



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 14th JUNE 2026

St Andrew's Bendigo 26 Myers Street Bendigo, 3550	Forest Street 21 Forest Street Bendigo, 3550	St Andrew's Axedale 80 High Street Axedale, 3551
--	---	---

We recognize that we meet on Jaara land, the traditional home of the Dja Dja Wurrung People. With respect we acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of the Region & pray for reconciliation & justice.

Welcome to the Sunday service for the Bendigo Central & Axedale Uniting Church. We extend you a very warm welcome and invite you to join us for morning tea following the service.

Today's Service: 9.30am Worship Service at Forest St led by Rev Di Esbensen.

THIS WEEKS UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 15 th	
Tuesday 16 th	
Wednesday 17 th	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 18 th	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 19 th	9am Meditation Group
Saturday 20 th	
Sunday 21 st	9.30am Worship service at St Andrew's led by Rev Di Esbensen. 2.30pm Worship service at Axedale led by Rev Di Esbensen



- **Lectionary readings this week 14th June (Pentecost 3):** Genesis 18: 1-15 (21:1-7), Exodus 19: 2-8a; Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19, Psalm 100; Romans 5: 1-8; Matthew 9: 35-10:8 (9-23)

- **Lectionary readings next week 21st June (Pentecost 4):** Genesis 21: 8-21, Jeremiah 20: 7-13; Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17, Psalm 69: 7-10, (11-15), 16-18; Romans 6: 1b-11; Matthew 10: 24-39

SUNDAY JUNE 14th DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

Church Openers and Welcomers: Janice West, Peter Judd

Vestry: Barb Fordham

Readings and Prayers: Bruce Johnson, David Castles

Morning Tea: Glenis Pitson (please bring milk), David and Jenny Shield

SUNDAY JUNE 21st DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

Church Openers and Welcomers: Jenny Sheild, Lorraine Castles

Vestry: Judy Causon

Readings and Prayers: Nathan Morsillo, Isabel Thomas Dobson

Morning Tea: Bruce Johnson (please bring milk), Janice West, Marion Allan

Report on Church Council Issues

Church Council is addressing a wide range of issues which are important for the life of the church. It is fortunate that the council can be guided by the congregation's Missions Plan.

The following is a list of the key issues:

1. The Elders have been conducting a particularly comprehensive annual examination of the membership rolls of the church. This is quite difficult work, and I thank the Elders for their commitment and sensitivity. The advice from the Elders which the church council receives will allow the church council to act in support of the Elder's deliberations.
2. Our church has a significant range of property which requires consideration of four interconnected issues:
 - a. The purposes of all our buildings, including the consideration of a primary worship site.
 - b. The long-term cost of maintaining the buildings.
 - c. Our financial situation, including
 - d. Opportunities to increase our income.

A working party will be established at the 16 June church council meeting to examine point (a), while points (b) and (c) should see reports to church council in the same meeting. Point (a) does not involve our Axedale site. I will have more to say about the working party after the June church council meeting.

3. Point (d) is already being addressed by a comprehensive examination of the development opportunities for the land 'up' from the Forest Street church building, including the house at 25 Forest Street. The land has been surveyed, and BKK Architects have been appointed to work on behalf of our church with a special subcommittee formed to advise church council on this major project. The sub-committee has been established with the co-operation of Synod Property Services and Presbytery. Members are: Carol McKinstry, Nathan Morsillo, Dean Shirley, David Brown (Synod Property Services), Peter Thomas (Director Synod Property Services, ex-officio), and a Presbytery representative currently being appointed.

When, subject to church council approval, it becomes clear what the development could be, the congregation will be fully briefed. It is quite possible this may occur this year.

In addition, the working party referred to above will make recommendations to church council. The church council's subsequent recommendations will be placed before the congregation for consideration. Again, hopefully this will occur this year. Dean Shirley, Secretary

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

- Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of June Reid following her death last week. We surround them with our love and prayers at this time. A service to celebrate June's life will be held at Forest Street on Friday 12th June at 11am. Refreshments will be served in the hall following the service.
- Ray Outhred is currently staying at Cooina Lodge in Warragul. He will be there for 3 weeks (until 24th June) then home for 3 weeks. If you would like to contact Ray he can be reached on 0490 334 037.

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

- **WEEKEND AT SILVERBAND LODGE AT HALL'S GAP: 7 - 9 AUGUST 2026**

Our annual weekend in the Grampians at Hall's Gap is booked for Friday 7th - Sunday 9th August 2026. This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to share time together, make new friends and enjoy the wonderful scenery.

Accommodation is motel style, all rooms have ensuites, and all meals on Saturday and Sunday are provided. Registration forms are now available - cost is \$120 per person per night, School-age children \$60, under 3 free. Registration

and deposits need to be completed by **Thursday 16th July** with Belinda in the St Andrew's office. Email: bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com If you have questions, please contact Belinda or David Castles

- **KEYS OF GOLD MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026**

Bendigo Fine Music are again presenting the “Keys of Gold” Festival during July. This outstanding classical music festival of 17 concerts, features the spectacular pipe organs in and around Bendigo played by Thomas Heywood and also incorporating other talented artists. Two of the concerts will be held at St Andrew’s (17th July) and Forest St (4th July). The Bendigo Chamber Choir will be featured in the “Castlemaine Double” concert on 11th July. Brochures detailing the whole program are available at each of our churches and tickets are available at the <https://bendigofinemusic.com/> website. As some venues are small, you may need to book tickets early to ensure a seat. If you have questions, please chat to David Castles.

- **DIRECTORY UPDATES**

A draft version of the 2026 Members and Friends Directory will be available at the service on Sunday for everyone to check their current entry. If you are unable to attend and need to make an update please email the details through to Belinda at bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com

- **FREE PLASTIC CHAIRS**

Following the building project at St Andrews, many leftover white plastic patio chairs, used by contractors, were given to us. They have been offered to residents, some have gone to Axedale, but there are still some remaining. Some have been cleaned, but not all: they've been outside in a construction site, so some may be muddy or dusty.

If you would like to have one or two, please see Belinda in the office on 0434 730 900 for a suitable collection time. Or take one after church when we meet at St Andrews.

St Andrew’s office is normally open Mondays: 8:45am-11:45am, Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00am - 3:00pm. Please contact Belinda Smith on 5441 3100 or email bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com

Forest Street office is normally open Thursdays from 11am. Please contact Judy McCarthy at foreststuca@bigpond.com on 5442 4123 or phone her on 5435 2099 on Wednesdays.

Congregation Website bendigocentralaxedale.ucavictas.org.au