



# UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 3<sup>rd</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 Communion Service at Forest St led by Rev Di Esbensen  
2.30pm Communion Service at Axedale led by Rev Di Esbensen

## THIS WEEKS UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9am Meditation Group
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Worship service at St Andrew's led by Rev Di Esbensen



- **Lectionary readings this week 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Easter 5):** Acts 7: 55-60; Psalm 31; 1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14
- **Lectionary readings next week 10<sup>th</sup> May (Easter 6):** Acts 17: 22-31; Psalm 66; 8-20; 1 Peter 3: 13-22; John 14: 15-21

## SUNDAY MAY 3rd DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

**Communion:** Glenys Shirley\*, Judy Causon, Tilby Hayward, Carol McKinstry

**Church Openers and Welcomers:** Peter Judd, Glenis Pitson

**Vestry:** Carol McKinstry

**Readings and Prayers:** Clarie Lidgett, Garth Phillips

**Morning Tea:** Marion Allan (please bring milk), Doug and Jeannie Turnbull

## SUNDAY MAY 10<sup>th</sup> DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

**Church Openers and Welcomers:** Nathan Morsillo, Dean Shirley

**Vestry:** David Shield

**Readings and Prayers:** Lorraine Castles, Bruce Johnson

**Morning Tea:** Janice West (please bring milk), Jenny Bursill

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025 and ANNUAL MEETING 2026

It is the time to compile the Annual Report for 2025. Can all reports please be submitted in Word format to [bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com](mailto:bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com) no later than Thursday 30th April. Copies of the report will be available, by email and printed copy, by Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

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

Nominations are now being called for Church Councillors and Elders. A nomination form is available this week with Uniting Matters and copies will be available at all our venues. The form indicates the people whose term as an Elder or Church Councillor is finishing this year, and these people are able to re-nominate if they wish. As these positions are important ones in the life of our congregation, we ask that you give prayerful consideration to this important task.

### Timeline:

- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026 - Nominations for Elders and Church Council open

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Nomination for Elders and Church Council close
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Nominations published in Uniting Matters
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Congregational Annual Meeting

David Castles, Chairperson

## IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

- **LOST**  
Wondering if the kind person who picked up a partly covered, black & white photo of an adolescent male plus some paperwork could return items to Garth Phillips.

These were picked up from Forest St UC hall at end of Morning Tea on 19 February last, Many thanks.

## NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

- **STEP LADDER**

We have a new step ladder at St Andrew's located with the other ladders near the toilets. Available to anyone who needs them within the Church buildings. Please return it after use. Thanks

- **THE UNIQUE ROLE CHURCHES CAN PLAY IN A CLIMATE-CHANGING WORLD**

Friday 1st May 8-45am for 9am start 249 Sugarloaf Road, Axedale.

Rev Ken Rookes has been undertaking a course which culminates in the web presentation that includes, stories and music from 5 congregations in New England, USA. The congregations have been exploring the unique contribution Churches can make in a climate changing world. Ken has drawn our attention to the presentation, so Frances and I are opening our home early on Thursday to screen the presentation to the first 10 people who register. Coffee and good conversation will follow the presentation, which takes 90 minutes.

To register ring Tim Angus on 0400383628

- **REQUIEM WOLFGANG AMADEUS 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**

It is nearly time to compile the Duty Roster for the second half of the year. If you have any unavailable dates or any other requests 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. We will touch on the different listening skills which might be employed where there is grief, trauma, conflict, physical illness, distress, and so on. There will be opportunity to watch role plays, as well as practice skills in small groups. This will aim to be a fast moving and engaging evening where you will come away energized and equipped.

***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 Gaelle 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)