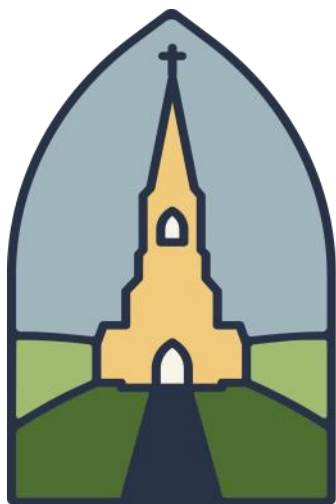




ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

30 November 2025

First Sunday of Advent

(This week's service times within)

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.

Isaiah 2.3a



*Waiting and Wonder, the Beauty of Advent.
Image by Jonatan Pie, courtesy of Unsplash*

***St John's exists to bear public witness to Jesus Christ,
the source of life.***

This following notices draw attention to news and events which seek to 'bear witness to Jesus Christ, the source of life.'

NOTICES

Advent Challenge: St John's Care Christmas Appeal. Today marks the beginning of the new church year, and a season of preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. In light of the challenges facing many Canberrans, we encourage all our regular worshippers to make an Advent discipline of offering support to St John's Care. You might purchase some gifts for our 'present room', or include some extra ingredients in your regular grocery shopping for delivery to St John's Care, or make some financial donations to our work. Please consider helping us show Christ's love to those in need. To donate to the St John's Care Christmas appeal, go to <https://tinyurl.com/53ywkvk>

Christmas Letterbox Drop (Reid & Campbell). If you have some time in the next 10 days to walk some local streets to advertise our Christmas Services, please drop into the office to collect postcards and a map. These will be available to collect from the office from Wednesday 3 December, and would need to be distributed before 12 December.

Youth & Young Adults Camp: Expressions of Interest. If you would be interested in a camp with fun outdoor and indoor activities, and some Christian input, please let us know by completing the form at the link below. Proposed dates: 13-15 November 2026. Please submit your responses by 1 December. Click on link or QR code: <https://tinyurl.com/SJcamp>



Seminars (and short courses) 2026. We'd love your thoughts on our seminars and short courses for 2026. Please spend a few minutes answering the questions at <https://tinyurl.com/SJseminars> or via this QR code:



George Pooley Memorial Service. A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of George Pooley will be held at 10.30am, Friday 12 December, with refreshments in the Hall to follow.



No Choral Evensong in December. Choral Evensong (BCP) 5pm service on Sunday 14 December will not be held as the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held that evening at 7.30pm.

Sermon audio available. If you want to get a sense of what we teach at St John's, or if you've just missed a week, our Sunday sermons are available on our website <https://www.stjohnscanberra.org/sermons> and also via podcast: search for *St John's Canberra Talks* on Spotify, Apple, or PocketCasts (also via QR code on the web page).

St Mark's Theological Library: Parish Membership. St John's parish holds an institutional membership of St Mark's extensive and historic Library (at 15 Blackall Street, Barton). If you regularly attend one of our congregations, you are entitled to free membership of the Library. Steps to join:

- Email Rev'd Andrew (see contacts page), asking for a letter stating that you regularly attend St John's.
- He will send you the letter in PDF format. Save it somewhere handy.
- Go to <https://stmarks.edu.au/library-membership-form>.
- Fill in your details
- Under membership type select 'Free Memberships', and then under 'Free membership type', select 'Individual — Under institutional membership'.
- Upload the PDF letter.
- Click 'I'm not a robot' and 'Submit'.

All further enquiries please to stmarkslibrary@csu.edu.au or via <https://stmarks.edu.au/library>.

'Sabbath Gospel' pre-release free sample. One of our parishioners, Amy Erickson (stjohns@6/St Mark's lecturer) has co-authored a book on a biblical theology of Sabbath for the contemporary church, titled *Sabbath Gospel*. The book is to be released early next year, but a free sample of the introduction can be downloaded from the publisher's website here: <https://www.ivpress.com/sabbath-gospel>



Hawke: The Film of the Play. 8am parishioner Paul Kauffman has written and produced HAWKE, a new play now filmed for wider viewing. It imagines former Prime Minister R. J. Hawke meeting his two wives — and a Canberra Bishop with a dark past — in Purgatory, where their eternal fates are decided. (The Anglican Church of Australia offers no comment on the theology of this!) The film screens at 4 pm Friday 12 December 2025 at Dendy Cinema 6, Canberra Centre. Tickets: \$39.
www.collections.humanitix.com/mill-theatre-at-dairy-road

Anglican News November 2025. Here is the link to the latest edition of Anglican News:<https://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>. You can email any contributions for future issues of the Anglican News, by the first day of the month of the issue, to:
anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au

Accommodation needed. A Christian female student at CIT is seeking a self-contained granny flat for rent for under \$300 a week for the whole of 2026, with potential for longer if it works for all involved. The student of horticulture is also happy to contribute to a scheduled gardening or cleaning arrangement for reduced rent. She would also be happy to organise and set up a lease arrangement before January, as her current accommodation will cease at the end of December. Please email vanzella.adrianna@gmail.com if you can help her.

Save the Date: Light in the Darkness: Christian approaches to end of life care. With so-called ‘voluntary assisted dying’ (VAD) now implemented in the ACT, many questions and differences remain. At this conference, Professor Megan Best, an expert in palliative care, will address the impact of VAD for carers and patients. We will also consider some Christian thinking about the process of suffering and death. Further details in a future newsletter. Bookings essential at <https://www.trybooking.com/DHUQY>, \$46 p.h. (\$38 early bird until 12 January 2026). 9.00am–3.00pm Saturday 28 February 2026, St John’s church Hall.



SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(*St John's event)

***Saturday 6 December: Working Bee (including Pre Christmas Brass Cleaning Bee).** From 8.30am -10.00am. Three options: (a) help give the inside of the church a thorough clean; (b) clean the brass items in the church or (c) work outside helping to beautify the gardens and grounds. Please bring equipment (e.g. gardening gloves, dusters, rags, hat, suitable footwear, mowers, blowers) and join us for morning tea afterwards, at 10am.

***Saturday 6 December: Gingerbread Night.** 7pm in Hall. (Bookings now closed.)

***Sunday 7 December: 9.30am Service Christmas Pageant.** Instead of our regular 9.30am Communion service, Kids' Church will be presenting this year's Christmas Pageant. All are welcome!

Tuesday 9 December: Order of St Luke Healing Eucharist. St David's Anglican Church, Red Hill, at 2.00pm, followed by a cuppa. Theme is 'Thanksgiving'. Info Fr John Gibson at gibsonjohn385@gmail.com or 0451 681 118.

***Friday 12 December George Pooley Memorial Service.** 10.30am with refreshments to follow in the Hall.

***Sunday 14 December: 9 Lessons and Carols.** 7.30pm in the Church.

***Christmas Services.** See page 9.

***Saturday 28 February: 'Light in the Darkness'.** Conference on end-of-life care, <https://www.trybooking.com/DHUQY>



WHAT KINDNESS MAKES POSSIBLE

As Christmas draws near, I want to share a story that shows just how important your generosity is to families who are doing it tough right now. Over the past few weeks OUR number are already going up. Last week, one of our case managers sat with a young mum who we will call E, who has had an incredibly challenging year. E is supporting her partner through ongoing mental health struggles, which was caused by bullying at work, every dollar has been stretched to its limit. No matter how much she cut back, more bills keep coming in. Going to the letter box is a scary event that she doesn't want to do. When she talked about things we can do to support her and her family, it was the words Christmas that made her smile. E tried to hold it together but the thought of her children waking up to nothing under the tree was heartbreaking. Then she heard about our **Present Room**, opening next week. If you haven't seen our Present Room, you must come and visit it. It is a beautiful magical place this time of year. For the first time in months, she felt *hope*. She told us, "Maybe my kids can have a bit of Christmas magic after all."

This is what your kindness makes possible.

But this year, we urgently need more support to make the Present Room happen. We already have **over 90 families registered across just two days**, and more are calling every day. The cost-of-living crisis, housing insecurity, job loss, and rising medical and utility expenses mean more families than ever are turning to us. Without your help, we simply won't have enough gifts or resources to meet the demand. Last year, thanks to donors like you, we provided emergency relief to more than **11,000 people** -including food, clothing, help with medicines, utilities, and ongoing case management support. We assist people of all ages and backgrounds across the region, and none of this is possible without your generosity.

This Christmas, parents like E are relying on us and on you. **Please consider making a Christmas donation today.**

Your support will help fill our Present Room with gifts, dignity, and joy; it will give parents the chance to choose something special for their children and restore their sense of hope during the hardest season of the year. Thank you for helping us bring light and comfort to families who need it most.

Kind regards
Jason Haines, Managing Director

Items required: 425g tuna, 750ml cooking oil, milo/hot chocolate, size 6 nappies: **Christmas items:** fruit mince pies, shortbread, gift cards for teens, toys.

Upcoming services

Sunday 30 November 2025

First Sunday of Advent

*Readings: Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13;
Luke 21.25-38*

8.00am: Sung Eucharist

9.30am: Family Eucharist (Kids Church & Youth Group)

6.00pm: stjohns@6 (Holy Communion)

Wednesday 3 December 2025

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-38

10.00am: Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 7 December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

*Readings: Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72. 1-7, 18-21; Romans 15.4-13;
Matthew 3.1-12*

8.00am: Sung Eucharist

9.30am: Family Eucharist (Christmas Pageant)

11.15 am: Choral Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

6.00pm: stjohns@6 (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation)

Wednesday 10 December 2025

Readings: Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12

10.00am: Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

For more information: www.stjohnscanberra.org



Advent Bells 2025

180 years of celebrating Christmas in Canberra

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Sunday 30th November – First Sunday of Advent

The first day Christmas carols will be heard on the bells to mark the start of the season of Advent at Canberra's oldest church.

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Sunday 7th December – Open Tower – 4pm-6pm

Special extended edition of St John's monthly open tower. Climb the sandstone tower and play Christmas carols on the bells.

~ ~ ~

Sunday 14th December – Tea & Bells – after 9.30am service

Join us after the 9.30am family service for morning tea with a side of bells! Tower open for visitors until noon.

~ ~ ~

Wednesday 24th December – **Christmas Eve – late afternoon**

Enjoy a festive programme of carols interspersed with traditional English change-ringing from the late afternoon up to 6pm.

Afterwards, join Canberrans for services at the historic church into the evening, accompanied by the magnificent organ and choir.

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Thursday 25th December – **Christmas Day**

The bells will chime joyfully across the city at St John's Christmas services and at the free lunch at noon, open to everyone in search of a meal and some company on Christmas Day.

For service times, visit stjohnscanberra.org
45 Constitution Avenue, Reid

Christmas at St John's



Sunday 14 December

7.30pm: Nine Lessons and Carols

Modelled on the famous service created at King's College (Cambridge), this will be a time to sing some Advent hymns, hear the choir sing carols, and listen to the story of salvation from the Scriptures.

Christmas Eve

6.00 pm: Carols on the Lawn

Children are welcome to dress as shepherds, angels, or animals for the annual pageant in our historic grounds. Share in the joy of Christmas with your family and friends. Grounds open from 5.30pm. Bring along a picnic basket, blankets, and chairs. (The wet weather venue will be the St John's Hall.)

9.00 pm: Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist / Holy Communion

11.00 pm: Christmas Eve Sung Eucharist / Holy Communion

Christmas Day

8.00 am: Christmas Day Sung Eucharist / Holy Communion

9.30 am: Christmas Day Sung Eucharist / Holy Communion

11.15 am: Christmas Day Sung Eucharist - 1662 Book of Common Prayer

12pm: St John's Care Christmas Day Community Lunch (in the hall).

Whether you come with your family, friends or on your own, we look forward to welcoming you as we celebrate the joy and mystery of the Christmas story.

SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF THE PARISH

The best way to support our ministry is to (annually) prayerfully consider an appropriate amount, and then set up automatic regular transfers using our 'giving' account:

BSB:702 389 **ACCOUNT:** 0520 9450 **NAME:** St John the Baptist Reid

See also: <https://www.stjohnscanberra.org/giving>

Contacts

Rector	Rev'd David McLennan	rector@stjohnscanberra.org	0468 634 351
Senior Associate Priest	Rev'd Dr Andrew Cameron	andrew.cameron@stjohnscanberra.org	0477 689 421
Associate Priest	Rev'd Canon Kevin Stone	kevin.stone@stjohnscanberra.org	0450 676 864
Honorary Priest	Rev'd Vicky Cullen		0476 777 203
Children & Families Worker	Mary de Lautour	mary.delautour@stjohnscanberra.org	
Sacristan	Jennifer Lawson	jennifer.lawson@stjohnscanberra.org	0407 286 572
Schoolhouse Museum	Jennifer Garden		0414 551 821
Office Administrator	Jane Rose	admin@stjohnscanberra.org	6248 8399
Operations Manager	Alison Hosking	alison.hosking@stjohnscanberra.org	5140 0101
Friends of St John's, Chair	Matthew Neuhaus	friendsofstjohnscanberra@gmail.com	
		SJC Emergency Relief	6248 7771
SJC Managing Director	Jason Haines	md@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771
SJC Operations Manager	Robbie Speldewinde	programs@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771

Parish Office: 6248 8399

Opening Hours: 10.00am to 3.00pm Tuesday to Friday

www.stjohnscanberra.org

45 Constitution Avenue, Reid 2612 GPO Box 219, Canberra 2601

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS **2026 CAMP**

**FRIDAY - SUNDAY
13 - 15 NOVEMBER 2026**

Fun outdoor and indoor activities with some Christian input.
Expressions of interest due by 1st December.



St John's Youth and Young Adults weekend away 13-15th

November 2026 - Fill in form

FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

Ring of Promise Fill in the Blank

Ring of Promise

Create the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



This is what _____ son of _____ saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the _____ of the Lord's _____ will be established as the highest of the _____. All _____ will _____ to it.

Isaiah 2:1-5 (NIV)

mountain Isaiah stream Amoz nations temple mountains