

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 2025

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

### Connecting with God (Luke 3. 15-22)

John the Baptist lived before the coming of Christ. His mother was Elizabeth the daughter of Zechariah. Elizabeth and Mary are related and traditionally in Christian thought Jesus and John the Baptist are considered to be cousins. The angel Gabriel, the messenger from God, told Zechariah that Jesus would be great in the sight of the Lord and that he would be filled with the Holy Spirit from birth.

John the Baptist lived an ascetic life beside the River Jordan. I have a mental picture of him living in the outback eating locusts and honey. John the Baptist like Jesus was an outsider from the establishment. He challenged Herod and all his wrongdoings. It was a time ripe for spiritual development in the populace. John called people to repent. He used water from the river Jordan for the cleansing of sins in the baptism ritual. Multitudes from surrounding areas came to be baptised. John's mission was the forerunner in preparing the way for Jesus and to tell the people that Jesus was the leader that they were seeking. He stated emphatically that Jesus would be emphasising the connection to God by baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The baptism of Jesus was dramatic. John the Baptist gave testimony to this event as recorded in the bible. The voice of God was heard and Jesus was defined as the son of God with the well-known words 'You are my son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased', combined with the sight of a dove descending and the opening of the heavens. The importance of the father-son relationship to the first born was tantamount in the family life of the day.

In Christianity, the Holy Spirit is seen as the presence of God. According to Christian theology people who accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour receive the Holy Spirit (John 14: 16-17). This connection is seen as personal and transformative. Currently it is the season of Epiphany. We see that spiritual force in dramatic action in the transformation and conversion of Paul in the spread of the Gospel to all peoples.

Many Christians believe that the Holy Spirit works in the lives of all peoples. It draws people closer to God and the appropriate way to live life based on the Jesus model. This view emphasises that God's Spirit pervades all creation and connects everyone in a universal sense. The Holy Spirit facilitates the connection of all humanity to communion with God whether in prayer or by other channels. Some philosophies suggest that this divine presence which is available to everyone must be actively invoked by the individual. I believe that such communion is a two-way force in an act of love in the personal development and well-being in the lives of all. The Christmas gift unwrapped.

*Richard Scutter*

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

[https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?  
pwd=YUpja05YTxFcN0N4MGRiSF  
VIRlI0Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTxFcN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09)

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366  
Password: 033643

#### SUNDAY 12 JANUARY

9am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher: Revd Dr Bili  
Malek

#### SUNDAY 19 JANUARY

9am Holy Communion

Celebrant: Revd Dr Bili Malek  
Preacher: Revd Anne Ranse

Coming soon:

AGM—20 February, 7pm

#### Bank details for direct debit:

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

### Hope for Tomorrow

Happy New Year to our Canberra community and our supportive donors! St John's Care is open again after a well-deserved break.

As the new year begins and school holidays are in full swing, many parents are starting preparations for the upcoming school term. Recently, we welcomed a new client, whom we will call R. R was referred to SJC by one of our partner organisations. He is a single parent raising four children after the loss of his wife. Unfortunately, R is currently facing significant financial difficulties due to the rising cost of living and the challenge of supporting a family on a single income.

At SJC, R received assistance from our dedicated and friendly volunteers through our emergency food relief program. He was also connected with our experienced case managers to discuss the challenges he is facing and identify additional support options. R shared that he is struggling with mounting electricity and medical bills, along with other financial pressures including getting school uniforms and book packs.

To help alleviate some of these burdens, we suggested that R visit us every fortnight for food support over the next two months. By saving on groceries, he could redirect those funds toward reducing his electricity debt. R had with an agreement with ACTEWAGL to clear his outstanding balance within that timeframe. Additionally, SJC provided R with an ACTEWAGL voucher, further helping to reduce his debt. These steps also allowed R to allocate funds towards other financial obligations. SJC also assisted R with his child's medical prescriptions and was referred to Thread Together for appropriate seasonal clothing for himself and his children. A referral to Roundabout Canberra ensured the family received essential items and toys for the children.

Despite the financial worries weighing on him, R shared that he and his family had a good Christmas. He expressed his gratitude for the support provided by SJC, noting that it has given him renewed hope for tomorrow. R plans to stay in touch with us and update us on his progress as he works toward regaining financial stability.

To our incredible donors, we extend our heartfelt thanks. When you support St John's Care, you're not only meeting physical needs but also uplifting lives during their most challenging times. Your generosity, compassion, and unwavering support make a real difference in our community. We also appreciate the collaborative efforts of our partner agencies, whose contributions strengthen our ability to serve those in need. Thank you for making hope possible.

Kind regards, Lisa Masamha

Case Manager

Items required: Shampoo & Conditioner, 1L UHT Lactose free milk, fruit cups

School supplies: Backpacks drink bottles, lunch boxes

**CAN  
HOPE,  
PEACE,  
JOY AND  
LOVE  
GROW IN  
ME?**



## ASKING QUESTIONS FINDING FAITH

We believe that asking questions  
is how we grow.  
Many questions are spiritual in nature like,  
who am I?  
where am I going in life?  
how can I be more hopeful, peaceful,  
joyful, loving?

Holy Covenant is a safe space  
to ask these kind of questions and more.

We believe that God came into the world  
so that humanity might find  
healing and wholeness,  
justice and peace.

So if the world is driving you crazy and the  
church you've been to has boxed you in,  
maybe its time to start asking some  
questions.

So if you are exploring faith for the first  
time or wrestling with some  
spiritual questions,  
why not join our  
Being With program in 2025?  
God is closer than you think.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



DATE  
20 FEBRUARY 2025



TIME  
7:00 – 8:00 PM



### Recent Parish Council decisions

Over the past 2 meetings, Parish Council has finalised the Wider Works distribution for 2024, and agreed to install a reverse-cycle air-conditioner in the office. The Wider Works outcome is:

Australian Board of Mission	\$1,500
Companion House	\$1,500
Embracing Ministries	\$500
St John's Care	\$1,500

The air-conditioner cost is \$2,300—as usual, Parish Council would welcome any donations to offset that cost.

Several other donations have passed through the Parish accounts this year, reflecting the interests and generosity of parishioners:

Anglican Overseas Aid	\$5,000
Anglicare	\$1,000
Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid	\$2,000
Bible Society	\$4,000
Bonnevaux Abbey	\$50
Bush Church Aid*	\$608
CareFlight	\$1,000
Christian Blind Mission	\$4,000
Church Missionary Society	\$2,500
Dementia Australia	\$2,000
Jerusalem Church**	\$466
Scripture Union	\$5,000
St John's Care	\$6,550
The Salvation Army	\$2,000

\*Mostly via collection boxes

\*\*Good Friday retiring collection

Mark Cooper-Stanbury  
Treasurer

### 2025 Future Church Conference—28 January 2025

Future Church Conference is an eclectic gathering of church leaders and Jesus-followers who are eager to take part in forward-thinking conversations about how we do church.

Recognising the harm that has been done in the name of Jesus, we're calling for an urgency of spirit, getting practical, and challenging one another to create safer spaces. We don't expect everyone to agree with what is said. But we do expect people to listen, engage, and make space.

#### THE DAY CONFERENCE: 9am-5pm

The day conference is set aside for pastors, chaplains, ministry crew, and church leaders who are thinking strategically about how they can lead their churches through the difficult terrain we find ourselves in. We will gather to be refreshed, challenged, and inspired. We'll share ideas, and dream about what the church of tomorrow could look like, today.

#### EVENING GATHERING: 7pm-9:30pm

In the evening, we open up the doors for lay leaders, volunteers, and all who want to create safer spaces within our communities. Jarrod McKenna will be setting a vision for us as we live into a future of a church that transcends culture wars.

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/future-church-conference-2025/tickets>





# summer schedule

MANY OF OUR REGULAR  
PROGRAMS WILL HAVE A  
BREAK OVER SUMMER

COMBINED SUNDAY SERVICES  
FROM 29 DECEMBER - 9AM

8AM AND 10AM SERVICES  
WITH KIDS CHURCH AND  
YOUTH GROUP RESUME  
2 FEBRUARY 2025

WEDNESDAY SERVICES WILL  
RESUME 5 FEBRUARY 2025

Over Christmas/School holidays our groups will take some time off. Below are the dates when each group resumes in 2025.

- Wednesday midday Services: 5 Feb
- Have a Good Yarn: 14 Jan
- Carers' Coffee: 10 Jan
- Playgroup: 7 Feb (returning as the Cookaburras Playgroup)
- Wednesday Meditation: 29 Jan
- Crafty Crew: Date TBA. Gillian will be in touch.
- Neighbourhood Nights: 7 Feb
- Dinner Club: 7 Jan (no break)
- Book Club: 20 Feb

## 2025 AGM—Call for Reports

We are holding our AGM on Thursday, 20 Feb. If you are the leader of a group here at church, please send a report to Caity in the office —  
[office@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:office@holycovenant.org.au)

The deadline for reports is Thursday, 23 January 2025.

Please include in the report: something you are grateful for from 2024, and something you plan on changing to make 2025 even better.

Most group leaders have been emailed, but if you haven't, and you'd like to share about your group, please be in touch! Thanks.



## Summer Spiritual Fellowship, Tuesdays 2pm

On Tuesday, Steve Daniels showed a group of us a cycle of photos from his time in Masada.

This week, Doreen Matters will be showing photos from various cathedrals she has visited.

Please come by and enjoy photos and stories of spiritual places, over a cuppa and biscuits. For more info, speak with Bili.

## PRAYER POINTS

### IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ For rescuers finding survivors in Tibet, as temperatures plummet.
- ⇒ For firefighters and other first responders managing wildfires in California.
- ⇒ For those in Greenland, Canada and Panama who may be anxious as military threats increase from the US.

### IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Anyone known to us in hospital or distress & those who are travelling.
- ⇒ For those in WA who will benefit from the governments new DV reforms.
- ⇒ For those sleeping rough, and the 10,000 Australians that become homeless each month, as the cost of living continues to increase.

### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Grafton: Bishop Murray Harvey; Clergy; and People
- ⇒ Holy Covenant, Jamison: Wayne Brighton (Meg); Anne Ranse; Anne Dudzinski (ATO); Connie Gerrity (ATO) (George); Lynda McMinn; Bilkis Malek (Stuart)
- ⇒ Christ Church, Hawker: Philip Rademaker (Laura)
- ⇒ Calvary Hospital, Bruce: Anglican Chaplaincy Team: Coordinator Christopher Murray
- ⇒ Clare Holland House (ACT Hospice), Barton: St John's Canberra Clergy
- ⇒ Coral Park/ Bill McKenzie Gardens: Chaplain: Kathryn Clark
- ⇒ St James', Holt: Judy Douglas (John); Brett Morgan (Karen); Rebecca Hedges (SLM) (Michael)
- ⇒ Pray for: Anglicare activities in caring for and supporting older people in both in home and out of home care including nursing homes, hostels, independent living units and in the general community; for staff; and volunteers.

### 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; Glenys Wimmer; Bev Chambers, Bruce Barnes, Megan McKay, Bob & Hilary Harris, Joshua Salske, Ian Matters, James Collier, Brian Hepworth and anyone known to us personally.

## BIRTHDAYS

- 14 Jan Tobias Feitz
- 16 Jan Jenny Tomkins
- 17 Jan Deranie Jackson

## BIBLE READINGS

- Isaiah 43.1-7
- Psalm 29
- Acts 8.14-17
- Luke 3.15-22

## COLLECT

God of community,  
whose call is more insistent than ties of family or blood:  
may we so respect and love those whose lives are linked with ours  
that we fail not in loyalty to you,  
but make choices according to your will;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

### Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,  
0407 408 333 rector@holycovenant.org.au

### Assistant Minister

The Reverend Dr Bili Malek  
0420 966 866 (SMS only please) bili.malek@gmail.com

### Youth Coordinator

Tobias Nevile  
0468 969 372 youth@holycovenant.org.au

### Wardens

Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

### Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore  
6251 2009 kennemorosemary@gmail.com

### Belonging and Caring

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton  
0407 408 333 rector@holycovenant.org.au

### Children & Families Worker

Lou Passmore  
0411 338 361 holycovenantkids@gmail.com

### Covenant Care Program Manager

Leanne McKean  
0487 945 615 nurse@holycovenant.org.au

### Covenant Care 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