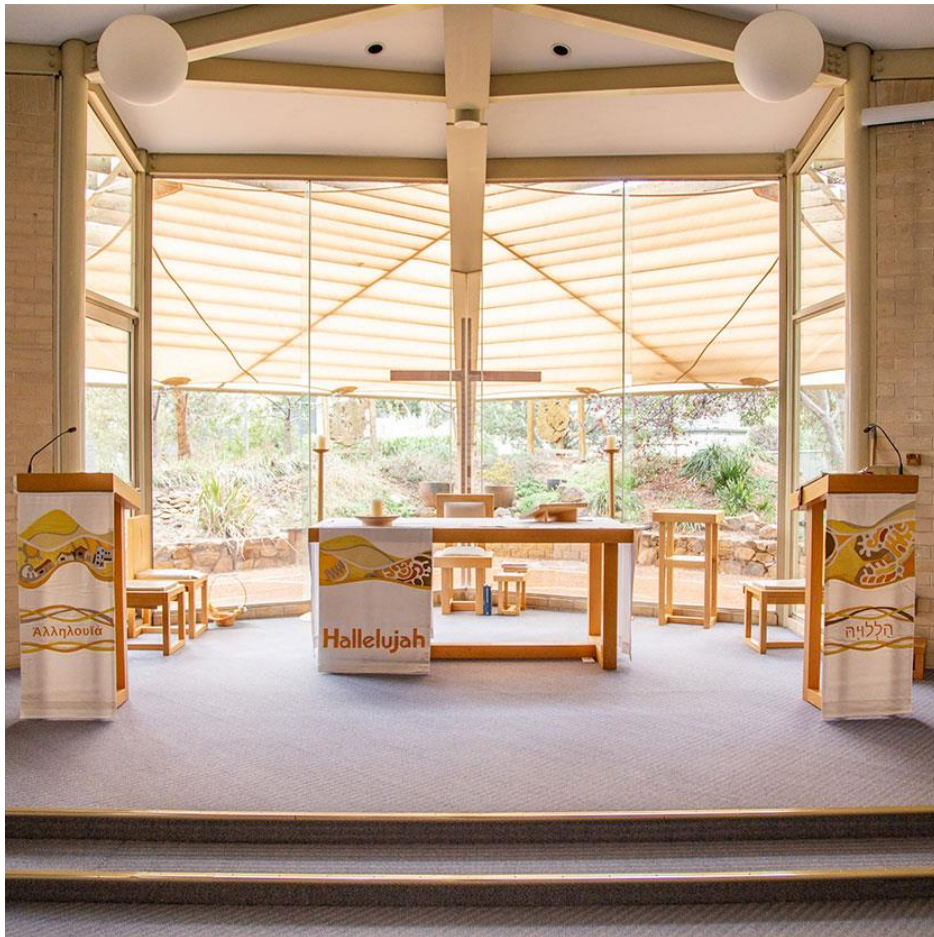


# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone

## 2022 Annual Report



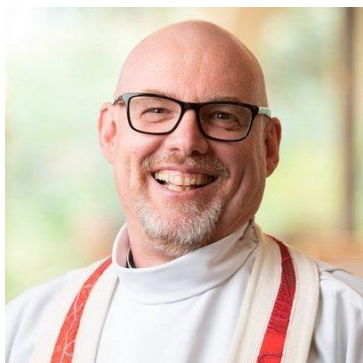
*1 The Sanctuary at Holy Covenant*

## Contents

1.	From the Rector - The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton .....	4
	Introduction .....	4
	A year of overcoming challenges .....	4
	Becoming Well program .....	5
	Beyond our walls .....	6
	A note of gratitude .....	6
2.	Parish Council – Dr Joh Sheehan .....	7
	Short term .....	7
	Longer term .....	8
3.	Holistic Care Nursing Ministries – Rhonda Thorpe .....	9
	Staffing and Management Committee .....	9
	Activities .....	9
	Finances .....	10
4.	Community Chaplaincy – Wendy Robertson .....	11
	Relationship building .....	11
	Lockdown .....	12
	Highlights .....	12
5.	Children's Ministry – Wendy Robertson .....	12
6.	Youth – Tobias Nevile .....	14
7.	Finance – Paul Shelley .....	14
	Summary .....	14
	Income .....	15
	Operating Expenses .....	15
	Stewardship program .....	15
	Capital expenses .....	15
	Balance sheet .....	16
	Budget for 2022 .....	16
	Thanks .....	16
	Appendices .....	16
8.	COVID-19 - The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton .....	16
9.	Belonging and Caring .....	18
	Noah's Ark Pet Ministry – Archdeacon Anne .....	20
10.	Resources Coordination Team – Paul Shelley .....	21

11.	Colours of God - Anne Dudzinski .....	22
12.	Other Groups and Activities.....	22
	Book Club – Gillian Painter.....	22
	Community Garden – Dr Joh Sheehan.....	22
	Crafty Crew – Gillian Painter .....	23
	Dinner Club – Hilary Harris.....	23
	Exploring Faith Matters – Merri Bacon.....	24
	Have a Good Yarn – Sandra Ross .....	25
	Monastery of the Heart (MOTH) – Rob Maron.....	26
	Rainbow Play Group – Christine Mitchell .....	26
	Scrabble – Helen Boulton.....	27
	Tai Chi – Gillian Painter .....	27
13.	References .....	27
14.	Appendices.....	27

## 1. From the Rector - The Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton



2 Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton

*The three most important things to have are faith, hope and love.*

*But the greatest of them is love. 1 Cor 13.13 NIRV*

### Introduction

Churches are busy places. There are services to be run, fetes and dinners to be organised, small groups and garden days to be scheduled, not to mention renovations planned and new team members recruited. It's easy to get so busy that we forget our vision, values, and mission.

Holy Covenant's vision is to be a place for everyone, where people are encouraged to become what God made them to be through their ability, age, gender, orientation, and ethnicity. This vision is grounded in God's love. It becomes as real to the extent that it becomes manifest in us, individually and corporately. Our mission is to put this vision and these values to work so that our neighbourhood might thrive.

Love fills us, changes us and makes us better. It brings our life into perspective. It takes us beyond ourselves to imagine and create something better. Love is costly because generosity calls out for forgiveness and sacrifice. Love connects us with God, ourselves, our neighbours, and the world in which we live.

Learning to love is more difficult than it sounds. It's normal to love those who resemble us. Loving those who look, act, think, believe and dress differently takes all of God's help and some effort on our part. It is only through love that we can realise and accept who we truly are – beloved people who are neither as bad as they fear, nor as good as we might pretend.

We are learning how to abide in love as a community. Hope begins to swell when we discover how much we are loved for we can picture a tomorrow that is brighter than yesterday. Our faith grows stronger with love as we understand our Creator's heart, our Saviour's work, and the Spirit's presence in new ways.

### A year of overcoming challenges

As our nation experienced the global pandemic for a second year, Holy Covenant took several steps to grow in love. We considered Bishop Michael Curry's [\*the Way of Love\*](#) by exploring some spiritual practices that would enable us to follow and live a Jesus centred life. The pathway to reopening got wobbly when a new Delta outbreak resulted in another weeks long shutdown during August and mid-October. Although we were better prepared, the second shutdown proved much harder. As numbers climbed, anxiety climbed, and fatigue crept in. Nevertheless, we managed to continue providing worship and a centre of community for many at a time when our worlds all shrunk to the footprint of our homes and yards.

We began a new journey with Wendy Robertson as our new community chaplain. This role saw Wendy being encouraged to help us develop stronger and deeper connections with those who call our part of Belconnen home. A part of that journey involved expanding our capacity for hospitality to people in our neighbourhood. It also included the development of a *Becoming Well* program, where

a variety of mental health topics were discussed to reduce stigma and find better ways of engaging with conditions that often become debilitating.

In a quiet patch between storms a new parish plan, [\*Finding our Future 2021-2024\*](#), emerged in July. Plans are like packets of seeds. They need to be planted. Our plan sought to help clarify who we are, where we are going and how we might help our neighbourhood to thrive. The plan highlighted many opportunities for growth including:

- improving our facilities by planning to renovate the Rainbow Centre, developing our green spaces, enhancing the wifi, updating our signage and improving our capacity for fundraising
- developing our ministry team by redesigning the office role, expanding our capacity for community chaplaincy and students in ministry
- deepening spiritual growth through retreats, Diving Deeper sessions on worship, small groups, and family camps (pandemic permitting)
- enriching worship by refreshing the music and sanctuary teams and developing our digital ministry beyond Zoom church
- providing stronger pastoral care by helping volunteers understand their roles and contribution through improved communication and screening
- developing our youth ministry through Alpha and expanding the team's capacity
- building fruitful partnerships with our neighbours through our programs and engagement with environmental care.

While our ambitions can run ahead of our capacity, especially during a pandemic, we are finding ways to ensure that these opportunities leap from the written page into action. Still some things proved impossible to deliver like the retreat and camp which were cancelled for a second year in a row. The renovation process has moved more slowly than anticipated as the maze of Diocesan decision-making takes time to navigate in the best of seasons much less one where all the usual channels were disrupted.

## **Becoming Well program**

Becoming Well is a program that seeks to achieve three outcomes. First, to build stronger connections with our neighbourhood, particularly groups engaged in health advocacy. Second, to help people experiencing mental health challenges to move from helplessness to hopefulness, particularly if they are supporting a family member or friend. Third, to strengthen the capacity of our church members to provide pastoral care to others.

The program is led by Wendy Robertson, myself, Joh Sheehan and Anne McDowell. We were successful in applying for an ACT Government grant to fund external groups on a fee for service basis.

In 2021, we were able to host 5 evenings with several others delayed due to Covid. These events included:

6 May – Mind Matters for Youth: Supporting mental health and wellbeing: Angie Hazlehurst, registered counsellor and family therapist

6 June - Recognising the signs of family violence: Lifeline

1 July – Leaving Depression behind with Alistair Jones from Everyman

6 August – Digital Life for Families with Toni Hassan

3 September – postponed

1 October - Mind Matters for the Mature: Angie Hazlehurst, registered counsellor and family therapist\*

4 November – postponed

Attendance at these evenings ranged between 20-30 people, half of whom were from the parish with others coming from the community or other churches.

## **Beyond our walls**

In April 2021, I stepped down as Archdeacon for Chaplaincy. There was some grief in doing so for after six years in the role I had developed strong personal connections and a deep investment in chaplaincy across the Diocese. Nevertheless, the demands had become far greater than my scheduled availability. What was meant to be a 1 day per week role was regularly far larger and often emotionally demanding as I helped colleagues through seasons of conflict and turmoil.

I have retained my involvement with the Diocesan Public Issues Commission (PIC) and General Synod's Mission and Ministry Commission (MMC). For the PIC, I explored challenges associated with religious freedom. For the MMC I was planning a national event focussed on local mission. These plans have been put on hold indefinitely as a fraught General Synod where disagreements about the status and involvement of LGBTIAQ+ Anglicans will feature prominently is anticipated.

Just as our continent is drying out because of climate change, Australia's churches are becoming more conservative as anxiety about their place in the future of our nation grows. The desire for legislative protection is unlikely to diminish as the gap widens between community expectations concerning the full equality of gender and sexually diverse people and an organisational ethos that can be dangerous.

A more conservative, inward looking, and anxious Christianity makes for rich opportunities and challenges for an inclusive and diverse church like Holy Covenant. An outward looking church will find new opportunities to connect with people eager to find a community that treats all with dignity and inclusion. Colleagues who find it easier to talk about Jesus than to share what he said and to do what he did will find our ministry challenging. The pathway to growth will see us these explore these opportunities and embrace such challenges.

## **A note of gratitude**

Home is a place where we get to become who we are meant to be. Holy Covenant is my home and hopefully yours too. Here we get to enter more fully together into God's scandalous kingdom of love. What we have achieved has only come about by the goodwill, sacrifice and love of many people who help so many things happen.

I am indebted to Dr Joh Sheehan and her willingness to take on the role of Parish Council chair and Rector's Warden over the past year. Her desire to see us move ahead is inexhaustible. Allison Cooper-Stanbury and Deranie Jackson have been wonderful wardens who have shared the journey with much encouragement and wisdom. Paul Shelley's capacity to manage our finances well brought much peace of mind during the year. My partners in ministry – Anne Ranse, Anne Dudzinski and Connie Gerrity – continue to teach me about the nature and purpose of ministry. It's been a joy seeing the confidence, imagination and capacity of Wendy Robertson, Tobias Nevile and Lou Passmore grow. Rhonda Thorpe's passion care for people holistically and to help our volunteers flourish is an inspiration. Our digital ministry would not be possible without Mark Cooper-Stanbury, Anne and Martin Lange. Their help with cameras, Zoom and website has been inestimable enabling us to do far more than many churches during the shutdown and beyond.



Revisioning established roles is always an exercise in stretching and imagination. In October, Phil Bloomfield resigned as Office Administrator. A parish as busy as we are doesn't work without someone like Phil to make sure everything works and fits together with grace and calm. I was grateful for Phil's friendship and dedication to helping us grow. In November, Megan Watts joined the team as Office Manager as new needs for higher level writing and project management skills were becoming apparent. Her gifts are a blessing to me and the parish.

The hours offered to us often come on top of full and busy lives filled with work deadlines, children's sport, and elderly parents. I am appreciative to everyone whose willingness to engage in ministry makes such a difference to this church. You will read about their ministry in the pages that follow. Each is a wonderful gift.

I am also grateful to the nine young adults who shared an Alpha group with me during the year. While the brownies were delicious and the videos entertaining, seeing young people grow in faith and hope is its own reward. I learnt far more than anyone else.

Finally, I remember the saints who have entered God's feast ahead of us all. The faith of Andrew Hill, Brian Cox, Janet Williams, Jean Groves, Pat Ewing and Brianna Smith inspires me to practice the rhythms of love every day.



*3 Confirmation Service in November*

## **2. Parish Council – Dr Joh Sheehan**

Parish Council commenced the year with great energy and enthusiasm. We were excited about many new opportunities, including:

- having our new curate and community chaplain, Wendy Robinson, on board
- planning for our wellbeing series, which aimed to discuss mental health issues in a way that brought hope and healing to the wider community
- hosting our first community pizza night
- exploring options for renovation of the Rainbow Centre
- considering options for redevelopment of our grounds
- developing and endorsing a rental policy for the parish buildings.

In June we held our planning day and identified the following priorities:

### **Short term**

- keeping and enhancing the community chaplain role
- renovating the Rainbow Centre so that the space works better for kids' ministry
- redefining the role of parish administrator to better reflect the parish's organisation and communication needs.

## Longer term

- planning for the future of the Holistic Care Nursing Ministry
- succession planning for ministries associated with current honorary staff.

From these priorities, our parish plan emerged. As a parish we recommitted to our vision and values - to be a place that values what Jesus values: inclusion, diversity, compassion, justice, and freedom.

To live these values, we:

- launched our parish plan
- commenced our stewardship campaign, which has been very well supported with many parishioners making generous donations—thank you to everyone
- engaged local architect firm SQC Group to develop a concept plan for renovating the Rainbow Centre
- shared fellowship at our parish dinner, where Dr Andrew Leigh MLA encouraged and challenged us in our efforts to live our values in the Belconnen community and the wider world.

Then the Delta variant of COVID-19 took hold, we went back into lockdown, and had to readjust our priorities and focus.

Council considered how to facilitate as many activities and programs as possible in a COVID-safe way. Unfortunately, our retreat, camp and fete were cancelled. However, the resilience of our parish shined forth, with numerous creative alternatives including an online quiet afternoon and virtual morning teas (who would have thought of this before COVID)?

We continue to make steady progress towards our goals:

- led by our community chaplain and curate, our outreach ministry and our presence in the community has increased: many wonderful things have occurred, including a fabulous Christmas pageant in the Jamison Centre—thank you Wendy
- concept drawings for the Rainbow Centre renovation were presented at an online parish meeting, which were favourably received; the working group continues to consult with the architects, and we look forward to furthering progress in 2022
- the Office Manager position was redefined and, following interviews, Megan Watts was appointed—we are so blessed to have Megan on board
- a local landscape architect firm, The Living Room, has been engaged to develop a master plan for the precinct; the plan aims to increase our visibility and engagement with the community, and to provide welcoming spaces
- role descriptions for all the paid and voluntary roles have been developed; these will help us comply with new Diocesan safe ministry requirements, support existing volunteers, and encourage new volunteers
- our big gardening day and plant sale was a great way to celebrate the end of lockdown.

I look forward to seeing the parish continue to build on the above activities in 2022.

I would like to thank all our volunteers who generously give of their time and talents. I would especially like to thank Wayne for his wisdom and patience as he has mentored me in the role of Parish Council chair. Finally, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Paul Shelley, who has been our tireless Treasurer and is now stepping down after many years of faithful service.



Our happiness consists in sharing the happiness of God, the perfection of His ultimate freedom, the perfection of His love (Merton, 1988).

### **3. Holistic Care Nursing Ministries – Rhonda Thorpe**

*Nursing people back into life*

We had hoped that 2021 would be an easier and less challenging year than 2020 had been. However, that proved not to be the case across all HCNM programs: Covenant Care, Household Support, Client Support and Outings and Events.

#### **Staffing and Management Committee**

Staffing remained largely unchanged through 2021. Archdeacon Anne remained in her roles as Program Director, Deputy Chair of the Management Committee and Covenant Care and community client chaplain.

Rhonda, Lyn, and Jennifer worked through the year either in person or remotely as circumstances dictated. Sue Brearley, our back-up nurse, resigned from her position due to health issues. We have yet to find a replacement for Sue.

I would like to acknowledge the HCNM Management Committee: Bob Arthur, Anne Ranse, Sue Jordan, Anne McDowell, Paul Shelley, and Sandra Ross who provided oversight of all our programs and supported the staff during a challenging year. Special acknowledgement for Sandra who has stepped down from Parish Council and therefore from the Committee.

Also, we remember with gratitude those HCNM volunteers who have passed away, including Martin Wells for his valuable contribution to the Committee and to our programs more generally. We remember too, Andrew Hill as a great supporter of HCNM over many years.

#### **Activities**

We recommenced all our programs in February 2021 with COVID-safe protocols in place.

Monthly morning teas in the Rainbow Centre and monthly outings were offered to our community clients. Numbers were low for morning teas (4-6 clients on average), but outings were always well attended (averaging 10 plus clients and volunteer drivers).

Jennifer worked up to 25 hours a week with our community clients in their homes. Her focus was on decluttering and making homes safer and more liveable. She also supported a couple of clients needing help to sort through paperwork and assisted an elderly woman without relatives nearby to remain in her home. In addition, Jennifer has been the Office Administrator and kept the office organised and functioning.

We were able to use our funding to have a garden shed purchased and installed for a community client who is trying to declutter her home. While this was a significant cost to the program, it has allowed the client the space to keep the decluttering process going. This client has blossomed over time and from the initial safety of our programs, she has now moved on to other groups such as Tai Chi and the Crafty Crew and doesn't have time to come to our activities. This is an example of the ethos of nursing someone back into life in a holistic way.

Covenant Care (CC) resumed in February as well. On average there have been 10-12 clients each week. One client died during the year (a week or two after her 100th birthday) while one went into

fulltime care. Another client who is not vaccinated was unable to attend Covenant Care but still has contact with us. However, we were pleased to welcome back a former client who is struggling in a care facility and enjoys the stimulation and companionship which CC provides.

We have provided funding for a CC onsite hairdresser, counselling for some clients, tradespeople to assist with home maintenance needs and regular coffee dates for isolated clients.

It has not been possible to promote the program during 2020 and 2021 due to COVID limitations and uncertainties. We are planning an advertising strategy to try to attract new clients and volunteers for implementation in 2022 once things become more certain.

Our programs were on hold during the ACT lockdown period from early August to the end of October. Our return to CC was further delayed as Lyn, our RN lost her husband and Anne R was unwell and unable to attend. The program started up again once we had a nurse available and we managed 3 weeks in November and December before the Christmas closedown.

Unfortunately, we have had to twice postpone the planned 10th anniversary celebration for Covenant Care. It was slated for October and then February but is now on hold until later in the year. It will be a joyous occasion when we eventually get there.

There was an outing in November and a number of clients attended the parish Christmas community lunch in December. Once again, we were pleased to receive 10 hampers from Belconnen Rotary; these were distributed in December and very well received by all recipients.

During the lockdown period, the staff and volunteers were not idle. All clients received regular phone calls and CC clients could get a visit from Lyn, if needed. Rhonda kept volunteers in the loop with weekly emails and newsletters were sent out at regular intervals. All clients received a card and poppy for Remembrance Day in November.

HCNM has maintained the parish casserole bank during 2021. Demand has not been huge, but I want to thank those on roster for responding to needs as required.

Our core HCNM volunteer group of around 35 people has stayed the course with us and for that I am most grateful. We had a wonderful Volunteer Appreciation Evening on 2 December. It was great for everyone to be together.

## **Finances**

The stop/start nature of the programs in 2020 and 2021 has meant that the finances are in a relatively good position at this stage. However, Bob, Anne R and Rhonda met with the Bishop and Registrar in June and were advised that the Victoria Shakespeare Trust grant of \$105,000 per annum would be reduced over the coming few years. If the programs are to continue, HCNM will need to find other sources of funding.

Since that meeting, Wayne, Bob, Rhonda, and Anne have been working on various options to try to secure new funding to continue and build on our programs. We have been working with academics at the School of Nursing at the University of Canberra discussing how they might be able to assist us including a possible evaluation of the Covenant Care program. As well, we met with the Diocesan Archdeacon, Tom Henderson Brooks to update him on our progress and seek his support.

We will be looking at a possible submission to the ACT Government for funding and whether we can obtain Deductible Gift Register (DGR) status to help us to obtain tax-deductible donations from other bodies and individuals. We may need to seek a partnership with another organisation such as

Anglicare to receive Government funds or donations. Progress to date has been limited and it will likely take some time to work out a strategy, seek support and, hopefully, find new avenues of funding.

The Diocese has not yet advised what funding will be available for the 2022 calendar year, however, we have sufficient funds in reserve to operate comfortably for at least the first quarter.

Thank you to the Canberra Southern Cross Club for its donation of \$10,000 used to purchase hot lunches for Covenant Care clients. National Seniors also gave a generous donation towards recliner chairs for Covenant Care, and I was pleased to speak at their February 2021 meeting. As always, the support from Belconnen Rotary is invaluable.

## **4. Community Chaplaincy – Wendy Robertson**

During a global pandemic - what an interesting time to start a new role encouraging and nurturing community! COVID certainly disrupted many of my plans but enabled others in new ways. I fast learnt the value and importance of flexibility and resilience.

### **Relationship building**

In February, I began my new role and started initiating relationships in our local community. My main goal was to discover the local community's needs by listening well. One of my questions to people I met with was: "How can Holy Covenant be a good neighbour to you?" One local's response: "Every church is giving out food, but which churches are helping people with their significant mental/emotional/psychological needs?" triggered my involvement in the Mental Wellbeing group. This involvement included helping to apply for funding and organising talks throughout the year.

Some needs in our local neighbourhood include:

- loneliness
- parenting help
- somebody to listen
- mental illness
- domestic abuse
- isolation.

To combat some of these issues, we started our monthly pizza nights, which hosted up to 50 people – a mix of Holy Covenant parishioners and local neighbours. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we haven't been able to have a pizza night for a while. I'm looking forward to hopefully resuming them in March.

I learnt that the fete is a real highlight for our neighbours, and a potential opportunity to advertise the many activities that occur here. Some people I have spoken to at Jamison did not know there is a church here and suggested that better signage might help visibility.

I have developed a good relationship with local principals, and they have felt comfortable relaying the needs and problems they see in their school communities. They have referred struggling families in our neighbourhood, and I have been happy to assist on behalf of Holy Covenant.

We had one community morning tea before lockdown, which included three locals. I want to explore this idea further in 2022 once the current Omicron wave has stabilised - potentially hosting a drop-in morning tea, where everyone can be welcomed and have company.

## Lockdown

To make the most of lockdown time, I attended different training seminars virtually. Throughout the year, I've learnt about ways to offer support to families affected by suicide, developing communities inclusive of people with a disability, domestic and family violence, a review of men's behaviour management programs, community development in Australian suburbs and young men's mental health.

Locals that I've met, pizza night people and parishioners were the recipients of a small bag of lockdown cookies from 'Friends at Holy Covenant', an attempt to reach out and care for our community when being together in person was impossible. My apologies to those in apartments, or if your address is not listed in the parish roll, who missed out on cookies. Come and chat with me if you'd like to be on the list for the next lockdown! 🍪

## Highlights

Highlights of this year included meeting local ministers and elders of churches in our neighbourhood and sharing our visions for the flourishing of our area. I am keen to help develop ways to partner together to care for the 'hood well. Another highlight was speaking about my vision for community chaplaincy at the parish dinner. I have also loved the opportunities I've had to pastorally care for our own Holy Covenant community in 2021, providing a listening ear, a hug or a meal to those in need.

Approximately 120 people came to the wonderful carols and nativity play brought by our Holy Covenant family, including several family groups that I had not met. I was so glad that I spent the time to apply for permission to host the family Christmas carols outside, near Jamison. It was held just when Omicron reared its ugly head.

In 2022, I am looking forward to establishing and building community relationships and helping all in our neighbourhood to thrive.

## 5. Children's Ministry – Wendy Robertson

*Holy Covenant's children's ministry operates during the 10am service during school terms. It specifically caters for kids in years K-6.*

2021 was another year disrupted by COVID yet abounding with opportunities for the growth of children's ministry at Holy Covenant.

When we were able to meet in person, our usual pattern was to play an active game together, settle into a quieter time commencing with our opening prayer and ritual:

- God's love shines deep down and all around (candle is lit)
- we open our ears to hear God's stories (Bible is lifted)

- we open our hearts to receive God's love (hands are placed over chest)
- we open our hands to live in God's way (hands are reached out).

Entering the purple room, we listen to each other as we explore the story for the day. Usually, I follow the lectionary's gospel reading and fashion a godly play accordingly. Then the kids are invited to respond in words, craft, drawing, Lego etc. I am looking forward to attending a godly play training session in March.



*4 Jesus is Risen*

Currently, there are 12 'regular' attendees and 20 'on the books.' When all 20 turn up, space is a big issue. We are currently not dividing the kids according to age; instead, they split into groups according to interest after the story.

We had a Zoom kid's church period during the lock-down, which ran more smoothly than 2020 due to everyone's prior experience. It was lovely to see the kid's smiling faces weekly on Zoom, and I am grateful that after a long week of online schooling, they would regularly turn up and explore God stories with me.



*5 Families enjoying the Nativity Play and Carols*

Highlights during the year include:

- performing pantomimes during the 10 am service
- kid's Easter service
- building 'Jesus transporters' when learning about ascension
- a Zoom talk from Joh Sheehan for creation Sunday
- pizza nights
- baking bread during the lesson on 'Jesus, the Bread of Life'
- meeting back in person after a long lock-down
- creating a calm, reflective space with our 'shalom' candle mats
- family and community nativity/Christmas carols event.

My final project for CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) was on the pastoral care of children. I was privileged to research and speak to some incredible leaders in this field. My hope is for the children at Holy Covenant to know that they are listened to and supported as they grow in relationship with God, each other, and the Holy Covenant community.

My thanks for the Parish's continued support of children's ministry; your prayers and assistance are greatly welcomed. I look forward to (hopefully) having a year free from lock-down and exploring living the Jesus-way with Holy Covenant kids.

## 6. Youth – Tobias Nevile

*Holy Covenant's youth ministry operates during the 10am service and fortnightly on Friday nights during school term. It specifically caters for young people in years 7-12.*

In 2021, the Youth program had great success and engagement, despite continued disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the ACT lockdown in August-October, our gatherings again took place online, though we were able to meet in person at the beginning and end of the year. As in 2020, the youth group continued to meet and explore our term themes, ask questions, and gain insight, either online or face-to-face.

Through the year, the youth group met on Sunday mornings for a bible study, as well as fortnightly for our Fruitful Friday events. These were both well attended by youth, who responded positively to events and had a high level of engagement. Through the year we explored such themes as spirituality & art, as well as diving into bible stories and spending term four looking at the life of Jesus in reverse chronology. These were explored on both our Sundays and Fridays, with the Fridays also focusing on games and social activities as we build up the community of the youth group.

Owing to the pandemic, we were once again unable to run our youth camp in the winter, which was disappointing, if unavoidable. It is hoped with such high vaccination rates and a more open situation in 2022, it will be feasible to run the camp this year. Despite the loss of the camp and a stretch of the year online, the youth group continues to grow, which has been encouraging and exciting for the leadership team.

Looking ahead to the year to come, the youth leadership team is already setting plans for the year, with a Lenten study as well as our usual programs in Term One. I would like to thank my fellow leaders in 2021, Remus Douglas & Lou Passmore, who were both crucial members of the team and contributed greatly to the program we were able to run. I would also like to thank Wayne and the parents for providing us with encouragement and support when we needed it, and the community here at Holy Covenant for uplifting and supporting this team.

## 7. Finance – Paul Shelley

### Summary

The pattern of our income and expenses in 2021 continued to be largely influenced by our response to the COVID-19 restrictions as it was in 2020.

There was an increase of 3.5% in offerings over the 2020 figure, and there was a significant increase in fund-raising income, largely because of the successful silent auction at the Parish dinner. Income from hire of facilities was lower.

Staffing and on-costs were much as expected, but other staffing-related costs were higher as the parish assumed responsibility for the Rector's car which had previously been paid for by the Diocese.

Operating costs and worship & ministry expenses were down by 20%, largely reflecting a reduction in the level of parish activity caused by COVID. Also, the Diocese suspended the monthly contribution from parishes from September to November.

Because of all of this, the parish ended the year with a small surplus of \$2,400, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$35,000.

## Income

Income from offerings in 2021 was 3.5% higher than in 2020. Almost 95% of offerings were received via direct credit and the Anglican Direct system. We are very grateful for the faithful response of the parish community in continuing to support the ministry at Holy Covenant while COVID restrictions affect the way in which we operate.

Income from donations was up by 30% largely as a response to the stewardship program; most of this was support for the community chaplaincy program. Income from facilities hire was lower, mainly owing to the reluctance of our hirers to commit to regular bookings in a time of COVID uncertainty and the closure of parish facilities from mid-August to mid-November.

Income from fund-raising activities was higher than the previous year, mainly due to the successful silent auction at the Parish dinner in July, but lower than the budget that anticipated the fete that didn't happen.

The parish benefitted from the Diocese's participation in the Australian Government's JobKeeper program which operated from January to March.

## Operating Expenses

Clergy and staff salaries and associated on-costs were higher than in 2020 reflecting the commencement of our Curate and Community Chaplain. Other staff-related expenses were higher as we assumed responsibility in May for the Rector's car when he concluded his Archdeaconry responsibilities.

Operating, Ministry & Worship, and Property & Equipment expenses were much the same as in 2020.

The Diocese suspended the monthly contribution from parishes from September to November as a measure of their support of parish operations.

Our annual Wider Work contribution was reduced to \$10,000 by Parish Council to reduce the budgeted deficit. Wider Work payments were made to five organisations on our three-year support list:

Embracing Ministries	\$2,000
Tikondane	\$2,000
Companion House	\$2,000
St John's Care	\$2,000
Anglican Board of Mission	\$2,000

## Stewardship program

There was a good response to the stewardship program in August. Some \$5,800 was donated to support the community chaplain and \$13,400 was donated for the Rainbow Centre renovations. In addition, several parishioners increased their regular offerings.

## Capital expenses

During 2021 there was capital expenditure of \$5,400 comprising:

- audio-visual operator deck
- Rainbow Centre renovations master plan
- foldback speakers (covered by donation).



## **Balance sheet**

The balance sheet as of 31 December 2021 shows that the parish has significant funds in both Commonwealth Bank and AIDF accounts. A large proportion of these funds are held for the Holistic Care Nursing Ministry and result from:

- receipt of the annual grant via the Diocese from the Shakespeare Trust coupled with lower costs owing to a suspension of activities, particularly Covenant Care for parts of the year
- the building up of a fund for replacement of the wheelchair van and other essential equipment.

The balance sheet also shows an amount of some \$5,000 which are bequests from the estates of two former parishioners. This money is being held by the Anglican Church Property Trust (Diocese of C&G) in accordance with diocesan finance regulations.

There were no further drawdowns from the AIDF loan. The loan balance currently stands at \$25,000.

## **Budget for 2022**

Key points regarding the draft budget for 2022:

- offertories are based on a 3% increase on the 2021 amount
- increased income from fund-raising as we expect to have one or two fete-type events as well as parish dinner
- income from hiring facilities higher than in 2021 as some groups have returned, but we are looking for other potential hirers
- a deficit of \$18,000 on an accrual basis is predicted.

## **Thanks**

I want to acknowledge the invaluable support from:

- Doreen Matters—for assistance in preparing the monthly and annual accounts, the monthly JobKeeper returns to the Diocese, the quarterly Business Activity Statement, and for general accounting advice
- Phil Bloomfield—for doing the bookkeeping until his resignation in October
- David Kennemore—for handling the weekly banking and for overseeing the counting roster
- Wendy Elkhuisen—for the annual audit of our accounts.

## **Appendices**

More detail is available in the appendices to the Annual Report:

- income and expenditure (Appendix 1 – Statement of Income and Expenditure)
- balance sheet (Appendix 2)
- budget (Appendix 3)
- draft budget for 2022 (Appendix 4)
- auditor's report (Appendix 5).

## **8. COVID-19 - The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton**

Few things in life are worth trying twice. Global pandemics do not make the list. The parish weathered the COVID storm again, not once but twice.

After a year of disruption, many activities resumed as the ACT moved into the COVID normal phase on 19 February 2021. Every shift in phase saw our COVID plan updated. The shift to 'normal' coincided with the introduction of QR codes to enable ACT Health to track contacts more efficiently in case of an outbreak. Check-in Canberra replaced paper records for attendance at parish events and worship. Reduced risk saw the emphasis on the cleaning regime relax, a pattern that was exhausting to the sides persons who endeavoured to wipe down chairs before and after services.

Attendance at worship rebounded to near pre-pandemic levels. The introduction of online options proved a popular way of connecting especially with people who felt vulnerable to the virus. Those who preferred to stay or who were unable to leave due to tight residential care requirements were able to connect with us each week.

Zoom enabled people to worship and meet at 8am, 10am and 5pm. By offering a live broadcast instead of a recording people largely preserved their patterns of attendance. The team of Mark Cooper-Stanbury, Anne and Martin Lange proved invaluable, keeping not only the cameras operating but optimising the sound quality too. Congregational worship is not a use for which Zoom is designed yet they nevertheless made it work.

An outbreak of the Delta variant saw the ACT enter lockdown on 12 August. All worship and group activities either transitioned into online forums or were suspended. In response to the need to stay connected, the parish developed:

- a cuppa and chat group which attracted retired members of the congregation
- a small group book study was established, exploring Brian McLaren's, Faith After Doubt
- Youth Alpha and other children and youth programs transitioned online
- an online retreat was held in October
- a street library was set up at the doors of the church offering books, puzzles and DVDs.

Holy Covenant members readily embraced the opportunity to be vaccinated when they became available while many other churches struggled with pervasive misinformation and hesitancy, often due to concerns about government intrusion and efficacy. Members accepted the limitations with grace. Problems with non-compliant churches saw rule changes introduced and our broadcast team was reduced from 4 people to 3 people accordingly. While other places struggled with members who believed that the blood of Jesus was better than any vaccine, Holy Covenant proved rational, sensible and adept at using new technology to meet ministry goals.

This second shutdown weighed much more heavily on parish members. While better policies and procedures were in place, people were very fatigued and frustrated, particularly as any plan had to be ready to change with little notice. The parish staff team met online every week to check-in about isolated parishioners and with each other during a time of heightened pastoral need. Motivation fell, distractions multiplied as working from home became stressful especially for families with young children in small homes.

As vaccination rates improved, in-person worship finally resumed on 17 October with attendance capped at 25 people. Restrictions were eased in a phased manner in November. The 1 per 2 square meter rule meant that 100 people could gather in the worship, a restriction that would affect only the largest of funeral and Christmas services.

Christmas services proceeded as normal. The only change was for the children's service which was held over on the grounds outside the Jamison Centre. Around 120-140 people typically attend this

event when it is held inside the worship centre. Given the limitations an outdoor event seemed more appropriate.

With things feeling a little like normality an outbreak of the Omicron variant in January 2022 saw consternation rise during a normally quiet time in the parish calendar. Plans were revised again. Morning teas were taken outside. The emphasis shifted from cleaning to mask wearing, given the new variant's greater transmissibility via aerosolised droplets. A generous gift from a parish family enabled the parish to purchase 3 air purifiers for the worship centre in February. This gift will prove invaluable when Autumnal cool weather sees the doors closed and recycled heating activated.

Our culture of pragmatism and valuing scientific, fact-based information served us well. Whenever other variants emerge, no doubt at the most inconvenient times, the Parish will weather these challenges too. While some members have caught COVID, our Parish had been spared the grief, disappointment and disconnection that has enveloped many throughout the world.

## 9. Belonging and Caring

*Belonging and Caring is the team that coordinates pastoral care and visitation, newcomer integration, and parish social events. It is comprised of the Revd Dr Wayne Brighton (coordinator), Libby Warren (secretary), Archdeacon Anne Ranse, the Revd Anne Dudzinski, the Revd Connie Gerrity, Wendy Robertson, Phyl Holmes, Carol Sherman and Beth Heyde. Carol Kubanek will join the team in 2022.*

As a team we aim to develop the relational dimensions between congregation members, guests and those who live in the neighbourhood (see Diagram 1). Strong connections with each other (IN) enable us to build deeper relationships with God (UP), our neighbours (OUT) and those with whom we share God's mission (WITH).

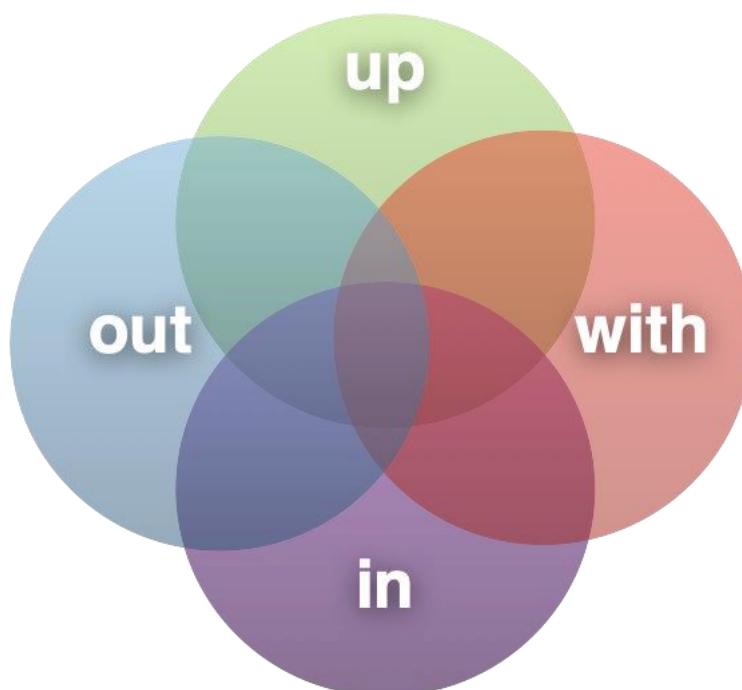


Figure 6 Relational dimensions of church life

Engagement with parish life requires time, energy and attention, all of which are in short supply. The development of our social life enables people to know and care for each other. When people care for one another the more likely they are to belong.

The team fosters caring through several programs:

- *Welcoming* – Phyl Holmes connects with guests and visitors each Sunday. Guests receive a letter of welcome and an invitation to ‘second communion’ at Ricardo’s where they have an opportunity to learn more about how they might wish to connect further.
- *Emergency food* – the parish maintains a supply of freezer ready meals for those in need of a main meal. Members contribute to supplies and the team making casseroles available to those who have need.
- *Prayer* – Rosemary Kennemore runs the prayer vine passing along requests to a larger team of intercessors on a confidential basis.
- *Cards* – Carol Sherman prepares and posts cards to congregation members as a way of conveying care especially at time of illness, bereavement or in celebration of important milestones.
- *Visiting* – The Revd Anne Dudzinski conducts fortnightly worship services at Calvary Haydon Retirement Community and Kangara Waters Aged Care Centre. During 2021, this ministry was disrupted substantially by COVID protocols that saw visitors excluded for much of the year. Beth Heyde visits members and those identified at Bill McKenzie Gardens who have no family or regular visitors. Again, access was often denied during the pandemic. Particular attention is given to the pastoral needs of our most elderly members. Many congregation members visit those who are ill or shut-in throughout the year. Their engagement makes a great deal of difference.

The group also has oversight for developing the parish’s social calendar of events. These events are intentionally fun, light and engaging so that members might make new friends and renew existing friendships. These events include:

- *Community lunches* – organised with help from the office, these events are held at midday 2 or 3 times a year during school holidays. These provide an opportunity for older members to connect in a relaxed environment.
- *Pizza nights* – organised by Wendy Robertson, these monthly events provide an easy point to connect with others in the neighbourhood. Many contacts have come through Wendy’s school gate friendships.
- *Cuppa and a chat* – organised during lockdowns, these weekly online events were led by Wendy Robertson as a way for older congregation members to stay in touch with each other when in-person gatherings were prohibited. During January 3 morning teas were held in person outside in a covid safe way.
- *Women’s dinners and afternoon teas* – Libby Warren coordinates 3 or 4 events through the year with help from many in the parish.
- *Men’s dinners* – Quentin Grafton and Colin Lyons coordinate 2-3 events through the year with a speaker and wine to go around.
- *Trivia night* – on 25 June, Jayne Murray and Russell Judd organised a fun night of challenges enjoyed by over 50 people.
- *Parish dinner* – the major event of the year was held in the worship centre with over 100 people attending. Catering was provided with the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP speaking about the church’s contribution to community life.
- *Great big garden day* – held in October this is an annual chance to clean up the green spaces with a BBQ providing lunch and café for those in need of relief from outdoor labours.

- *Street Library* – during lockdown the bookshelf from the Rainbow Centre was moved to outside the church door. This was well used and contributed to, both by congregation members and the local community.

Overall, the team aims to ensure that every person has something they might wish to attend with particular attention given to the pastoral needs of our most elderly members.

### **Noah's Ark Pet Ministry – Archdeacon Anne**

Since the Pet Ministry has begun there has been a steady flow of prayer requests, personal support to pet owners in the congregation, in the community, among homeless street people, interstate and even with our pet sister ministry in USA. Examples include:

- prayer requests are for sick animals, for healing or for pre surgery/post-surgery prayers
- support to people who have lost a pet through death
- assistance to people who are looking for a new pet.

One success story here was a person in an aged care independent living unit at Calvary Bruce who was wanting a small companion dog after hers had passed away. In liaison with a local vet, we were able to locate a small poodle that was looking to be rehomed. Both poodle and the new owner are very happy together.

Support is often given to a homeless person who sleeps with his beautiful dog in his car. This support is just to make sure they have all they need, and the dog has some special treats and warm blankets. I contact this person regularly and both dog and person are welcoming.

Through a referral from St John's Care, I was able to assist a person with PTSD grieving at the death of the family therapy dog aged 14 years and through prayer and support was then able to assist her to purchase a new pup from the RSPCA. This incident was so miraculous from the very start that the referral came from St Johns Care. (Thank you, Beth.) The mind dog training group in Canberra had recommended a special breed dog to train as a PTSD therapy dog and what on earth would be our chances of finding such a pup? We put this to prayer and the RSPCA called to say they had just received a pup of the breed we were looking for. (Thank you, God!) It was a great joy to be able to see this family receive their new pup.



*7 Collecting the puppy from the RSPCA*

Once a month I join the Perfect Paws Pet Ministry in Boston USA by Zoom, for the wonderful service they have for pets and pet owners. It is so well done and often I will be called on to do the reading, or the prayers in the service. It's fun!

The annual Blessings of the Pets for Holy Covenant was held in 2021 by Zoom during a Sunday service in October. 34 people logged in with their pets and following the service Pet Blessing Certificates were issued to them by mail.

## **10. Resources Coordination Team – Paul Shelley**

Members: Bob Arthur, Cath D’Cruz, Harris Boulton, Noel Montgomery, Paul Shelley.

Several monthly working bees in 2021 had to be cancelled owing to COVID-19 restrictions. When working bees were held, the focus was on cleaning surface drains and gutters and roof gutters, replacing light globes, cleaning the aircon filters, checking smoke alarms, gardening, sweeping paths, and cleaning windows.

The working bees were supplemented by a Great Big Garden Day on 27 November which was well supported by the parish community and doubled as a good social occasion and a chance to hold a mini garden stall.

The team also coordinates repair and maintenance visits by electricians, plumbers, the carpet cleaner, and other tradies.

Major activities carried out in 2021 were:

- Construction of a raised area at the back of the church for the audio-visual system (coordinated by Mark Cooper-Stanbury)
- Installation of handrails on each side of the Sanctuary (this required the removal of two of the old heaters)
- Mandatory 5-yearly inspection and certification of the photovoltaic system
- Carpet cleaning
- Replacement of the light fitting in the accessible toilet
- Installation of a dishwasher in the Rainbow Centre kitchen
- Blind installed in Rainbow Centre kitchen to replace old curtain
- Repair of aircon system in Mushroom and relocation of external fan unit to the back wall
- Development of an asset management plan for parish council
- Repair of the computer projector
- Repair of the security light in western carpark
- Repair of leak in water supply line to Worship Centre
- Upgrade of the wifi system to improve reception in the HCNM office and the Rainbow Centre (coordinated by Phil Bloomfield).

Thanks to the team and all others who helped out at working bees during the year and to Helen Boulton for her memorable morning teas.

Working bees are generally held on the third Saturday of each month (COVID permitting). You are all welcome to join us any time from 9 am to 12 noon for some wholesome, creative, and productive fellowship and outdoor therapy: ‘Come when you can; leave when you must’.

## 11. Colours of God - Anne Dudzinski

The change of the name “Colours of God” from Rainbow Fellowship is now complete.

We met on the first Sunday for 8 months but had to cancel for Covid safety for 3 including the Christmas lunch. No outing was possible.

We have 8 adults coming gladly plus their support person or family member. Our team was Anne Ranse, Libby Warren, Ken Wedgwood and Anne Dudzinski.

To have more presence and sense of place for the participants, some craft items are displayed e.g., paper donkeys and palm leaves along the altar, a paper doll chain with their friends’ names on them.

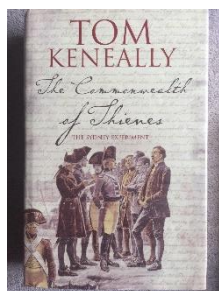
This is a delightful and important ministry and with some increasing health issues in some of the team, we would welcome additions to the team. Speak to any of us about coming to see what it’s like or just turn up.



8 A happy participant

## 12. Other Groups and Activities

### Book Club – Gillian Painter



9 One of the books explored in 2021

This group enjoyed a range of books chosen by members from the ACT Library list. These were discussed at meetings as well as members’ other reading. Members’ books are shared. Meetings are every third Thursday of the month at 2 pm in the Rainbow Center.

Our end of year break up was at Two Before Ten in Aranda.

New members are welcome

### Community Garden – Dr Joh Sheehan

Members of the Community Garden continue to meet regularly, growing produce, knowledge and sharing healthy, organic lunches within COVID restrictions.

Like many activities COVID stunted our capacity to grow our membership. In April we joined with the community chaplaincy ministry in a letterbox drop, inviting the community to join us. These hopes and prayers were temporarily withered, with Delta hitting a week later.

Core members have continued since the gardens commenced, with new members joining throughout the year.



Joh and Allison were pleased to provide guidance to St Albans Lyons as they sought to establish a similar ministry.

We recently celebrated our third birthday and look forward to a productive and fruitful year in 2022.

In conjunction with the precinct master plan, our dream for 2022 is to develop a food forest. For those who are not familiar with the concept of a food forest:

“A ‘food forest’ is a system of gardening using a diversity of mostly perennial (long-lived species, as opposed to annual vegetables) chosen and arranged such as they complement and support each other, minimising weeds, pests and maintenance while providing a rich variety of harvests” (My Smart Garden, n.d.).

The layers include:

- large/small tree layer e.g., fruit trees
- shrub layer e.g., tomatoes rosemary, berries, brambles
- herbaceous layer e.g., asparagus, rhubarb, artichokes
- ground cover layer e.g., strawberries, warrigal green
- climbers e.g., grapes, kiwi fruit
- root crop layer e.g., carrots and parsnips.



*10 Community Garden produce*

I would like to thank Allison and Mark Cooper-Stanbury and George and Connie Gerrity for their ongoing support of this ministry.

### **Crafty Crew – Gillian Painter**



*11 Some cards from the Crafty Crew*

This is a group suited to those who enjoy creating and recycling cards in a chatty atmosphere. Lockdowns and some health concerns of members led to sneaky meetings in walkways or letterbox drops so members could continue to work throughout the year.

500 Christmas cards were provided to St John's Care for hampers. Other cards were used by Church groups, sold at Church for general use or given to Anglicare for sale in Op. Shops

The group meets monthly

### **Dinner Club – Hilary Harris**

Dinner Club happens on the first Tuesday of the month, COVID restrictions permitting. The Club has been highly successful and has been running for at least 3 years. We meet at the Southern Cross Club at Jameson at 5.45pm, to share a happy hour and a meal together. In December 2021, 20 people attended.

## **Exploring Faith Matters – Merri Bacon**

EfM or Exploring Faith Matters (Education for Ministry Australia) as it became officially known in 2020, took a slightly different form in the parish in 2021. An information evening was held in early March and a small group of 3 people from parishes across North Canberra and 1 mentor Merri Bacon from Holy Covenant convened the group in a pared back version. Our second mentor, Nich Hills from Christ Church Hawker took a sabbatical year and returned to full-time employment whilst maintaining his connection with EFM through online mentor training activities during 2021.

Due to the small numbers in 2021, EfM Australia kindly suspended their group fee for the group which enabled the group to proceed without an onerous financial burden on the parish. The group gelled very well and had some very stimulating discussion on Year 1 and Yr 4 readings, with 2 participants reading Year 1 and a returnee to EfM reading Yr 4. Year 1 were introduced to theological reflections and most members were able to share their spiritual autobiographies before lockdown hit.

The theme for the EfM material for 2021 was 'Living into the Journey with God', which was a very interesting theme particularly during COVID times.

Unfortunately like many other parish and other activities, COVID did impact us. We commenced meeting in person in the Rainbow Centre but by August when the second lockdown hit us, we moved to Zoom. We tried this for about 3 weeks however Zoom became too onerous for the group as we were all experiencing COVID and Zoom fatigue. We took a school holiday break which took us almost to the end of lockdown.

During the break Merri attended online Mentor training activities run by EfM Australia which were well attended by mentors across Australia and from Hong Kong. This was most informative and maintaining connections was an important theme for the year amongst all groups due to COVID.

Once lockdown lifted, we resumed in person, however unfortunately one member decided not to return to complete the year due to personal circumstances. This then took our small numbers down from four to three. The slightly smaller group continued with the remainder of the year's material and joined with the Manuka group in late November to reflect on a thoughtful range of Interlude resources around Indigenous Spirituality. This joint gathering was a particular highlight of the year for both the groups, being the first larger gathering in person for the year for EfM.

A small social gathering was also held at the end of the year for our End of Year Celebration, followed by a special evening of prayer, reflection, and thanksgiving to conclude the year. The group has also met again in February 2022 to catch up a few weeks missed due to lockdown, sickness and other activities which had put us behind our usual timeline.

Another highlight in the Parish during 2021 was seeing EfM participants from the previous year group following their passions and concluding a very well attended interdenominational Climate Study held at Holy Covenant as one of our Lenten study options, which members of the parish participated in. All who attended would agree this was a very timely and important study which had capacity numbers of about 25 attendees.

Nich and Merri also managed to present a Certificate of Completion to one of our Graduating members from Curtin Uniting Church in the middle of the year. This was a special occasion and much enjoyed by those who attended. Merri also gathered with members of the 2020 group for fellowship meal on the weekend just prior to the lockdown in preparation for the presentations. Unfortunately,

the lockdown prevented a planned presentation to Holy Covenant's Quentin Grafton, however we hope to do that in person at Holy Covenant in the very near future if not before this AGM.

Thank you again to Wayne for his support and interest in EfM and to members of the parish who have prayed, shown interest, and supported Merri in her mentoring of EfM during 2021 and over previous years. Your prayers for the group are greatly appreciated.

EfM has been advertised again for 2022 across all northside parishes of the Diocese and through previous participants from Curtin Uniting, and here at Holy Covenant. If anyone is interested in finding out more about EfM or would like to return to EfM after a break, please chat with Merri.

The current group would be delighted to welcome a few new members and to this end an evening where you can ask questions and experience what EfM is like will be held in the Rainbow Centre on Thursday 10 March at 7:30pm. If you plan to attend, please let Merri know on [merri.bacon@bigpond.com](mailto:merri.bacon@bigpond.com) or on 6251 1110, if possible, prior to the day so that we know numbers for catering and covid purposes. Please continue to keep EfM and Merri in your prayers as she plans the year ahead. If you are considering whether EfM might be what you are looking for in 2022, please prayerfully consider it and whether this might be the year for you to take that step in your exploration of faith.



**EXPLORING FAITH MATTERS**  
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY AUSTRALIA

## Have a Good Yarn – Sandra Ross

This community social group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month 10am to 12 noon in the Rainbow Centre. As the group name implies it is a chance for people to meet others for a good old yarn or to just sit and knit/crochet/embroider – or maybe even just sit and listen.

Our popular morning tea halfway through the gathering is also a chance for one- to -one chats. Worthy of note are the yarn items produced over the last 2-3 years that have been donated to St John's Care – beanies, rugs, and scarves.



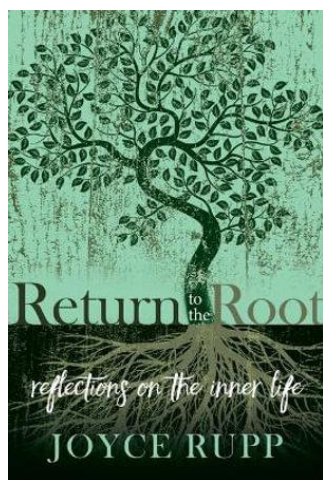
*12 Some of the yarners in the Rainbow Centre*

The group has around 20 members on its list and an average attendance of 10 members each meeting.

A wonderful chance to socialise in a supportive, inclusive environment.

## Monastery of the Heart (MOTH) – Rob Maron

While traditionally MOTH would meet at the Rainbow Centre, COVID restrictions have pushed the



13 Rupp, J. 2021. *Return to the Root*

group to online meetings via Zoom. Our core group of 10-12 people gather on the first Friday of the month (Feb-Dec) from 10.30am until midday. Generally, we explore a set book on spirituality, faith or belief, discussing one chapter each month.

In 2022 we are studying 'Return to the Root' by Joyce Rupp. Here's a sample of the writing from early in the book:

An expression of St. Irenaeus of Lyons has been passed down through the ages: "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." I have cherished that notion of engaging life with enthusiasm. Unfortunately, I have often set this conviction aside, becoming lost in too much work or in absorbing situations requiring acceptance rather than useless worry.

That is why I recommit myself this year to engage as totally as I can with the life I have been given, to use my physical senses – these guests of my body – to welcome and explore what comes my way. When I am in tune with what I see, hear, taste, touch and smell, an amazing amount of joy comes into view. This is when I can honestly say, "I love life" (Rupp, 2021).

The group is free to join, apart from the cost of the book. This year's study guide is available from the Parish Office, or can be downloaded from <https://www.avemariapress.com/products/return-to-the-root-discussion-guide>

## Rainbow Play Group – Christine Mitchell

Meets in the Worship Centre 10.00- 12.00 Fridays, during School Terms.

Playgroup started tentatively with low attendance in February 2021. This was surprising after the surge in demand in the second half of 2020 as lockdown was reversed. Several of our core families had moved geographically, or their children had moved on to day care, preschool, or school. In response we contacted the Playgroup Association to reverse the 'no vacancies' listing on the group established when space limits applied. As a result, numbers gradually increased including families from Pakistan, Bangladesh and the United States who were new to Canberra.

It was good to see confidence and connection begin to develop for children and adults over play and coffee.

COVID protocols have been maintained throughout the year including QR sign in, hand washing and the request that parents provide individual snack packs for their children. Parents have cooperated by keeping their children at home when there are illnesses in the family.

On August 12 a new lockdown was announced, and schools closed for face-to-face learning. This signalled the effective end of Playgroup for the year. We followed the cautious advice of the Playgroup Association so even as schools began to reopen in November it was suggested that outdoor - only events occur in parks and in small numbers. Social distancing is difficult with toddlers, and we had limited outdoor space. We held a final Hello-Goodbye Christmas get together on 3 December and this allowed us to reconnect and to farewell those children who were moving to school in 2022.

The COVID pandemic has eroded confidence in socialising at a time when families are more isolated and juggling working from home with childcare. Migrant families are most adversely affected as they cannot draw on their accustomed extended family network and sometimes lack fluency in English. There remains a strong need for the Playgroup, but it will experience increased fluctuations in attendance as many women return to the workforce and must lock in childcare bookings. Grandparents are also increasingly called on to bring children to the group.

We are fortunate to have the Playgroup Association who continue to publicise our group and direct newcomers to our door. We also receive word of mouth recommendations which supplement the group.

Thank you yet again to Heather Shelley and Frances Mackay for their continued support each week.

### **Scrabble – Helen Boulton**

Our Scrabble group meets each Thursday (9:30am-12noon) in the Rainbow Centre. The group is small, of differing abilities and is a lot of fun. Scrabble keeps us enjoying new words and challenging us along the way. We met for most of last year, except of course during the ACT lockdown.

We welcomed a new member last year and are always keen to see new faces to join us for an enjoyable morning which includes morning tea.

### **Tai Chi – Gillian Painter**

A group meeting in the Worship Centre Wednesday at 9.30am.

Gentle exercise, stretching, good breathing and coordination developed. New members catered for and helped. Members of the Tai Chi group take Sitting Tai Chi for Covenant Care. Our lovely CC members feel they have some improvement in movement and they have fun too.

Entry by gold coin donation.

Lock down stopped classes and when we resumed, we had coffee at church for a donation as some members had concerned about mixing with the crowd at Jameson.

Feel free to join us



14 Tai Chi equipment

## **13. References**

Merton, T. 1998. *The Seven Story Mountain: An Autobiography of faith*. Mariner Books.

My Smart Garden, n.d. Retrieved from: <https://mysmartgarden.org.au/resources/food/creating-a-food-forest/>

Rupp, J. 2021. *Return to the Root: reflections on the inner life*. Ave Maria Press.

## **14. Appendices**

Appendix One: Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2021 (includes schedule of Income and Expenditure for Holistic Care Nursing Ministries).

Appendix Two: Notes on Income and Expenditure other activities

Appendix Three: Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2021

Appendix Four: Draft Budget for 2022

Appendix Five: Auditor's Report



# Statement of Income and Expenditure

Holy Covenant Anglican Church

for the year ended 31 December 2021

Account	Actual 2021	Annual Budget 2021	Actual 2020
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Offerories</b>			
Anglican Direct & Transfers	223,853.07	215,000.00	210,537.31
Plate	12,931.65	16,000.00	18,322.30
<b>Total Offerories</b>	<b>236,784.72</b>	<b>231,000.00</b>	<b>228,859.61</b>
ActewAGL Feed In Tariff	2,000.40	2,200.00	2,160.38
Donations	12,413.73	7,000.00	9,483.36
Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,350.00
Hire of Worship Centre	4,720.45	5,000.00	3,749.90
Hire Rainbow Community Centre	1,890.24	2,000.00	3,659.32
In house activities - Income	3,308.30	4,000.00	3,227.10
Interest Income	883.97	1,000.00	658.16
Parish Fund Raising	4,510.30	8,000.00	2,575.75
Sundry Income	33.18	0.00	0.00
Government Grants – JobKeeper (HC)	12,900.00	13,000.00	49,650.00
Government Grants – Cash Boost (HC)	0.00	0.00	1,244.65
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>282,445.29</b>	<b>276,200.00</b>	<b>306,618.23</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
<b>Clergy Salaries and Oncoets</b>			
Clergy Housing Allowance	26,301.74	26,500.00	24,781.90
Clergy Stipend	73,708.53	72,250.00	69,596.74
Clergy Superannuation	11,634.13	11,450.00	13,480.17
Occasional service fees	0.00	500.00	0.00
<b>Total Clergy Salaries and Oncoets</b>	<b>111,644.40</b>	<b>110,700.00</b>	<b>107,858.81</b>
<b>Other Staff Salaries and Oncoets</b>			
Administration Staff Salary	20,341.29	18,500.00	28,480.69
Administration Staff Superannuation	1,711.90	1,800.00	1,359.85
Children's Worker Salary	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Curate/Community Chaplain superannuation	2,868.34	3,000.00	0.00
Curate/Community Chaplain salary	18,074.32	18,000.00	0.00
Youth Worker Salary/Honorarium	13,958.00	15,000.00	13,000.00
Youth Worker Superannuation	0.00	1,400.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Staff Salaries and Oncoets</b>	<b>56,953.85</b>	<b>57,700.00</b>	<b>47,840.54</b>
<b>Staff - Other Costs</b>			
Clergy car running expenses	9,227.90	11,000.00	93.94
Clergy Conferences, retreats	1,325.51	2,000.00	510.50
Clergy Long Service Leave contribution	1,596.00	1,600.00	1,596.00
Clergy Ministry Allowance	744.95	3,500.00	703.12
Clergy telephone & utilities	872.64	1,200.00	872.64
Education & Training	1,978.64	2,000.00	2,161.09
Workers Compensation Insurance	1,828.04	1,600.00	1,387.15
<b>Total Staff - Other Costs</b>	<b>17,573.68</b>	<b>22,900.00</b>	<b>7,324.44</b>
<b>Operating Costs</b>			
Advertising	703.47	500.00	199.87
Bank Charges	146.65	100.00	122.00
Bookkeeper charges	0.00	0.00	875.00
Computer Software & Equipment	1,473.50	2,000.00	2,879.21
Fund-raising expenses	136.28	500.00	0.00
In house activities - expenses	322.69	1,000.00	418.18
Interest Expenses	969.88	1,000.00	559.49
Photocopying	816.63	1,000.00	877.23
Printing, Stationery, Postage	1,006.65	1,200.00	874.30
Telephone & Internet	1,145.28	1,200.00	1,158.92
<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	<b>6,721.03</b>	<b>8,500.00</b>	<b>7,964.20</b>
<b>Ministry &amp; Worship Expenses</b>			
Calvary Chaplaincy - expenses	0.00	0.00	27.27
Children's Ministry	106.20	2,400.00	409.09
Copyright licences	709.47	1,000.00	900.86



**Holy Covenant Anglican Church**  
**Income and Expenditure - Other Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2021**

Notes		Income 2021 \$	Expenses 2021 \$	Balance 2021 \$	
	<b>Non-operating Income &amp; Expenses</b>				
1	Donations beyond the parish	1,842.85	1,842.85	0.00	
2	Parish Dinner - Income	4,824.55	4,824.55	0.00	
3	Specified Donations	2,009.12	2,009.12	0.00	
4	Gifts-in-kind	1,198.00		1,198.00	
5	Rainbow Centre renovations	0.00		0.00	
6	Bequests	0.00		0.00	
7	Holistic Care Nurse	123,450.10	101,682.52	21,767.58	
7	HCN Opening balance brought forward	62,406.70		62,406.70	
7	HCN Closing balance carried forward	(84,174.28)		(84,174.28)	
	<b>Total Non-operating Income &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>111,557.04</b>	<b>110,359.04</b>	<b>1,198.00</b>	
1	Donations beyond the parish				
	Bush Church Aid	652.85	652.85	0.00	
	Jerusalem Church	540.00	540.00	0.00	
	St John's Care	500.00	500.00	0.00	
	Christmas Bowl	150.00	150.00	0.00	
		<b>1,842.85</b>	<b>1,842.85</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
2	Parish Dinner	4,824.55	4,824.55	0.00	
		<b>Balance b/f</b>	<b>Income 2021</b>	<b>Expenses 2021</b>	<b>Balance c/f as Income in Advance</b>
3	Specified donations				
	Noah's Ark Pet ministry	241.44	50.00	82.38	209.06
	Dishwasher		800.00	800.00	0.00
	Financial help		3,000.00	268.73	2,731.27
	Grant for Wellness Program		4,500.00	1,099.45	3,400.55
			<b>8,350.00</b>	<b>2,250.56</b>	<b>6,340.88</b>
4	Gifts-in-kind - Foldback speakers (assets)		1,198.00		
5	Rainbow Centre renovations		13,400.00		13,400.00
6	Bequests	3,067.60	2,006.88		5,074.48
7	Holistic Care Nurse Ministry				
	Unspent funds b/f 1 January 2021				62,406.70
	<b>Income</b>				
	Diocesan grant		105,000.00		
	Donations		2,231.00		
	Reimbursements		9.10		
	Other income		10.00		
	Government Grants - JobKeeper		16,200.00		
7	<b>Total Holistic Care Nurse Income</b>		<b>123,450.10</b>		<b>185,856.80</b>
	<b>Expenses</b>				
	Project Manager Salary			20,989.20	
	Project Manager Superannuation			1,981.52	
	Covenant Care Nurse Salary			15,517.04	
	Covenant Care Nurse Superannuation			1,311.43	
	Housing Tenancy Support Salary			28,192.59	
	Housing Tenancy Support Superannuation			3,284.25	
	Administration and operational costs			6,272.21	
	Client support			7,259.89	
	Equipment purchases			3,252.83	
	Staff and volunteer training			850.40	
	Vehicle operating costs			7,490.08	
	Sundry expenses			761.94	
	Covenant Care			4,519.14	
7	<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>101,682.52</b>	
	<b>Unspent funds as at 31 December 2021</b>				<b>\$84,174.28</b>

## Holy Covenant Anglican Church

### Draft Budget 2022

Account	Revised budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Offeratories</b>			
Anglican Direct & Transfers	215,000.00	223,853.07	230,000.00
Plate	16,000.00	12,931.65	14,000.00
<b>Total Offeratories</b>	<b>231,000.00</b>	<b>236,784.72</b>	<b>244,000.00</b>
ActewAGL Feed in Tariff	2,200.00	2,000.40	2,200.00
Donations	7,000.00	12,413.73	19,000.00
Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Hire of Worship Centre	5,000.00	4,720.45	14,000.00
Hire Rainbow Community Centre	2,000.00	1,890.24	2,500.00
In house activities - income	4,000.00	3,308.30	4,000.00
Interest Income	1,000.00	883.97	500.00
Parish Fund Raising	8,000.00	4,510.30	8,000.00
Sundry Income		33.18	
Government Grants - JobKeeper&Cash Boost	13,000.00	12,900.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>276,200.00</b>	<b>282,445.29</b>	<b>297,200.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
<b>Clergy Salaries and Oncosts</b>			
Clergy Housing Allowance	26,500.00	26,301.74	26,500.00
Clergy Stipend	72,250.00	73,708.53	73,900.00
Clergy Superannuation	11,450.00	11,634.13	11,700.00
Occasional service fees	500.00	0.00	500.00
<b>Total Clergy Salaries and Oncosts</b>	<b>110,700.00</b>	<b>111,644.40</b>	<b>112,600.00</b>
<b>Other Staff Salaries and Oncosts</b>			
Administration Staff Salary	18,500.00	20,341.29	20,500.00
Administration Staff Superannuation	1,800.00	1,711.90	2,100.00
Curate/Community Chaplain Salary	18,000.00	18,074.32	20,900.00
Curate/Community Chaplain Superannuation	3,000.00	2,888.34	3,400.00
Youth Worker Salary/Honorarium	16,400.00	13,958.00	15,200.00
Youth Worker Superannuation		0.00	2,400.00
<b>Total Other Staff Salaries and Oncosts</b>	<b>57,700.00</b>	<b>56,953.85</b>	<b>64,500.00</b>
<b>Staff - Other Costs</b>			
Clergy car running expenses	11,000.00	9,227.90	12,000.00
Clergy Conferences, retreats	2,000.00	1,325.51	1,500.00
Clergy Long Service Leave contribution	1,800.00	1,598.00	1,600.00
Clergy Ministry Allowance	3,500.00	744.95	1,500.00
Clergy telephone & utilities	1,200.00	872.64	1,000.00
Education & Training	2,000.00	1,978.64	2,000.00
Workers Compensation Insurance	1,800.00	1,828.04	2,000.00
<b>Total Staff - Other Costs</b>	<b>22,900.00</b>	<b>17,573.68</b>	<b>21,600.00</b>
<b>Operating Costs</b>			
Advertising	500.00	703.47	500.00
Bank Charges	100.00	146.65	150.00
Computer Software & Equipment	2,000.00	1,473.50	2,000.00
Fund-raising expenses	500.00	136.28	200.00

# Balance Sheet

Holy Covenant Anglican Church

As at 31 December 2021

	Combined	HC Nursing Ministry	HC	Combined	HC Nursing Ministry	HC
Account	31 Dec 2021			31 Dec 2020		
<b>Assets</b>						
<b>Bank</b>						
AIDF on call (transaction) account (69)	84,294.83	30,000.00	54,294.83	65,936.20	30,000.00	35,936.20
CBA Cheque account (88)	74,516.52	40,329.18	34,187.34	61,153.90	46,277.09	14,876.81
Petty Cash Holistic Care Nurse	219.10	219.10	0.00	253.00	253.00	0.00
Petty Cash Office	43.05		43.05	43.05		43.05
AIDF Term Investment	67,767.26	67,767.26	0.00	67,174.28	67,174.28	0.00
Rhonda Thorpe Prepaid card	356.91	356.91	0.00	3,067.60		3,067.60
ACPT Bequest accounts	5,074.48		5,074.48	474.15	474.15	0.00
Jennifer Berrie Prepaid card	255.96	255.96	0.00	146.13	146.13	0.00
Phil Bloomfield Prepaid Card	0.00		0.00	697.80		697.80
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>232,528.11</b>	<b>138,928.41</b>	<b>93,599.70</b>	<b>198,946.11</b>	<b>144,324.65</b>	<b>54,621.46</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Accounts Receivable	26,877.00	26,250.00	627.00	870.50		870.50
Income Due	524.44		524.44	506.52		506.52
Prepayments	1,362.89		1,362.89	1,312.63		1,312.63
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>28,764.33</b>	<b>26,250.00</b>	<b>2,514.33</b>	<b>2,689.65</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,689.65</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
Buildings	1,167,123.19		1,167,123.19	1,162,944.61		1,162,944.61
Buildings Accumulated Depreciation	(94,745.17)		(94,745.17)	(85,230.25)		(85,230.25)
Carpark	56,708.64		56,708.64	56,708.64		56,708.64
Carpark Accumulated Depreciation	(47,582.62)		(47,582.62)	(46,252.94)		(46,252.94)
Contents	187,690.90		187,690.90	187,690.90		187,690.90
Contents Accumulated Depreciation	(28,933.45)		(28,933.45)	(26,237.70)		(26,237.70)
Equipment	46,581.35		46,581.35	45,383.35		45,383.35
Equipment Accumulated Depreciation	(34,724.41)		(34,724.41)	(31,629.72)		(31,629.72)
HCN Provision for replacement Motor Vet	(70,000.00)	(70,000.00)	0.00	(70,000.00)	(70,000.00)	0.00
HCN Provision for replacement of assets	(10,000.00)	(10,000.00)	0.00	(10,000.00)	(10,000.00)	0.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>1,172,118.43</b>	<b>(80,000.00)</b>	<b>1,252,118.43</b>	<b>1,183,376.89</b>	<b>(80,000.00)</b>	<b>1,263,376.89</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,433,410.87</b>	<b>85,178.41</b>	<b>1,348,232.46</b>	<b>1,385,012.65</b>	<b>64,324.65</b>	<b>1,320,688.00</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
<b>Current Liabilities</b>						
Accrued Expenses	4,118.28	450.00	3,668.28	3,607.90	1,050.00	2,557.90
Credit card - Anne Ranse	554.13	554.13	0.00	867.95	867.95	0.00
Credit card - Wayne Brighton	129.19		129.19	106.29		106.29
Creditors	2,442.86		2,442.86	903.95	0.00	903.95
GST	(1,361.83)		(1,361.83)	(1,665.83)		(1,665.83)
Income In Advance	108,989.64	84,174.28	24,815.36	65,474.30	62,406.70	3,067.60
Provision for Annual Leave	18,994.69		18,994.69	15,714.00		15,714.00
Rounding	0.01		0.01	0.01		0.01
<b>Holding Account Funds</b>						
Retreat & Quiet Days Fund	82.44		82.44	82.44		82.44
<b>Total Holding Account Funds</b>	<b>82.44</b>		<b>82.44</b>	<b>82.44</b>		<b>82.44</b>
AIDF Loan Account (2020)	25,243.12		25,243.12	26,653.32		26,653.32
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>159,192.53</b>	<b>85,178.41</b>	<b>74,014.12</b>	<b>111,744.33</b>	<b>64,324.65</b>	<b>47,419.68</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>						
Interest-free Loans	66,500.00		66,500.00	70,100.00		70,100.00
Provision for other Staff LSL	3,865.15		3,865.15	2,955.79		2,955.79
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>70,365.15</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>70,365.15</b>	<b>73,055.79</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>73,055.79</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>229,557.68</b>	<b>85,178.41</b>	<b>144,379.27</b>	<b>184,800.12</b>	<b>64,324.65</b>	<b>120,475.47</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>1,203,853.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,203,853.19</b>	<b>1,200,212.53</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,200,212.53</b>
<b>Equity</b>						
Current Year Earnings	3,640.66		3,640.66	41,811.59		41,811.59
Retained Earnings	1,200,212.53		1,200,212.53	1,158,400.94		1,158,400.94
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,203,853.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,203,853.19</b>	<b>1,200,212.53</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,200,212.53</b>

Holy Covenant Parish Council Chair

7 February 2022

Dear Parish Council Chair,

In accordance with my renewed appointment at AGM in February 2021, I recently undertook a review of the financial transactions relating to the financial statements of Holy Covenant Anglican Church, Jamison for the year ended 31 December 2021.

I have undertaken this work in order to provide a view on the status of the financial statements and the extent to which those documents reflect the financial position of the Parish.

I have undertaken the following work in order to reach my view:

- A random sample review of transactions and supporting documentation, tracing these from point of purchase through to point of recording in the financial statements;
- Reviewed the accounting treatments applied for major assets and transactions recorded in the books.

I have not uncovered any evidence of a failure to apply appropriate accounting treatments to these transactions. I am of the view that the financial statements as provided fairly reflect the financial position of the Parish as at 31 December 2021.

I am of the view that the financial reports present fairly, in all material respects of the accounts of Holy Covenant Anglican Church, Jamison, in accordance with the applicable Australian Standards.

Yours sincerely



Wendy Elkhuizen B Bus, CPA (ID 1370107)