

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



**SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSEVIRII0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366  
Password: 033643

## **SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER**

8am & 10am: Season of Creation 1  
Holy Communion  
Celebrant and Preacher:  
The Revd Wendy Robertson

## **WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST**

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

## **SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER**

8am & 10am: Holy Communion  
Celebrant: Revd Anne Dudzinski  
Preacher: Revd Connie Gerrity

## **Coming soon:**

Sept 8-10 Diocesan Synod  
Sat 16 Sept: Working Bee & Gardening Workshop

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

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

## **Use your home**

Among many other things, Romans 12: 9-21 contains a list of practical outcomes to the ideal of living as a loving community, to being the good neighbours that our Parish Dream encourages us to be. This week, I want to look closely at Romans 12:13

*“Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers”.*

Like so much of the Christian life, it's horribly easy to misinterpret the call to hospitality. The world would have us believe that hospitality is about showing off an immaculate household to, or our gourmet cooking ability.

Being a good neighbour means focussing on the needs of the guest, rather than the warm fuzzies the host is hoping for. Are we the type of host who is happy to invite someone into our messy home, to share a takeaway pizza in the lounge room? Or do we need to impress the people we invite into our home? If we are focussed on inclusion and

acceptance, then our guests are the centre of our attention.

Whether it's our individual homes, our church home, or the country we call home, we are only stewards of these spaces. What does our God of compassion and hospitality want us to do in and with these spaces?

These spaces are not just for us and our friends and family. They will also be places where others will find a listening ear and loving acceptance. And does it matter if we are busy with many things and our places and spaces are not the most palatial buildings on the street? No, it does not.

In Canberra today, there are many opportunities available for us to extend hospitality to strangers. Purchasing a 'pay it forward' beverage. Making sure that there are showers available for the folk who come along to our Pizza night. Amplifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices. How will you apply Romans 9:13 this week?

*Megan Arthur*

## Safety at St John's Care

H is a single mum who is 31 weeks pregnant with her third child. She is receiving welfare payments, and until recently had hoped to raise her family in the home they had lived in for many years.

Unfortunately, like many other clients we support, H is escaping domestic violence, in fear for the safety of her family. I spoke with her on the phone.

I explained who I was and the many ways SJC supports people. H began to open up and talk about her relationship with the father of her children and some of the horrible abuse she had suffered. I sympathised with her thoughts and emotions and assured her that I would do everything I could to keep her safe.

We spoke for over an hour, and I offered H the opportunity to come to SJC for support after the Centre had closed, acknowledging her need for safety and privacy.

H attended the Centre that week and began to describe the effects of domestic violence on herself and her young children. The impacts of domestic violence extend beyond physical, psychological, and emotional factors and truly affect the day-today functioning of families.

The family had been forced to leave their home and seek refuge at a friend's house, H was unable to attend her part time job and the children were pulled out of school and their usual routines. Together we contacted the Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS), and we discussed the 'Staying @ Home' program. This is a long-term service which aims to keep women and children in their homes following the breakdown of a relationship.

DVCS began the process of helping H apply for a family violence order (FVO) and started working on a safety plan for the family. After the conversation with DVCS, H broke down in tears. She was feeling not only huge emotion regarding her trauma but also relief about the support she was now receiving from SJC.

I packed a few large bags of grocery items for H and made sure it included snacks for her young kids. Each week since H first visited SJC, we have sat down and ticked off some tasks together – what once seemed a daunting 'to do list', now seems very achievable. I will continue to work with H and DVCS and hope to help facilitate a healthy transition back into the family's home.

*Robbie Speldewinde Operations Manager*

**Items Required:** olive oil, shampoo and conditioner, juice poppers, small sultanas for school lunches.

## God's light shining

*Let my hands perform his bidding, let my feet run his ways. (Hymn, All for Jesus)*

Often in my morning prayers are the words to Jesus, 'Where you lead, I will go.' Today he led me to the nursing home with a bunch of daphne and my little dog in hand, just to wander about and bring some joy to people. As I went around those seated in the lounge room there were many wanting to smell the daphne and the responses flowed. One said 'What a blessing, I smelt the daphne and I saw my mother.' Another, 'I smelt the daphne and was right back in my garden.' The joy and delight that memories bring!

I noticed one lady in a day bed, nothing moving except her eyes, approached with my little dog Clover, and sat her on the lady's knee. Ever so slowly her feeble hand reached out and held Clover's paw. She stroked the paw and I saw a faint smile break on her face. For a moment she connected with me and the little dog and I heard a still quiet voice within say, 'Let my hands perform his bidding and your feet run his ways.'

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

*Anne, servant of the Lord*



A moment of joy

**Transport needed** One of our parishioners has recently had to give up her driver's licence, and is now looking for a lift to church for the 8am service. Please contact Judith-Ann if you can assist: phone 6254 8061 or email [judithanndaniells45@gmail.com](mailto:judithanndaniells45@gmail.com)

### Leftovers from the silent auction

There are items that were donated for the silent auction that did not sell on the night. If you would like your donation back, please collect it from the office.

Any items still in the office on 7 September will be donated to the Covenant Care Trash & Treasure stall at the fete.

### Another transport request

Covenant Care has received a request from a vulnerable person in the community for assistance with transport to and from the Gungahlin Health Centre on Saturdays and Sundays for three weeks. During the week she is able to utilise the Community Bus, but the bus service is not available on week-ends.

If you are able to assist, please contact Covenant Care on [nurse@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:nurse@holycovenant.org.au)

## Do generous Christians have a future?

This uncomfortable question has emerged at a time when sectarian groups are exerting their influence in all parts of the church across every denomination. The dinner is an opportunity for people to connect and discuss the development of a theologically generous church for tomorrow's Australia.

The Broad Church Network is a Canberra based group that's participates in God's mission by encouraging generous spirits, effective hands and abundant hearts. Please note that registration covers venue cost only. Guests will need to order and pay for their meal at the bar.

The dinner is open to everyone. To register - <https://events.humanitix.com/broad-church-network-synod-dinner-2023>

## First Aid Qualifications

Parish Council has requested an updated list of those in the Parish who have First Aid qualifications. If you are happy to be on that list, please email the office.



It's time to recognise  
Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander people  
in the Constitution



## Why think about creation?

Many churches around the world will celebrate the Season of Creation throughout September. This season starts on 1 September and concludes October 4, which celebrates the life of St Francis of Assisi.

The inclusion of creation in the calendar started in 2008 when the World Council of Churches sought to engage religious people more deeply with the growing environmental crisis affecting the planet. The Council called on humanity to exercise stewardship of creation rather than dominion over it.

Christians should pause and celebrate God's work of creation that surrounds us for one simple reason. Our theological vision of creation and God's part in it profoundly influences how Christian communities live, work and serve as good neighbours.

For generations, Christian thinking about creation was profoundly clouded by the fall. From this perspective, sin had not merely marred creation but fundamentally distorted it so that it was viewed as cursed and liable only to God's judgement and destruction.

This view had many unhelpful consequences. Jesus' work of salvation became little more than an escape plan to heaven above from earth below. Furthermore, if the world was corrupted then nothing in human life was to be trusted. It's not hard to see why so many Christian communities deny the value of science and ignore reason for the sake of preserving absolute biblical authority.

Christian thinking has moved in a different direction. It has come to see God's promise of a new creation not in terms of replacement but renewal and restoration. From this perspective, the goodness of the created realm is never completely overshadowed by human disobedience. Science and theology then are not in perennial conflict but areas of knowledge to be

explored and investigated. Humanity is a part of nature, endowed with creativity and cultural capacity to improve life and act responsibly. Sin remains a problem, particularly ignorance and the desire to live in a consequence-free bubble.

Thinking about creation then might be more important than we realise. You can find out more information about this global ecumenical effort at: <https://seasonofcreation.org/about/>

*Revd Dr Wayne Brighton*



Our annual fete is happening on Saturday November 11th. (Please save that date in your diaries!) Archdeacon Anne did a wonderful job of coordinating the fete last year. We are hoping that there's someone else out there willing to take on the role this year.

Archdeacon Anne will be there to provide assistance, as will all the stall coordinators. If you are interested, please contact the office.

## PRAYER POINTS

### IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Ethical practices in the use of Artificial Intelligence
- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops

### IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Campaigning for the Voice referendum
- ⇒ Housing and food security for all Australians

### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Armidale
- ⇒ St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn
- ⇒ Friends of St Saviour's Cathedral
- ⇒ Lucas Tooth Scholar: The Reverend Gavin Krebs
- ⇒ Anglican Women of Australia
- ⇒ Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Goulburn Health Service
- ⇒ Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn
- ⇒ The Cathedral Chapter, and all aspects of the work and ministry of St Saviour's Cathedral

### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Margaret Martin; Mary Lynn Mather; Doreen and Ian Matters; Tracey Matthews and Russell Rollason; and Sue and John McCaffery.
- ⇒ 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; Ewan Garside; Bob and Kath Arthur and anyone known to us personally

### COMMEMORATIONS

6 September Roger Clive Hallows (d. 2020)

## COLLECT for 14th Sunday after Pentecost

O God,  
whose Son has shown the way of the cross to be  
the way of life:  
transform and renew our minds  
that we may not be conformed to this world  
but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living  
sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour;  
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,  
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

## BIRTHDAYS

5 September Sally Mordike  
6 September Mel Clark  
7 September Hannah David-Hoole

## BIBLE READINGS

Exodus 3:1-14  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28