



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 28th 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 Service: 9.30am Worship Service at **Forest St** led by Rev Bill Lidgett

THIS WEEKS UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 29 th	
Tuesday 30 th	
Wednesday 1 st	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 2 nd	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 3 rd	9am Meditation Group
Saturday 4 th	
Sunday 5 th	9.30am Communion service at Forest St led by Rev Di Esbensen.



- **Lectionary readings this 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
- **Lectionary readings next week 5th July (Pentecost 6):** Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45: 10-17 or Song of Solomon 2: 8-13; Romans 7: 15-25a; Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

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)

SUNDAY JULY 5th DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

Communion: Gwenda Watson*, David Shield, Barb Fordham, Jenny Bursill, Isabel Thomas Dobson

Church Openers and Welcomers: Ken Crouch, Glenis Pitson

Vestry: Judy Causon

Readings and Prayers: Peter Judd, David Castles

Morning Tea: Marion Allan (please bring milk), Jenny Shield

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 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

This is the second report from the Council meeting held on 16 June. At that meeting, Council approved replacing the solar panels and inverter at the Manse, as the current system is no longer operating efficiently and requires upgrading. The replacement of gas appliances will be considered at a later date.

The Elders Council has been working to merge the three congregations' Membership Rolls into a combined Bendigo Central & Axedale Roll. As a result, we

now have a clearer and more accurate record of our membership, while recognising that the Membership Roll remains a “living” document. Council is grateful for the work undertaken by the Elders Council.

Our financial accounts have been consolidated into a single accounting package, allowing reports across all accounts and providing a clearer overall financial picture of the congregation. We are continuing to remove duplication and simplify our financial processes so that reporting against an annual budget can better support future planning. Dean Shirley, Secretary

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

- Ray Outhred has moved into his new home at Andrew’s House Trafalgar. We are waiting on confirmation of Ray’s postal address and will publish it in the new directory. 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