



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 21st 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
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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 Di Esbensen.
2.30pm Worship service at Axedale led by Rev Di Esbensen

THIS WEEKS UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 22 nd	
Tuesday 23 rd	
Wednesday 24 th	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 25 th	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 26 th	9am Meditation Group
Saturday 27 th	
Sunday 28 th	9.30am Worship service at Forest St led by Rev Di Esbensen.



- **Lectionary readings this 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
- **Lectionary readings next week 28th June (Pentecost 5):** Genesis 22: 1-14, Jeremiah 28: 5-9; Psalm 13, Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18; Romans 6: 12-23; Matthew 10: 40-42

SUNDAY JUNE 21st DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

Church Openers and Welcomers: Jenny Sheild, Lorraine Castles

Vestry: Judy Causon

Readings and Prayers: Nathan Morsillo, Gwenda Watson

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

SUNDAY JUNE 28th DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

Church Openers and Welcomers: Glenis Pitson

Vestry: Di Farrar

Readings and Prayers: Doug Poole, Isabel Thomas Dobson

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

Change of Worship Venues for June & July:

A problem has emerged with the gas heating on our St Andrew's site. As a result, the heaters cannot be used for the next month or so. The Church Council Executive has decided that we will move most of our services in that time to our Forest St site until the heaters are repaired.

At the beginning of July, there will be some repairs conducted on the organ at Forest St, so we will go back to St Andrew's for one Sunday to accommodate that work.

Here are our worship venues for June and July:

Sunday 21st June: Forest St

Sunday 28th June: Forest St

Sunday 5th July: Forest St

Sunday 12th July: St Andrew's

Sunday 19th July: Forest St

Sunday 26th July: St Andrew's

Church Council Report

OFFICE BEARERS

At the church council meeting on 16 June the following members were elected to office bearer positions:

- Chairperson: David Castles
- Deputy Chairperson: Judy Causon
- Treasurer: Carol McKinstry (reaffirmed)
- Secretary: Dean Shirley

PROPERTY USE STRATEGY WORKING PARTY

In last week's *Uniting Matters*, I alluded to the church council establishing a working party to examine "the purposes of all our buildings, including the consideration of a primary worship site." The comprehensive terms of reference of this working party are attached to *Uniting Matters* this week and give a very detailed description of the role of this working party.

The Church Council is inviting interested members of the congregation to express interest in being a member of this skills-based working party. Beyond the membership of this working party the church council is committed to a consultation process with members of the congregation so that every voice is heard.

As a guide, the church council has a perspective on the membership of the working party, which is subject to modification. It is expected that almost every member would be drawn from our church.

ROLE	BACKGROUND
Chair	Church Council member with strategic leadership skills
Member	Ministry leader (worship and mission perspective)
Member	Finance/accounting experience
Member	Property/building management experience
Member	Community engagement/outreach experience
Member	Congregational member with project management and consultation skills
Optional	Building/property specialist

The office bearers mentioned above are the selection team for this working party. If you are interested feel free to speak to one of them. To apply we require an email to be sent to bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com by **Friday 17 July 2026**.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

Our financial accounts have been merged into one accounting package so that reporting on all accounts can now be made and a true financial picture of the congregation is readily obtainable. We are still working on removing duplication and simplifying our financial operations so that clear reporting against an annual budget can be used to assist in future planning.

MISSIONS PLAN

In the next edition of *Uniting Matters*, I will return to the Missions Plan to report on church council discussions and well as other outcomes of the church council meeting.

Dean Shirley: Secretary

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

- Ray Outhred is currently staying at Coinda 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...

- **FOOD DRIVE FOR REFUGEES:** Bendigo Central has generously supported this annual appeal in the past. If anyone wishes to do so again but is unable to get to a branch of Woolworths or to the library where collection bins are placed, Judy Causon will happily accept your donations and pass them on. Alternatively, if you wish to make a monetary donation, she will turn it into suitable groceries for you.

The appeal continues to the end of June and supports the work of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.



BENDIGO

FOOD DRIVE FOR REFUGEES

The scriptures enjoin us to care for the stranger who lives among us.

Refugees have come to us as people who have experienced much trauma and pain, and seeking our help. Our country has not always welcomed these strangers in the way that we ought.

Three Bendigo community groups – Grandmothers for Refugees, Amnesty and Rural Australians for Refugees – are seeking support for their annual Food Drive for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Those most in need are asylum seekers on Temporary Protection Visas that don't allow them to work or receive Centrelink benefits.

Food donations can be left in collection boxes at each Woolworths supermarket or at the Bendigo Library.

Tinned tuna, tinned vegetables, dried chickpeas, lentils, yellow split peas, olive or vegetable oil, coconut cream or milk, UHT milk, tea bags, instant coffee and tomato paste would be very much appreciated.

We ask that you might show your love for refugees through your generosity in supporting our food drive.

Thank you,

Gillian Wells,

on behalf of Bendigo RAR

jandg@wellsoz.net

- **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.

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