



12th January
12 Noon Inverleigh and Bannockburn
Op Shop Volunteers Thank You BBQ
Parish Ministry Centre Bannockburn

13th January
Bannockburn Op Shop Trading resumes
6.00 pm Youth and Family
Community Cinema Meredith

7.00 pm House Group Teesdale

20th January
6.00 pm Youth and Family
Community Cinema Meredith

7.00 pm House Group Teesdale

26th January
Australia Day Public Holiday

27th January
Schools Resume
7.00 pm House Group Teesdale

28th January
7.00 pm Parish Council
Parish Ministry Centre

3rd February
7.00 pm House Group Teesdale
11.00 am Communion
Estia Health Bannockburn

10th February
7.00 pm House Group Teesdale

17th February
7.00 pm House Group Teesdale

Parish Roster for January 18

Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Liz McDonald
Bannockburn: Carol Newlands
Lynette Oates

Banno Reading:

David Bannister
Inverleigh: Bruce McDonald
Bannockburn: Freda Duke

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



*WHY MUST I PROVE THAT I AM
ME TO PAY MY BILLS OVER THE
PHONE? DO STRANGERS CALL
TO PAY MY BILLS? AND IF THEY
DO, WHY DON'T YOU LET THEM?*

G'day Australia

Golden Plains Anglican News

Living the Gospel in Our Community

†Inverleigh †Bannockburn †Meredith
11th January 2026—THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

EIGHT REASONS CHURCHES STAY SMALL

There is nothing wrong with being a small church. Almost every small church leader wants his or her church to grow.

In a corner store, Mum and Dad run everything. Want to talk to the CEO? She's stocking shelves. Want to see the director of marketing? He's at the cash register. Mum and Dad do everything, and they organize their business to stay small. Which is fine if you're Mum and Dad and don't want to grow. But you can't run a supermarket that way.

So what's the translation to church world? Churches remain small because they organize, behave, lead and manage like a small organization.

The priest is the primary caregiver.

When the priest has to visit every sick person and make regular house calls, he or she becomes incapable of doing other things. If you're good at it, you'll grow the church but you will disappoint people when you can't get to every event and you are not available for ministry. Or you'll just burn out. It creates false expectations and so many people get hurt in the process. The answer, by the way, is to teach people to care for each other in groups.

The leaders lack a strategy.

Many churches are clear on mission and vision. What most lack is a widely shared and agreed upon strategy. Your vision and mission answers the why and what of your organization. Your strategy answers how. Be clear on how you will accomplish your mission and don't rest until the mission, vision

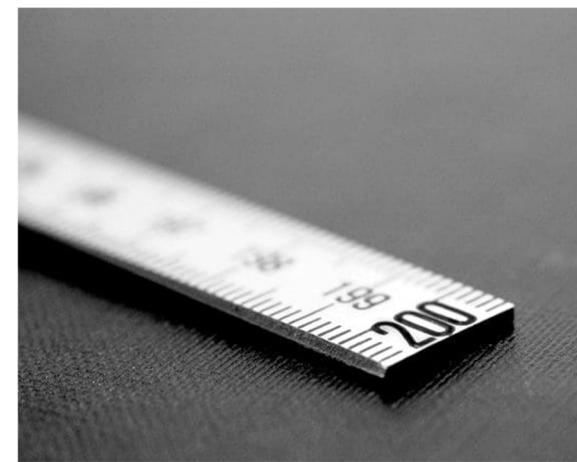
(Continued on page 4)

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Worship Today: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sentence: A voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' *Matthew 3:17*

Collect: Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: grant that all who are baptised into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Hymns:

Inverleigh: 270 – On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry; 468 – We are your people; 160 – Father all-loving and ruling in majesty; 250 – Christ, when for us you were baptised

Bannockburn: Jesus Jesus; All praise to you Christ Jesus; Majesty here I am; On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry; Let us Build a House; *I am a new creation*; Let all the earth hear his voice; *You are the vine*

Meredith: Jesus Jesus; Let us Build a House; On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry; All praise to you Christ Jesus; Let all the earth hear his voice; *You are the vine*

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

World: peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, India & Pakistan, Thailand & Cambodia, Sudan, and all places in conflict, war, or threat of war; South Sudan, Venezuela and all developing nations; for all nations experiencing natural disaster; injustice, loss of freedom, racism, misogyny and death, where there is need for education, health services, employment, food; that all national leaders to bring a vision of service and justice to their nations.

Church: to share the good news of God's kingdom in an uncertain world; Bp Sarah Archbishop of Canterbury elect, Abp Ric Thorpe, Bp Brad as he prepares for the Diocese of Adelaide, raise up bishops to replace those who are retiring; parish organisational and administrative unity and financial viability; for this sabbath month before recommencing the kingdom mission we are called to; the Youth and Family Community Cinema; all the prophets of the church revealing oppression and proclaiming justice for all.

Community: the Wadawarrung and all our first nations peoples on whose country we live and the work for reconciliation; for all who come into our communities that in diversity they will be welcome and safe; the establishment of Bannockburn Food Relief Project.

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, Josie Harvey, Steve and Stacee Copland, Mawut Gotbaai, Timothy and Weng Deng.

A Brief History of Modern Art in Poetry

Brian Bilston

1. Impressionism

Roses sway in softened reds
Violets swim in murky blues.
Sugar sparkles in the light,
Blurring into golden you.



2. Surrealism

Roses are melting
Violets are too.
Ceci n'est pas le sucre.
Keith is a giant crab.

3. Social Realism

Roses are dead.
Violence is rife.
Don't sugar coat
This bitter life.

5. Pop Art

Roses go BLAM!
Violets go POW!
Sugar is COOL!
You are so WOW!

6. Conceptual Art

Roses are red,
Coated in blood:
A deer's severed head
Drips from above.

YOUTH AND FAMILY COMMUNITY CINEMA

NEXT SHOWING

**Tuesday January 13
6.00 pm**

Church of the Epiphany
Meredith

Presented by The Melbourne
Anglican Foundation



(Continued from page 1)

and strategy reside in every single volunteer and leader.

True leaders aren't leading.

In every church, there are people who hold the position of leadership and then there are people who are truly leaders (who may not hold any position in your church). Release people who aren't advancing the mission, and hand the job over to real leaders. Look for people who have a track record of handling responsibility in other areas of life and give them the job of leading the church into the future with you. If you actually have leaders leading, it will make a huge difference.

Volunteers and members are unempowered.

Small churches do not have the budget to hire more staff, but you have people. Once you have identified true leaders, and once you're clear on your mission, vision, and strategy, you need to release people to accomplish them. To try and do it all yourself will lead to burnout, leave the ministry, or simply be ineffective. Empower members and volunteers around your strategy and you will likely begin to see progress.

The governance team micromanages.

If you need permission every time you need to buy paper towels or repaint an office, you have a governance issue. Most boards who micromanage do so because that's where most people simply default. You need a board that guards the mission and vision and empowers the team to accomplish it and then gets out of the way.

Too many meetings.

I led a church with a grand total of 50 people in attendance with 16 elders and the church met two to three times a week. Why on earth would a church that small need to meet that often? I eventually repurposed most of those meetings to become meetings about vision and reorganization. If you're going to meet, meet on purpose for the future. Free up your time so you and your team can accomplish something significant.

Too many events and programs that lead nowhere.

Activity does not equal accomplishment. Just because you're busy doesn't mean you're being effective. If you check into most small churches, there are a lot of programs that accomplish little and lead nowhere. Stop them. Yes, people may be angry. Even have the courage to cut some good programs. Good is the enemy of great. Then go out and do a few great things.

The priest suffers from a desire to please everybody.

Many priests are people-pleasers by nature. They need to do whatever they need to do to get over the fear of disappointing people. Courageous leadership is like courageous parenting. You don't do what your kids want you to do; you do what you believe is best for them in the end. Eventually, many of the church members will thank you. And the rest? Honestly, they'll probably go to another church that isn't reaching many people either.

Carey Nieuwhof is a former lawyer and founding pastor of Connexus Church, one of the largest and most influential churches in Canada (edited)

Bible Readings

Prayer for the week:

Almighty God, who anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son: inspire us, your children, who are born again of water and the Spirit, to surrender our lives to your service, that we may rejoice to be called your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Monday

Morning: Ps 31
Jeremiah 1
Colossians 1:1-8

Evening: Ps 33
Genesis 1:1-19
John 6:28-40

Tuesday

Hilary of Poitiers (d.367) *Bishop*
Bishop and teacher

Morning: Ps 35:1-17
Jeremiah 2:1-19
Colossians 1:9-20

Evening: Pss 35:18-29 & 36
Genesis 1:20-2:3
John 6:41-59

Wednesday

Sava (d.1235) *Missionary*
First Archbishop of the Serbian church

Morning: Ps 34
Jeremiah 2:20-30(33-37)
Colossians 1:21-29

Evening: Ps 119:17-40
Genesis 2:4-35
John 6:60-71

Thursday

Morning: Ps 37:1-17
Jeremiah 3:(1-5)6-23
Colossians 2:1-7

Evening: Ps 37:18-41
Genesis 3:1-19
John 7:1-13

Friday

Morning: Ps 38

Jeremiah 4:1-18
Colossians 2:8-15

Evening: Ps 39
Genesis 3:20-4:16
John 7:14-24

Saturday

Antony of Egypt, Abbot (d.356) *Monastic*

Morning: Ps 40
Jeremiah 4:19-31
Colossians 2:16-23

Evening: Pss 42 & 43
Genesis 4:17-5:5, 21-24
John 7:25-36



Next Sunday 18th January

EPIPHANY 2 [2]

8.00 am Holy Communion
Inverleigh

10.00 am All-Age Communion
Bannockburn

5.00 pm Holy Communion
Meredith

Readings

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42