

27th July	
7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
3rd August	
7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
5th August	
11.00 am Communion	Estia Health
8th August	
4.35 pm Geelong v Essendon	GMHBA Stadium
10th August	
7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
17th August	
2.30 pm ADF Chaplaincy Supervision	Vicar's Study
7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
19th August	
12 noon Deanery Meeting	St Thomas Winchelsea
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	Belmont

Parish Roster for 2nd August

Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Debbie Shelley
Bannockburn: Freda and Paul Duke

Reader:

Bannockburn: Lynette Oates

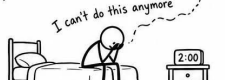
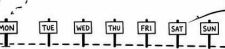
Communion Assistants:

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	
	pastoralcare.gpas@gmail.com

6 PRAYERS THAT DON'T SOUND LIKE PRAYERS BUT GOD HEARS THEM ANYWAY

- 1 "I can't do this anymore" 
- 2 "Please let them be okay" 
- 3 "I don't know what to do" 
- 4 "Thank you for today" 
- 5 "Help me forgive them" 
- 6 "Just get me through this week" 

HE DOESN'T NEED THE FORMAT.
HE NEEDS THE HONESTY. ♥
— Stickman Wisdom —

Golden Plains Anglican News

Living the Gospel in Our Community

†Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith

26th July 2026—NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL (Part 1)

Archbishop Ric talks about strategy for growth and renewal

We've just had a great conference with clergy and authorised lay ministers from across the diocese, as part of a wide, a season of discernment. The scripture at the heart of this season. Is Matthew chapter 9 verses 35 to 38:

Then 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.'

I think this passage is a passage for us in this moment. Let me just frame that a little Matthew tells us that Jesus went through all the towns and Villages, He's not distant from the life of the people. He's among them in the places where they live and worship and work and suffer and hope. He teaches proclaims the good news of the Kingdom and His words and actions belong together. There are signs that in Jesus, God's kingdom is arriving. The mercy, forgiveness Justice and healing of God coming near.

As Matthew's gospel unfolds, we discover that this Kingdom comes through the self-giving love of Jesus through the cross and Resurrection. The mission of the church begins there, with Jesus Christ crucified, risen and Lord. And we receive our mission from him. When, Matthew tells us what Jesus sees, when he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them. It's quite possible to look at a crowd and see, only pressure, demands and something, too big for us, to cope with. Jesus sees people. He sees them completely and lovingly.

Matthew says, they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a Shepherd. That image of the shepherd takes us deep into the scriptures.

(Continued on page 4)

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www.facebook.com/GoldenPlainsAnglicans

Sentence: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, or things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Collect: O God, the fount of wisdom, you have revealed to us in Christ the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price: grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment, that, in the midst of the things of this world, we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom, and be ready to renounce all else for the sake of the precious gift you offer. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings: Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 128; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:44-58

Hymns:

Inverleigh: 143 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise; 164 – The great love of God; 445 – Jesus where're your people meet; 217 – Love divine all loves excelling

Bannockburn: *We want to see Jesus lifted high;* The power of Your love; Here I am to worship; The great love of God; Immortal, invisible, God only wise; *I surrender all;* Build your kingdom here; I will offer up my life

Meredith: *Here I am to worship;* The power of Your love; The great love of God; Immortal, invisible, God only wise; Build your kingdom here; *I surrender all*

Intercessions: *Christ Jesus, intercede for us, and, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

World: all nations in war or conflict, those who perpetrate war, those who defend their nations, and those who are working for peace; South Sudan and all developing nations: wherever there is terror, violence, injustice, oppression, racism, hunger, displacement, and homelessness; all national leaders and law makers to have a spirit for the building up of their own citizens and unity in the global community.

Church: unity of the Anglican Communion, Abp Sarah Mullaley; our Diocese and Abp Ric Thorpe, Bp Genieve's retirement and our region in transition, Ven Liz Rankin Archdeacon of Geelong; our Parish outreach ministries: Youth and Family Community Cinema, Thursday Lunch, Men's Breakfast, both Op Shops, and all the community groups our members participate in to be opportunities to invite others to come and see; proposal to sell excess land and establish parish financial viability.

Community: the Wadawarrung people 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; that upholds and communicates truth.

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, Timothy Deng and Weng, Mawut Gotbaai, Peter Aluong, Judith Palmer-Howlett, Julie Doyle, and all others on our heart and mind.

ST FAITHFUL'S, HAVNOT

STATEMENT OF DOCTRINAL CERTAINTY

(Revised)

After prayerful consideration, extended discussion, and several cups of tea (with biscuits), the Parochial Church Council of St Faithful's, Havnot is pleased to affirm the following matters upon which we are now entirely certain.

1. **God is love.**

What this means in practice remains under active review.

2. **God is not limited by our understanding of God.**

Or by anyone else's, however confidently expressed.

3. **The Bible is inspired.** Which we take to mean that it continues to inspire faith, argument, scholarship, prayer, disagreement, and the occasional raised eyebrow.

4. **Jesus is the Son of God.** Precisely how this works is a mystery we have decided not to simplify for administrative convenience.

5. **Jesus is the Saviour of the World.** The precise mechanism by which salvation is achieved by him remains a standing agenda item.

6. **The Holy Spirit is at work in the Church.**

Often in ways that make people slightly uncomfortable.

7. **Being right is not listed among the Fruits of the Spirit.**

We checked. There was discussion.

8. **Faith is not the same thing as certainty.**

Certainty is much tidier, but has fewer miraculous stories associated with it.

9. **Doubt is not the opposite of faith.** Indifference and apathy are.

10. **Questions are welcome.** Answers may be provisional.

This Statement may be revised without notice, should further reflection, prayer, lived experience, or divine interruption require it.

Signed,

The PCC

St Faithful's
HAVNOT

(Continued from page 1)

Shepherds were meant to protect, guide, feed, and care for the Sheep. And when the Shepherds failed, the sheep were scattered and vulnerable. The prophets in the Old Testament, use this image as they spoke of God himself coming to shepherd his people. He is more negative of the Kings and Priests who failed in their duty to look after the people under their care.

So when Jesus uses this image, drawing from all of the riches of this image in the scriptures, he is showing us something of who he hears. Jesus is the true Shepherd. He is the king who comes with compassion. The one in whom God has come to gather heal and restore his people. We need to hear that before we rush into doing things.

The first thing Jesus does here is see them and have compassion on them. So if we had to be faithful as the church in Melbourne and Geelong, we need to ask him to help us see and there's a lot to see. Three new communities are forming in growth corridors such as Kalakalo, Donnie Brook, Melton, Tarneit, Clyde, and Armstrong Creek. Established suburbs, are changing around churches that have stood there for generations. Geelong has its own life pressures and possibilities.

The global media and hospitality brand Timeout said that Melbourne was the best city in the world based on food, arts and culture, nightlife diversity, and happiness. Melbourne is creative diverse, thoughtful and often deeply concerned for justice, dignity, and the common good. But there's also a deep pressure: housing, cost of living, mental health, loneliness, belonging, trust, and hope. And, of course, these things are not simply outside the church, they're among us as well. Christians carry these burdens too.

Jesus sees the person who has drifted from faith and is not sure how to return. He sees the young person wondering, what kind of future there is. He sees the family trying to hold things together. And he sees our churches, the faithfulness, the prayer and the love, that has endured for over many years. Pero said, the weariness, the stretched leaders, the gifts, not yet, called out, and the places where hope needs to be renewed. He sees us with compassion.

That is where this passage begins not with guilt. Not with panic, but with the compassion of Christ. Then Jesus says something extraordinary, "The harvest is plentiful."

We need to hear so much of the time that we look down, we are weighed down by the burdens of life and ministry. We see the difficulties, the gaps. The things that we do not have. And Jesus says, "look up." The Harvest is plentiful.

Some of our rural pastors who have had parishes have much to teach us about harvests. In scripture Harvest speaks of God's action. God's timing, God's gathering, of what belongs to him. Jesus is not asking his disciples to manufacture the harvest by their own energy. It is God's harvest, And that changes how we look at the world. We're not being sent into a world where God is absent. (To be continued)

Bible Readings

Prayer for the week:

O God, the protector of all that trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Monday

Morning: Ps 68:1-20

Hosea 1

Romans 4:1-12

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

Ezekiel 36:(16-21) 22-38

John 8:31-47

Tuesday

Morning: Ps 71

Hosea 2:1-13

Romans 4:13-25

Evening: Ps 119:65-88

Ezekiel 37:1-14

John 8:48-59

Wednesday

Mary and Martha of Bethany (d.1935) *Saints*

Morning: Ps 69:1-16

Hosea 2:14-3:5

Romans 5:1-11

Evening: Ps 69:17-23(24-30)31-29

Ezekiel 37:15-28

John 9:1-17

Thursday

William Wilberforce (d.1833) *Saint*
Social Reformer

Morning: Ps 72

Hosea 4:1-9

Romans 5:12-21

Evening: Ps 73

Ezekiel 38:14-23; 39:21-29

John 9:18-38

Friday

Joseph of Arimathea *Saint*
Ignatius of Loyola Priest (d.1556) *Monastic*
Founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits)

Morning: Pss 148 & 149

Hosea 4:10-4:4

Romans 6:1-11

Evening: Pss 144 & 150

Ezekiel 40:1-5; 42:15-43:12

John 9:39-10:18

Saturday

Holy men and women of the Old Testament *Saints*

Morning: Ps 749

Hosea 5:5-6:3

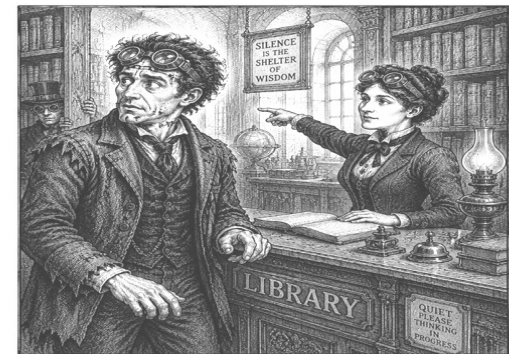
Romans 6:12-23

Evening: Pss 75 & 76

Ezekiel 47:1-12; 48:30-35

John 10:19-39

I ASKED THE LIBRARIAN FOR A BOOK ON PARANOIA.



**SHE SAID,
“THEY’RE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.”**

Next Sunday 2nd August

PENTECOST 8 [16]

8.30 am Holy Communion

Inverleigh

10.00 am All-Age Communion

Bannockburn

5.00 pm Holy Communion

Meredith

Readings

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 17:1-7, 16

Romans 9:1-8 (9-16)

Matthew 14:13-21