

# Mark Your Calendars UPCOMING EVENTS

**19th May**

1.00 pm John Thornton Memorial Service

St Paul's Inverleigh

**20th May**

7.00 pm House Group  
Teesdale

**21st May**

12.00 pm Deanery Meeting  
Holy Trinity, Lara

**22nd May**

7.25 pm Geelong v W Bulldogs  
GMHBA Stadium

**23rd May**

7.00 pm Election Synod  
St Pauls Cathedral

**24th May**

10.00 am Election Synod  
St Pauls Cathedral

**27th May**

10.00 am Supervision Training  
The Anglican Centre Melbourne

**28th May**

10.10 am Fire Safety Audit  
Meredith, Bannockburn, Inverleigh  
7.00 pm Parish Council  
Parish Ministry Centre

## Parish Roster for May 25

### Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Luanne Thornton  
Bannockburn: David and Jenny Bannister

### Reading:

Bannockburn: David Bannister

### Communion Assistant:

Inverleigh: Bruce McDonald  
Bannockburn: Carol Newlands

### Morning Tea:

Bannockburn: David Bannister  
Carol Newlands

## 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

One for the Midsomer Murder fans



"I can't believe we visited six quaint English villages and didn't get to solve a single murder."

# Golden Plains Anglican News

*Living the Gospel in Our Community*

Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith Anglican Parish  
18th MAY 2025—FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## CATHOLICISM SPREADS AMONGST YOUNG BRITONS LONGING FOR 'SOMETHING DEEPER'

Those who attended church are more satisfied and had greater connection to community in the digital age with anxiety and mental health problems surging.

As the cardinals gathered to vote for Pope Francis's successor on May 7, as they have for centuries, it is the traditions and rituals of the Catholic Church, combined with a longing for connection and faith, which seem to hold an appeal for younger adults in Britain, and men in particular.

Twenty-three-year-old Joshua Steel found a "great sense of peace" that he couldn't find anywhere else when he started attending Catholic Mass in Britain. Twenty-six-year-old Dan Williamson was driven to convert to the faith by an "ache" he had for something "deeper and ancient and more rich". Both are among a growing number of men aged 18-34 who are going to church in Britain compared with before the COVID pandemic, upending the long-held tenet that Christianity was in generational decline in Western nations like Britain.

"I was looking for meaning in life," Steel said after Mass ended at St. Elizabeth of Portugal church in southwest London on Sunday, as the smell of incense hung in the air. An Australian who moved to Britain in 2023, Steel was born into a Catholic family but never went to church, until he started trying to fill the "hole" he felt in his life. "I found Christ," he said. "I found a great sense of peace that I can't find anywhere else."

Williamson, who converted from Anglicanism to Catholicism, and has



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www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094651898435

## Worship Today: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Sentence:** God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.  
*1 John 4:16b*

**Collect:** We behold your glory, O God, in the love shown by your Son, lifted up on the cross and exalted on high: be glorified anew in the love we have for one another as disciples of the risen Lord Jesus; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Readings:** Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

**Hymns:**

**Inverleigh:** 560 – All my hope on God is founded; 699 – A new commandment; 190 – Colourful Creator, God of mystery; 687 – God gives us a future

**Bannockburn:** *Jesus we celebrate your victory*; Lord, I come to you; All heaven declares; A new commandment; Colourful Creator, God of mystery; *He is Lord*; Wonderful grace; *Come on and celebrate*

**Meredith:** *He is Lord*; Lord, I come to you; A new commandment; Colourful Creator, God of mystery; Wonderful grace; *Jesus we celebrate your victory*

**Intercessions:** In your love and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**World:** a world in conflict, war, or threat of war, especially: Sudan, Ukraine & Russia, Israel & Palestine, India & Pakistan; all developing nations, especially: South Sudan; for all nations where there is poverty, insecurity, displacement, and hunger, 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; to 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, and the Board of Nominators; 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 spiritual 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, Luanne, Michael, Tony and Victoria.

**Memorium:** John Thornton

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let's get into a really conservative, anti-feminist institution," he said. Stewart in Edinburgh said for some, attendance marked a rejection of the culture of toxic masculinity and instead opting for "fellowship, tolerance and service of others".

For Father Stephen Langridge, the draw was the ancient traditions which are "consoling in a world where everything seems to be transient, nothing seems to be lasting. Are we seeing a seismic shift?" he asked. "I don't know. But what we are seeing is a significant shift."

By Muvija M and Sarah Young May 7, 2025 (edited)

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/catholicism-spreads-amongst-young-britons-longing-something-deeper>

## 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.

## CHURCHES FACING THE COST OF CHANGE AND GROWTH

*Rather than resisting change and fearing failure. This includes:*

- while embracing the past, it dares to take on *new ways of doing things*
- *takes risks*: admits when things are not working, and learns from experience
- *crises*: responds creatively to challenges that face the church and community
- *positive experiences of change*: however small, are affirmed and built on.

## Questions for reflection:

**Read:** Matthew 5:17-20—Why do we find change difficult? What needs changing? What helps us to change and be changed? Can you think of a change for the better that has taken place in your church and what lessons can we draw from that?

**Read:** Exodus 18:13-27—What helps to bring about change?

**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.**

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struggled with anxiety, said he had found reassurance in a connection to the past. "It is grounded in this thing which is so much bigger than ourselves," he said. "We're probably the first generation to try and live without God, and I think we're slowly just saying that doesn't work."

The rising church attendance in England and Wales by younger people was illustrated in a Bible Society and YouGov report called the Quiet Revival in April, which surveyed 13,146 adults in November 2024. It found that Christians who go to church at least once a month make up 12% of the total population, up from 8% in 2018. For people aged 18-24, the proportion had risen to 16% from just 4% in 2018, making this age group the second most likely to go to church regularly after those aged 65 and over. The increase has been particularly pronounced among younger men, 21% of whom say they are regular churchgoers versus 12% of women aged 18-24. And almost 500 years after King Henry VIII's split with Rome to create the Church of England, Catholicism is now more popular than Anglicanism in the 18-34 age group of churchgoers, with 41% identifying as Catholic, up from 22% in 2018, and compared with the 20% who say they are Anglican, down from 30%.

According to 20 Catholic converts, faith leaders and academics interviewed, reasons cited included the destabilising impact of the pandemic, a desire for ancient tradition in volatile times, a wish to volunteer, and a disillusionment with the modern world. The report also said those who attended church were more satisfied and had a greater feeling of connection to community - an appealing prospect in the digital age when complaints about anxiety and mental health problems are surging.

Georgia Clarke, 28, launched a Zoom call to help a handful of teenagers battling isolation during the pandemic. Its youth group is now 100 strong. She said she had tried to reach people in the same "humble" way Pope Francis had, shunning the more traditional focus on preparing for the sacraments of communion and confirmation, in favour of informal conversations. "It's inspired many of us, including myself, in how we can be more outward looking," she said. Aidan Geboers, 29, a regular at a Catholic church in Mayfair, central London, who works in the banking industry, said he enjoyed the sense of belonging and community. "It is really nice to not be in front of a screen, be around people, you know, just expressing faith," he said. David Stewart, a priest in Edinburgh, started a young adults' Catholic group with about 30 people three years ago. He now has 100 regular young attendees at Sunday evening Mass, and over 200 people in a WhatsApp group.

The apparent growth in the number of young people going to church in Britain has sparked a debate about its appeal. Tim Hutchings, Associate Professor of Religious Ethics, University of Nottingham, said it could also be seen as a possible backlash against progressive politics and decline of traditional roles. "Maybe young people, and particularly young men are saying,

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**Bible Readings**

**Prayer for the week:**  
Saving God, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be reconciled to you; through him who died for us and rose again and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Monday**  
Dunstan (d.988) *Teacher*  
Archbishop of Canterbury  
**Morning:** Ps 45  
Exodus 31  
John 12:20-33  
**Evening:** Pss 46 & 47  
Judges 2:6-23  
1 Corinthians 7:12-24

**Tuesday**  
**Morning:** Ps 48  
Exodus 32:1-14  
John 12:34-43  
**Evening:** Ps 49  
Judges 3:7-21  
1 Corinthians 7:25-35

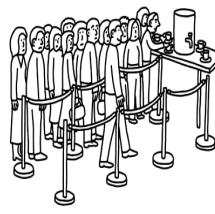

**Wednesday**  
**Morning:** Ps 50  
Exodus 32:15-35  
John 12:44-50  
**Evening:** Ps 119:41-64  
Judges 4  
1 Corinthians 7:36-40

**Thursday**  
**Morning:** Ps 51  
Exodus 33:1-17  
John 13:1-11  
**Evening:** Pss 52 & 53  
Judges 5:1-18  
1 Corinthians 8

**Friday**  
**Morning:** Pss 54 & 55:1-12  
Exodus 33:18-34:10  
John 13:12-20  
**Evening:** Ps 55:13-15(16-17)18-28  
Judges 5:19-31  
1 Corinthians 9:1-14  
**Saturday**  
John Wesley (d.1791) and *Teacher*  
Charles Wesley (d.1788) *Evangelists*  
**Morning:** Pss 56 & 57  
Exodus 34:11-24(25-26)  
John 13:21-35  
**Evening:** Pss 60 & 61  
Judges 6:1-24  
1 Corinthians 9:15-27

# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

THE BENEFITS (Part One)



A 'GET OUT OF A ROTA FREE' CARD

PRIORITY LANE AT AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE

**Next Sunday 25th May**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**HEALTHY CHURCH CULTURE:**  
**Operates as a Community**  
**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 16:9-15  
Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10-14, 21:22-22:5  
John 14:23-29