



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 20th 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 services: 9.30am Worship service at Forest St led by Rev Di Esbensen
2.30pm Worship service at Axedale led by Rev Di Esbensen

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 21 st	
Tuesday 22 nd	
Wednesday 23 rd	
Thursday 24 th	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 25 th	9am Meditation Group at St Andrew's
Saturday 26 th	
Sunday 27 th	9.30am Worship service at St Andrew's led by Rev Di Esbensen



- **Lectionary readings this 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
- **Lectionary readings next week 27th September (Pentecost 18):** Exodus 17: 1-7; Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

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

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27th DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

Church Openers and Welcomers: Judy Causon, Gwenda Pratt

Vestry: Barb Fordham

Readings and Prayers: jon Watson, Stan Clarke

Creative Corner: Isabel Thomas Dobson

Morning Tea: Bruce Johnson (Please bring milk), David and Lorraine Castles

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

- **BENDIGO SUSTAINABILITY GROUP**

This Sunday Bendigo Sustainability Group is having a Sustainable House Day at 14 Candlewood Drive Strathfieldsaye. There are two sessions- 11 am - 12 (if you hurry away after church) or 2-3 pm. Seeing we're reflecting on the Season of Creation, you will find all sorts of creative ideas how we can live more sustainably in a suburban block. You'll need to book by emailing hello@bsg.org.au or if you're on Facebook there's a QR code on the Bendigo Sustainability Group site. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 concession or \$5 for BSG members.

- **SCHOOL HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

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

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.

- **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.

- **OFFICE CLOSURE**

The St Andrew's Church Office will be closed for annual leave from 3pm **Thursday 8th October** and 9am on **Thursday 5th November**. A three week edition of the Uniting Matters will be released on the 8th October to cover the closure period. If you have any notices you would like to be included please submit them prior to the 8th October. Emails will be attended to once the office re-opens. For urgent matters only please contact Dean Shirley on the office phone 0434 730 900.

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

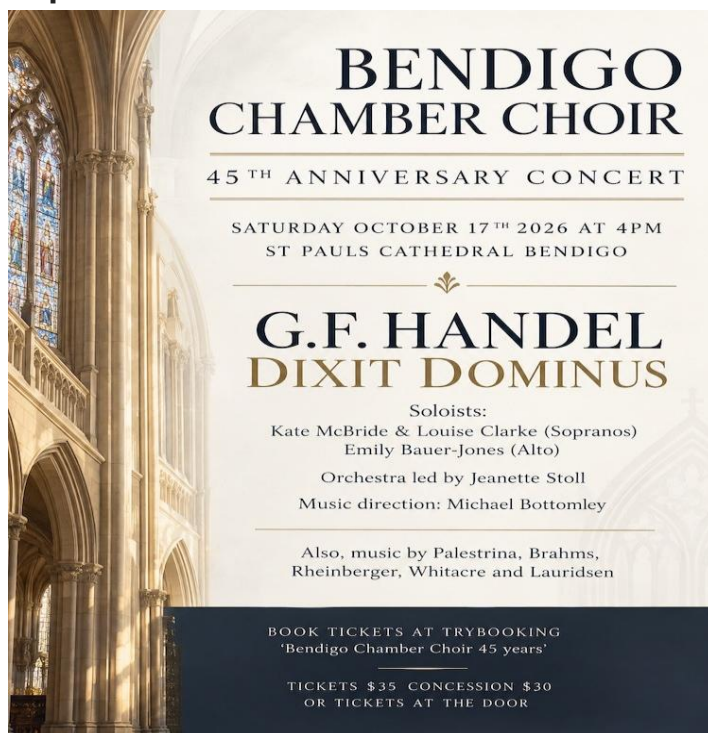


I've joined the Long Run for Prostate Cancer research during September. In the first week of September, I have walked 32km and, thanks to your support, my fundraising total is \$571. I am hoping to walk at least 72km and raise at least \$700 during the month. If you would like to assist me in raising 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

- **HANDEL'S DIXIT DOMINUS - 45TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT - Saturday Oct 17th, 4pm**



Bendigo Chamber Choir will celebrate 45 years of wonderful music making with a grand concert on Saturday October 17th in St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo.

The main work on the program will be Handel's Dixit Dominus for choir, soloists and orchestra. Composed in Rome in April 1707, and written when the composer was only 22, this virtuosic, eight-movement Baroque masterpiece showcases his precocious genius, pairing fiery Old Testament text with theatrical, operatic flair. This is a demanding choral tour de force that pushes both singers and

instrumentalists to the absolute limit.

The program also features Palestrina's glorious motet Tu es Petrus, Abendlied by Josef Rheinberger, Waldesnacht by Brahms, Sing Gently by Eric Whitacre and Sure on this Shining Light by Morten Lauridsen. Contact David Castles for more details. [Trybooking - Click here to purchase tickets](#)

- **BEING EMPTIED, BEING FILLED**

Living water in the season of Creation



The gathering will commence with the unfolding on the theme of Living Water in John's Gospel, in the story of Jesus and the woman at the well, as interpreted by Dorothy Lee and John Honner, followed by individual quiet time, a closing prayer, and lunch.

Wednesday 21st October 2026

9:30am – 1pm 249 Sugarloaf Road, Axedale 3551

Includes an invitation for those who wish to sit outside by the water near either dam or elsewhere on the property. Dress for the weather.

Cost \$10 pp (includes a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese and fruit, provided)

Bring yourselves and a notebook if you wish.

Limited to 10 participants - register with Tim Angus 0400 383 628 or fordangus@fastmail.net

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