



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 4th OCTOBER 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 Communion service at Forest St led by Rev Di Esbensen
2.30pm Communion service at Axedale led by Rev Di Esbensen

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 5 th	
Tuesday 6 th	4pm BUCSJG Meeting at St Andrew's
Wednesday 7 th	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 8 th	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 9 th	9am Meditation Group at St Andrew's
Saturday 10 th	
Sunday 11 th	9.30am Worship service at St Andrew's led by Rev Di Esbensen



- **Lectionary readings this week 4th October (Pentecost 19):** Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9; Psalm 19; Philippians 3: 4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
- **Lectionary readings next week 11th October (Pentecost 20):** Exodus 32: 1-14; Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4: 1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

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

SUNDAY OCTOBER 11th DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

Church Openers and Welcomers: Jenny and David Shield

Vestry: Di Farrar

Readings and Prayers: Peter Judd, Glenis Pitson

Creative Corner: Susan Clarke

Morning Tea: Lorraine Castles (Please bring milk), Ron and Kathy Ratcliff

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

• RED DOVE CLOSURE AND THANKS TO DIANE MCGILLIVRAY

When Cuppa with Company was initiated about 9 years ago by Angela Draper, the first thought was: “How will we fund it?” Diane McGillivray immediately suggested that she would set up an Op Shop to provide the necessary support. And so, Red Dove Op Shop commenced operation in the front of the Forest St Hall.

Since that time, operating three days a week, Red Dove has raised in the order of \$20,000 each year and assisted thousands of customers. This money has been used to support the Cuppa With Company weekly lunch and activity which has become an important social inclusion program in the city. But more than this, there have been significant donations to a whole range of worthwhile causes – flood support for Rochester, support for the various CFA brigades after the Harcourt fires, Chaplaincy in Schools, the Bendigo Central & Axedale Christmas program, Winter Night Shelter, NSW and Queensland floods just to name a few.

As well as the financial support, Diane and Red Dove have provided an Emergency Food Cupboard which provides food, toiletries, and other staples for the homeless and needy in Bendigo. Red Dove has also helped with clothing for people in need and there has often been a table at Cuppa for people to take whatever they need.

Diane has been the driving force behind Red Dove and along with her loyal group of volunteers, she has provided an important outreach into the Bendigo community to support those in need. The Bendigo Central and Axedale Uniting Church congregation is extremely grateful to Diane for her foresight in setting up

Red Dove and for all her work and commitment to the ongoing operation of the Op Shop and the support of people in need over the past nine years. We thank Diane most sincerely for her vision in setting up Red Dove, for her commitment over the past nine years, and we wish her well as she retires from Red Dove and our best wishes are with her for whatever the future holds. Our thanks also to the team of volunteers who have assisted in the running of Red Dove.

Future of the Op Shop

At the recent Church Council meeting, the Council agreed to formally establish the Op Shop as a program of the Bendigo Central and Axedale Uniting Church under the authority and oversight of the Church Council. The Council appointed an Op Shop Management Committee consisting of Geoff Barker, Di Farrar, Gwenda Watson and Graeme Cleator and we thank them most sincerely for being willing to serve on this committee. The management committee has commenced meeting and recommended to the Church Council that Di Farrar be appointed as Manager, and the council has accepted this recommendation. We are also extremely grateful for Di Farrar's willingness to step into this role. The current manager, Diane McGillvray, retired this week, with her last day on Wednesday 30th September. The Op Shop will be closed from 1 October for 2 weeks and re-open on 13 October, as a program of our congregation. During that 2 weeks the Management Committee will work at the Op Shop making decisions about opening hours, layout, merchandise, a 'sale' in the hall on re-opening, a new name, and other policies and processes.

While some of the current volunteers have indicated they will continue, there will be a need for more volunteers, and so if you feel you would be able to assist in this way, please speak to Di Farrar. It is planned there will be an induction for volunteers later in second week of closure.

If you have any questions about the Op Shop, then Geoff Barker, Gwenda Watson, Di Farrar or David Castles will be happy to talk to you.

- **DAYLIGHTS SAVINGS**

Daylights savings start this Sunday 4th October.



- **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.

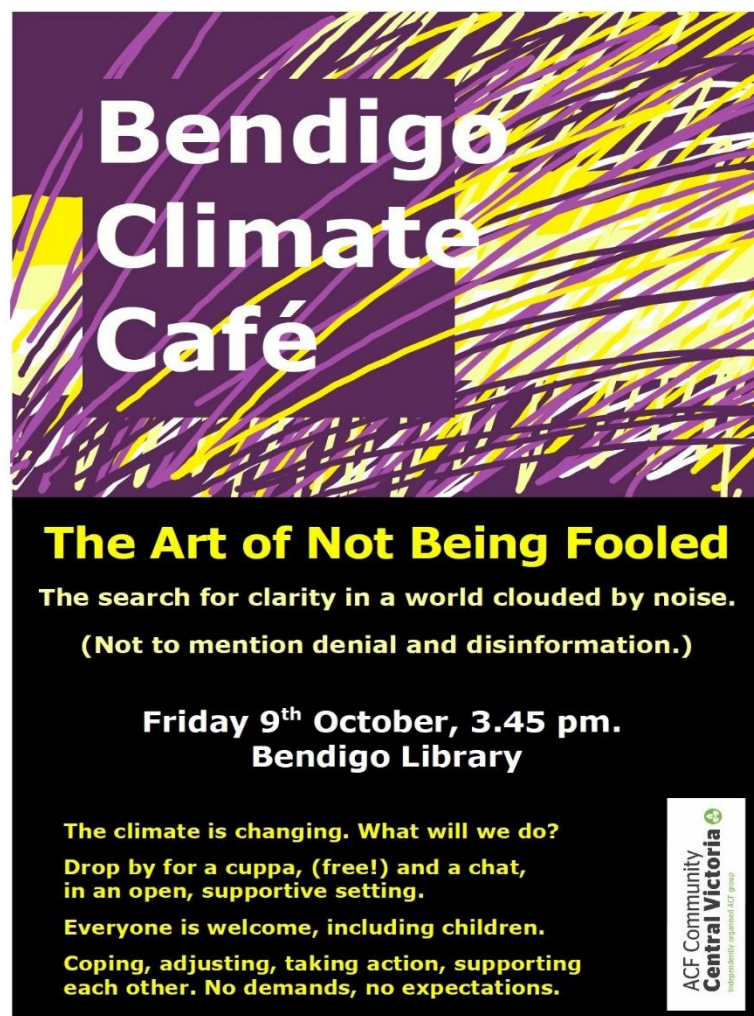
- **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP**

We are again offering, for the daylight savings period, an evening home meditation on the second Tuesday evening of the month until further notice starting at 7.00pm until around 8.00 pm. The first session will be on Tuesday 13th October. This group is an ecumenical group, part of the World Community for Christian Meditation whose current leader is Father Laurence Freeman OSB.

This will be a chance to experience meditation in a welcoming environment with a cup of tea/coffee to follow with an opportunity for conversation. Newcomers to meditation most welcome.

If interested phone Ron or Kathy Ratcliff – 0427 396301 or 0481 719916

- **BENDIGO CLIMATE CAFÉ**

The poster features a purple and yellow abstract background with diagonal lines. The title 'Bendigo Climate Café' is in large white font. Below it, the main title 'The Art of Not Being Fooled' is in yellow, followed by a subtitle 'The search for clarity in a world clouded by noise. (Not to mention denial and disinformation.)' in white. The date and time 'Friday 9th October, 3.45 pm.' and location 'Bendigo Library' are in white. A list of details is at the bottom in yellow, and the ACF Community Central Victoria logo is in the bottom right corner.

**Bendigo
Climate
Café**

The Art of Not Being Fooled
The search for clarity in a world clouded by noise.
(Not to mention denial and disinformation.)

Friday 9th October, 3.45 pm.
Bendigo Library

The climate is changing. What will we do?
Drop by for a cuppa, (free!) and a chat,
in an open, supportive setting.
Everyone is welcome, including children.
Coping, adjusting, taking action, supporting
each other. No demands, no expectations.

ACF Community
Central Victoria
Interfaithly inspired ACF group

- **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

- **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).

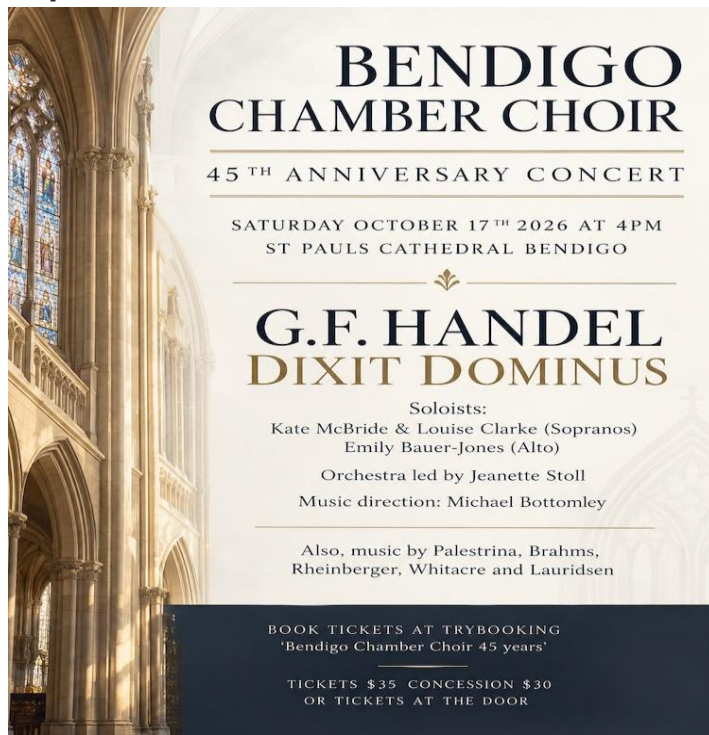
All are welcome.

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.

- **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.

- **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

- **LONG WALK FOR PROSTATE CANCER**

Thank you to everyone who sponsored my Long Walk for Prostate Cancer during September. I managed to walk 116km during the month and raised a total of \$1264.

Overall, 3,724 people took part, covering 189,521km and raising \$1,280,907 for research, awareness and support. Thank you most sincerely for your wonderful support.

David Castles

- FROM DIAGNOSIS TO OAM

From Diagnosis to OAM

plus a Sibling's Perspective: A Personal Autism Journey

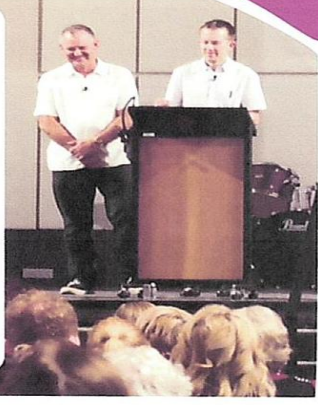
Bendigo

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 Open-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

w: 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**



ABN: 11 945 440 100

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