



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 24th MAY 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 Service: 9.30am Worship Service at St Andrew's led by Rev Di Esbensen

THIS WEEKS UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 25 th	10.30am Morning Tea at Quarry Hill
Tuesday 26 th	
Wednesday 27 th	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 28 th	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 29 th	9am Meditation Group
Saturday 30 th	
Sunday 31 st	9.30am Worship service at Forest St led by Rev Kevin Dobson.



- **Lectionary readings this week 24th May (Pentecost):** Acts 2: 1-21 or Numbers 11: 24-30; Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13 or Acts 2: 1-21; John 20: 19-23 or John 7: 37-39
- **Lectionary readings next week 31st May (Trinity Sunday):** Genesis 1: 1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Cor 13: 11-13; Matthew 28: 16-20

SUNDAY MAY 24th 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

SUNDAY MAY 31st DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

Church Openers and Welcomers: Bruce Johnson, Janice West

Vestry: Ken Crouch

Readings and Prayers: Dean Shirley, Kevin Dobson

Morning Tea: Barb and Glen Fordham (please bring milk), Gwenda Pratt

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 and ANNUAL MEETING 2026

The Annual Report for 2025 has been released via email. Some printed copies of the report will be available at the service on Sunday 24th May.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday 24th 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

- **Late report for the Annual General Meeting 2026.**

Children's Christmas Club

On two Thursday evenings in December we held our first Children Christmas Club in St Andrew's Hall after school. The program included an arrival activity, some fruit, a brief introduction to the day and the Christmas story – some "I wonder" questions, a craft activity and then a series of tableaux. The craft activities were making a pencil shepherd and making a biscuit nativity scene. The second craft activity was enjoyed but the product didn't last long. The Tableaux were set up based on the Christmas story with children being dressed up to represent the various characters in the story and projected pictures or set-up places around the church and hall as background.

The pictures were then collated to tell the Christmas Story at the 5.00 pm "Carols for Kids" at Forest Street on Christmas Eve, where we had a real baby for Jesus, much to everyone's delight. We had eleven children in the program and more involved on Christmas Eve, reading the Christmas Story, leading in the Prayer for Others, and assisting in other parts of the worship.



Thank you to all the leaders who assisted me: Peter and Leanne Vernon, Di Farrar; Barb Fordham, Jenny Shield, Tilby Hayward, Jenny Bursill; Claire Lidgett and Dean Shirley who set up all the power point and projection.

Bill Lidgett, team leader

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'.

- **MORNING TEA AT QUARRY HILL:** Our next gathering will be on Monday, May 25 from 10.30am at the Quarry Hill Larder and Cafe, Carpenter St. All are welcome to join us for a cuppa, cake and conversation.

- **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 28th May. Thanks

- **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.

- **RECONCILIATION WEEK**

Reconciliation Australia has been celebrated for 25 years. National Reconciliation Week 2026 will be celebrated between 27 May and 3 June Commencing with National Sorry Day on May 26

- **BENDIGO BAPTIST CHURCH EVENTS**

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

Gather the Girls - Abolishing Human Trafficking
Saturday 30th 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 Gaelle Broad. Guest Speaker Destiny Rescue. Further enquiries: Michelle Cook 0429 125 596
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

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