



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 9th 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 services: There **will not be Bendigo Central service this Sunday**, but those of our congregation not at Hall's Gap are warmly invited to join the **Weeroona Congregation at Neale St at 10am**.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 10 th	
Tuesday 11 th	
Wednesday 12 th	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 13 th	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 14 th	9am Meditation Group
Saturday 15 th	
Sunday 16 th	9.30am Worship service at St Andrew's led by Rev Bill Lidgett 2.30pm Worship service at Axedale led by Rev Bill Lidgett



- **Lectionary readings this week 9th August (Pentecost 11):** Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10: 5-15; Matthew 14: 22-33
- **Lectionary readings next week 16th August (Pentecost 12):** Genesis 45: 1-15, Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8; Psalm 133; Psalm 67; Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

SUNDAY AUGUST 9th DUTY ROSTER

On Sunday 9th August, many of our congregation will be in Hall's Gap. There **will not be Bendigo Central service next Sunday**, but those of our congregation not at Hall's Gap are warmly invited to join the **Weeroona Congregation at Neale St at 10am** for their service with Rev Dr Julian Hamilton who is in Bendigo to conduct a special workshop on the Saturday evening. Details of the Saturday workshop are included below and you may wish to attend this event as well.

SUNDAY AUGUST 16th DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

Church Openers and Welcomers: Ken Crouch, Dean Shirley

Vestry: David Shield

Readings and Prayers: Susan Clarke, Dean Shirley

Morning Tea: Marion Allan (Please bring milk), Di Farrar

Creative Corner: Peter Judd

SERVICE LEADERSHIP

We thank Rev Stan Clarke, Rev Tim Angus and Rev Bill Lidgett for stepping in to lead the services while Di is on leave.

Sunday 26th July: Rev Stan Clarke (St Andrew's)

Sunday 2nd August: Rev Tim Angus (St Andrew's and Axedale)

Sunday 9th August: No service at Bendigo Central & Axedale UC. For those who are not attending Halls Gap Camp we will be joining the Weeroona UC at 10am (Neale St) for their special service with Rev Dr Julian Hamilton.

Sunday 16th August: Rev Bill Lidgett (St Andrew's and Axedale)

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

Greetings everyone,

You may now be aware that our friend Max Elliot died on Saturday the 25th of July.

I was privileged to be asked to lead a family Graveside Service for Max on Wednesday.

We all have our memories of Max's warmth, friendship and faith. And we hold his family in our love and prayers.

This is a small part of what I shared on Wednesday ...

Memories and Reflection ...

We come together at times like these because this is what we do, we gather together to remember, to share stories, to care deeply for Max's family and friends, remembering that the connections we each shared with Max were unique, and these are threads that bind us together and there are other thoughts, memories and feelings that are our own to hold or release as we can, as Max is loved, valued and remembered.

Max's life is greater than the length of our memories. He has been part of our lives and in the lives of many others - each of us. His life was long, lived well and remembered in unique ways by each and all of us. None of what he gave us is lost and our lives have been and are shaped by our connections with him in all he has shared with and gifted to us. Max accepted responsibility as a 15 year old, he created a deep and wonderful relationship with Margaret, welcomed their children, gathered friends, and was a champion footballer with Sandhurst - was captain and won the Best and Fairest. I also know how deeply Max and Margaret were loved and valued at our Church.

Max's life, as we have known it has now come to an end,
but our connections with his family and our memories have not,
and so we come to mourn his death, to celebrate his life
and comfort each other as we grieve, remember and care deeply.

We come believing that all human life has infinite worth.
That the truth, integrity and hopefulness which resides in each life continues on
and we do this in so many different ways with compassion and warmth.

We come believing that Max's life, his story, his warmth and integrity,
his generosity and sense of humour - along with our memories are
joined to the eternal continuum of human endeavour
stretching from the dawn of humanity and on to the end of time.

We share our grief as his community of faith, and we care for each other.

With deep care and compassion,
Di

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

- **ENGAGE THE CHANGE**



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:
weeroonauc@gmail.com

- **BENDIGO CLIMATE CHANGE CAFÉ- ACF Community Central Vic**

The Rights of Nature putting the Earth at the Centre. Video featuring Dr Michelle Maloney of the Australian Earth Lawa Alliance. Followed by discussion. Friday 14th August, 3.45pm Bendigo Library. Drop by for a cuppa and a chat everyone 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