



UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 6th 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
--	---	---

*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 Stan Clarke
2.30pm Communion service at Axedale led by Rev Stan Clarke

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 7 th	
Tuesday 8 th	7.30pm Going Deeper Discussion at Forest St
Wednesday 9 th	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 10 th	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 11 th	9am Meditation Group at St Andrew's
Saturday 12 th	
Sunday 13 th	9.30am Worship service at St Andrew's led by Rev Di Esbensen



- **Lectionary readings this week 6th September (Pentecost 15):** Exodus 12: 1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13: 8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
- **Lectionary readings next 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

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6th DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

Communion: Barb Fordham*, Isabel Thomas Dobson, Jenny Bursill, Judy Causon, Carol McKinstry

Church Openers and Welcomers: Peter Judd, Doug Turnbull

Vestry: Di Farrar

Readings and Prayers: Bill Lidgett, Kevin Dobson

Creative Corner: Susan Clarke

Morning Tea: Ron and Kathy Ratcliff (Please bring milk), Isabel Thomas Dobson

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

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

• **LODDON MALLEE PRESBYTERY MEETING 25 AUGUST**

The presbytery met by Zoom for two hours, with 25 people present. In the absence of the Chairperson the Past Chairperson Libby Gregory chaired the meeting.

The most important business was to discern Limisesi Taunga's suitability and readiness for ordination, subject to her completing her studies and receiving a call to a placement. It was a delight to listen to Sesi's understanding of ministry and her and others' reflections on how she has grown over the 4 years of her study and formation. The presbytery resolved to affirm her readiness for ordination.

Other business included adopting the Presbytery's Strategic Plan which aligns with the Synod's Faithful Futures goals and electing three members to attend the Assembly meeting in Adelaide next July. Carol Hall (Cohuna), Lupe Taumoefolau (pastor in Robinvale) and Rev Deacon Mark Boyce were elected.

Property Officer Dean Shirley presented a list of all the different property forms available for different purposes and the list of church buildings with heritage listings. The next meeting is at Kerang on 24 November. Isabel Thomas Dobson

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

- **UCAF LODDON MALLEE ANNUAL GATHERING, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7.**

This year's gathering will be hosted by the Bendigo South Cluster at the **Chum Street Uniting Church**, commencing at 10am. Guest Speakers will be **Isabel Thomas Dobson**, who will speak about her experience at the recent World Methodist Council meeting in El Salvador and **Jan Jenkin**, who will share stories of the bushfire recovery at Harcourt.

Please bring lunch to share and items for the trading table - and some cash to spend there! The offering and trading table proceeds will be used to support the Harcourt recovery.

All are welcome!

- **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.

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

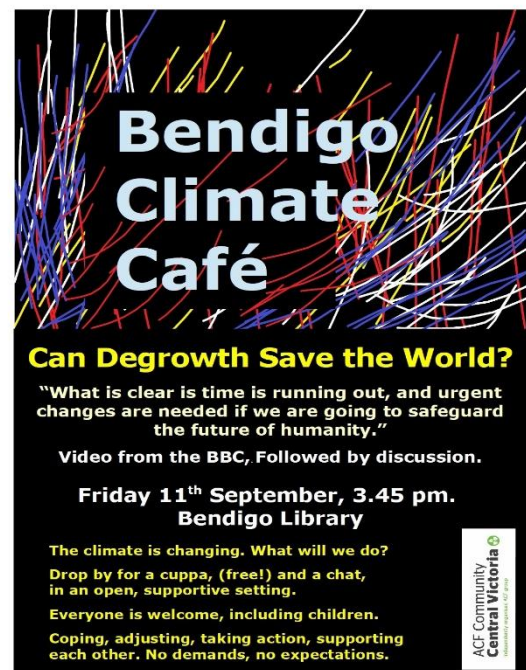


I've joined the Long Run for Prostate Cancer research during September where I plan to walk at least 72km during the month and hope to raise at least \$500. If you would like to assist me in raising funds for research, I would be happy to accept your donation, or you can donate directly to my efforts 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

- **BENDIGO CLIMATE CAFÉ**

Can degrowth save the world? What is clear is time is running out, and urgent changes are needed if we are going to safeguard the future of humanity. Video from the BBC followed by discussion. Friday 11th September 3.45pm Bendigo Library. Drop in for a cuppa and a chat.



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