

- 25th June**
7.00 pm Parish Council
Parish Ministry Centre
- 29th June**
10.00 am Combined Parish Worship
Epiphany Meredith
11.30 am Parish Community Growth
Meeting Epiphany Meredith
- 2nd July**
11.00 am Communion
Estia Health Bannockburn
1.00 pm Evacuation Diagram
Installation Meredith
- 5th July**
School Holidays to 20th July
9.00 am Devonshire Teas
Parish Ministry Centre
- 8th July**
7.00 pm House Group
Teesdale
- 12th July**
8.30 am Men's Breakfast
Parish Ministry Centre
- 15th July**
7.00 pm House Group
Teesdale

Parish Roster for June 29

Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: n/a
Bannockburn: Gill & Phil
Dickson

Reading: David Osborne
Freda Duke

Communion Assistants:
Geoff Morgan
David Bannister

Morning Tea: Jesse Osborne
Freda Duke
David Bannister

Parish Directory

Parish Office 5281 2553
Vicar
Revd Timothy Smith
0412 673 152
revdrtim@hotmail.com

Wardens
Darrell Blackman 0457 338 678
Carol Newlands 0409 654 527
David Bannister 0477 564 268

Parish Council Secretary
Carol Newlands 0409 654 527

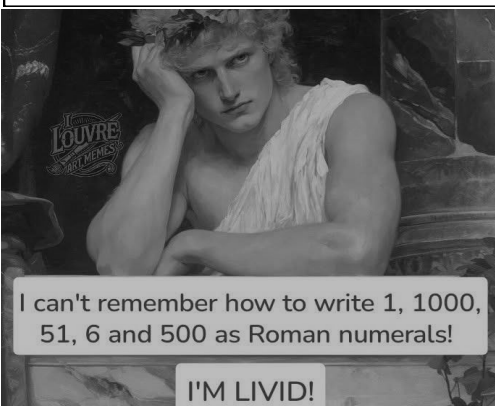
Parish Treasurer
David Osborne 0419 398 455

Assistant Treasurer
Luanne Thornton 0437 667 011

St John's Op Shop
Naomi Peel 0418 346 484

Surprise Op Shop
Luanne Thornton 0437 667 011

Pastoral Care
Alison King
pastoralcare.gpas@gmail.com



INSTALLATION FOR ARCHBISHOP ELECT RIC THORPE

Sunday 30th November 2025
4.00 pm

St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne
*Subject to the granting of visas for
Bishop Ric and his wife Louie.*

Golden Plains Anglican News

Living the Gospel in Our Community

Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith Anglican Parish
22nd June 2025—SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

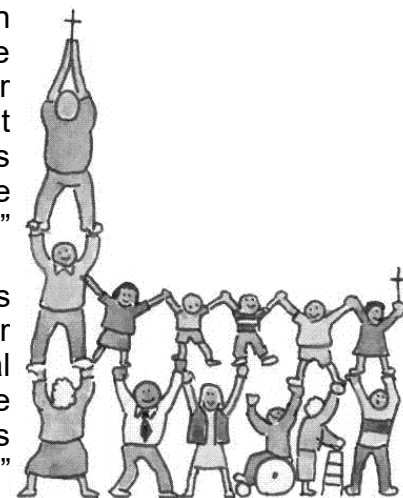
CHRISTIANITY IS DECLINING IN AUSTRALIA. OR IS IT?

While mainstream media reports say that thousands of people no longer identify as Christians, those numbers don't tell the whole story.

Christine Hill grew up in a non-Christian home in Geelong, Australia. As a child, she attended the local Methodist church on her own—until one day when the church sent her home with a packet of tithing envelopes the pastor expected her family to fill. “The money was very tight, so I stopped going,” Hill said.

For Hill, the encounter with Jesus began decades before her conversion. Her youngest son as he struggled with mental health issues. When he didn't come home after a drive to Melbourne, Hill remembers praying, “Lord, bring him home safe.” Hours later, she found him down the beach not far from home. He told her that he'd found the Lord but didn't explain how. That started her on a quest of her own.

Andrew Grills, Anglican pastor of City on a Hill Geelong, is seeing this swell of newcomers firsthand. “I've been here for 13 years, and we've never seen anything like it,” Grills said. “It's an uptick across demographics but especially young folks, and I would say a preponderance of young men.” Even though City on a Hill targets people under 30, a group in his congregation of older people, who call themselves the Experienced People in Christ's Service, put together their own conference last month. “It was booming!” Grills said.



(Continued on page 5)

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www.goldenplainsanglican.org
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Worship Today: SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sentence: God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
Acts 10:38

Collect: Pour out upon us, O God, the power and wisdom of your Spirit, so that we, who have been baptised into Christ and made your children through faith, may know your Son's power to heal, and, being made one in him, may overcome all barriers that divide us; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Readings: 1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a; Psalm 42 & 43;
Galatians 3:10-14, 23-29; Luke 8:26-39

Hymns:

Inverleigh & Meredith: 477 – Jesus calls us here to meet him; 387 – Christ is alive; 526 – Lord Jesus Christ; 111 – Praise to the Lord

Bannockburn: *My Jesus, my Saviour*; Jesus calls us here to meet him; The power of your love; Build your kingdom here; Lord Jesus Christ; *I believe in Jesus*; All are welcome; *Shout to the north*

Intercessions: God our healer, **hear our prayer.**

World: Sudan, Ukraine & Russia, Israel & Palestine, India & Pakistan; a world in conflict, war, or threat of war; South Sudan and all developing nations; wherever there is poverty, insecurity, displacement, hunger, wherever there is lack of education, employment, medical intervention, freedom, clean water; those who are refugees, asylum seekers, orphans, widows, and the oppressed; for all national leaders and authorities; giving thanks that you are involved in our world.

Church: for all church leaders and the unity of the worldwide Church; in our communion the election of an Archbishop of Canterbury, retirement of our National Primate, Bishop elect Ric Thorpe and Louie as they prepare to come among us; the establishment of the Youth and Family Community Cinema at Meredith, to continue to grow an evangelistic culture, giving growth spiritually and in numbers through a faith expressed in every day life.

Community: the Wadawarrung and all our first nations peoples, their elders; those working toward reconciliation and treaty, recognition of the country on which we live, work, play and pray; for all who come into our communities of any race, creed, colour, faith, or no faith that they will experience welcome and belonging; for the lonely and forgotten to find community and the promise of the Kingdom of God revealed in Jesus; for a faith that connects with their life.

Those in need: Matt Bellchambers, Shirley Musgrove, Melinda Gregory, Karen Schulze, Jenny Bannister, Margaret McLaren, Sarah Rees, Jayden Rees, Fay McFarlane, Phil Dickson, Paul Duke, Josie Andrews, Timothy Deng, Mawut Gotbaili and all others on our own hearts and minds.

One family in crisis said they discovered a box in the attic with a letter from their grandfather to his children. In it, he shared how he became a Christian in Ireland in the 1920s. As a result of that letter, the whole family is now following Jesus, Grills said. Grills met a man who had recently converted from witchcraft. "He'd heard an audible voice calling his name, and it started a process where he said, 'I think God is real.'" A 19-year-old with no faith background showed up with a King James Bible. The man told Grills that he had also heard a voice calling him, but no one was there. "He thought he was going mad," Grills recounted.

Australia's most recent census data reveals that for the first time since Australia became a country, Christians did not make up a majority of the population. While mainstream media reports aren't wrong to say that thousands of people no longer identify as Christians, demographer and social analyst Mark McCrindle believes that those numbers don't tell the whole story. "It's not just that Australians are less religious or less active in their faith," McCrindle said. "It's more that they're reinterpreting the census question."

His research-based advisory firm published a report this year examining the country's religious trends using the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACLID) from the Census of Population and Housing and surveying nearly 3,000 Australians. Yet the report found that in the past five years, more than 784,000 new people did tick the box. The trend toward Christianity has been consistent in the past two decades, McCrindle found. He believes the shift is meaningful because people are now giving more honest answers about what they practice and believe.

McCrindle notes that churches shouldn't be discouraged by news reports of the decline in Christianity but rather be more aware of the opportunities: Young people are exploring the faith, older people are seeking reengagement with Christianity, and immigrants are moving to Australia, bringing the world to its shores.

BEING AN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH

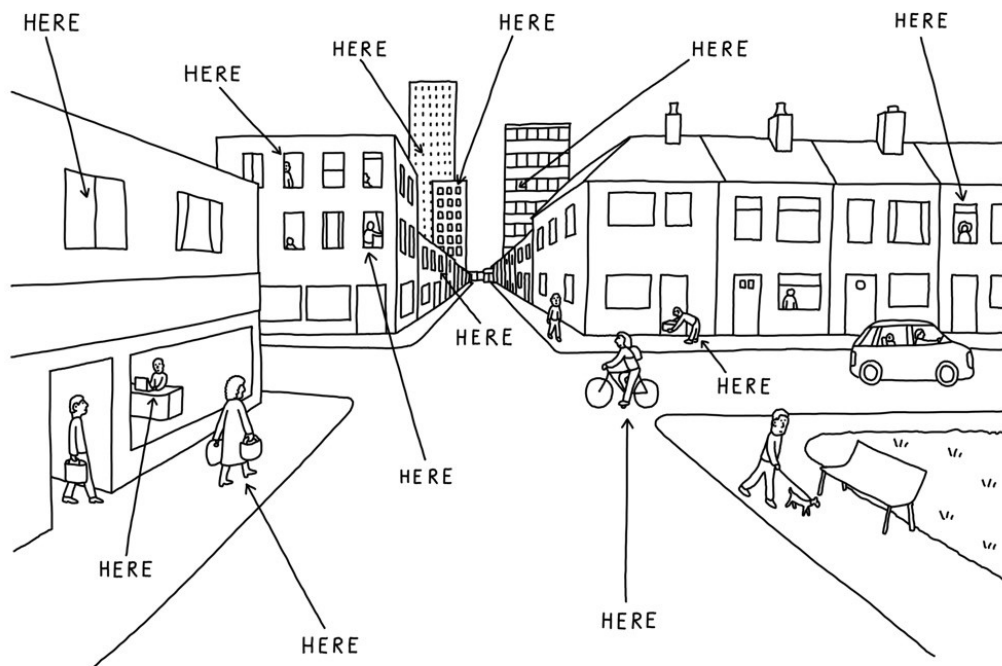
1. Every day faith
2. Evangelism in a post-truth world
3. Evangelism for the whole church
4. Making the most of events
5. Developing the potential of ordinary services
6. The sacraments and evangelism

Questions for reflection:

1. What struck you most about these eight small shifts?
2. Where do you think some of these things as happening well already?
3. Where might there be room for developing one or more so we can focus on everyday faith?

Pray our Parish Mission Prayer.

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



CartoonChurch.com

8 SHIFTS

Valuing	people's places of everyday faith
Gathering	diverse stories of everyday faith
Praying	encouraging intercessions for everyday faith
Forming	worship to mould everyday faith
Teaching	insights for everyday faith
Sending	commissioning everyday callings
Connecting	equipping each other's everyday faith
Displaying	the life of an everyday faith church



Bible Readings

Prayer for the week:

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, save through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Monday

Morning: Pss 124, 125 & 126
1 Samuel 17:55-18:16
Acts 12:1-11
Evening: Pss 127, 128 & 129
Sirach 18:1-14
James 1:1-18

Tuesday

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Morning: Ps 50:1-15
Judges 13:2-7, 21-25
Luke 12:49-59
Evening: Ps 71
Malachi 3:1-6; 4
Matthew 11:2-19

Wednesday

Morning: Ps 135
1 Samuel 19:1-17
Acts 13:1-12
Evening: Ps 136
Sirach 22:27-23:11
James 2:8-2:7

Thursday

Morning: Pss 137:1-6(7-9) & 138
1 Samuel 19:18-20:11
Acts 13:13-25
Evening: Ps 139
Sirach 24:1-17
James 3

Friday

Bishop Cyril of Alexandria (d.444) *Teacher*

Morning: Ps 140
1 Samuel 20:12-34
Acts 13:26-41
Evening: Pss 141 & 142
Sirach 24:18-34
James 4

Saturday

Bishop Irenaeus of Lyons (d.c.200) *Teacher*

Morning: Pss 143 & 146
1 Samuel 20:35-21:7
Acts 13:42-52
Eve of Peter and Paul
Evening: Ps 80
Jeremiah 1:4-10
John 20:1-10



There was still work to be done on Derek's sarcastic streak!

Next Sunday 29th June

PETER and PAUL

Apostles and Martyrs

10.00 am Holy Communion

Epiphany Meredith

Readings

Acts 12:1-11 or Ezekiel 34:11-16

Psalms 87 or 34:1-10

2 Timothy 4:6-8(9-16) 17-18

John 21:15-22

11.00 am Parish Community Growth Meeting