

31st August	
7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
1st September	
7.00 pm Commissioning John Maryoe	St Stephens Belmont
2nd September	
11.00 am Communion	Estia Health Bannockburn
7th September	
7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
12th September	
8.30 am Men's Breakfast	Parish Ministry Centre
14th September	
7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
16th September	
12 noon Deanery Meeting	St Andrews Corio
19th September	
10.30 am Consecration of Bishops	St Pauls Cathedral Melbourne
21st September	
2.30 pm Army Chaplain Supervision	Vicar's Study
7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
22nd September	
3.00 pm Youth and Family Cinema	Epiphany Meredith
23rd September	
7.00 pm Parish Council	Parish Ministry Centre

Parish Roster for September 6

Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Liz McDonald
Bannockburn: Carol Newlands
 Lynette Oates

Reader:

Bannockburn: Carol Newlands

Communion Assistant:

Inverleigh: Geoff Morgan
Bannockburn: Carol Newlands

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	
	pastoralcare.gpas@gmail.com



'A number of competitors were disqualified after they tested positive for WD-40'

Golden Plains Anglican News

Living the Gospel in Our Community

†Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith

30th August 2026—FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE EVANGELICAL vs PROGRESSIVE DEBATE

Part One of conversations from fictitious St Faithfuls, Havnot, transcribed for public benefit by Mrs Judith M Crowther (who was just passing, and definitely not eavesdropping on their reverend-ships' conversation)

Rev'd Tim Keen (Vicar): Right. So. Apparently I've been asked to explain Progressive Christianity.

Rev'd Sandy Lintel (Curate): Yes. Because several people have commented, and I quote, "This all sounds very amusing, but does the Vicar actually BELIEVE anything?"

Tim: Rude.

Sandy: Efficient, though.

Tim: Fine. Progressive Christianity. Where to begin. I suppose I'd say it's an attempt to take God seriously without pretending that the Enlightenment never happened.

Sandy: Already alarming. You've lost at least half the internet.

Tim: Yes, well, they were always going to go. Progressive Christianity starts from the conviction that faith doesn't require intellectual dishonesty. That loving God with your mind actually means using it.

Sandy: So... you don't just switch your brain off during the Creed?

Tim: I sometimes frown during the Creed. Which is my Anglican way of saying, "This is complicated."

Sandy: Right. But critics would say that Progressive Christianity is just Christianity that's embarrassed by its own doctrines.

Tim: No, it's Christianity that's embarrassed by bad explanations of its doctrines. There's a difference. I'm not embarrassed by mystery. I'm embarrassed by certainty that's pretending not to be frightened.

Sandy: That's very poetic. And completely unusable in an Alpha course.

Tim: Alpha does just fine without me, thank you.



(Continued on page 4)

Parish Ministry Centre: 11 Byron Street, BANNOCKBURN VIC, 3331
 (03) 5281 2553 revdrtim@hotmail.com
 www.goldenplainsanglican.org
 www.facebook.com/GoldenPlainsAnglicans

Worship Today: FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [22]

Sentence: If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow him. *Matthew 16.24–25*

Collect: O God, whose Son has shown the way of the cross to be the way of life: transform and renew our minds that we may not be conformed to this world but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

Hymns: *Come as you are*

God it was

Glory be to God in heaven

Christ is enough

Take up your cross

Lord you have my heart

Community of Christ

Jesus Christ (Once again)



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

World: all nations in war or conflict; those who perpetrate war, those who defend their nations, civilian casualties, aid workers, and those who are working for peace; South Sudan and all developing nations preparing for elections; wherever there is fear, violence, lack of freedom, injustice, oppression, racism, hunger, displacement, and homelessness; all national leaders and law makers; the building up of citizens and unity in the global community; Japan, Columbia, Nepal, and all nations suffering from natural disaster; justice for all in our shared humanity.

Church: unity of the Anglican Communion, Abp Sarah Mullaley; Abp Ric Thorpe, Nigel Pope (to be consecrated as our Bishop), Adn Liz Rankin, AD Lankiri Thaba; the transition of our region and administration of the parish; Youth and Family Community Cinema, Thursday Lunch, Men's Breakfast, both Op Shops, and all our members; to be labourers in the harvest for growth of the parish; unity of administration and sale of the Parish's excess land for financial viability.

Community: the Wadawarrung and all our First Nations Peoples, the work of reconciliation and treaty; all the communities in our Parish especially Inverleigh, Bannockburn, and Meredith; all experiencing mortgage and rental stress, cost of living, and food insecurity; all who are marginalised, anxious and depressed; for communities that are welcoming, give belonging, affirm diversity in unity of culture, tradition, heritage and sexuality; to honour the diversity of human nature.

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 Harvey, Judith Palmer-Howlett, Zaher Mhanna, and all others on our heart and mind.

In Memoriam: Josie Andrews, Dolly Parton

Entertainment during school holidays



Meredith Youth and Family Community Cinema

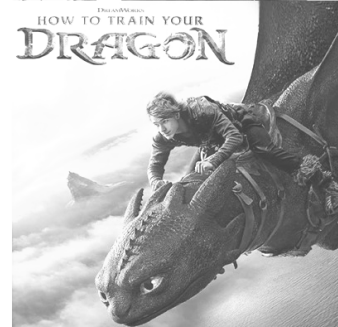
Presented by

Golden Plains Anglicans and Melbourne Anglican Foundation

PADDINGTON 2



Paddington 2 September 22



How to Train Your Dragon September 29

3.00 pm

Church of the Epiphany, Meredith

Refreshments Included

Songs of Praise

Sunday September 13th 2.30 pm
Come along and Sing!
 Celebrating 150 years of worship

Aberdeen Street Baptist Church - 7 Aberdeen Street, Newtown



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In this season

A new regular newsletter sharing stories, reflections, prayer and encouragement from across the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.



<http://qrau.co/iGNak9>

Please share it with others who may like to receive it.

MOVING THE BANNOCKBURN OPPORTUNITY SHOP

Parish Council will be moving the Op Shop to the larger space of the current Parish Ministry Centre. Apart from the Vicar's Study which will also house the Parish Office, the Op Shop will become the hospitality space for the Morning Teas, Friendship Lunch, Men's Breakfast and other Parish Events. The move will take place during Op Shop closure in January.

NEW NAMES FOR MELBOURNE DIOCESE EPISCOPAL AREAS

From 19 September the Diocese moves from three geographical episcopal areas to four. The current area names will be replaced by Geelong, Dandenong, Merri and Nunawading. Each is a First Nations place name already embedded within the geography and communities of the area it represents. The names were developed following consultation with First Nations leaders, recognises the deeper histories of the lands on which our churches, schools, agencies and ministries stand, and the continuing significance of First Nations peoples and Country.

The Revd Canon Nigel Pope will be the Bishop of Geelong;

Bishop Paul Barker will be the Bishop of Dandenong;

The Venerable Megan Curlis-Gibson will be the Bishop of Merri; and

The Revd Canon Ben Wong will be the Bishop of Nunawading.

Bible Readings

Prayer for the week:

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Monday

John Bunyan, preacher and writer (d.1688) *Saint*
 Aidan of Lindisfarne, Bishop (d.651) *Missionary*

Morning: Ps 83:1-8(9-18)
 2 Chronicles 34:29-35:8a
 1 John 1
Evening: Ps 109:1-5(6-14)15-19
 Tobit 11
 Acts 23:12-24

Tuesday

Morning: Ps 1 & 2
 2 Chronicles 35:10-27
 1 John 2:1-11
Evening: Ps 3 & 4
 Tobit 12
 Acts 23:25-24:9

Wednesday

MARTYRS OF NEW GUINEA (d.1942) *Proper*

Morning: Ps 5 & 6
 Zephaniah 1:1-13
 1 John 2:12-17
Evening: Ps 7 & 8
 Judith 4
 Acts 24:10-27

Thursday

Gregory of Rome, teacher (d.604) *Bishop*
 Eliza Darling (d.1868) *Saint*
 Pioneer and social reformer in NSW

Morning: Ps 9
 Zephaniah 1:14-2:3
 1 John 2:18-29
Evening: Ps 10
 Judith 8:4-27
 Acts 25:13-27

Friday

Morning: Ps 11 & 12
 Zephaniah 2:4-15
 1 John 3:1-10
Evening: Ps 13 & 14
 Judith 8:28-9:14
 Acts 25:13-27

Saturday

Morning: Ps 15 & 16
 Zephaniah 3:1-10
 1 John 3:11-24
Evening: Ps 17:1-13(14)15-16
 Judith 10:1-13
 Acts 26:1-18



"Why is it that a congregation that is still bitter about a 42-year-old misunderstanding can't remember last week's sermon topic?"

Next Sunday 6th September

PENTECOST 15 [23]

8.00 am Holy Communion

Inverleigh

10.00 am All-Age Communion

Bannockburn

5.00 pm Holy Communion

Meredith

Readings

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 149

Romans 13:1-10

Mathew 18:10-20

(Continued from page 1)

- Sandy:** So—Scripture. This is where I'm supposed to poke you with a stick.
- Tim:** Please do.
- Sandy:** Progressive Christians are often accused of not really believing the Bible.
- Tim:** Nonsense. We believe the Bible very seriously. We just don't believe it's a fax from heaven.
- Sandy:** But if the Bible isn't literally true in every detail, how do you stop it becoming a kind of spiritual pick-and-mix?
- Tim:** By doing the hard work. Historical context. Genre. Power dynamics. Who's speaking. Who's silent. Who benefits from a particular reading. Progressive Christianity reads the Bible like adults read family history—lovingly, critically, and aware that Uncle Harold's version of events is... selective.
- Sandy:** I knew Uncle Harold was a problem.
- Tim:** Always is.
- Sandy:** But surely the danger is that you end up with a God who always agrees with you?
- Tim:** Only if you're doing it badly. A good progressive reading should make you more uncomfortable, not less. If God never challenges you, you've probably just baptised your opinions and called it theology.
- Sandy:** That does sound familiar.
- Tim:** Indeed.
- Sandy:** What about Jesus? Because evangelicals get nervous when people start sounding vague about Jesus.
- Tim:** As you should. Progressive Christianity is Christ-centred. It just insists that Jesus was not primarily interested in founding a belief-inspection agency.
- Sandy:** You're saying salvation isn't about correct answers?
- Tim:** I'm saying Jesus never once said, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You ticked all the right boxes." He talked about the Kingdom. About justice. About mercy. About people being healed and fed and restored to community.
- Sandy:** So ethics first, doctrine second?
- Tim:** Lived faith first. Doctrine as reflection on lived faith. Which, inconveniently, is how doctrine actually developed historically.
- Sandy:** You're enjoying this far too much.
- Tim:** I've been waiting years.
- Sandy:** Sin, then. Because this is where people accuse Progressive Christianity of going soft.
- Tim:** On the contrary. We just think sin is bigger than personal naughtiness. Sin is structural. Economic. Environmental. Racism, exploitation, indifference. Progressive Christianity says, "If your theology doesn't notice who's being crushed, it's probably missing God."

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

- Sandy:** So... fewer sermons about individual guilt, more about systems?
- Tim:** Yes. Though guilt still pops up. Usually at PCC meetings.
- Sandy:** And salvation?
- Tim:** Less "escape plan for the afterlife," more "participation in God's healing of the world now." Salvation as rescue from dehumanisation, not just rescue from punishment.
- Sandy:** That actually sounds quite... biblical.
- Tim:** Don't tell anyone.
- Sandy:** Final accusation, then. Progressive Christianity is just Christianity trying to keep up with modern culture.
- Tim:** Every form of Christianity is shaped by its culture. The question is whether you're aware of it. Progressive Christianity just admits that God might still be speaking, and that the Spirit didn't retire in about AD 90.
- Sandy:** So it's not about watering things down?
- Tim:** No. It's about digging deeper. Asking harder questions. And trusting that God is robust enough to survive them.
- Sandy:** Hm.
- Tim:** That's the sound of grudging appreciation, isn't it?
- Sandy:** It's the sound of me realising I agree with you more than is professionally convenient.
- Tim:** Welcome to Anglicanism.
- Mrs Crowther notes that both clergy then went quiet for several minutes, staring thoughtfully into mugs of tea, before Tim said, "Do you think we should have biscuits?" Which Mrs Crowther considers to be the most Anglican conclusion imaginable. <https://www.facebook.com/stfaithfulshavnot/The Progressive Debate>

PRAYING FOR THE HARVEST

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' *Matthew 9:35-38*

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

Join Revd Tim praying for growth in our Parish

Thursdays 1.30 pm
St John's Bannockburn

Lord of the Harvest,
thank you for the compassion of
Jesus
who sees the crowds,
knows their needs,
and gives himself
for the life of the world.
Teach us to see Melbourne and
Geelong with his eyes.
Renew your church by your Holy
Spirit,
raise up workers for your Harvest,
show each of us our part,
show each church it's next faithful
step,
and send us In the name of Jesus
Christ, our Lord. **Amen**