



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 27th 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 28 th	
Tuesday 29 th	
Wednesday 30 th	
Thursday 1 st	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 2 nd	9am Meditation Group at St Andrew's
Saturday 3 rd	
Sunday 4 th	Daylights Savings starts 9.30am Communion service at Forest St led by Rev Di Esbensen 2.30pm Communion service at Axedale led by Rev Di Esbensen



- **Lectionary readings this week 27th September (Pentecost 18):** Exodus 17: 1-7; Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
- **Lectionary readings next week 4th October (Pentecost 19):** Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9; Psalm 19; Philippians 3: 4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27th DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

Church Openers and Welcomers: Judy Causon, Gwenda Pratt

Vestry: Barb Fordham

Readings and Prayers: jon Watson, Dean Shirley

Creative Corner: Isabel Thomas Dobson

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

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4th DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

Communion: Carol McKinstry*, Gwenda Watson, Di Farrar, Glenys Shirley

Church Openers and Welcomers: Janice West, Ken Crouch

Vestry: Carol McKinstry

Readings and Prayers: Susan Clarke, Stan Clarke

Creative Corner: Nathan Morsillo

Morning Tea: Jenny Shield (Please bring milk), Doug and Jeannie Turnbull

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

- Our thoughts, love and prayers surround Judith McCarthy and her family following Harold's death last Sunday.

A service to celebrate Harold's life will be held at Forest St on Monday 28th September at 2pm, following the private Committal at 10am.

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS**

Uniting are running a number of Community Engagement events for the residents over the next few months and they invite interested members of the congregation to come along, meet the residents and join in on the fun. If you are interested please contact either Bree King (Senior Community Housing Officer) bree.king@vt.uniting.org or Ben Giraud (Community Engagement Lead) ben.giraud@vt.uniting.org and they will be able to give you the details of how you can be involved. Upcoming events are:

- 29/10/26 - Halloween and movie afternoon
- 16/12/26 - Christmas celebrations
- 24/3/27 - Harmony Day

- **LOST PROPERTY FOUND AT FOREST ST**

Some time ago in the church at Forest St, a Lululemon zip front fleece cardigan/jacket, large size, colour a shade of dark olive green. Claim by calling the office at St Andrews on 0434 730 900.

- **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR CHRISTMAS HAMPER 2026**

Last year the hampers were a great success with sixty-two hampers being distributed to needy families. Thank you to everyone who put together a hamper. They looked great in church the Sunday before being distributed.

I think Rev Di's prayer to send them on their way was a good endorsement of us loving one another!

This year I am suggesting a new way of assembling the hampers.

The idea is that each week, for ten weeks, people bring one item for a hamper. For Example, week one everyone brings a packet of biscuits; week two everyone brings a soft drink etc.

By week ten we would have some fine hampers.

If you are happy to prepare a hamper during Advent as usual that would be great too. You certainly don't have to do both! Many thanks Jenny Bursill.

- **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.**

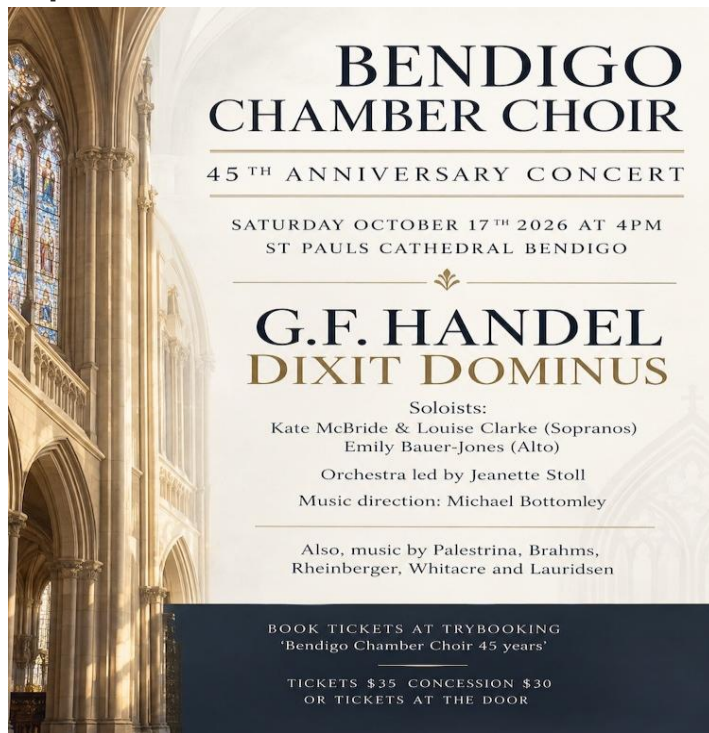
A promotional poster for 'The Long Run' for Prostate Cancer. The top half has a dark blue background with the 'theLONGrun' logo and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia logo. The main text 'MAKING PROSTATE CANCER HISTORY' is in large, bold, white letters. Below this, a blue banner contains the text: 'I'm doing The Long Run in support of Australian men impacted by prostate cancer. Sponsor me for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in September.' Underneath the banner is a white box with the text 'FIND MY PAGE HERE' and a QR code. At the bottom, there is a search bar with 'thelongrun.org.au', a phone number '1800 22 00 99', and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

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)

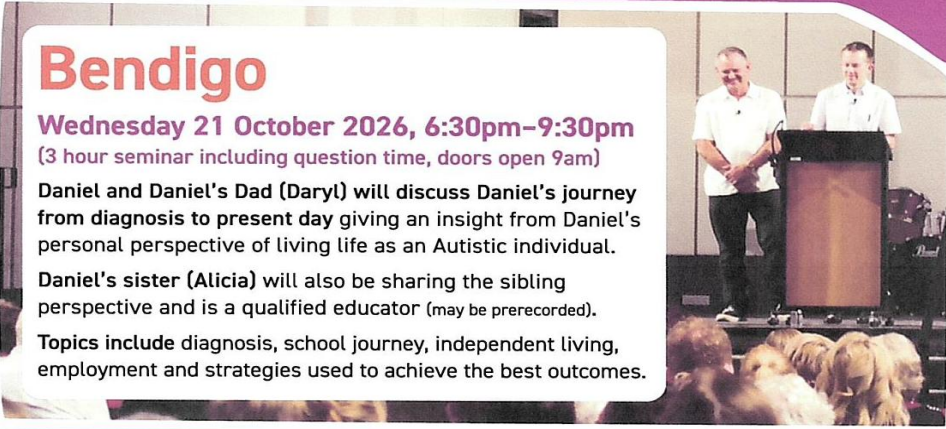
Bring yourselves and a notebook if you wish.

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

- **FROM DIAGNOSIS TO OAM**

From Diagnosis to OAM

plus a Sibling's Perspective: A Personal Autism Journey



Bendigo

Wednesday 21 October 2026, 6:30pm–9:30pm
(3 hour seminar including question time, doors open 9am)

Daniel and Daniel's Dad (Daryl) will discuss Daniel's journey from diagnosis to present day giving an insight from Daniel's personal perspective of living life as an Autistic individual.

Daniel's sister (Alicia) will also be sharing the sibling perspective and is a qualified educator (may be prerecorded).

Topics include diagnosis, school journey, independent living, employment and strategies used to achieve the best outcomes.

Presented by

Daniel Giles OAM
Order of Australia Medal Recipient & Autistic Self-Advocate

Daryl Giles
Daniel's Dad

Alicia Purcell
Daniel's Sister and Educator



Exhibitors



Venue

The Bendigo Club: 22 Park St, Strathdale VIC



Free Bendigo Cinema ticket (valued at \$23)
available with main meal purchase from The Bendigo Club bistro menu
Refer to The Bendigo Club social media for details and T&C
Image by Claire-Free Vector-Images from Pixabay

Seminar tickets

(*includes \$0.50 booking fee for online bookings)

Child (0-11 yrs): FREE **Child (12-17 yrs): \$10.50***

General Admission: \$35.50*

Professionals (Educators/Caseworkers/Therapists - incl. CPD cert.)
\$85.50*

events.humanitix.com/doam-bgo26 (or scan QR code)

Contact

e: admin@speakinginsights.com.au

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EDUCATORS – Educators can claim 3 hours of Professional Development. Australian Professional Standard for Teachers at the level of Proficient Teacher **6.4.2**

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