ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

29 November 2026
First Sunday of Advent
(This week's service times within)

'Heaven and earth will pass away,' says the Lord, 'but my words will not pass away.' Mark 13.31



The Confirmation Service of Grace Rogerson and James Caspersonn on Sunday 22 November, 2026 at St John's.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God,
through long generations you prepared a way
for the coming of your Son,
and by your Spirit
you still bring light to illumine our paths:
renew us in faith and hope
that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts
and claim our love;
to whom be glory for ever. **Amen**.

CHURCH NEWS (IMPORTANT NOTICES)

Important note re next week's 9.30 service. There will be no Holy Communion service next Sunday at 9.30, due to the children's Christmas pageant.

Christmas Letterbox Drop (Reid & Campbell). If you have some time from Friday 4 December to walk some local streets to advertise our Christmas Services, please collect postcards and a map from the Church Porch. (These need to be distributed before 11 December).

Name Badges. You can order your own nametag for $17.00 (resin with magnetic back) or $15.00 (pin back). It's a great way to help people connect with you at church. Order at stjohnscanberra.org/payments.

Financial Snapshot. We are grateful for the generosity of parishioners in recent months, the success of the Parish Fair, and some adjustments to our car parking operation. Together, these have helped strengthen St John's financial position.

An error appeared in the financial snapshot published in our last newsletter. We apologise for the mistake. While our finances have improved, it remains difficult to predict our likely end-of-year position. A number of significant payments remain due before the end of the year, and financial pressures remain as we plan for 2027.

Thank you for your ongoing support, generosity and prayers.

Nine Lessons and Carols, followed by refreshments. After this year's service of 'Nine Lessons and Carols' (modelled on the famous service created at King's College, Cambridge), all are invited to gather in the hall for refreshments. There, we will briefly acknowledge those who have volunteered throughout the year in our community and extend our welcome to newcomers. Please bring a plate of sweet or savory food to

share (not requiring heating).

Anglican News November 2026. 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

Occasional Seminar: Where did the NT come from, and how did it get to us? Join our very own Con Campbell for insights into the 'textual history' of the New Testament. Do the modern versions we hold in our hands reflect what was written back then? How could we know? What's our evidence for the reliability of its transmission? In addition to being an eminent jazz musician, The Rev'd Dr Constantine Campbell is a world-renowned biblical scholar. Con also attends our 9.30am congregation. Thursday 3 December 2026, 7pm-9.30pm, Robertson Room.

***'A True and Lively Faith'* Book Launch.** *A True and Lively Faith: Contested Issues in Australian Anglicanism,Volume 1* (editor, Bishop Stephen Pickard). The book will be officially launched at Holy Covenant, Jamison, on Sunday 29 November at 4pm by Mr Clive Rodger, Chair of the Board of Embracing Ministries.The launch will be followed by a short service of Evening Prayer and drinks and nibbles.

***'Dances With Words'* Book Launch.** Diane Porter invites members of St John's to the launch of this latest publication by the Fellowship of Australian Writers Group. O'Connor Uniting Church Hall, 2–4pm Sunday 13 December. The book can also be viewed at https://trove.nla.gov.au; search for "Dances With Words" (including quotation marks), then click 'Books and Libraries'.

SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(*St John's event)

***Sunday 29 November: Bellringing, First Sunday of Advent.** The Church bells will be rung throughout the day. (See page 7 for details.)

Sunday 29 November: *A True and Lively Faith* Book Launch.

At Holy Covenant, Jamison, at 4pm. Followed by a short service of Evening Prayer, drinks and nibbles. (See above for details.)

***Thursday 3 December: Occasional Seminar: Where did the NT come from, and how did it get to us?** 7pm-9.30pm, Robertson Room. (See notice page 3.)

***Saturday 5 December: Working Bee.** From 8.30am—10.00am. Please bring equipment (e.g. gardening gloves, hat, suitable footwear, mowers, blowers) and join us for morning tea afterwards at 10am.

***Saturday 5 December: Gingerbread House Decorating Evening**. 6-9pm in the Hall.

***Sunday 6 December: 9.30am Service Christmas Pageant.** Instead of our regular 9.30am Communion service, kids' church will be presenting this year's Christmas Pageant in the Church. All are welcome!

***Sunday 6 December: Open Tower, Second Sunday of Advent.** 5pm-6pm. (See page 7 for details.)

Tuesday 8 December: Order of St Luke Healing Meeting. All are invited to the Healing Meeting at St David's Anglican Church Red Hill at 2.00pm followed by afternoon tea. There will be teaching and prayer. Enquiries, Father John Gibson at gibsonjohn385@gmail.com or 0451 681 118.

***Sunday 13 December: Open Tower, Third Sunday of Advent.** 2pm-4pm. (See page 7 for details.)

Sunday 13 December: *Dances With Words* Book Launch. O'Connor Uniting Church Hall, 2–4pm Sunday 13 December.

***Sunday 13 December: Nine Lessons and Carols.** 7.30pm in the Church. Afterwards, everyone is invited to the hall for refreshments. BYO a plate or drink to share. All welcome.

***Sunday 20 December: Open Tower, Fourth Sunday of Advent.** 2pm-4pm. (See page 7 for details.)

Parish Council Report October 2026

Parish Council met on the evening on Wednesday 21 October 2026. Issues such as the successful fair, strategic planning, and the financial challenges the Parish is facing were discussed. A summary is provided below.

Rector's Report: The Rector stated that the Fair was a great and happy day. It was marvellous seeing so many parishioners volunteering and wonderful to welcome so many visitors to St John's. He noted that the All Saints Eve event for children to be held on 31 October 2026 as an alternative to Halloween and that the Youth Camp will be held from Friday 13 November to Sunday 15 November 2026.

The Rector commented that it is important for our structures to work to support the needs and growth of the Parish and that given the current budget pressures, the office is looking at ways to reduce costs. Several matters have an impact on the budget and the loss of carparking income continues to be a big issue, however, a meeting with EasyPark to discuss options for carparking may be positive.

Property and Grounds Update: The Chair of the Property Committee highlighted several matters including the replacement of the large ride on mower and the lights flickering in the church. It was reported that all six of these lights will need have the globes replaced at the same time to fix this and batteries in smoke detectors would be replaced at this time. Due to the height and difficulty in accessing them specialist equipment is required, which will be costly.

The flower vestry door is being redone, and a quote is required for

replastering a crack on the inside north wall of the church. A high external corner stone broke and fell off the church on the south-west corner. The Property Committee will get a stone mason to look at it and noted that the tower of the church will need to be repointed in future.

ACT Heritage has reviewed the Works Approval for the Robertson Room and Office Extension and does not support the proposed removal of four trees. The Parish will request two be removed in a revised report. Work has started on the tender documentation.

Strategic Planning: The Presiding Member invited all Council members to give feedback and reflections on the current Strategic Plan to help shape a mid-term review and an intended Strategic Planning Day.

Community Outreach: Following the Nine Lessons and Carols service at 7.30pm on Sunday 13 December everyone is invited to attend a drinks event in the Hall hosted by Parish Council.

For any questions, please contact the Presiding Member, Jo Lloyd.

Christmas at St John's

Sunday 13 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.

ST JOHN'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
CANBERRA

Advent Bells 2026

Ringing in Christmas across Canberra

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Sunday 29th 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. Listen out from as far away as Commonwealth Park and Anzac Parade.

Sunday 6th December – Open Tower – 5pm-6pm

St John's monthly open tower. Everyone is welcome to climb the sandstone tower and play Christmas carols on the bells. Explore the historic church – dating back to 1845! – and lush grounds while you wait.

Sunday 13th December – Open Tower – 2pm-4pm

A special afternoon edition of our monthly Open Tower. Come and ring some carols for the city to enjoy. Join us later for the popular *7.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols service*, supported by the St John's choir.

Sunday 20th December – Open Tower – 2pm-4pm

Another afternoon edition of our monthly Open Tower.

Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve – 5pm-6pm concert

Enjoy a festive programme of bell music interspersed with traditional English change-ringing leading up to the *6pm Carols on the Lawn*.

Afterwards, join us for *9pm and 11pm Christmas services*, accompanied by the magnificent organ, a sibling of the Sydney Opera House organ.

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day – All Day

The bells will chime joyfully across the city at our *8am, 9.30am and 11.15am Christmas services* and at the *free lunch at 12pm*, open to everyone in search of a meal and some company on Christmas Day.

Learn more at stjohnscanberra.org
Church is open daily at 45 Constitution Avenue, Reid

Life Saving Gift

E is a single mother of three young children who has been experiencing significant financial hardship throughout the year. St John's Care has been supporting E and her family with everyday necessities, including food, clothing and prescription medication.

Unfortunately, the family's circumstances have worsened following the winter months, with substantial utility bills placing further pressure on an already stretched household budget. E had stretched the family's budget as far as she could, however her debt continued to grow.
With Christmas fast approaching, E expressed her concerns about providing a happy Christmas for her children while continuing to meet their basic needs. What should be a time of joy and celebration had become another source of financial stress.

E was thrilled when I registered her family for our Christmas Hamper and Present Room programs. "You really are life savers," she said, with tears welling up in her eyes. Knowing that she would be able to put food on the table and presents under the tree for her children brought her an enormous sense of relief.

This Christmas, St John's Care will provide over 1,000 Christmas hampers and 7,500 gifts to the Canberra community. Behind each of these hampers is a household facing its own challenges, and behind each gift is an opportunity to bring a little joy to someone's Christmas.

As we approach the festive season, we are reminded of the importance of generosity, compassion and practical love. Your continued support allows us to bring a little hope and happiness to families experiencing incredibly difficult circumstances.

Kind regards,

Robbie Speldewinde, Operations Manager

Items required: Weetbix, 1kg flour, 1kg sugar, shaving cream

Christmas Items: Christmas chocolate/lollies, Shortbread biscuits

Upcoming Services

Sunday 29 November 2026

First Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; Mark 13.24-37

8.00am: **Sung Eucharist**

9.30am: **Family Eucharist and Baptism** (Kid's Church & Youth Group)

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

Wednesday 2 December 2026

Readings: Isaiah 64.1-9; Mark 13.24-37

10.00am: **Eucharist** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 6 December 2026

Second Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8

8.00am: **Sung Eucharist**

9.30am: **Family Eucharist** (Kid's Church & Youth Group)

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

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

Wednesday 9 December 2026

Readings: Isaiah 40.1-11; OR, 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8

10.00am: **Eucharist** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

For more information: www.stjohnscanberra.org

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

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	Kim Gibson	admin@stjohnscanberra.org	
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	matthewekneuhaus@gmail.com	0487 521 120
St John's Care		SJC Emergency Relief	6248 7771
SJC Managing Director	Jason Haines	md@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771
STJ Operations Manager	Robbie Speldewinde	programs@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771
SJC Chaplain	Nathan Vandersee	chaplain@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771

Parish Office: 6248 8399

Opening Hours: 10.00am to 3.00pm Tuesday to Friday

www.stjohnscanberra.org

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