



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 13th SEPTEMBER 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 14 th	
Tuesday 15 th	7.30pm Church Council Meeting at St Andrew's
Wednesday 16 th	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 17 th	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 18 th	9am Meditation Group at St Andrew's
Saturday 19 th	
Sunday 20 th	9.30am Worship service at Forest St led by Rev Di Esbensen



- **Lectionary readings this week 13th September (Pentecost 16):** Exodus 14: 19-31; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15: 1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14: 1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
- **Lectionary readings next week 20th September (Pentecost 17):** Exodus 16: 2-15, Jon 3: 10-4:11; Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45, Psalm 145: 1-8; Philippians 1: 21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13th DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

Church Openers and Welcomers: David and Jenny Shield

Vestry: Carol McKinstry

Readings and Prayers: Judy Causon, Doug Poole

Creative Corner: Peter Judd

Morning Tea: Janice West (Please bring milk), Susan Clarke, Jenny Bursill

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20th DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

Church Openers and Welcomers: Bruce Johnson, Nathan Morsillo

Vestry: Gwenda Watson

Readings and Prayers: David Shield, Lorraine Castles

Creative Corner: Di Farrar

Morning Tea: Jenny Shield (Please bring milk), Marion Allan, Gwenda Pratt

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

- **SCHOOL HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

The St Andrew's office will have some slightly different hours over the school holidays.

Week 1:

Monday 21 st Sept	– Closed
Tuesday 22 nd Sept	– 9am – 3pm
Wednesday 23 rd Sept	– 9am – 12pm
Thursday 24 th Sept	- 9am – 3pm
Friday 25 th Sept	- Closed

- **INTERFAITH EVENT: LIVING WATER - A MEDITATIVE WALK. Sunday, October 4, 2pm - 4pm at Crusoe Reservoir No. 7 Reservoir.**

Representatives of six faith traditions will speak about the significance of water in their faith as we walk around the No 7 Reservoir together, followed by afternoon tea (BYO food and drink to share).

All are welcome.

The theme for the 2026 Season of Creation is "Living Water" and this event is planned jointly by the Bendigo Interfaith Council and the Sandhurst Care for Creation team.

- **SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB**

St Kilian's Earthcare Team
invites you to the

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB

"How much is too much?"

At the heart of both our ecological crisis and mental health crisis, is a crisis of our material way of life. The great spiritual, cultural and political challenge for Australians is to learn that less is more.

JONATHAN CORNFORD is an historian, political economist and theologian who has written and spoken extensively on this subject.

**THE RISING SUN HOTEL
FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2026
6:00PM**

- **SEASON OF CREATION**

The Season of Creation runs from **1 September to 4 October**, incorporating the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, the Feast of Creation and the Feast of St Francis of Assisi and during this time, Christians around the world gather in prayer, reflection and action to celebrate God's gift of creation and renew their commitment to care for our common home. To mark the beginning of the season, **Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli** has released a message inviting the Church to respond with faith, justice and hope.

This year's Season of Creation is centred on the theme '**Living Water**', inspired by Ezekiel 47:9 and 12. In the prophet's vision, a river flows from God's sanctuary, bringing healing, restoration and new life wherever it goes.

For Rev Suli, this vision speaks powerfully into a world experiencing environmental degradation, climate change and displacement. "Amid devastation and displacement, Ezekiel sees a river flowing from the presence of God, bringing healing, renewal, and life," Rev Suli says.

She also invited the Church to hold in prayer communities affected by environmental disasters, including the people of Nepal and Tibet following devastating floods, as well as communities across Asia, the Pacific and around the world living with the realities of a changing climate.

The season's symbol, '**Immersion in Living Water**', encourages Christians to step into God's life-giving river and depend fully on God's grace. As recipients of this living water, Christians are called to become channels of hope and renewal, allowing God's love to flow through them into the world.

Rev Suli highlighted the particular responsibility of the Uniting Church in Australia, where care for creation is closely connected with the Church's commitment to First Nations justice. "Here in Australia, our response begins on country," she says. "Our covenant with Congress reminds us that justice for creation and justice for First Nations people are inseparable."

With Australia holding the COP31 presidency, Rev Suli also reflected on the importance of listening to Pacific neighbours and advocating for climate justice. She will journey with Pacific churches in Tuvalu and Fiji in the lead-up to COP31, listening to their leadership and calls for climate justice.

Across the Uniting Church, work is already underway through the Assembly, synods, agencies, congregations and communities to strengthen commitments to care for creation, including action towards net zero emissions and solidarity with vulnerable communities.

Rev Suli invites the Church to use this season to "**pray, learn, act, and advocate**", trusting that the living water of Christ will renew us and flow through us, bringing healing and hope to all creation.

Presbytery Supply Ministry

The Loddon Mallee UCA Presbytery welcomes and thanks Rev Kevin Dobson for undertaking a 3-month part-time supply for the Presbytery Minister (Southern Region) which has commenced this week. This supply assists the presbytery while Rev Gordon Wild is on extended leave. Kevin will be working 2 days a week in this role and our prayers are with Kevin as he begins this work.

- **THE LONG RUN FOR PROSTATE CANCER.**



I've joined the Long Run for Prostate Cancer research during September. In the first week of September, I have walked 32km and, thanks to your support, my fundraising total is \$571. I am hoping to walk at least 72km and raise at least \$700 during the month. If you would like to assist me in raising funds for research, I would be happy to accept your donation, or you can donate directly to my efforts by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.thelongrun.org.au/fundraisers/davidcastles/the-long-run-2026>.

Thank you in advance for your support. David Castles

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