

Mark Your Calendars  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 4th February**  
 7.00 pm House Group  
 Teesdale
- 5th February**  
 11.00 am Communion  
 Estia Health Bannockburn
- 9th February**  
 4.00 pm Archbishop's final  
 Evensong St Paul's Cathedral
- 11th February**  
 7.00 pm House Group  
 Teesdale
- 18th February**  
 7.00 pm House Group  
 Teesdale
- 19th February**  
 12.30 pm Deanery Meeting  
 All Saints Newtown
- 25th February**  
 7.00 pm House Group  
 Teesdale
- 26th February**  
 7.00 pm Parish Council  
 Parish Ministry Centre
- 5th March**  
 7.00 pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy

**Parish Roster for February 9**

- Church Cleaning:**  
 Inverleigh: Anne Bolitho  
 Bannockburn: Carol Newlands  
 Lynette Oates
- Reading:**  
 Bannockburn: Christina Szabo
- Communion Assistant:**  
 Inverleigh: Bruce McDoanld  
 Bannockburn: Lynette Oates
- Morning Tea:**  
 Bannockburn: Lynette Oates  
 Christina Szabo
- There is a new 3litre tea pot to speed up administration of morning tea at Banno.

**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

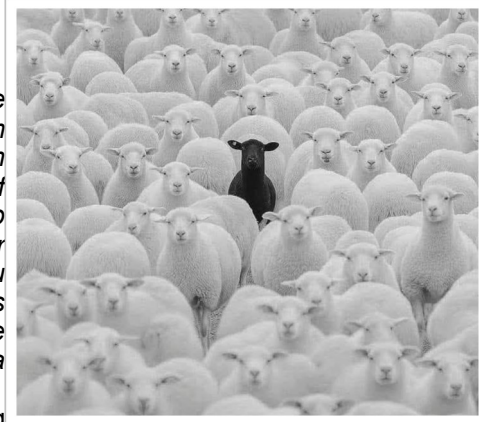


**ARCHBISHOP'S LAYING UP OF STAFF**  
**Choral Evensong St Paul's Cathedral 9 February 2025 4.00pm**  
 The laying up of the Bishops' Staff (Crozier) is a traditional sign of surrendering the role of Diocesan Bishop due to retirement or translation. Our Parish will be represented by: Revd Tim Smith, Bruce McDonald, and Luanne Thornton  
**There will be no service at Meredith this Sunday.**

**Golden Plains Anglican News**  
*Living the Gospel in Our Community*  
**Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith Anglican Parish**  
 2nd February 2025—PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

**LEARNING TO MEET THE NEED OF LONELINESS**

Growing a Church that is a healthy faith community  
**G**eorge Orwell once said: *The most terrible loneliness is not the kind that comes from being alone, but the kind that comes from being misunderstood, the loneliness of standing in a crowded room, surrounded by people who do not see you, who do not hear you, who do not know the essence of who you truly are. And I that loneliness, you feel as though you are fading, disappearing into the background, until you are nothing more than a ghost, a shadow of your former self.*



It is that soul-deep ache of being surrounded by people—friends, family, colleagues—yet feeling completely invisible. You may smile, nod, and go through the motions, but inside, you feel a sense of isolation that words can't fully capture.

This kind of loneliness hits hard because it isn't about the absence of people; it's about the absence of connection. You crave to be seen for who you really are, to have someone understand your soul's language, your quirks, your dreams, and the complexities of your heart. But when you are misunderstood, it feels as if there's an unbridgeable gap between your inner world and the outside one.

What makes this kind of loneliness so painful is that it's not just longing to be loved—it's the longing to be known, and loved for being known. For someone to look at the parts of you that are messy, complicated, and even broken, and to say, "I see you. I understand. And I'm here." It's the yearning for someone to hear your heart's quietest whispers and to feel the depth of your soul without judgment or expectation.

Conscious Souls (edited)

I have often said that the greatest need in our communities is loneliness. To be able to meet this need, we need to be a healthy faith community into which to invite people. This year I intend to include a preaching series on being such a church: a church energised by faith, with an outward focus, seeking what God wants, facing the cost of change, operating as a community (not an institution) making room for all, and doing a few things (individually and corporately) and doing them well.

**Parish Ministry Centre: 11 Byron Street, BANNOCKBURN VIC, 3331**  
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 www.goldenplainsanglican.org  
 www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094651898435

## Worship Today: PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

**Sentence:** My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. *Luke 2:30–32*

**Collect:** Christ our cornerstone, you were recognised at your presentation in the temple as a sign of hope for the world, but also as a stumbling-block for many: help us so to present ourselves for your service, that, in sharing your scandal, we may become a people acceptable to you. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

**Readings:** Malachi 3:1–4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14–18; Luke 2:22–40

### Hymns:

**Inverleigh:** 491 – Father welcomes all his children; 235 – A man there lived in Galilee; 648 – Help us accept each other; 657 – God of freedom, God of justice

**Bannockburn:** *The servant king*; Father welcomes all his children; Majesty Here I Am; Once again (Jesus Christ); Because he lives; *Lord you have my heart*; Your grace is enough; *I will offer up my life*

**Meredith:** *Lord you have my heart*; Father welcomes all his children; Once again (Jesus Christ); Because he lives; God of freedom, God of justice; *I will offer up my life*

## Intercessions: For these your children, Jesus, here our prayer.

**World:** all national leaders and those in authority that they may work together for justice and peace in the world; for Sudan, Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iran, Lebanon, and all nations in conflict, war, or the threat of war; all who suffer displacement, poverty, hunger, loss, injury; all refugees or asylum seekers; for South Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, and all developing nations seeking revitalisation with security, housing, education, employment, medical intervention, food, freedom, and clean water; may all be willing to examine self in the fullness of each other's humanity and live in love and mercy.

**Church:** for all church leaders and unity of the worldwide Church, especially our bishops; Abp Philip (and Joy) preparing for retirement and the Board of Nominators; our Youth and Family Community Cinema at Meredith, and all our activities that are intended to give growth in our church, with the help of God; to be a church that proclaims the freedom of true humanity.

**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 and play; for all who come into our communities to experience inclusion of all of any race, creed, colour, faith, or no faith; for those struggling with mortgage or rental stress, food insecurity, difficulty paying bills due to the high cost of living; to offer hospitality to our Jewish brothers and sisters, the first to here the good news of God; that our communities will be inspired to love their neighbours.

**Those in need:** Matt Bellchambers, Shirley Musgrove, Melinda Gregory, Karen Schulze, John Thornton, Jenny Bannister, Margaret McLaren, Mary Simpson, Sue Withers, Jesse Osborne, Sylvia Trevey, Sarah Rees, Jayden Rees, Fay McFarlane, and all others on our hearts and minds.

## Bible Readings

### Prayer for the week:

O Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are worth nothing: send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you; Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

### Monday

**Morning:** Ps 78:16-38  
Genesis 18:22-19:11  
Luke 2:1-7

**Evening:** Ps 78:39-70  
Jeremiah 12:1-13(14-17)  
Philippians 1:1-11

### Tuesday

Bishop Anskar, (d.865) of Sweden *Missionary*

**Morning:** Ps 80  
Genesis 19:12-29(30-38)  
Luke 2:8-21

**Evening:** Ps 81  
Jeremiah 13:1-17  
Philippians 1:12-20

### Wednesday

Martyrs of Japan, crucified (d.1597) *Martyrs*

**Morning:** Pss 82 & 84  
Genesis 20  
Luke 2:41-52

**Evening:** Pss 85 & 97  
Jeremiah 13:18-14:6  
Philippians 1:21-30

### Thursday

**Morning:** Ps 86  
Genesis 21:1-21(22-34)  
Luke 3:1-14

**Evening:** Ps 88  
Jeremiah 14:7-16  
Philippians 2:1-11

### Friday

**Morning:** Ps 90  
Genesis 22:1-19(20-24)

Luke 3:15-22  
Ps 229:89-104  
Jeremiah 14:17-15:9  
Philippians 2:12-18

### Saturday

**Morning:** Ps 89:1-18  
Genesis 23  
Luke 3:23-38

**Evening:** Ps 89:19-38  
Jeremiah 15:10-21  
Philippians 2:19-30

Baby Jesus at bath time.



**Next Sunday 9th February  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
NO SERVICE AT MEREDITH DUE  
TO ARCHBISHOP'S RETIREMENT  
SERVICE IN MELBOURNE**

**8.00 am Holy Communion  
Inverleigh  
10.00 am All-Age Communion  
Bannockburn  
Readings**

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11