

17th August	
7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
24th August	
7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
26th August	
7.00 pm Parish Council	Parish Ministry Centre
30th August	
10.00 am Combined Parish Worship	
11.30 am Parish Community Growth Meeting	Epiphany Meredith
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	

Parish Roster for 23rd August

Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Luanne Thornton
Bannockburn: David & Jenny Bannister

Reader:

Bannockburn: David Bannister

Communion Assistants:

Inverleigh: Geoff Morgan
Bannockburn: 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
 pastoralcare.gpas@gmail.com



The side of church leadership that nobody told Derek about!

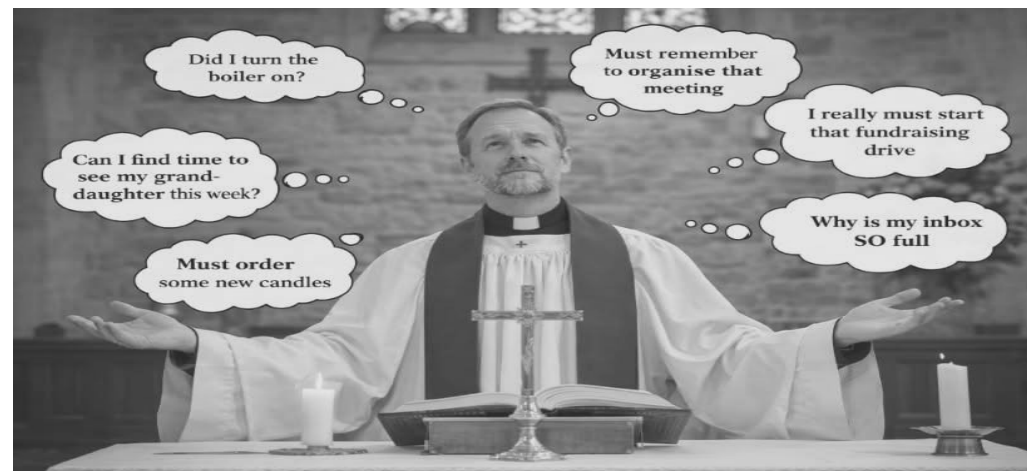
Golden Plains Anglican News

Living the Gospel in Our Community

†Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith
 16th August 2026—TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

Artie Fischal records the thoughts of Rev Dr Tim Keen, Vicar of St Faithful, Havnot



Some years ago, in a moment of either courage or temporary insanity, I wrote a Masters dissertation entitled 'Priest and Incumbent – The Impossible Dream'. This was not, as some hoped, a musical. Though it does feature singing, tears, denial, and the slow realisation that nobody read the instructions.

The argument was simple. Brutally simple: the Church asks its vicars to do two full-time jobs simultaneously — and then expresses mild surprise when one of them is found staring blankly at a spreadsheet, whispering Psalm 23.

Job One: Priest.

Pray. Study theology. Preach something coherent. Visit the sick. Sit quietly while people tell you the worst thing that's ever happened to them. Stand at the altar and pretend you're not thinking about the boiler.

Job Two: Incumbent.

Chief Executive of a small but legally complex charity. HR department. Safeguarding officer. Health & Safety consultant. Property manager.

(Continued on page 4)

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 (03) 5281 2553 revdrtim@hotmail.com
 www.goldenplainsanglican.org
 www.facebook.com/GoldenPlainsAnglicans

Worship Today: TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [20]

Sentence: Thus says the Lord, 'Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.' *Isaiah 56:1*

Collect: God of freedom, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:13-32 (33-36)
Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

Hymns:

Inverleigh: 584 – Just as I am; 164 – The great love of God; 477 – Jesus calls us here to meet him; 611 – God of grace and God of glory

Bannockburn: *Lord I come to you*; Just as I am; Majesty here I am; The great love of God; Jesus calls us here to meet him; All I once held dear; Praise is rising; *I am a new creation*

Meredith: *Lord I come to you*; Just as I am; The great love of God; Jesus calls us here to meet him; God of grace and God of glory; *All I once held dear*

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

World: all nations in war or conflict, those who perpetrate war, those who defend their nations, civilians casualties, and those who are working for peace; South Sudan and all developing nations holding 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, and all nations suffering from natural disaster.

Church: unity of the Anglican Communion, Abp Sarah Mullaley; Abp Ric Thorpe, Nigel Pope to be consecrated, Adn Liz Rankin; 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; sale of 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 living with mortgage and rental stress, cost of living, and food insecurity; all who are marginalised, anxious and depressed; that we foster community that is welcoming, gives belonging, affirms diversity in unity of culture, tradition, and heritage; to enable kingdom change for the community.

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

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.

Stay connected with what God is doing across Melbourne and Geelong, and join in prayer for our shared life together.

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

[BIT.LY/INTHISEASONNEWSLETTER](https://bit.ly/inthisseasonnewsletter)



MOVING THE BANNOCKBURN OPPORTUNITY SHOP

Parish Council believes the Op Shop will improve income with a larger display space. It is considering swapping the Op Shop and the Parish Ministry Centre. The Parish Office/Vicar's Study will remain in the current position. Please speak to the members of Parish Council if you have any questions or objections.

(Continued from page 1)

Fundraiser. Website editor. Social media presence. Chair of meetings that could have been emails, except the emails would also have been meetings.

Somewhere along the line, the Church decided these two roles could be combined, provided the vicar was “resilient”, “flexible”, and “good with people”. Also available 24/7, omniscient, emotionally indestructible, and oddly cheerful about damp.

I interviewed other clergy. They were writing sermons at 11pm on Saturday. Feeling guilty about parishioners they hadn't visited - most of whom had not even asked for a visit, but expected their vicar to know that they wanted one. Googling “how to chair a PCC meeting without losing the will to live”. Several were on antidepressants. All were tired. None were surprised.

Here's the punchline. When clergy stop doing some of the frantic admin... almost nobody notices. The Church does not implode. God does not resign. The biscuits still arrive. Which suggests that much of what exhausts clergy is not mission-critical, but anxiety-critical. It makes us feel in control. And control is very comforting when faith feels risky.

This is not a sob story. It's a farce. With theology. Priests are not ordained to be ecclesiastical Swiss Army knives. We are not the spiritual equivalent of “have you tried turning it off and on again?”. We are called to pray, to think, to listen, to preach, to preside — and to help everyone else discover that *they* have ministries too.

The Church does not need busier vicars. It needs braver churches. And fewer emails marked “just one more thing”. Right. Enough reflection. I have a meeting about reducing meetings. Pray for me. Or cancel something. Both are sacraments. *ChatGPT — known in Havnot as Artie Fischal — is often deployed to help shape, sharpen and illustrate these posts. The drafting, judgement, occasionally smuggled theology, bad parish memories, and publishing responsibility remain entirely human.*

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**

Bible Readings

Prayer for the week:

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always thankfully receive the benefits of his sacrifice, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Monday

Morning: Ps 106:1-24
2 Chronicles 28:16-29:11
Romans 11:13-24

Evening: Ps 106:25-50
Song of Songs 4
Acts 18:1-17

Tuesday

Morning: Ps 107:1-22
2 Chronicles 29:15-30
Romans 11:25-36

Evening: Ps 107:23-43
Song of Songs 5
Acts 18:18-28

Wednesday

Morning: Pss 110 & 111
2 Chronicles 29:31-30:12
Romans 12:1-8

Evening: Pss 112 & 113
Song of Songs 6
Acts 19:1-20

Thursday

Bernard of Clairvaux (d.1153) *Bishop*
Abbot & teacher

Morning: Pss 114 & 115
2 Chronicles 30:13-27
Romans 12:9-21

Evening: Pss 116 & 117
Song of Songs 7
Acts 19:21-41

Friday

Morning: Pss 121, 122 & 123
2 Chronicles 31:1-12a
Romans 13

Evening: Ps 119:129-152
Song of Songs 8
Acts 20:1-16

Saturday

Morning: Ps 118:1-18
2 Chronicles 31:17-32:8
Romans 14:1-12

Evening: Pss 118:19-29 & 120
Tobit 1:1-20
Acts 20:17-38

**STUDIES SHOW COWS
GIVE MORE MILK IF
FARMERS TALK TO THEM**



**IT'S A CASE OF IN ONE EAR
AND OUT THE UDDER**

**Next Sunday 23rd August
PENTECOST 13 [21]**

8.30 am Holy Communion
Inverleigh

10.00 am All-Age Communion
Bannockburn

5.00 pm Holy Communion
Meredith

Readings

Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Mathew 16:13-20