

UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS

Calendar

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

27th May

10.00 am Supervision Training  
The Anglican Centre Melbourne

7.00 pm House Group  
Teesdale

28th May

10.10 am Fire Safety Audit  
Meredith, Bannockburn, Inverleigh

7.00 pm Parish Council  
Parish Ministry Centre

31st May

10.00 am Election Synod (Tentative)  
St Pauls Cathedral Melbourne

3rd June

7.00 pm House Group  
Teesdale

4th June

11.00 am Communion  
Estia Bannockburn

7th June

9.30 am Parish Governance Info  
St Cuthberts, Grovedale

4.15 pm Geelong v Gold Coast  
GMHBA Stadium, Geelong

10th June

7.00 pm House Group  
Teesdale

Parish Roster for June 1

Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Liz McDonald

Bannockburn: David and Jenny Bannister

Reading:

Bannockburn: Steve Slade

Communion Assistant:

Inverleigh: Geoff Morgan

Bannockburn: David Bannister

Morning Tea:

Bannockburn: David Bannister  
Steve Slade

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



Golden Plains Anglican News

Living the Gospel in Our Community

Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith Anglican Parish

25th MAY 2025—SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

3 SIGNS OF A NEW SEASON & WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT EACH ONE

Seasons of life. There's often just a feeling, a sense that things are shifting – which can manifest in different ways.

How can you tell the seasons are changing? Aside from the calendar, you probably notice changes in the weather, the amount of sunlight streaming through the curtains in the morning, or the time you spend outdoors in the evening. Maybe the pace of your job or your kids' schedules pick up or slow down. Holiday festivities get replaced by graduation parties and weddings. How do we know when your church is transitioning to a new season?

Things seem harder than usual.

Maybe there are tensions taking place over little things and we just can't seem to get on the same page. As much as we are all trying, communication has become a struggle. Perhaps our routines that used to go smoothly are now testing our patience. We feel like we are floundering in our roles, whether that's as the clergy, group leader, or whatever ministry we do. Instead of feeling competent and confident everything just feels hard right now.

First off, let's acknowledge that it's not fun to feel like we are failing (or failing). However, as uncomfortable as it can be, it's often a sign that we are on the cusp of growth. Recall a time when we were learning a new skill or activity. There's often an awkward period where we are fumbling along trying to figure things out. It's all part of the learning process.

The same goes when we are entering a new season. We are facing new challenges and problems and trying to figure out what works and what doesn't. It's trial and error, mistakes and messiness, and it can be difficult to see what's coming on the other side. Instead of letting it drag us down, focus on the fact the opportunity of gaining experience and insight that will help us in the new phase of our church.

SHOOK'S VERSION

Old Model  
Change thinking to change behaviour

WHAT WE DO

VALUES AND ATTITUDES

CULTURE

New Model  
Change behavior to change thinking

(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/profile.php?id=100094651898435

Page 6—25th May 2025

## Worship Today: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Sentence:** 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you,' says the Lord. 'Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.' *John 14:27*

**Collect:** Great and loving God, your will for us in your Son Jesus is the peace which the world cannot give, your abiding gift, the Advocate he promised. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel every fear, and keep us steadfast in love and faithful to your word. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Readings:** Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10-24, 21:22-22:5;  
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

### Hymns:

**Inverleigh:** 606 – Son of God eternal Saviour; 468 – We are your people; 580 – Lead us heavenly Father lead us; 473 – Community of Christ

**Bannockburn:** *Lord I come to you;* Great is your faithfulness, O God of Jacob; Hosanna; God is building a house; Lord of the church, we pray for our renewing; *To be in your presence;* Community of Christ; *Shout to the north*

**Meredith:** *Lord I come to you;* Son of God eternal Saviour; We are your people; Lord of the church, we pray for our renewing; Community of Christ; *Shout to the north*

**Intercessions:** God of promise, hear our prayer.

**World:** Sudan, Ukraine & Russia, Israel & Palestine, India & Pakistan; a world in conflict, war, or threat of war; South Sudan and all developing nations, especially; for all nations where there is poverty, insecurity, displacement, and hunger, or lack of education, employment, medical intervention, freedom, clean water; those who are refugees or asylum seekers; orphans, widows, and the oppressed; for all national leaders and authorities of the world to work for justice, peace, security, integrity, and accountability; that we may overcome an uncertain and dark world.

**Church:** for all church leaders and the unity of the worldwide Church; in our communion the election of an Archbishop of Canterbury, retirement of our National Primate, election of our Diocesan Archbishop and Provincial Bishop of Victoria, our Election Synod representatives Tim Smith, Bruce McDonald, and David Osborne; the establishment of the Youth and Family Community Cinema at Meredith, to be a church seeking what God wants us to be and do to grow a church culture that enables growth spiritually and in numbers.

**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, play and pray; for all who come into our communities of any race, creed, colour, faith, or no faith that they will experience welcome; for all who are struggling with cost of living; looking out for the lonely and forgotten neighbours so they will find community and better hope with us in the message of the resurrection of Jesus.

**Those in need:** Matt Bellchambers, Shirley Musgrove, Melinda Gregory, Karen Schulze, Jenny Bannister, Margaret McLaren, Sarah Rees, Jayden Rees, Fay McFarlane, Timothy Deng, and all others on our own hearts and minds.



### GROWING A HEALTHY CHURCH CULTURE

Healthy churches are congregations which

1. ☒ are energized by faith,
2. ☒ have an outward-looking focus,
3. ☒ seek to find out what God wants,
4. ☒ face the costs of change and growth,
5. operate as a community,
6. make room for all, and
7. do a few things and do them well.

### Being The Sign of the Kingdom CHURCHES OPERATING AS A COMMUNITY

*Rather than functioning as a club or religious organisation. This includes:*

- **relationships:** are nurtured, often in small groups, so that people feel accepted and are helped to grow in faith and service
- **leadership:** lay and ordained work together as a team to develop locally appropriate expressions of all marks of a healthy church
- **lay ministry:** the different gifts, experiences, and faith journeys of all are valued and given expression in and beyond the life of the church.

### Questions for reflection:

**Read:** Ephesians 4:1-16 or 4:25-5:2—So, what makes a healthy church, Paul? Do we all have to be the same? What is our part in contributing to a healthy church?

**Read:** Mark 10:35-45—What can we do to build a healthy community?

**Meditate:** The church is called to express the life of Jesus Christ, who live the truth that, 'Unless a grain of wheat fall into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.' (John 12:24).

### Pray:

God of hope, you call us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world. By your Spirit awaken in us a true vision of your kingdom, a greater certainty of our salvation, and a deeper dedication to your service. Through our words and actions may the same Spirit bring many who are lost to be found, and for them to celebrate the hope that we can only have in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

(Continued from page 1)

### **We feel closer – or further apart.**

Navigating change, uncertainty, or new experiences in our life together means we might be leaning on each other as a source of security and support. Whether we are spending extra time together or not, we may be feeling really emotionally connected, or emotionally disconnected. It may be new or increased obligations are pulling you in opposite directions leaving little time or energy for each other.

It's completely normal for our levels of closeness and connection to go up and down throughout the life of our congregation. It's actually a healthy relationship response to the stressors, crises, or adversity that can throw our typical "baseline" out of balance. Keep in mind, it can require effort and intention to get back to balanced – it won't always happen on its own. Prioritizing relationships to find that sense of balance again – whether that is committing time to spend together as a community especially with those we share common interests or supporting others in their pursuit of hobbies we once shared. The key is that you gradually return to balanced level of closeness versus the extremes of co-dependence or independence.

### **Life feels chaotic.**

Various factors are causing our usual routines and schedules to shift and change. Our days might feel like they lack their usual rhythm and predictability. If we are someone who prefers routine over uncertainty, this can leave us feeling untethered and out of sorts. If we don't mind change, things might just seem a little crazier than usual, but we can more easily go with the flow.

This sense of chaos is typically only temporary. It can be helpful to remind ourselves of this when it feels like this is becoming our new normal. Just as your level of connection ebbs and flows throughout any relationship, so too does the sense of order and predictability within the community of the church. Perhaps the Vicar has turned our congregation into "Anything Goes," a new cultural understanding forces us to rearrange your lives, or may mean dropping activities or increasing already busy schedules, there will be a transition period as we figure things out and settle into a new rhythm. Before we know it, what once was a struggle will feel like second nature, a new culture of understanding who we are and how we work well.

As with many things in life, we often lack a clear perspective until we are viewing it in hindsight. When we are in the midst of a transition that tests our resolve and pushes us beyond what's familiar, we might start to question things: What's going on? Is this normal? Is this how it's always going to be? These worries are normal, but we need to remember that on the other side of the struggle lies a rewarding new season of life together.

Based on: [www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/3-signs-of-a-new-season-what-to-know-about-each-one](http://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/3-signs-of-a-new-season-what-to-know-about-each-one) (edited)  
As we explore a process for revitalising our parish, defining an understanding of a healthy church culture to enable growth, we are aware that it is an invitation into a new season of life for us as church. Let us be prepared for what we may experience as we continue this faith journey.

## **Bible Readings**

### **Prayer for the week:**

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant that we may walk in his way, rejoice in his truth, and share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Monday**

Augustine of Canterbury (d.605) *Missionary Bishop and missionary*

**Morning:** Pss 65 & 70

Exodus 34:27-35:9

John 13:36-14:7

**Evening:** Ps 66

Judges 6:25-40

1 Corinthians 10:1-11

Week of Prayer for Reconciliation

### **Tuesday**

**Morning:** Ps 68:1-20

Exodus 35:20-36:7

John 14:8-13

**Evening:** Ps 68:(21-23)24-35

Judges 7:1-22(23-25)

1 Corinthians 10:12-22

Week of Prayer for Reconciliation

### **Wednesday**

**Morning:** Ps 71

Exodus 40:17-38

John 15:1-11

Ascension Eve

**Evening:** Ps 99

Isaiah 63:7-14

Colossians 2:20-3:4

Week of Prayer for Reconciliation

### **Thursday**

ASCENSION DAY

**Morning:** Ps 93

Daniel 7:9-14

John 14:12-29

**Evening:** Ps 97

2 Kings 2:1-15

Revelation 5:1-10

Week of Prayer for Reconciliation

### **Friday**

**Morning:** Ps 72

Deuteronomy 1:1-21

John 15:12-25

**Evening:** Ps 73

Judges 8:1-3, 22-35

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

Week of Prayer for Reconciliation

### **Saturday**

**Morning:** Pss 148 & 149

Deuteronomy 1:22-45

John 15:26-16:11

**Evening:** Pss 144 & 150

Judges 9:1-22, 50-57

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

## **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

THE BENEFITS (Part Two)



USE OF THE SECRET  
MEMBERS-ONLY LOUNGE



PREVIEWS OF SERMONS THE  
NIGHT BEFORE RELEASE

**Next Sunday 1st June  
SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION  
HEALTHY CHURCH CULTURE:**

**Makes Room for All**

**8.00 am Holy Communion**

St Paul's Inverleigh

**10.00 am All-Age Communion**

St John's Bannockburn

**5.00 pm Prayer and Praise**

Epiphany Meredith

**Readings**

Acts 1:1-11

Psalms 110

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53