

**20th January**  
6.00 pm Youth and Family  
Community Cinema Meredith  
7.00 pm House Group Teesdale

**26th January**  
*Australia Day Public Holiday*

**27th January**  
*Schools Resume*  
*Inverleigh Op Shop trading resumes*  
7.00 pm House Group Teesdale

**28th January**  
7.00 pm Parish Council  
Parish Ministry Centre

**1st February** Harvest Festival  
All Worship Centres

**3rd February**  
7.00 pm House Group Teesdale

**4th February**  
11.00 am Communion  
Estia Health Bannockburn

**8th February**  
10.00 am Baptism Rose Riches  
St John's Bannockburn

**10th February**  
7.00 pm House Group Teesdale

**17th February**  
7.00 pm House Group Teesdale

**18th February Ash Wednesday**  
12 noon Deanery Meeting Lara  
7.00 pm Communion w/ Ashes  
St Paul's Inverleigh

### Parish Roster for January 25

#### Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Liz McDonald  
Bannockburn: Carol Newlands  
Lynette Oates

**Banno Reading:** Carol Newlands

#### Communion Assistant:

Inverleigh: Geoff Morgan  
Bannockburn: David Bannister

### Parish Directory

**Parish Office** 5281 2553  
**Vicar**  
Rev'd Timothy Smith  
0412 673 152  
[revdrtim@hotmail.com](mailto: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

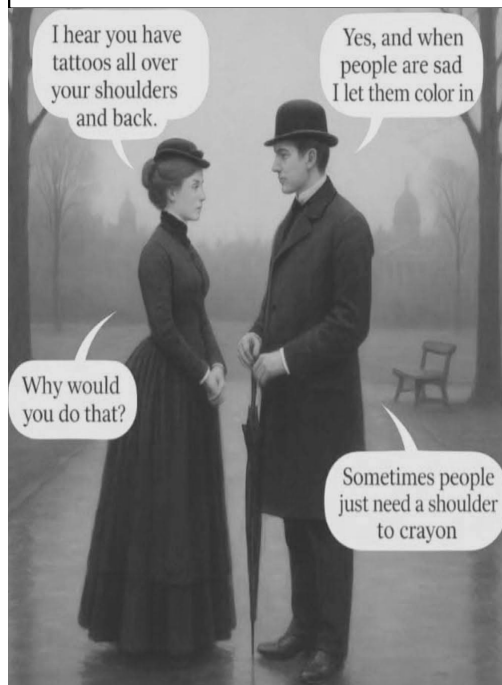
**Parish Treasurer**  
David Osborne 0419 398 455

**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**  
Alison King  
[pastoralcare.gpas@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralcare.gpas@gmail.com)



# Golden Plains Anglican News

*Living the Gospel in Our Community*

†Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith

18th January 2026—THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

## FOUR AREAS TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN YOUR CHURCH

*When you see a problem, do you take the initiative to fix it?*

Are there aspects of your church you know could be better? Instead of waiting for someone else or your Pastor to take the lead or hoping things magically improve on their own, it's time to be proactive.



Here are areas to take initiative in your church this year.

### Role management

If you're struggling with the divisions of labour or notice your Pastor looking overwhelmed by what's on their plate, it's okay! The current breakdown of roles and responsibilities is not set in stone. In fact, most churches benefit from reassessing and making adjustments to how to manage the roles throughout the changes in their congregations. After all, a church's needs will vary as it goes through different seasons of life. Take initiative this year by sitting down as church to discuss what is and isn't working. Brainstorm some practical ways you can work towards a more satisfying balance and meet needs not being met. Think of actionable steps that alleviate those things that are

*(Continued on page 6)*

Parish Ministry Centre: 11 Byron Street, BANNOCKBURN VIC, 3331

(03) 5281 2553 [revdrtim@hotmail.com](mailto:revdrtim@hotmail.com)

[www.goldenplainsanglican.org](http://www.goldenplainsanglican.org)

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094651898435](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094651898435)

## Worship Today: THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

**Sentence:** God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *1 Corinthians 1:9 7*

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Readings:** Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

**Hymns:**

**Inverleigh:** 143 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise; 616 – O day of God draw near; 473 – Community of Christ; 52 – Let us sing to the God of salvation

**Bannockburn:** *Jesus Christ*; Come and see; Jesus is king; I am the Church! You re the Church!; Community of Christ; *I believe in Jesus*; Let us sing to the God of salvation; *We want to see Jesus lifted high*

**Meredith:** *Jesus Christ*; Come and see; Jesus is king; Community of Christ; Let us sing to the God of salvation; *We want to see Jesus lifted high*

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

**World:** peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, India & Pakistan, Thailand & Cambodia, Sudan, Iran and all places in conflict, war, or threat of war; South Sudan, Venezuela and all developing nations; for all nations experiencing natural disaster; injustice, loss of freedom, racism, misogyny and death, where there is need for education, health services, employment, food; that all national leaders to justice and peace in their nations.

**Church:** to share the good news of God's kingdom in an uncertain world; Bp Sarah Archbishop of Canterbury elect, Abp Ric Thorpe, Bp Brad as he prepares for the Diocese of Adelaide, raise up bishops to replace those who are retiring; parish organisational and administrative unity and financial viability; for this sabbath month before recommencing the kingdom mission we are called to; the Youth and Family Community Cinema; all the prophets of the church revealing oppression and proclaiming justice for all.

**Community:** the Wadawarrung and all our first nations peoples on whose country we live and the work and for reconciliation; for all who come into our communities that in diversity they will be welcome and safe; those who are recovering from fire and floods.

**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, Steve and Stacey Copland, Mawut Gotbaai, Timothy and Weng Deng.



## OP SHOP VOLUNTEER'S THANK YOU BBQ

On Monday 12th January 2026 we held our first BBQ Lunch to say thank you to all who work in our two Op Shops, Inverleigh and Bannockburn, especially those who are volunteers from our communities. The Vicar expressed thanks to David Bannister and Darrell Blackman for all their work organising and cooking, and particular thanks to Naomi Peel, coordinator of Bannockburn, and Luanne Thornton, coordinator of Inverleigh, with Lyn Blackman, who sorts out the donations there daily. Apart from the ministries the Op Shops occasionally provide for other community organisations, they are essential in financing our churches to be present and active in our communities. We hope this will be annually.

## THE MELBOURNE ANGLICAN (TMA) TO BE DISCONTINUED

The TMA has served the Melbourne Diocese since 1994 continuing a longer tradition of the diocesan newspapers that tradition stretches back to the 1850s with the publication of *The Church of England Messenger* and TMA's immediate predecessor, *SEE* for about 170 years.

After a careful and considered review, early in 2025, Archbishop in Council made the difficult and sad decision to cease the production of *The Melbourne Anglican* due to the Diocese's wider financial challenges and prior to the installation of Archbishop Ric. This means TMA's social media posts as well as its weekly digital newsletters, *Newsstand* and *Best of the Week*, will also cease being published. Looking ahead, future communications from the Diocese will be shared through the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne (ADOM) website and official social media channels.

TMA's contribution has also been recognised nationally through multiple awards from the Australasian Religious Press Association, including the Gutenberg Award for excellence on four occasions (one when the newspaper was still called *SEE*) and being named Publication of the Year in 2017. These awards reflect the professionalism, integrity and editorial care that have characterised the publication over many years.

## YOUTH AND FAMILY COMMUNITY CINEMA

### NEXT SHOWING

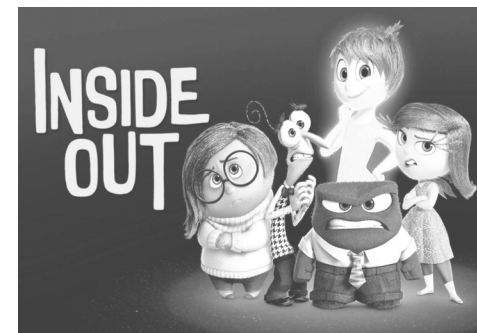
*Last Showing for this School Break*

**Tuesday January 20**

**6.00 pm**

*Time may be reviewed for future School Breaks*

Church of the Epiphany Meredith  
Presented by Golden Plains Anglicans  
and  
The Melbourne Anglican Foundation





(Continued from page 1)

overwhelming the congregations. Don't be afraid to get creative or try out something new for a couple of weeks.

### Social and quality time

Do you wish you and your church had more social times, or that it was more of a priority in your church? You'll always find an excuse for why it's not feasible, but the truth is, you can make it work if you want to! Time to be social as a church, a congregation, or just with others you know well, or those you don't know so well, is a healthy part of congregational life. And if this issue wasn't on their radar for others, that's okay! But, jump in – put the effort into planning an activity and the logistics that go with it. Then, invite your church or selected others to come! Not only will they likely appreciate your initiative, it sets a precedent and makes it easier for both of you to grow in knowledge of one another and encourage each other.

### Self-improvement

It's not always easy to recognize your own weaknesses, and when you do, it can be even harder to do anything about them. We often let avoidance, projection, or shame take over. Instead of getting on with the things you know you can do and already do, face whatever is getting in the way head on. Get feedback from your trusted friends or a spiritual advisor or coach to get more insight into where you can grow. Then think through small changes you can make or habits you can establish as stepping stones toward where you want to be. Whether it's being a more supportive member of the congregation, more active in a particular ministry, or better at talking about your faith. You have the power within you to be the person you strive to be.

### Relationship growth

You might feel your relationships with other members of your church are as strong as ever, or you might be aware that some complacency or conflict is creeping in. Wherever you fall, the reality is that keeping honest and vitalized relationships with those you work alongside requires ongoing effort and intention from all of you. It can be as simple as having a conversation you've been avoiding, or discussing your relationships with your colleagues more intentionally. Being proactive about growing together is a crucial part of an enduring church and a church that offers a faith community to those who are looking for it.

The best churches aren't perfect – they are intentional. Whether it's starting an honest conversation about your needs, planning intentional ministries, organising times to socialise and play, working out who does what and when together, or simply showing more appreciation to each other every opportunity you have. Take the initiative and watch your church community grow stronger.

[www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/4-areas-to-take-initiative-in-your-marriage/](http://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/4-areas-to-take-initiative-in-your-marriage/) (edited)

*Our Parish Community Growth Meetings are a part of this work as we identify those personal and church things you feel are problems, why it is a problem, what need is not being met, and what can we do to meet the need.*

## Bible Readings

### Prayer for the week:

Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service: strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Monday

**Morning:** Ps 45  
Jeremiah 5:1-17  
Colossians 3:1-11  
**Evening:** Pss 46 & 47  
Genesis 6  
John 7:37-52

### Tuesday

**Morning:** Ps 48  
Jeremiah 5:18-31  
Colossians 3:12-17  
**Evening:** Ps 49  
Genesis 7  
John 8:1-11

### Wednesday

Agnes, virgin martyr at Rome (d.304) *Martyr*

**Morning:** Ps 50  
Jeremiah 6:1-15  
Colossians 3:18-4:6  
**Evening:** Ps 119:41-64  
Genesis 8  
John 8:12-20

### Thursday

Vincent, Deacon and Martyr (d.304) *Martyr*

**Morning:** Ps 51  
Jeremiah 6:16-30  
Colossians 4:7-18  
**Evening:** Pss 52 & 53  
Genesis 9  
John 8:21-30

### Friday

**Morning:** Pss 54 & 55:1-12  
Jeremiah 7:1-20  
James 1:1-15  
**Evening:** Ps 55:13-15(16-17)18-28  
Genesis 10:32-11:9, 27-32  
John 8:31-37

## Saturday

Companions of Paul Saints  
including Timothy, Titus, and Silas

**Morning:** Pss 56 & 57  
Jeremiah 7:21-8:3  
James 1:16-27  
**Evening:** Pss 60 & 51  
Genesis 12  
John 8:48-59



## Harvest Festival

**Sunday 1st February**

**8.00 am Inverleigh**

**10.00 am Bannockburn**

**5.00 pm Meredith**

**Offerings of non-perishable and home-made produce.**

**All produce to support Bannockburn Food Relief Programme.**

**Next Sunday 25th January**

**EPIPHANY 3 [3]**

**8.00 am Holy Communion**

**Inverleigh**

**10.00 am All-Age Communion**

**Bannockburn**

**5.00 pm Holy Communion**

**Meredith**

**Readings**

**Isaiah 9:1-4**

**Psalms 27:1-10**

**1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

**Matthew 4:12-25**

# PRAYERS FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

## Thursday 22nd January 2026

For personal use

### **Suggested Readings:**

Psalms 46 ("God is our refuge and strength")  
Psalms 130 ("Out of the depths I have called to you")  
Psalms 142 ("I call to the Lord with a loud voice")  
Isaiah 40:27-31 ("those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength")  
Matthew 5:1-10 ("Blessed are those who mourn")  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 ("Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things")  
Revelation 21:1-6 ("God will wipe every tear from their eyes")

### **Prayers:**

We bring our sorrows and our hopes to you the living God.

God of peace, we bring you our grief for the people who died in the tragedy at Bondi Beach... May their memory be a blessing. Comfort their families, friends and communities with your gentle compassion.

God of peace, we bring you our shock that such violence could be planned and carried out in Australia...

Call us to plan and act for peace, weaving connections with our neighbours of every language, religion, race and culture.

God of peace, we bring your our shame for our past failures to speak up in the face of hate and bigotry...

Give us the will to speak, and the words to say, to build a society where cruelty is silenced, and kindness and hospitality are songs for everyone.

God of peace, we bring you our fear of the shadows of war, greed, poverty and injustice that loom in our news feeds every day...  
Banish our fear with your great love, and give us courage to shine as lights in the world.

God of peace, we bring you our desire for answers to the problems this tragedy has revealed in our society...  
May the official enquiries and questions be marked by humility and honesty. Make us creative partners in helping to heal this nation.

God of peace, we bring you our faith that not even death can separate us from your love, and that your grace is always enough for us...  
Refresh our trust in your goodness, and show us where you are working for healing in the world.

God of peace, we bring you our hope that in Christ you will bring us, with all your holy people, through death to resurrection life with him...  
Keep us steady on our journey.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:  
Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are  
yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

Prepared by The Reverend Dr Elizabeth J Smith -  
*Other Suitable Words*

