



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 7th 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 Communion Service at St Andrew's led by Rev Di Esbensen.
2.30pm Communion Service at Axedale led by Rev Di Esbensen

THIS WEEKS UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 8 th	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 9 th	
Wednesday 10 th	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 11 th	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 12 th	9am Meditation Group
Saturday 13 th	
Sunday 14 th	9.30am Worship service at Forest St led by Rev Di Esbensen.



- **Lectionary readings this week 31st May (Trinity Sunday):** Genesis 1: 1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13; Matthew 28: 16-20
- **Lectionary readings next week 7th June (Pentecost 2):** Genesis 12: 1-9, Hos 5: 15-6:6; Psalm 33: 1-12, Psalm 50: 7-15; Romans 4: 13-25; Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

SUNDAY JUNE 7th DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

Communion: Glenys Shirley*, Jeannie Turnbull, Judy Causon, Tilby Hayward, Di Farrar

Church Openers and Welcomers: Dean Shirley, Jenny Bursill

Vestry: Gwenda Watson

Readings and Prayers: Vi Sutherland, Garth Phillips

Morning Tea: Ron and Kathy Ratcliff (please bring milk)

SUNDAY JUNE 14th DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

Church Openers and Welcomers: Janice West, Peter Judd

Vestry: Barb Fordham

Readings and Prayers: Bruce Johnson, David Castles

Morning Tea: Glenis Pitson (please bring milk), David and Jenny Shield

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

- Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of June Reid following her death last week. We surround them with our love and prayers at this time. A service to celebrate June's life will be held at Forest Street on Friday 12th June at 11am. Refreshments will be served in the hall following the service.

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

- **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.

- **OFFICE CLOSED**

The St Andrew’s office will be closed on Monday 8th June for the King’s Birthday public holiday. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday 9th June.

- **DUTY ROSTER**

The roster for the second half of the year has been sent via email. If you would like a printed copy, some will be available at the service on Sunday. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to fill the duties.

- **DIRECTORY UPDATES**

A draft version of the 2026 Members and Friends Directory will be available at the service on Sunday for everyone to check their current entry. If you are unable to attend and need to make an update please email the details through to Belinda at bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com

- **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.

- **REPORT OF LODDON MALLEE PRESBYTERY MEETING MAY 2026**

The Presbytery met on Saturday 23 May at Swan Hill Uniting Church. There were a lot more people there for the morning than are usually at a presbytery meeting as the Rev Deacon Mark Boyce was inducted as the Presbytery Minister (Northern Region). Mark has been the minister within the Mallee Rivers Regional Team (Cohuna, Kerang, Pyramid Hill, Moulamein and Swan Hill) so plenty of locals were there to wish him well in his transition to Presbytery Minister for the northern half of the presbytery. The new Presbytery Chairperson Rev Bruce Gallacher led that service and chaired the meeting.

The main speaker for the day was Elga Rodriguez, the Synod's Disability Inclusion Advocate. Elga introduced a new resource 'Compliments, Concerns and Complaints (3Cs) Guidelines.' It is available on the Synod website and helps people know how and where to give feedback. As the body of Christ we want people of all abilities to be able to participate in church life and we need to meet legal requirements. Expect to see new posters up in our church buildings once the Church Council has reviewed them.

Lunch and time to talk is a key part of in person Presbytery meetings. When the meeting resumed Liminsesi Taunga, candidate in training for the ministry, spoke of her current study and learnings. Sesi is in her fourth and probably final year of study and formation. She spoke of her discovery that uncertainty is part of formation and of being open to God working in us. She can now claim with confidence that 'theology isn't only for the polished voices.' She has been invited to present a paper at a theological conference in Tonga, in Tongan, in August which is a significant honour.

Dean Shirley, Presbytery Property Officer provided a very clear guide to Land Tax legislation relating to Church properties, with a warning as to penalties that can apply, particularly if manses are leased.

The Treasurer Graham Pogue thanked people for donations to support the Hospital Chaplain Appeal which have ensured that Tanya Dunbar can continue in her role at Bendigo Health for at least this year. Tanya reported on her work and continuing study.

Rev Paul Bauer was elected Deputy Chairperson of the Presbytery.

Dates to note:

50th Anniversary of the Uniting Church – 22nd June 2027

18th Assembly 8-13 July 2027 in Adelaide. Presbytery will elect 3 members to attend at its next meeting.

Next presbytery meeting: Tuesday 25 August, 7.00- 9.00pm Online.

Isabel Thomas Dobson.

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