



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 12th July 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 13 th	
Tuesday 14 th	7.30pm Going Deeper at Forest St
Wednesday 15 th	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 16 th	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 17 th	9am Meditation Group
Saturday 18 th	
Sunday 19 th	9.30am Worship service at Forest St led by Rev Di Esbensen. 2.30pm Worship service at Axedale led by Rev Di Esbensen.



- **Lectionary readings this week 12th July (Pentecost 7):** Genesis 25: 19-34, Isaiah 55: 10-13; Psalm 119: 105-112, Psalm 65 (1-8), 9-13; Romans 8: 1-11; Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

- **Lectionary readings next week 19th July (Pentecost 8):** Genesis 28: 10-19a, Isaiah 44: 6-8; Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24, Psalm 86: 11-17; Romans 8: 12-25; Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

SUNDAY JULY 12th DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew’s

Church Openers and Welcomers: Nathan Morsillo, Gwenda Pratt

Vestry: Glenys Shirley

Readings and Prayers: Bill Lidgett, Isabel Thomas Dobson

Morning Tea: Doug Turnbull (please bring milk), Bruce Johnson

SUNDAY JULY 19th DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

Church Openers and Welcomers: Jeannie Turnbull, Bruce Johnson

Vestry: Gwenda Watson

Readings and Prayers: Peter Judd, Doug Poole

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

CHANGE OF WORSHIP VENUES FOR 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 remainder of July:

Sunday 12th July: St Andrew’s

Sunday 19th July: Forest St

Sunday 26th July: St Andrew’s

- **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**.

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...

- **WEEKEND AT SILVERBAND LODGE AT HALL'S GAP: 7 - 9 AUGUST 2026 - REGISTRATIONS URGENTLY NEEDED!**

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.

We **URGENTLY NEED** registrations and deposits to be completed by **Thursday 16th July** with Belinda in the St Andrew's office.

Email: bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com

If you have other family, or friends who might like a weekend in the Grampians, please pass on the details and encourage them to register. If you have questions, please contact Belinda or David Castles

- **NAME TAGS**

We are putting in a name tag order. If you need a name tag please notify Belinda no later than 30th July.

- **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 CLOSURE**

The St Andrew's office will be closed from Thursday 16th July until Monday 27th July. A two week edition of Uniting Matters will be released on Thursday 16th so if you have notices that you would like to be included please send them through by 10am on that day. Thank you

- **ENGAGE THE CHANGE**



ENGAGE THE CHANGE
EVENT • SAT AUGUST 8, 4:00-8:00PM
WORSHIP • SUN AUGUST 9, 10:00AM
BENDIGO

with Jools

Join us for an evening of conversation, reflection, practical workshops and worship as we explore how communities can navigate change with courage, creativity and hope.

Key Speaker: Rev Dr Julian Hamilton is a minister, writer and retreat leader whose work creates thoughtful grounded spaces for leaders and communities navigating change, pressure and complexity. Based in Northern Ireland, Julian works internationally across faith, education and community settings. Offering reflective leadership formation shaped by deep listening, honesty and imagination.

Workshop: Saturday 8th August 4.00pm-5.30pm

Community Dinner: 6.00pm-7.00pm

Worship Gathering: 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Cost: \$10 including dinner pay at the door

RSVP: Saturday dinner and any dietary requirements to Mick:
weeroonauca@gmail.com

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