

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2023  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 17 SEPTEMBER

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

## WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

## SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

8am & 10am Holy Communion  
Celebrant TBA  
Preacher: Revd Lynda McMinn

## Coming soon:

Thurs 28 Sept: Community Lunch  
Tues 3 Oct: Afternoon Tea with James Alison

## Bank details for direct debit:

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

## Making Choices

### *Romans 14: 1-14*

This week's text from Romans offers us a perspective on making choices and the context in which our choices are lived. As Romans 14:7 says: *"None of us live to ourselves alone."* In other words, we are in community, be it a church, neighbourhood, country or planet, and the choices we make impact life beyond ourselves. In the reading, the main focus is around eating meat. Perhaps we don't relate to that example, so I'd like to suggest a different one: whether or not to drink alcohol. Some denominations are very clear that this is not something Christians do, while others feel free to drink alcohol in moderation.

When I was young, I attended a Methodist church where alcohol was strictly forbidden. Sobriety was synonymous with spirituality. My father was an alcoholic and I knew firsthand the pain and suffering alcohol caused. Of course, it was sinful to drink. Then I left home and went to university. I made some wonderful friends there. These were the kind of spiritual people I wanted to emulate. I was devastated and confused when I saw one of these

people drink a glass of wine. I just couldn't hold the two things together. It took me several years, a lot of soul-searching and scripture study to broaden my beliefs about drinking alcohol.

Ultimately, it seems to me to be a question of inner freedom. Am I free enough inside to make a choice that will be life-affirming for me as well as others? Can I support others in their journey of faith even if it is different from mine? Can I hold my life and my faith with open hands, ready to be challenged, surprised and perhaps a little uncomfortable and yet open to the encounter? Can I let go of something that I am sure God is fine with, if it is negatively impacting others? This could be alcohol, but it could also be air travel or cheap merchandise made in sweat shops or... This is one aspect of inner freedom. Another is to be free to make our choice while also not condemning someone else who makes a different choice as less worthy, less spiritual, less faith-filled.

Inner freedom is a life-long spiritual work. Let's keep at it, making *"every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification."* Romans 14:19

Sue Dunbar

## Immigration challenge

T's family are newly arrived immigrants. The family arrived in Canberra just over a month ago. T has applied for a study visa while her two children and husband study English in the mornings.

T explains that to come to Australia the family sold all their belongings to be able to afford all the expenses that come with emigration. These included flights, food, student fees, insurance and accommodation.

They have no family or friends in Australia who can support them. As the days pass, their savings are running out. The adults have been unable to secure a job and their English is limited. The family is staying in a house they found advertised on social media and will have to leave in two weeks. This concerns them as they have no income.

I went to the Multicultural Hub with T to get some information for job applications. They were very supportive and signed her up for a workshop to be held the next day. The workshop consisted of information for job applications and helped T navigate the process. The Multicultural Hub also offers free English classes which T was very interested in attending and has subsequently enrolled to take classes twice a week.

We returned to SJC and discussed some of her family's other needs which included clothing, food, and school packs. The volunteers helped T find the clothes in sizes she needed – we also referred her to Thread Together for additional support with clothing. We provided the family with food for the whole week, backpacks, and lunchboxes. We agreed that they could come back weekly for food and provided her with information about the other centres offering help in the south side of Canberra.

T was so happy. She couldn't believe all the help she received in just one day, she said to me "We have been blessed to have found such a wonderful place". Starting from scratch in a new country, which has a different culture, language and beliefs, and being far away from family is very difficult. It can lead to high levels of sadness, irritability, anxiety, and exhaustion. But, receiving the help that St John's Care offers is like receiving a gift that empowers you to move forward and not give up.

We would like to thank the donors and volunteers who allow us to make positive changes in the lives of those who need it most, and to enable them to succeed.

*Karen Medrano SJC Case Manager*

**Items Required:** dog/cat food, small packets of sultanas, juice poppers, small tins of fruit, tinned meat e.g. Irish stew, braised steak.

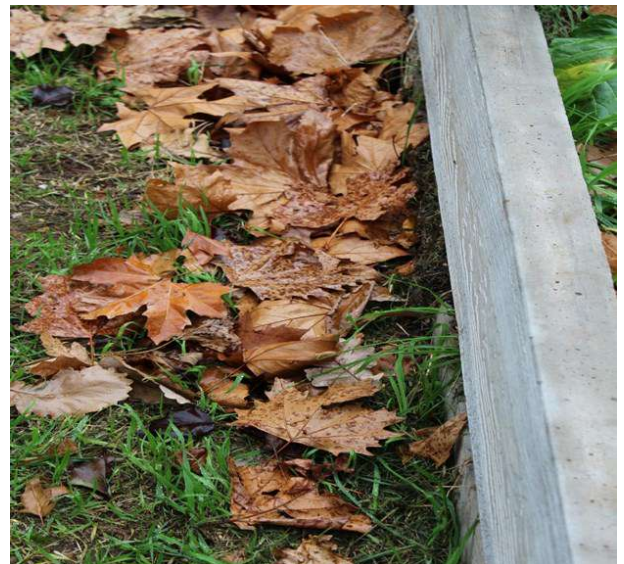
## And it forms a prayer

*I love the place of God, wherein thine honour dwells - it is the house of prayer wherein thy servant meets. (Hymn)*

There is a warmth in the sacred space of late and it's not just coming from the change in the season. It comes from that special gift we give ourselves when we take the time to sit alongside God a while, where there is little else besides the voice of quiet and all within sight forms a prayer. I mean, look at the spent leaves from the nearby tree dancing in the wind, blowing up and down and around and around. Look at the spring flowers in all their glory growing there for your delight and as gifts to share with those who pass by. Everywhere, all around on every side there is a joy and a prayer. May you feel the warmth in the place you call your sacred space.

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

*Anne, servant of the Lord*



Swirling into a pile

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

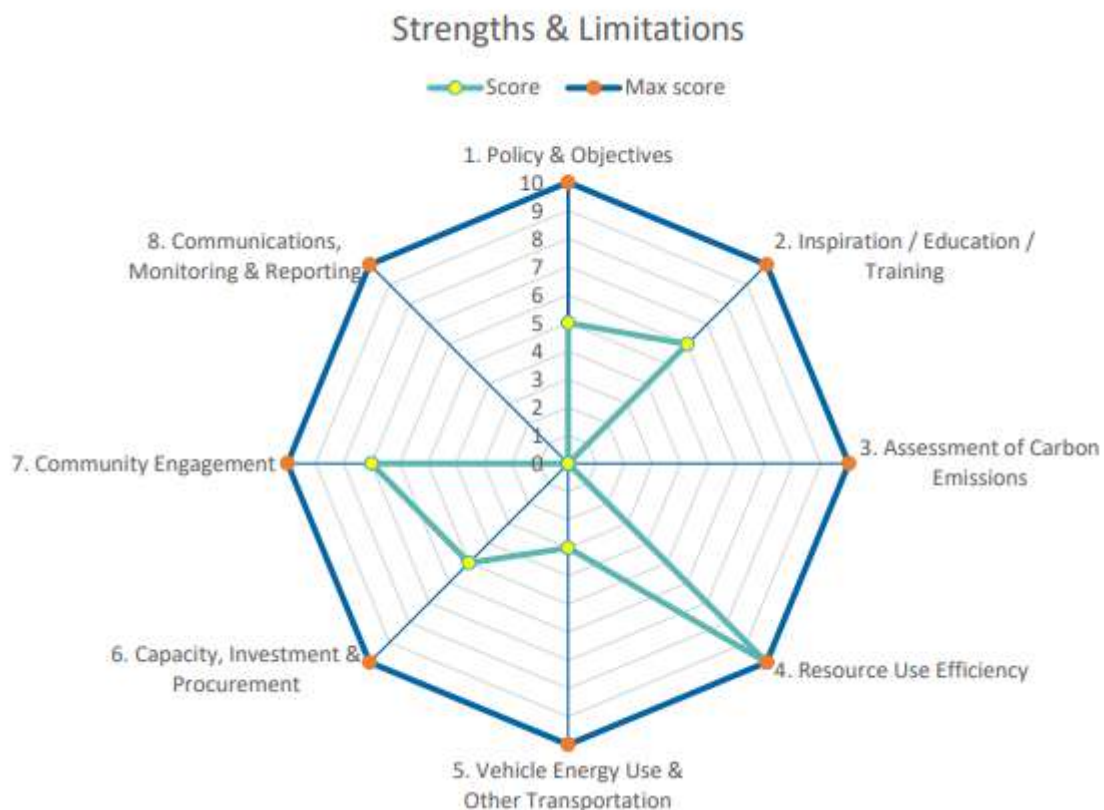
## Changing Parishes Changing Climate?

In May 2023, the parish was surveyed by a steering committee tasked with helping our Diocese move towards net zero emissions by 2040. A map of our results are below. The survey asked a series of questions about 8 action areas. These included:

- developing policy settings, actions and volunteers to drive change
- helping our people to understand climate change through discussion groups, prayer or liturgical engagement
- assessment of carbon emissions
- action to improve energy and water efficiency
- vehicle energy use such as using hybrid or electric vehicles
- including energy and water efficiency in building renovations or appliance replacement
- engagement with other groups concerning climate resilience

- reporting or communicating on climate change actions annually.

When our parish had solar panels and electric air conditioning installed more than a decade ago it broke much new ground. We were able to be leaders because we had a climate group that was active and engaged. Over the last few years our progress has plateaued as our policies and strategies have not been updated as the tools and technologies have changed. Our voice for environmental stewardship has slowly fallen silent. Throughout September, the parish will explore the Season of Creation by drawing on resources developed by The Episcopal Church. The goal is to help us reflect a little more on our part in creation and how God's salvation story reaches both everyone and every living thing too. If you'd like to see more happen in the parish, why not consider joining a new group to help us all become better stewards in this critical time for all Creation?





## Combining Science and Faith

### Revd Wendy Snook

Continuing our series on Christian leaders, this month we are focused on those from the ecology, environment, science and philosophy fields. This week, we meet the Revd Wendy Snook.

Revd Snook's first work was as a geologist—being helicoptered into remote parts of Western Australia to identify sources of valuable minerals and precious stones. It was in these remote places that her Christian faith blossomed.

Snook was ordained in 1986, and has worked in congregational ministry with nine congregations (Victoria and WA); was the first female Defence Force Chaplain in Australia (RAAF Special Reserve); in industrial and hospital chaplaincy, and has held two Uniting Church Presbytery Ministry positions in WA and in NSW –ACT. Currently she is at St Andrew's Berwick Uniting Church in the City of Casey, where she works in an established active 160 year old congregation with a heritage building and a ministry centre, surrounded by some of the fastest growing new suburbs in Australia. This means she also works cross-culturally with a rapidly changing and diverse community.

She has written on Sea change- Tree change missiology, church history, women's theology, liturgy and homiletics/ preaching. She loves God, her family, and many friends, is passionate about preaching, about developing new styles of worship for the 21st century, (including multi-media use and music), teaching, and mentoring others to grow in their faith, discipleship, witnessing, service to the needy and social justice ministry. She also enjoys playing autoharps and guitars in the band Journey Bound.



## Spring Community Lunch

The sign-up sheet for the Spring Community lunch is on the back wall of the Worship Centre. Rod Menzies is our guest speaker, talking about his work at Mulligans Flat. All are welcome—if cost is an issue please contact Revd Wayne.



## Holiday Happenings

Kippax Uniting Church are running their usual school holiday program on 28 September and 5 October, running from 10am—2pm. Bookings are advised: phone 6254 1733.



What is the Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Voice?  
Get informed at [Voice.gov.au](http://Voice.gov.au)



Get informed.  
[Voice.gov.au](http://Voice.gov.au)

## Synod Reflections

Representatives of ministry units and agencies from around the Diocese gathered in the Snow Concert Hall at the Canberra Grammar School for its Synod, a Greek word which means assembly or council. Anglicans don't always grasp the significance of this model for governance when much of our lives are lived in parishes or congregations.

Three dynamics are always evident when Synod gathers. First, the bishop is the president who sets the direction and shapes the culture of our church. Second, the bishops' office reports about their management, policies and vision for the future. Third, the people and not just the clergy get to participate by voicing their concerns and discussing matters of interest to them. Synod is a reminder that no parish lives in isolation and an encouragement that differences and even tensions exist that we are stronger together.

Our parish was represented by Wayne, Anne Ranse, Lynda McMinn, Merri Bacon, Belinda Moss and Russell Rollason. The following matters featured prominently in the Synod discussions:

1. Concern by evangelical leaders about trends of attendance. Average weekly attendance has fallen by 25% since 2017. This trend stirred calls for parishes to make greater efforts at evangelism particularly as the population of Canberra and the region is expected to double by 2060. Bishop Mark foreshadowed a diocese conference about evangelism in 2024.
2. The Revd Canon Associate Professor Uncle Glenn Loughrey was the synod guest speaker. He spoke strongly about the forthcoming referendum and explained the significance of connection between voice, treaty, truth-telling and Makarrata as the process for a renewed peace within the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Reactions were mixed. While many appreciated his reflections about the debate others were offended by his reflections about racism and Aboriginal spirituality.
3. Lynda led a debate about the diminishing level of

women in full-time stipendiary roles as parish rectors. Ministry statistics presented often highlight how women comprise a third of clergy however Lynda showed how the actual number of women in parish leadership roles have diminished precipitously. In 2015, there were 1 woman bishop, 3 archdeacons and 13 rectors yet by 2023 this had diminished to 3 rectors, 0 archdeacons and a bishop soon to retire. The synod accepted her request for a working group to investigate this disparity, to talk with women about their experiences and identify appropriate remedial strategies.

4. Wayne led the debate asking the synod to express its support for the Voice. The conversation highlighted concerns about how the church should engage in political affairs. Some thought it was inappropriate for the church to express any view while others were dismayed that the church would consider being silent about core matters of equity and fairness in our country. Arguments appealing to ignorance, arrogance, mistrust and fragility were addressed. The Synod agreed to support the creation of a Voice 'as a vital step in walking together with First Nation's people towards reconciliation' by a very narrow margin (Yes – 86, No – 80, Abstentions – 12).

5. Russell presented a motion concerning poverty in Australia which drew attention to the rising number of children living below the poverty line. It welcomed the commitment to tax reform but requested the federal government ensure adequate funding for health, housing, education, aged and disability care, welfare and overseas aid at a time when there is much pressure for tax cuts to benefit the wealthiest Australians (Yes – 132, No – 4, Abstentions – 13).

6. Wayne advanced a motion of appreciation for Bob Arthur expressing the Synod's 'deep gratitude for the faithful, thoughtful and longstanding service' by Bob over five decades. It prayed for both Bob and Kath trusting that the journey ahead would be filled with faith, hope and love. It was accepted with a standing acclamation.



## Nungalinya 50th Jubilee

The Nungalinya 50th Jubilee Celebration was a wonderful success! Over 400 people attended the day, with so many highlights! There were Bush Tucker and Bible Gardens tours, current courses and Nungalinya-through-the-decades displays, the 'Freedom: the Nungalinya Jubilee Story' hour long

documentary, spear making, art and weaving sessions and a large scale dinner and fellowship evening of dances and songs! Copies of the Jubilee Booklet and a reflection from Bishop Greg Anderson can be downloaded from the Nungalinya website: <https://www.nungalinya.edu.au/News/freedom-the-nungalinya-jubilee-story>



## Baking for youth camp

Youth camp is happening from 22-25 September. The young people will of course be burning up lots of energy and will need regular food opportunities across the camp. If you can help by providing some homemade biscuits or slices, please let Tobias know.

Contributions (including a list of ingredients) can be dropped off in the church kitchen on 21 September. Thanks in advance for the baked goodness!



Restoring God, thank you for your promise to make all things new. Start by restoring our hearts, and then share with us your vision for restoration in our world.

Spark our imagination, anchor our faith and deepen our courage for this work. Help us to draw closer to Christ, the Great Restorer, and at the same time be fused with hope and wonder to work for restoration our world so desperately needs. Amen.



## No more jars!

Thanks to all the people who have been dropping off jars for the jam makers. There is currently an abundance of jars waiting to be filled, so please hold off bringing in any more until after the fete.

## When is a murder a wedding banquet, and who dunnit?

### Exploring how Matthew's Jesus puts us on the spot

An evening with James Alison, hosted by Benedictus Contemplative Church.

With one of his typically intriguing titles, internationally renowned theologian and author James Alison promises to open new dimensions of the text of Scripture and the meaning of Jesus.

**Where:** St Ninians, 150 Brigalow St, Lyneham or via Zoom (link supplied on registration).

**When:** Tuesday 3 October at 7pm.

**Cost:** \$10

**Registration:** <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1114238>



## Spiritual Reminiscence for People Living with Dementia

This workshop presents a unique opportunity for nurses, chaplains, pastoral carers, and professionals working with older adults to gain invaluable insights and practical tools to enhance person-centred care through spiritual reminiscence.

**Now 20-25% off the regular price!**

Throughout the two days, participants will explore the significance of spirituality in the lives of individuals with dementia and the role of spiritual reminiscence in fostering meaning and connection. While one-on-one communication is the traditional means of working with spiritual reminiscence, an important focus of this workshop is connecting in small groups of people who have dementia. By engaging in face-to-face interactions and interactive sessions of small groups, attendees will learn specific communication skills to effectively engage with people with dementia through spiritual reminiscence.

**When:** 9am-4pm, 21-22 September

**Where:** The Chambers Pavilion, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton ACT

**Cost:** Individual \$900, Concession \$450



## Common Grace Evening of Prayer and Praise

Join with Christians from across Australia to pray for creation and climate justice, share in a time of connection, celebrate stories of care for creation and join in praise for our Creator God and his loving care for all creation, designed to live and flourish together.

**When:** Wednesday 20 September, 7.30pm

**Where:** Online

**Registration:** [https://www.commongrace.org.au/season\\_of\\_creation\\_2023\\_prayer\\_evening](https://www.commongrace.org.au/season_of_creation_2023_prayer_evening)





## PRAYER POINTS

### IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Recovery efforts after natural disasters
- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops
- ⇒ The Pacific & Caribbean Islander case in the international Oceans Court

### IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Adequate supplies of critical medications
- ⇒ Preparations for the Voice referendum
- ⇒ Implementation of the decisions from Synod

### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of North Queensland
- ⇒ Queanbeyan and District Anglican Church
- ⇒ Community of Celebration and Mary's Place
- ⇒ Anglicare Retail Outlets (Queanbeyan, Phillip & Erindale)
- ⇒ Anglicare recycling outlets
- ⇒ Alexander Maconochie Correctional Centre: Chaplaincy Co-ordinator
- ⇒ The Anglican School Googong
- ⇒ Work amongst needy, unemployed and homeless people of all ages.

### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Jennelle, Denis and Simon Mitchell; Noel Montgomery; Sally, Dylan, Dougal and Jemima Mordike; and Belinda and Philip Moss.
- ⇒ 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

20 September Thomas Gould (d. 1997)

## COLLECT for 16th Sunday after Pentecost

O God,  
you call your Church to witness  
that in Christ we are reconciled to you:  
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may turn to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who loves and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

## MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

### Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,  
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### Assistant Minister & Community Chaplain

The Revd Wendy Robertson  
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### Youth Coordinator

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### Wardens

Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

### Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore  
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### Belonging and Caring

The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton  
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### Children & Families Worker

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### Covenant Care Program Manager

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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  
0413 994 739 annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au

The Revd Connie Gerrity  
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The Revd Lynda McMinn  
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### Resources Team

0419 255 002

## BIRTHDAYS

18 Sept Ann Menzies  
20 Sept Belinda Wood, Geoff Buckland  
22 Sept John Painter

## BIBLE READINGS

Exodus 14:19-31  
Psalm 114  
Romans 14:1-14  
Matthew 18:21-35