

8th September

7.00 pm House Group
Teesdale

13th September

8.30 am Men's Breakfast
Parish Ministry Centre

15th-17th September

Clergy Conference
Mooroolbark

16th September

7.00 pm House Group
Teesdale

23rd September

7.00 pm House Group
Teesdale

24th September

7.00 pm Parish Council
Parish Ministry Centre

25th September

6.00 pm Community Cinema
Epiphany Meredith

30th September

7.00 pm House Group
Teesdale

1st October

11.00 am Communion
Estia Health Bannockburn

Parish Roster for September 14

Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Liz McDonald
Bannockburn: Gill & Phil
Dickson

Reading:

Bannockburn: Christina Szabo

Communion Assistant:

Inverleigh: Geoff Morgan
Bannockburn: David Bannister

Morning Tea:

Bannockburn: Christina Szabo
David Bannister

Parish Directory

Parish Office 5281 2553

Vicar

Rev'd 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

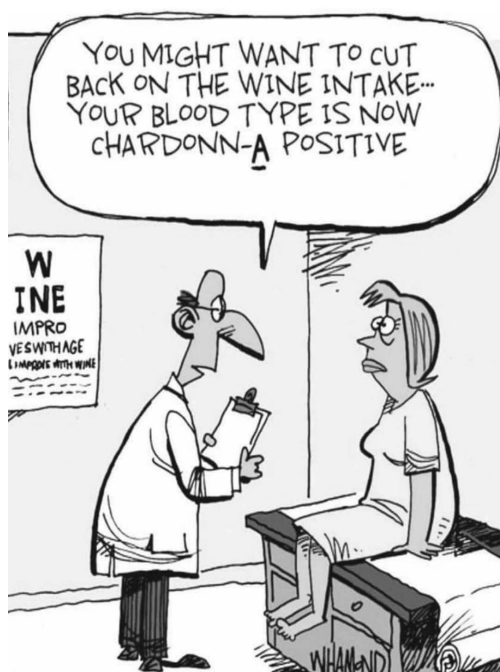
Surprise Op Shop

Luanne Thornton 0437 667 011

Pastoral Care

Alison King

pastoralcare.gpas@gmail.com



Golden Plains Anglican News

Living the Gospel in Our Community

Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith

7th September 2025—Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

IF CHRISTIANITY IS IN DECELINE, WHY ARE GEN Z TURNING TO RELIGION?

While Census data points to a significant downward trend in Australians identifying as Christian, some research suggests 38 per cent of gen Z identify as spiritual and an increase of gen Z men turning to religion.

Religion was not important to Evan Forrest as a teenager. He was raised by non-religious parents and identified as agnostic. "[Religion] was always something that I sort of knew about but didn't pay any attention to — didn't really ever see a need for it in my life." When Evan travelled to India as a 20-year-old last year, he had a change of heart at the Taj Mahal. The UNESCO World Heritage site is considered a masterpiece of Islamic architecture. "I just sort of watched everybody come together to do their part to serve food or cook or clean," he told Insight. "When I found out that they were all doing it for free — just volunteering — it made me wonder why."



Returning to Australia, Evan found himself in a slump. "[I] had the car, had the job, had the engineering degree on the way. Everything just seemed like it was going so well ... and I honestly felt so empty ... I didn't know why."

One day, a colleague invited him to a Sunday service at her Pentecostal church. "I'd tried everything else, and it was time to try God," Evan said. "I remember being so honest as I walked up to the door. I said: 'God, I literally have no clue if you're

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Worship Today: THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [23]

Sentence: Whoever does not carry the cross and follow Jesus cannot be his disciple. Luke 14:27

Collect: God of the ages, you call the Church to keep watch in the world and to discern the signs of the times: grant us the wisdom your Spirit bestows, so that with courage we may proclaim your prophetic word, and complete the work you set before us; through your Son, 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: Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-5, 12-18; Philemon 1-25
Luke 14:25-35

Hymns:

Inverleigh: 61 – Sing all creation; 745 – Seek ye first; 583 – Take up your cross; 449 – Stand up and bless the Lord. **Bannockburn:** *Great is the darkness*; Sing all creation; The greatest thing; Seek ye first; Search me O God; *All I once held dear*; Take up your cross; *There is no other name.* **Meredith:** *Great is the darkness*; 61 – Sing all creation; 745 – Seek ye first; 583 – Take up your cross; 449 – Stand up and bless the Lord; *All I once held dear*

Intercessions: God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

World: Sudan, Ukraine & Russia, Israel & Palestine, India & Pakistan, Thailand & Cambodia; all where there is conflict, war, or threat of war; South Sudan, Kenya and all developing nations; Afghanistan, and all suffering from natural disaster; wherever there is poverty, insecurity, hunger, wherever there is lack of education, employment, medical intervention, freedom, clean water; all who are displaced, refugees, asylum seekers, orphans, widows, and the oppressed; for all national leaders and authorities to lead their nations with righteousness, justice, and grace.

Church: in the good news of God's kingdom we have to share with a broken world; all church leaders; nomination and election of an Archbishop of Canterbury, Bp Mark Short incoming National Primate, preparations of Archbishop elect Ric Thorpe and Louie to come among us; that all our activities will provide an opportunity to share our faith stories; to be a church that welcomes all who respond to the good news and meeting with Jesus.

Community: the Wadawarrung and all our first nations peoples, their elders; the Yoorook Justice Commission; all who come into our communities of any race, creed, colour, faith, or no faith will experience welcome and belonging; the lonely, forgotten, and those experience violence in their homes; all struggling with the cost of living.

Those in need: Matt Bellchambers, Shirley Musgrove, Melinda Gregory, Karen Schulze, Jenny Bannister, Margaret McLaren, Sarah Rees, Jayden Rees, Fay McFarlane, Jesse Osborne, Phil Dickson, Paul Duke, Josie Andrews, Makat Majok Aluong Lieny, Mawut Gotbaili, Timothy Deng.

Rare worn down pencil belonging to William Shakespeare has been unearthed. Experts not sure if the pencil is 2B or not 2B



**MEREDITH COMMUNITY
CINEMA
GRAND OPENING
Thursday 25th September
6.00 pm
Church of the Epiphany
Meredith
Movie yet to be decided.**

**HEATING AND COOLING
EPIPHANY**

The Parish have received a grant from the Meredith Community to install air conditioning for heating and cooling and a ramp access to the church and support the community cinema.

(Continued from page 1)

real, but if you are, I want to know, and I'd love for you to show me'." Evan says he has never looked back from that Sunday afternoon, seeing so many young people together.

As a teenager, Dane Cousins wanted nothing to do with religion. "I was a hardcore atheist, I didn't think I could ever believe in anything," he told Insight. It wasn't until he was 21 years old that he changed his mind, while leaving university one day. "All of a sudden, I felt that something external was speaking to me, something from above ... "I was told it was either God or death; and I figured that I might as well choose God." Dane, now 24, took to researching religions and decided on Eastern Orthodoxy for its "reverence of worship" and "unbroken tradition".

The weekly services can go for up to three hours, with worshippers standing the entire time. "I'm in the house of God. I'm not here because I want to be comfortable ... to be catered to or entertained. I'm here because I'm here to worship", he said. He says the Orthodox church doesn't try to 'put on a show' to get people through the door — something he suggests other denominations might do. "[The services of other Christian denominations] has become an entertainment spectacle with bands, with music, with dancing. And that's not why I'm there."

Rajas Satija, 21, was raised by progressive Hindu parents. When he was 19, Rajas started the group Dharma Down Under for people aged 18-30 to meet and search for meaning. "Dharma is essentially all traditions that exist within India ... Loosely translated, it means duty, or that which sustains," Rajas said. For Rajas it's no surprise that younger people are looking to religion and spirituality. "COVID kind of exacerbated this trend of young people looking for third spaces," he said. A third space is a neutral public space where people can connect and socialise that is separate from the spaces of work and home. "And I think religion does offer a very viable alternative for a lot of people."

Gen Z men (aged 13-28) are more likely than women to identify as religious, according to a 2022 Australian Community Survey conducted by National Church Life Survey Research (NCLSR) with 3090 participants. This NCLSR survey reported that 26 per cent of gen Z males believe "there is a personal God", compared to 18 per cent of gen Z females. NCLSR's key activity is a five-yearly survey of Christian churches in Australia.

Dr Anna Halafoff, an associate professor of Sociology at Deakin University, specialises in spirituality and says there are certain groups within Christianity experiencing growth. "That does include a lot of Pentecostal groups, charismatic groups, and also emerging Christian groups," she said. "We are definitely seeing young people drawn to those groups and movements ... Orthodoxy is also rising."

Halahoff suggests there are many possible reasons for younger people looking towards religion — including that religions may shift to appeal to new audiences, and simply the nature of one's formative years. "Youth is a time of really defining your own identity. It's a time when you're going to feel pressures that you haven't necessarily felt to the same degree — in terms of economic pressures or social pressures — and having to make those decisions," she said. She says youth is also a time of life when people might seek community. "Often people get involved in religious groups through significant relationships, whether that's with peers or through a romantic relationship."



Bible Readings

Prayer for the week:

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and so great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

Monday

Birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord **MARY**

Morning: Pss 20 & 21:1-7(8-13)

1 Kings 7:51-8:21

Acts 26:19-32

Evening: Pss 24 & 26

Job 11

1 John 4:1-12

Tuesday

Morning: Ps 22:1-22

1 Kings 8:22-36

Acts 27:1-12

Evening: Pss 22:23-32 & 23

Job 12

1 John 5:1-12

Wednesday

Morning: Ps 25

1 Kings 8:37-53

Acts 27:13-32

Evening: Ps 27

Job 13

1 John 5:1-12

Thursday

Mother Esther (d.1931) **Monastic**

Founder of the Community of the Holy Name

Morning: Pss 28 & 29

1 Kings 8:54-66

Acts 27:33-44

Evening: Pss 30 & 32

Job 14

1 John 5:13-21

Friday

Morning: Ps 31

1 Kings 9:1-14

Acts 28:1-16

Evening: Ps 33

Job 15:1-16

2 John

Saturday

Cyprian Bishop of Carthage (d.258) **Martyr**

Morning: Ps 35:1-17

1 Kings 9:15-28

Acts 28:27-31

Evening: Pss 35:18-29 & 36

Job 15:17-35

3 John



**Next Sunday 14th September
PENTECOST 14**

8.00 am Holy Communion

Inverleigh

10.00 am All-Age Communion

Bannockburn

5.00 pm Holy Communion

Meredith

Readings

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Psalm 14

1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-19a

Luke 15:1-10