



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 30th AUGUST 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

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 31 st	
Tuesday 1 st	
Wednesday 2 nd	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 3 rd	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 4 th	9am Meditation Group at St Andrew's
Saturday 5 th	
Sunday 6 th	9.30am Communion service at Forest St led by Rev Stan Clarke 2.30pm Communion Service at Axedale led by Rev Stan Clarke



- **Lectionary readings this week 30th August (Pentecost 14):** Exodus 3: 1-15, Jeremiah 15: 15-21; Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26 45b Psalm 26: 1-8; Romans 12: 9-21; Matthew 16:21-28
- **Lectionary readings next week 6th September (Pentecost 15):** Exodus 12: 1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13: 8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

SUNDAY AUGUST 30th DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

Church Openers and Welcomers: Gwenda Pratt, Jenny Bursill

Vestry: Glenys Shirley

Readings and Prayers: Stan Clarke, Kevin Dobson

Creative Corner: Nathan Morsillo

Morning Tea: Barb and Glenn Fordham (Please bring milk), Isabel Thomas Dobson

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6th DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

Communion: Barb Fordham*, Isabel Thomas Dobson, Jenny Bursill, Judy Causon, Carol McKinstry

Church Openers and Welcomers: Peter Judd, Doug Turnbull

Vestry: Di Farrar

Readings and Prayers: Bill Lidgett, Kevin Dobson

Creative Corner: Susan Clarke

Morning Tea: Ron and Kathy Ratcliff (Please bring milk), Isabel Thomas Dobson

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

• CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Property Use Strategy Working Party

Working Party Scope

The Church Council has established a Property Use Strategy Working Party to review the use of the Forest Street and Myers Street properties, clarify how these properties serve the mission of the church, and develop recommendations for the Church Council and congregation. The Axedale church site is not included in this work.

I will provide reports to the congregation as the working party progresses, and there will be consultation further down the track when there is something to present that needs the wisdom of the people in our church.

Mission Before Buildings

The working party has a central principle: **mission comes before buildings**.

As such, the success of this working party will not be measured by the number of meetings held, reports produced, or recommendations written. It will be measured by whether the congregation has developed a deeper understanding of its mission, recognising not only the ministries it undertakes today, but also the enduring contribution of ministries established by previous generations and the opportunities entrusted to future generations.

The project therefore seeks to understand *the different ways in which property participates in mission*. Only by understanding our mission in all its dimensions can we make decisions that faithfully align property with God's continuing mission.

The quality of those decisions will depend upon the quality of the questions asked, the evidence gathered, the consultation undertaken, and the discipline with which the working party moves from observation to understanding, from understanding to judgement, and from judgement to recommendation.

Next Steps

In my next report, I will comment on our membership.

Dean Shirley
Secretary

- **HALL'S GAP WEEKEND**

A wonderful time of fun, fellowship and learning was experienced by the 43 people who ventured to Hall's Gap for our annual weekend away. The weather on Saturday was kind and we walked, climbed, visited waterfalls, played games, sat and talked and enjoyed the beautiful Gariwerd environment. While Sunday was wet, Tim led us in our worship and we reflected on faith and hope in a climate-changing world. After worship, some hardy souls re-visited Silverband Falls to see how much more water was flowing after the rain!

We have booked Silverband Lodge for **6th – 8th August 2027**, so note this date in your diary, and we look forward to sharing in another great weekend!

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

- **UCAF LODDON MALLEE ANNUAL GATHERING, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7.**

This year's gathering will be hosted by the Bendigo South Cluster at the **Chum Street Uniting Church**, commencing at 10am. Guest Speakers will be **Isabel Thomas Dobson**, who will speak about her experience at the recent World Methodist Council meeting in El Salvador and **Jan Jenkin**, who will share stories of the bushfire recovery at Harcourt.

Please bring lunch to share and items for the trading table - and some cash to spend there! The offering and trading table proceeds will be used to support the Harcourt recovery.

All are welcome!

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