

Mark Your Calendars UPCOMING EVENTS

5th May

1.30 pm Jim Simpson Funeral
St Pauls Inverleigh

6th May

7.00 pm House Group
Teesdale

7.30 pm Compliance Information
Brimbank Anglican, Keilor East

7th May

11.00 am Communion
Estia Bannockburn

10th May

8.30 am Men's Breakfast
Parish Ministry Centre

11th May

3.20 pm Geelong v Western Sydney
GMHBA Stadium Geelong

12th-14th May

Clergy Conference Mooroolbark

13th May

7.00 pm House Group
Teesdale

21st May

Deanery Meeting
Holy Trinity, Lara

23rd May

7.00 pm Election Synod Cathedral

Parish Roster for May 11

Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Carol Wilson
Bannockburn: Wendy Wood
Ivan Marsetti

Reading:

Bannockburn: Freda Duke

Communion Assistant:

Inverleigh: Bruce McDonald
Bannockburn: Lynette Oates

Morning Tea:

Bannockburn: Freda Duke
Lynette Oates

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

Bob and Steve noticed no one else was wearing a collar. Suddenly, they realized they were in a **stray** bar.



Golden Plains Anglican News

Living the Gospel in Our Community

Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith Anglican Parish
4th MAY 2025—THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

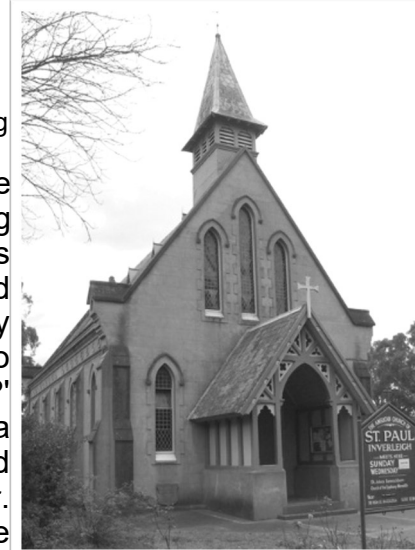
BREAKING FREE OF MENTAL MODELS DEFINING CHURCH?

Challenging our unconscious assumptions about what Church is can greatly assist our understanding of how to develop a healthy church culture.

Rev'd Robert Warren writes about a time when he and a friend were walking down the high street of a Yorkshire Dales village and they passed a middle-aged man talking to a woman in her early thirties. After they had passed he said to his friend, 'Did you notice the vicar?' Looking round, his friend said 'He looks a bit scruffy for a vicar, doesn't he?' Dressed for all the world as if he were a farmer. That was a valid point, except it was the *woman* who was the vicar. We had a good laugh at how our unconscious assumptions catch us out.

This process of challenging our unconscious assumptions is an important part of the healthy churches process. It evangelizes a church's understanding of what really matters and what is involved in developing the health of a church. It has proved to be one of the most valuable parts of the whole exercise for some churches.

The term used to describe our unconscious assumptions is our 'mental model'. So, before we go any further, we would do well to try to get hold of our *unconscious mental model* of church. It is an important question because it so controls the assumptions and expectations about what church really is.



(Continued on page 6)

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

Worship Today: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sentence: To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever. *Revelation 5:13*

Collect: Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection, may, through the renewing power of your Spirit, rise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:6-14; John 21:1-19

Hymns:

Inverleigh: 462 – Now we come, our heavenly Father; 683 – God! When human bonds are broken; 473 – Community of Christ; 130 – We plough the fields we scatter

Bannockburn: *We want to see Jesus lifted high*; Christ is the one who calls; Majesty; These are the days of Elijah; Community of Christ; *I will offer up my life*; God! When human bonds are broken; *For I'm building a people of power*

Intercessions: Risen Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

World: a world in conflict, war, or threat of war, especially: Sudan, Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, for all developing nations, especially South Sudan, struggling with poverty insecurity, displacement, and hunger; lack of education, employment, medical intervention, freedom, and clean water; those who are refugees or asylum seekers; for orphans, widows, and the oppressed; for all national leaders and those in authority for a world of justice and peace; for all who are seeking light and security in an uncertain and dark world.

Church: for all church leaders and the unity of the worldwide Church; our Diocese in this time of transition; the Board of Nominators and the election of a new archbishop; the establishment of the Youth and Family Community Cinema at Meredith, to be led by the Spirit as we seek a change in church culture that supports and enables spiritual growth and growth 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 and play; 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; that our neighbours will be find a new and better hope in the message of the resurrection of Jesus.

Those in need: Matt Bellchambers, Shirley Musgrove, Melinda Gregory, Karen Schulze, John Thornton, Jenny Bannister, Margaret McLaren, Mary Simpson and family, Sarah Rees, Jayden Rees, Fay McFarlane, Timothy Deng, Mary, Kaylene, Dianne and the extended Simpson family.

Memorium: Jim Simpson

GROWING A HEALTHY CHURCH CULTURE OUTWARD-LOOKING FOCUS

Concerned with a 'whole of life' rather than 'church life.'

- they are deeply rooted in the local *community*, working in partnership with other denominations, faiths, secular groups and networks,
- they are passionate and prophetic about *justice and peace*, locally and globally,
- they make connections between *faith and living*, and
- they respond to human need by *loving service*.

Questions for reflection:

Read: Luke 10:25-37

What does it cost to be a Good Samaritan?

Who are our/your neighbours today?

Who is calling out for help in your community today?

Who is calling out for help in our world today?

Read: Isaiah 42:1-9

What is the church for?

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.

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.**

TABITHA ALANG MAYOM

A friend of mine, Gai Deng Biar, Lecturer in Economics at the University of the Upper Nile, South Sudan, is wondering if there is anyone who is willing and able to support Tabitha in the final two trimesters of a Diploma in Community Health at Kenya Methodist University. Fees are KES 32,500 per semester, approximately AU\$410.00 per semester plus transfer fees. Gai's wife is in Kenya and Tabitha's parents are her neighbours. Alang means prayer because Tabitha was an answer to prayer. Revd Tim for more information.



(Continued from page 1)

Archbishop Rowan Williams, when asked at a conference what his definition of church was, replied along the lines of: 'church is what happens when the impact of Christ on a situation brings two or more people together'. What is surprising about that definition is what it leaves out. There is no mention here of word, sacrament, priest, building, public worship and much else besides. But it is a mental model that gets back to the heart of what church is all about. In times of change that is vital for us to do.

In an earlier book I gave a working definition of most people's mental model of church (slightly reworked here) as being:

Church = Building + Priest + Sunday Services

That is what we recognize as 'church'. This mental model shapes not just our understanding of what church is but also how we then participate in its life. So 'keeping church going' is seen as keeping buildings open, finding the money to keep a priest (or at least part of one) and getting enough people into the building on a Sunday to keep the services going. That is what 'church work' - at its heart - is all about.

One way of approaching the task of nurturing the health of the church today is to address our unconscious mental model at this point. What we need is an understanding of church that gets to the heart of what it is all about. Here is one such way of developing a different approach to church that takes us back to what church is essentially about.

Church = Community + Faith + Action

Church is essentially a *community* of people drawn together by *faith* in, and encounter with, Jesus Christ as Lord, which leads them to take *action* in the whole of life, living by a different set of values from what would otherwise have been the case.

Another way of putting these three words (community, faith, action) is to describe the church as an *engaging faith community*. Engaging not just in the sense of being attractive, but rather, primarily, as involved with the world around us, following after the pattern of the Incarnation.

The power of mental models stems from their being unconscious. We do not realize that we are being shaped by them. Equally, once we pay attention to them and discover what they are, we can break free of their constraining influence.

Robert Warren, *The Healthy Churches' Handbook*. Church House Publishing, 2005:83-85 (edited)

Bible Readings

Prayer for the week:
Gracious Father, who in your great mercy made glad the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such awareness of his presence with us that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life, and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Monday

Morning: Pss 15 & 66
Exodus 19:1-15
John 9:1-12

Evening: Ps 17:1-13(14)15-16
Leviticus 22:31-23:11,15-16
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Tuesday

JOHN Apostle and Evangelist Proper

Morning: Ps 112
Exodus 33:7-11a
John 1:1-18

Evening: Ps 97
Exodus 20:18-21:6
John 9:24-41

Wednesday

Morning: Ps 19
Leviticus 24
1 Corinthians 1:20-31

Evening: Ps 119:1-16
Exodus 33:12-23
1 John 5:1-12

Thursday

Julian of Norwich (d.1417) Ascetic
Holy woman and Mystic

Morning: Pss 20 & 21:1-7(8-13)
Exodus 22:20-23:3
John 10:1-18

Evening: Pss 24 & 26
Joshua 10:1-11
1 Corinthians 2:1-11

Friday

Morning: Ps 22:1-22
Exodus 23:4-17
John 10:19-30

Evening: Pss 22:23-32 & 23
Joshua 10:1-11
1 Corinthians 2:12-3:4

Saturday

Morning: Ps 25
Exodus 23:20-33
John 10:31-42

Evening: Ps 27
Joshua 10:12-27
1 Corinthians 3:5-17

Next Sunday 11th May
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
HEALTHY CHURCH:
Seeking What God Wants
8.00 am Holy Communion
St Paul's Inverleigh
10.00 am All-Age Communion
St John's Bannockburn
5.00 pm Holy Communion
Epiphany Meredith
Readings
Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30



Personal Support Training Psychological First Aid & Emotional Spiritual Care

Saturday 24th May 2025 9.00am - 4.00pm
Uniting Church 282 Wilson's Rd St Albans Park,
Geelong 3219

For more details or to register visit www.vccem.org.au

Why be involved?

VCC EM training is a comprehensive training package designed to equip members of faith communities to support affected residents through their participation in VCC EM deployments.

The training course is a 2 stage process involving:

- Self paced learning and completion of the workbook.
- Face to face training day.
- If Face to Face is not permitted at the time this will be done by zoom with a short face to face when permitted.

Successful registration will require the completion of safety checks and referee reports and will occur after the training has been completed.

Why complete the training?

This training is essential for all in the faith community intending to respond to emergencies and disasters in Victoria.

The Victorian State and Local Governments are continually tightening the requirements for people entering disaster areas.

The VCC EM is authorised by Government to coordinate an integrated faith communities' response when disaster occurs.

Compassion in times of crisis

www.vccem.org.au info@vccem.org.au 7037 6010



Anglican Church of Australia

Primate: The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith

Statement following the death of Pope Francis

I join billions of Christians around the world in thanking God for the life and ministry of Pope Francis. Francis ministered as Pope with great humility, humanity and a real focus on trying to follow the way of Jesus.

Not only did he dedicate his life to serving the poor and standing up for those facing persecution, he was a great advocate for peace during these unsettling times.

I had the privilege of joining with the Primates of the Anglican Communion for a private audience with the Pope in March 2024. He encouraged us in our ministry as bishops and shared from his own experiences some of the joys and challenges. Following his address, we each had the opportunity to greet Pope Francis, an experience I found to be warm and full of good humour.

For Pope Francis' life to end after celebrating Easter is a gift to him and helps focus our ongoing Easter celebrations on Jesus' resurrection, which his followers will share.

My prayers are with those who will soon gather in Rome for the conclave to elect the 267th Pope. May they be guided by the Spirit of God for the benefit of the mission of the Church.

Archbishop Geoffrey Smith,
Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia
22 April 2025