

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
School Holidays Commence

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

28th September
7.00 pm House Group Teesdale

29th September
3.00 pm Youth and Family Cinema
Epiphany Meredith

5th October
School Resumes

Parish Roster for September 13

Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Liz McDonald
Bannockburn: Carol Newlands
Lynette Oates

Reader:

Bannockburn: Christina Szabo

Communion Assistant:

Inverleigh: Bruce McDonald
Bannockburn: Ivan Marsetti

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



FONT: where
baptism of a type
is done.

Golden Plains Anglican News

Living the Gospel in Our Community

†Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith

6th September 2026—FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE EVANGELICAL vs PROGRESSIVE DEBATE (Part 2)

Recorded conversation with Mr Horace Palmer, transcribed for public benefit by The Rev'd Sandy Lintel, Curate, after he read the recent debate concerning Progressive Christianity. (After a pint, for accuracy)

Yesterday evening, after choir practice, I was jumped. Mr Horace "Horse" Palmer, Very Odd Job Man, emerged from behind a ladder near the south porch with the air of someone who had been thinking for some time and had finally located a cleric. Horse had been reading the recent transcript of the Progressive Christianity Debate, between myself and the Vicar. Judith M. Crowther had forwarded it to him "for interest", which I understand is Administrator-speak for mischief. She clearly knows what we all suspect – that despite his rustic appearance, Horse is by no means a stupid man.



Horse explained that he knows he's an Anglican, and knew broadly what Christians were, but was less sure what an Evangelical actually believed beyond the fact that they seem to be very confident about it.

We went for a pint in The Little John, the pub perched obligingly on the edge of the churchyard and known among the clergy as "The Staff Room". Horse agreed to my recording our conversation and transcribing it on the strict condition that he order first.

Sandy: Right. Evangelicalism.

Horse: Good. Because I've heard the word a lot, but I've never quite caught hold of it.

Sandy: Ok. Well, at heart, Evangelical Christianity is about good news – that's what 'Evangel' means. It's the belief that God has done something vital, and good, through Jesus: and that this matters.

Horse: Matters like "it's interesting", or matters like "you should probably sit down"?

Sandy: More the second.

(Continued on page 4)

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

Sentence: Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for whoever loves another has fulfilled the law. *Romans 13:8*

Collect: Go before us, O Lord, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 18:10-20

Hymns:

Inverleigh: 233 – I will song the wondrous story; 468 – We are your people; 608 – Where cross the crowded ways of life; 111 – Praise to the Lord the almighty

Bannockburn: *God of this city*; Come as you are; Majesty; We are your people; The king of love me shepherd is; *The greatest thing*; Praise to the Lord the almighty; *Jesus shall take the highest honour*

Meredith: *God of this city*; I will song the wondrous story; We are your people; The king of love me shepherd is; Praise to the Lord the almighty; *Jesus shall take the highest honour*

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, 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, law makers, governing authorities; the building up of citizens and unity in the global community; 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.

(Continued from page 4)

Sandy: Traditional Evangelical theology talks about Jesus standing in our place.

Horse: Which still sounds like God needing violence to forgive.

Sandy: I can hear that.

Horse: From where I'm standing, Jesus dies because humans couldn't cope with him. He challenged power, upset certainties, frightened people. We responded badly. Which is also very on brand for us.

Sandy: That's a more Progressive reading.

Horse: I'm just following the story.

Sandy: I think Progressive theology often says Jesus dies because of human sin — fear, jealousy, the need to control — rather than for sin as a transaction.

Horse: Which makes the cross less of a deal being done, and more of a mirror being held up.

Sandy: Some Evangelicals would worry that takes away the saving power.

Horse: Or it saves us from ourselves instead. By example I mean. We see how far Jesus was prepared to go for his love-message, and that inspires us.

Sandy: I think the cross can hold more than one meaning. Sacrifice. Revelation. Refusal to answer violence with violence.

Horse: So not God demanding the cross, but God refusing to walk away when things got ugly.

Sandy: That's a difference I can live with.

Horse: Me too.

Walking home past the churchyard, I realised Horse had given me something. Evangelicals are very good at talking. We explain. We produce bullet points. Ideally three. If the cross can be wrapped up in a memorable phrase and a neat closing prayer, even better. We care about good news, and we like it clearly labelled. But, is it possible that, sometimes, we speak too quickly where mystery deserves silence? The cross is central not because we've cracked it, but because, actually we haven't. We only THINK we have. Perhaps Evangelical faith at its best isn't certainty without questions, but trust that stays put when explanations wobble. Standing on the ladder rather than just describing it.

Horse, I think, would approve. He trusts things that bear weight, but he's suspicious of anything explained too confidently by someone who hasn't tried standing on it yet. Which is probably a useful reminder for preachers everywhere.

<https://www.facebook.com/stfaithfulshavnot/The Progressive Debate>



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.

PRAYING FOR THE HARVEST

Jesus 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 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:

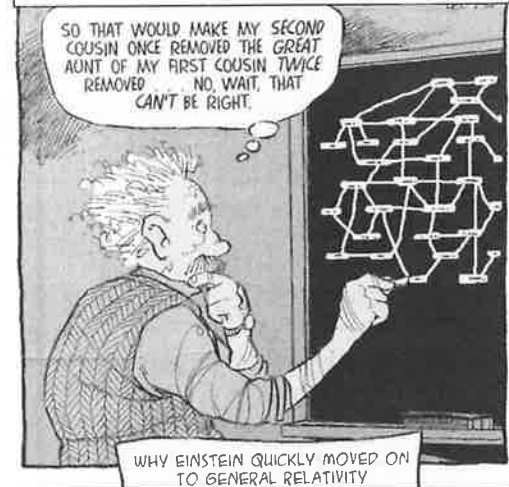
O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and so great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- Monday**
- Morning:** Ps 19
 Zephaniah 3:11-20
 1 John 4:1-12
- Evening:** Ps 119:1-16
Judith 10:14-11:6, 20-23
 Acts 26:19-32
- Tuesday**
- Morning:** Pss 20 & 21:1-7 (8-13)
 Obadiah 1-14
 1 John 4:13-21
- Evening:** Pss 24 & 26
Judith 12:16-13:16
 Acts 27:1-12
- Wednesday**
- Morning:** Ps 22:1-22
 Obadiah 15-21
 1 John 5:1-12
- Evening:** Pss 22:23-32 & 23
Judith 14
 Acts 27:13-32
- Thursday**
- Morning:** Ps 25
 2 Chronicles 36:1-14
 1 John 5:13-21
- Evening:** Ps 27
Judith 15
 Acts 27:33-44

Friday

Mother Esther CHN (d.1931) Monastic
 Founder of the Community of the Holy Name

- Morning:** Pss 28 & 29
 2 Chronicles 36:15-23
 2 John
- Evening:** Pss 30 & 32
Judith 16:1-12
 Acts 28:1-16
- Saturday**
- Morning:** Ps 31
 Isaiah 34
 3 John
- Evening:** Ps 33
Judith 16:13-25
 Acts 28:27-31



**Next Sunday 13th September
 PENTECOST 16 [24]
 8.00 am Holy Communion
 Inverleigh
 10.00 am All-Age Communion
 Bannockburn
 5.00 pm Holy Communion
 Meredith**

Readings
 Exodus 14:19-31
 Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1-13, 17-18
 Romans 14:1-14
 Mathew 18:21-35

(Continued from page 1)

Horse: Thought so.

Sandy: We Evangelicals usually emphasise four things. The authority of Scripture. The Cross. Personal conversion. And active faith.

Horse: Very neat. Efficient lot.

Sandy: We like lists.

Horse: Start with Scripture. Authority makes me twitchy.

Sandy: Evangelicals believe the Bible is God's revealed truth —

Horse: That's the bit I struggle with. How did they come to believe that? Who told them?

Sandy: We BELIEVE it. It's been REVEALED to us by the Holy Spirit.

Horse: You believe because someone told you what to believe, because they had been told it by the Holy Spirit?

Sandy: Because GOD has revealed it. We don't believe because someone told us to — or at least that's what we tell ourselves. We believe because the Holy Spirit gives us faith... as a gift.

Horse: I'm a practical man. I don't trust a ladder until I've stood on it.

Sandy: Evangelicals would say the ladder's been stood on for centuries.

Horse: Fair. But not by me yet.

Sandy: That's the difference, then. Evangelical faith starts with revealed truth — God telling — rather than discovered insight, us working it out.

Horse: I like working things out. It's how I know they hold.

Sandy: Faith's still risky.

Horse: Everything worth standing on usually is.

Sandy: Evangelicals lean into certainty because if God has spoken, confidence follows.

Horse: Unless you've misheard.

Sandy: True.

Horse: I once trusted a tape measure that lied, by a quarter inch.

Sandy: That explains your shelves.

Horse: Fancy another pint?

Sandy: Don't tell the Vicar.

(Horse goes to the bar and returns.)

Horse: Right. You also mentioned the cross. Central, you said.

Sandy: Yes. Evangelicals believe the cross is where sin is dealt with and humanity is reconciled to God.

Horse: This is where I need you to go slowly.

Sandy: The idea is that sin gets in the way of our relationship with God, and Jesus takes that sin upon himself. It dies with him, on the Cross.

Horse: Here's my problem. If God's omnipotent and merciful, why does anyone need to die at all? Why not just forgive?

Sandy: Evangelicals would say forgiveness isn't cheap. Real forgiveness always costs something.

Horse: I've forgiven people. It cost me pride, mainly. Not my life.

(Continued on page 7)

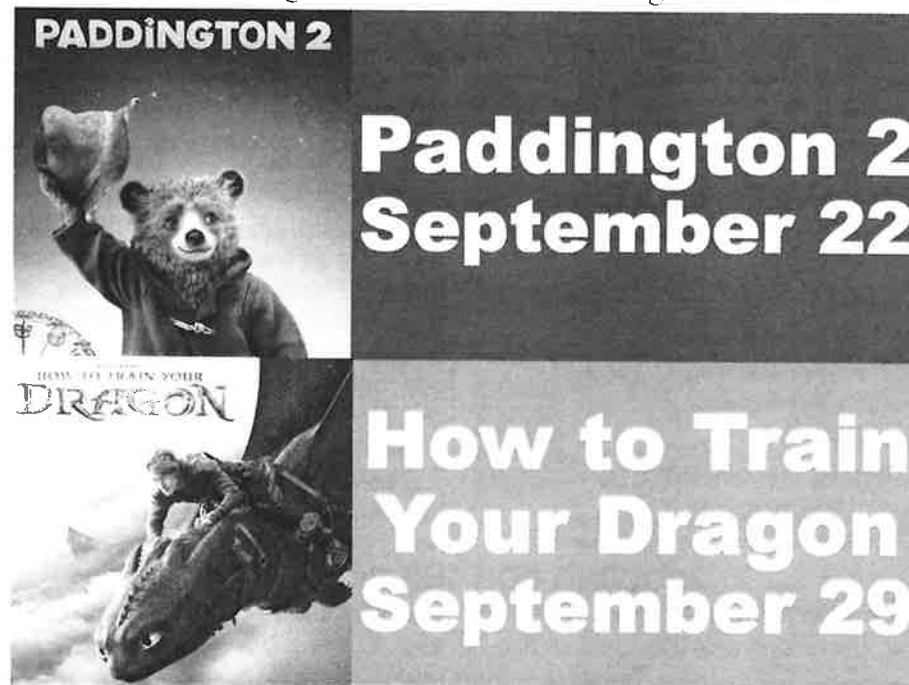
Entertainment during school holidays



Meredith Youth and Family Community Cinema

Presented by

Golden Plains Anglicans and Melbourne Anglican Foundation



3.00 pm

Church of the Epiphany, Meredith
Refreshments Included