come to the cross and meet with our Saviour that things could change."

Please join other Christians across Australia in committing the upcoming referendum to prayer. You can explore prayer resources from Common Grace at <https://www.listentotheheart.org.au/prayers> and Tearfund at <https://www.tearfund.org.au/action/voice/be-a-voice-for-generations-reconciliation-week-2023>

CEO Sleepout—Thank You

Neville Tomkins OAM passes on his sincere thanks to everyone in the Parish who donated for his CEO Sleepout to raise desperately needed funds for our homeless people. His sponsorships totalled \$52,585 and were part of the \$800,000 raised locally to support Vinnies' programs in Canberra and the local region. All funds raised go to supplementing programs for emergency relief, Night Patrol (offering hot meals and drinks, blankets and reassuring conversations), and street to home assistance.



Nungalinga News



Over the last 4 years, there have been translation courses running at Nungalinga, but this year they began their very own, formally accredited 'Certificate II in Indigenous Translating'. The first cohort was from areas around Wadeye, focussing on the Murrinhpatha Language. The course is at just the right level and is very practical - it is a real joy to play a part in Language maintenance and Bible translation long-term goals.

Secondly, the very first 'Chaplaincy' skill-set course began. A large cohort of students from across the NT, all of whom are experienced community & church leaders completed their first three week block. It was a really good example of empowering Indigenous Christians as the class led chapels, ordination services, fellowship evenings, pastoral prayer times and Scripture readings... & even practical work as Nungalinga Deans!



Employment Opportunities—Curtin and Weston Molonglo Parishes

Good Shepherd Anglican Church in Curtin and St Peter's Anglican Church in Western Molongolo are both looking for Parish Administrators. If you are interested, please contact the office for details of either or both of these positions.

Covenant Care Update

The program of community support and Covenant Care Day Hospice has been going well in many aspects. This overall program has been running in the parish since 2008 and as you would be aware Covenant Care Day Hospice celebrated its 10th anniversary recently and has given support and care to well over 100 people. At the moment the Day Hospice is close to capacity with clients and some new ones are on a waiting list. There are also 3 new volunteers.

While all this looks great on the surface there are many aspects of the program that are fragile and challenging. Our funding still comes from The Shakespeare Foundation which we receive yearly but it always holds a tension until the next payment comes in, unsure if in fact we will receive it. The management committee is currently working hard to try and get funding from the Government and other grant places and GDR status and to find a replacement chair person with the retirement of our current chair person, Bob Arthur. We are also trying to maintain the Day Hospice following the pending retirement of our long-term Registered Nurse, having had recent serious heart surgery and won't be able to work again. The solution at the moment is to employ an agency nurse every Monday at quite a significant expense to the program. (\$500 a day) Fortunately, this will come to an end soon as we have a temporary RN until October.

This program belongs to the parish, it's yours, and is a remarkable model of Faith Community Nursing.

Can you help us? I believe you can perhaps in these ways:

Do you know a registered nurse who could give around ten hours a week to our program? Information and the job description are available on request. Perhaps you know a nurse who could share information on our program to her/his colleagues? This is a paid position under the nurse's award.

Are you able to give the program some hours of volunteering so we can take on more clients and assist the faithful volunteers currently working to capacity? Hours are negotiable and can be from 1 hour a Monday to a full day with client support, activity officer assistance, setting up, packing up and transporting clients to and from the program on a Monday.

Do you have the capacity and drive to take on the chairperson position of the Management Committee?

Could you please pray for this valuable program, the only Day Hospice in Canberra and the only community program like we operate? Prayer can move mountains. Also, and just as important, is the question to ask yourself "How can I help?"

Uncertain what a day looks like at Covenant Care of a Monday? You are most welcome to pay us a visit and observe our day in a friendly and warm atmosphere.

Thank you
Archdeacon Anne.

Director and Chaplain Covenant Care



Rod & some clients at Covenant Care



CAN YOU SPOT A SCAM?

Australians aged 55+ lost close to \$141 million to scammers in 2021.* The internet is a wonderful place to explore and connect with others, but it pays to be savvy.

Source: <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/about-scamwatch/scam-statistics?scamid=all&date=2021>.

Thursday 27 July, 3pm
Holy Covenant,
89 Dexter St Cook

Come and watch a live webinar delivered by the eSafety Commission. Learn about common scams including the latest Tax and Medicare scams; tips on how to spot them; what to do and what not to do; where to go for help; dealing with feelings of shame and embarrassment; and have your questions answered.

Inquires: Rev Wendy
hccommunitychaplain@gmail.com



PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ Preparations for the Voice referendum
⇒ Food and housing security for all Australians

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn: Bishop-in-Council and the Ministry Executive, the Anglican Church Property Trust and ADS Board
⇒ The Pelican Foundation
⇒ Diocesan Synod
⇒ Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
⇒ Diocesan Public Issues Commission
⇒ All Saints' Ainslie
⇒ All Saints College
⇒ Growth of the Anglican Investment Development Fund and The Pelican Foundation.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ For all members of our parish family including Ray and Sue Edmondson; Wendy and Jono Elkhuisen; Tim Farrington; Andrew Feitz, Jodie Petrov and Oliver and Tobias; Karen Ferguson; and Sujatha George.
⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Glenys Wimmer; Ann & Peter Bazeos; Alice Farrington; Bev Chambers; Gracie Bonnett; Geoffrey Ross; Ewan Garside; Jacqueline Still and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

10 July Grace Watson (d. 2014)
11 July Doris Dudley (d. 2008)
John Singh (d. 2014)
12 July Gerard Bacon (d. 2015)
13 July Laurie G Alexander (d. 2001)

BIRTHDAYS

9 July Elaine Dennis
11 July Carol Pogson
13 July Elizabeth Troy
14 July Quentin Grafton
15 July Jayne Murray, Neville Hurst

BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 24.34-67
Psalm 45:10-17
Romans 7:14-25
Matthew 11.15-19, 25-30

COLLECT for 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least of his brothers and
sisters

we do also for him:

give us the will to serve others

as he was the servant of all,

who gave up his life and died for us;

yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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