



# UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026

<b>St Andrew's Bendigo</b> 26 Myers Street Bendigo, 3550	<b>Forest Street</b> 21 Forest Street Bendigo, 3550	<b>St Andrew's Axedale</b> 80 High Street Axedale, 3551
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*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 Services:** 9.30am Worship Service at Forest St led by Rev Tim Angus  
2.30pm Worship Service at Axedale led by Rev Tim Angus

## THIS WEEKS UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Elders Meeting at Forest St
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9am Meditation Group
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Worship service at St Andrew's led by Rev Di Esbensen. 2025 Annual Meeting following the service 2pm Prayer walk at Axedale



- **Lectionary readings this week 17<sup>th</sup> May (Easter 7):** Acts 1: 6-14; Psalm 68; 1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5:6-11; John 17: 1-11

- **Lectionary readings next week 24<sup>th</sup> May (Pentecost):** Acts 2: 1-21 or Num 11: 24-30; Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; 1 Cor 12: 3b-13 or Acts 2: 1-21; John 20: 19-23 or John 7: 37-39

## SUNDAY MAY 17<sup>th</sup> DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

**Church Openers and Welcomers:** Doug and Jeannie Turnbull

**Vestry:** Judy Causon

**Readings and Prayers:** Peter Judd, Vi Sutherland

**Morning Tea:** David and Lorraine Castles (please bring milk)

## SUNDAY MAY 24<sup>th</sup> DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

**Church Openers and Welcomers:** Ken Crouch, Gwenda Pratt

**Vestry:** Glenys Shirley

**Readings and Prayers:** Bill Lidgett, Glenis Pitson

**Morning Tea:** Di Farrar (please bring milk), Jenny Shield

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025 and ANNUAL MEETING 2026

The Annual Report for 2025 has been released via email. Printed copies of the report will be available at the service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May. If you are unable to attend the service and would like a printed copy mailed to you please contact the office.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026 following the service at St Andrew's. At this meeting, the agenda will include:

- Presentation of the Annual Report
- Election of Church Councillors and Elders
- Election of Chairperson and Secretary of the Congregation
- Election of congregational representative to Presbytery

The following nominations for Elders and Church Council have been received:

Elders:	Isabel Thomas Dobson	4 years
	Jennifer Bursill	1 year
	Barb Fordham	5 years
	Glenis Pitson	2 years

Church: Council:	Geoff Barker	2 years
	Glenis Pitson	2 years
	Dean Shirley	1 year

## **Secretary of the Congregation**

At the Annual Meeting on 24 May this position will become vacant and I will not be accepting nomination for another year in the position. My tenure ceases at the end of the meeting so I will complete the minutes of the meeting, Please give some thought to filling this role. Dean Shirley

## **IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY...**

- **LETTER FROM REV ALISTAIR MACRAE**

We have received a letter from Uniting Vic Tas extract as follows:

*“I’m writing to express my heartfelt thanks, and that of all of Uniting, for the partnership with the Bendigo Central & Axedale Congregation. This partnership has enabled a great outcome for social housing for the Bendigo community. The 73 new units now provide safe, sustainable and secure housing for over 130 vulnerable people.*

*Uniting continues to be immensely grateful for the sharing of land which made this development possible; even more so, we are grateful for the sharing of your vision for this project. Your tireless advocacy and support for this project (over 10 years!) was instrumental in its success.*

*Please pass on our thanks to the Church Council, and the wider congregation. While the ongoing work of supporting the new residents does not end here, it is important to mark this moment with thanksgiving for what we have achieved so far together.” Rev Alister Macrae - Board Chair Uniting Vic Tas*

## **NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...**

- **AXEDALE PRAYER WALK**

Sunday 24th May 2pm. Leaving from the Axedale Uniting Church (opposite the primary school) we will walk around the town, stopping at various locations to give thanks for aspects of our common life. The gentle walk takes about an hour, and ends at the Uniting Church, where we can admire the community garden, and share in afternoon tea. Please bring a 'plate'.

- **REQUIEM WOLFGANG AMADEAUS MOZART**

The Bendigo Chorale & Glen Eira City Choir will be performing on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2.30pm at St Paul’s Cathedral – Myers St, Bendigo.

Director Elena Varshavskaya / Organ Hugh Fullarton with Lisa Robinson, Chloe James, Nicholas Shepperd and Christine Smith.

Tickets: \$35, \$30 concession, Under 16 free [gotix@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:gotix@bendigo.vic.gov.au), EFTPOS at the door.

- **DUTY ROSTER REQUESTS**

The duty roster is currently being drafted. If you have any unavailable dates or any other requests for the second half of the year please submit these to Belinda no later than Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Thanks

- **BENDIGO BAPTIST CHURCH EVENTS**

The Bendigo Baptist Church invite you to attend their upcoming events:

***Listening Skills Workshop*** – Trainer Mairi Girgis

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 7- 9pm Bendigo Baptist Church Prayer Conference Room

This workshop will be a deep dive into listening skills to suit a variety of situations which might arise in caring for people. We will look at aspects of body language, empathy responses, paraphrasing and summarising, open and gently curious questioning, the use of silence, and the more difficult skills of challenging and immediacy.

***Gather the Girls*** - Abolishing Human Trafficking

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 6pm. Bendigo Baptist Church Junortoun.

Tickets \$60 / \$50 Concession. \$500 for table of 10.

Live music by Imy Lou. Eden Jewellery. Silent and Live Auctions

Canapes and Mocktails by Hoo-Gah. MC Gaele Broad. Guest Speaker Destiny Rescue. Further enquiries: Michelle Cook 0429 125 596

[Michelle.Cook@bendigobaptist.org.au](mailto:Michelle.Cook@bendigobaptist.org.au)

**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](mailto:bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com)

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

Congregation Website [bendigocentralaxedale.ucavictas.org.au](http://bendigocentralaxedale.ucavictas.org.au)