

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 20 September, Pentecost 16.

Vocations Sunday

Priest in Charge, The Reverend Dave Perryman



**Welcome – Wunan Njinda to: -
10am Worship at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford,
Via Zoom, Online, Facebook or ‘Phone-in’.**

We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai people as the original inhabitants of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present and their children who are their hope for the future.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: 'The Summons'

1 Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

2 Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?

3 Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?

4 Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

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Welcome

Greeting

Called by God, we have come to worship.
Called by Christ, we have come to follow.

Called by the Spirit, we have come to rejoice.
Called together, we will listen and pray.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
And also with you.

The Sentence

“If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered
(Psalm 130. 3–4)

Opening Prayer

**Holy God, we gather to sing your praise and hear your word.
Speak to us now,
that we may be discerning to perceive your call.
Strengthen us now,
that we may be brave enough to answer when you call.
Guide us now,
that we may follow
where you would have us go**

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Confession

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

Silence for self-reflection

Let us then run our race, laying aside every weight and bringing our sins to the Lord in penitence and faith.

**O Lord our God,
you know us better than we know ourselves.
As we come before you now,
believers and doubters alike,
we all share a deep need,
for we are all lost without your grace.
Search us, O God, and know our hearts,
test us and know our troubled thoughts.
Give us true repentance.
Forgive us all our wrongs.
Transform us by your Spirit to live for you each day,
to learn to serve each other
and, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord,
to come at last to heaven. Amen.**

The Absolution

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

Lord, who lifts us up, reside in our hearts today.

Help us to listen closely for your word and call to us.

Remind us that you are always with us, throughout all of our lives.

Give us confidence in your presence, so that we may go like your servant Matthew, into your world ready to witness to your love through our works and our deeds, for we pray these things in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

The First Reading

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

4I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

7 But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.'

⁹(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.

Ephesians 4.1-14

Hear the word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19 – *We will say the Psalm together*

**1 The heavens declare the glory of God:
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;**

**2 One day tells it to another:
and night to night communicates knowledge.**

**3 There is no speech or language:
nor are their voices heard;**

**4 Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:
and their words to the ends of the earth.**

**5 There he has pitched a tent for the sun:
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.**

**6 Its rising is at one end of the heavens,
and its circuit to their farthest bound:
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

Early Talk

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' ¹²But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and

learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.' *Matthew 9. 9-13*

For the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers

Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayers.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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.

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Prayer

Increase the strength of these gifts,
and the strength of our ministries, O God.
Expand the nets of our love,
that we may reach deeply and share abundantly.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks because
you have called us into the fellowship of Matthew and
all your saints,

and set before us the example of their witness
and the fruit of your Spirit in their lives.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;
on the night before he died your Son,

Jesus Christ, took bread;

when he had given you thanks,

he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body

which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;

when he had given you thanks,

he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you,
for this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins;
do this as often as you drink it,
to remember me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
on all of us gathered here,
that we may answer your call and be your people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
on these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may nourish and strengthen us to go into deep waters
when you call us to follow you.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your heavenly
banquet.

Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

For those unable to receive Holy Communion this Sunday, you may like to practice the tradition of 'spiritual communion' as you watch and listen, the following prayer may be helpful:

O Lord Jesus Christ, through your tender mercy grant that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so the soul of this your servant may be healed by like faith in you, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive. In union with the faithful at every altar-table in your Church I desire to be united with you and pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from your love, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Sending Out of God's People

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Announcements

Final Hymn: 'May the words of my mouth'

1 May the words of my mouth
And the thoughts of my heart
Bless Your name, bless Your name, Jesus
And the deeds of the day
And the truth in my ways
Speak of You, speak of You, Jesus

Chorus:

*For this is what I'm glad to do,
It's time to live a life of love that pleases You,
And I will give my all to You,
Surrender everything I have and follow You,
I'll follow You.*

2 Lord, will You be my vision,
Lord, will You be my guide
Be my hope, be my light and the way
And I'll look not for riches,
Nor praises on earth
Only You'll be the first of my heart.
For this is what...

Bridge:

*//I will follow, I will follow You.
I will follow, I will follow You.//*

For this is what...

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The Blessing

Listen for God's word. Answer Christ's call.
Go into the deep and love courageously.
Rejoice in the harvest of grace,
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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BULLETIN PRAYER POINTS.

Lord, on this Vocation Sunday, help us to believe that we are all ordinary people made extraordinary through your vision and your power. Take our insecurities and feelings of inadequacy and give us the courage to see ourselves and others as you see us, with gifts and potential to transform your world and build your Kingdom. Amen.

We pray for:-

- The end of hatred, intolerance and discrimination in the world and that all people, irrespective of race, colour or creed, be recognised as being equal - just as they are in Your eyes. For an end to the racial and social injustices in our own country.
- Those living within house-binding restrictions, with illness, grief, loneliness, decline in mental health and loss of employment. Lord, guide them through these deeply troubled times, to see and reach out to you.
- All front-line health carers, for their energy and safety.
- Governments struggling to lead our country through huge health and recessionary challenges. May those with least not be forgotten, that their needs will be met.
- We give thanks for the declining numbers of new cases of Covid-19 in Victoria.

God's Church and Avon Parish

- Give thanks and pray for our church leaders throughout the Anglican Communion, for Bishop Richard and Registrar Richard leading the Diocese in these difficult times and for our own Parish. For the Cooperating Parish of Croajingolong: Judy Benton, Andy.
- Dave as he leads the parish through this pandemic and into an inspirational, intergenerational post pandemic parish.
- For Emma and their 4 children
- All who preach and share your word. Inspire, lead and grow us as disciples to reach out to those in need in our community.
- Grant us your guidance and wisdom as we strive to provide a safe environment for volunteers and shoppers at the op shop.

For our mainly music families, that we can continue to connect with them.

- For our Retiring Offertory – The Bible Society
- Gracious God, we raise before you those from our community who are ill, hospitalised or recuperating and for those we know within our families and circle of friends especially . . . *We pray especially for Julie, Brenda, Lillas, Marj, Keith, Ruth, Alice, Emma, Crystal, Daryl, Jan and Mick.*

We lift to you and pray that you enfold Julie and her family in your comforting love and peace following the sudden death of their beloved brother, Garry Hill. We ask that you walk with Garry's entire family and friends in their time of grief and that they will know your presence as they reflect and give thanks for the Blessings of his life with them.

We give thanks for the life of Jerry, an affectionately known member of this community, a faithful member of the Avon Parish Breakfast Group, the Segue community and a regular shopper at the op shop. We ask that you grant his family and friends your peace.

Faithful God, at the start of this new week, help us to be an example to others and show us the practical steps we need to take to develop consistency and integrity in all that we do in our lives.

NEWS AND NOTES

Greetings friends,

Yay!! Dave completes his Ration Challenge during Announcements today in fact he'll have a 'snack' with him.

Congratulations Dave on a great effort!!

A big thank you to all who so generously supported him in prayer and with sponsorship.

Vocations Sunday. There was Matthew doing the same old thing, day in and day out. It was a living but there wasn't too much to recommend it. Out of the blue he heard an authoritative voice calling him to follow and life changed forever. All the baptised are called to follow and serve Jesus Christ. We do that in many different ways – some recognised and authorised by the church others less formally so. All are valued. All are called. On September 20 we celebrate St Matthews Day and consider how God may be calling us. You will probably be

doing the same old things in the same way when the Spirit disturbs you. Perhaps the Spirit is calling you to consider ordination or another ministry. If so, Dave, Bishop Richard or Graham Knott (0490045581) would be delighted to hear from you.



The Diary Planning Meeting on Thursday last was productive.

Our thanks to those who joined in and to those who sent apologies.

As advised by the Registrar, we planned functions for 2021 but they have not been included in the 2020/21 budget due to the instability of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Diary which will be released at the AGM follows the Calendar year and is based on observing the 'Covid-normal' requirements.

The first of the new block of Bible Studies was a great study of the 'The Acts of the Apostles' Chapter 1.

The group is comprised of 10 studiers of which 9 participated on Wednesday evening last. If anyone feels they would like to join the group, please speak to Dave.

With our humble thanks and special blessings for the week ahead.

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH OF AVON

- Tues 22 Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm via Zoom.
Fri 25 Spring Parish Dinner postponed until the Stratford Hotel is permitted to accommodate at least 20 people inside and 20 people outside.
Sun 27 Seventeenth Day in Pentecost. Speaker, Bible Soc. David Lepor

OCTOBER Dave: - Clergy Retreat – Via Zoom

School resumes 4 October

Retiring Offertory: Act for Peace

- Sun 4 October Eighteenth Day in Pentecost. Feast of St Francis of Assisi
10am All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity
Blessing of the Animals. Day light Saving begins
Mon 5 3pm Meeting of the Op Shop Volunteers – *Tentative.*
Wed 7 **AGM Reports to the Secretary Please!!**
Sun 11 Nineteenth Day in Pentecost
4pm Healing Service at Holy Trinity.
Wed 14 Monthly Parish Council Reports Due
Sat 17 ??Men's Breakfast
Sun 18 Twentieth Day in Pentecost
Tues 13 Monthly Parish Council Reports Due
Sat 17 Men's Breakfast
Sun 18 Twentieth Day in Pentecost
Sun 25 Twenty-first Sunday in Pentecost

Holy Trinity Roster, 27 September, 17th Sunday in Pentecost.

Exodus 17.1-7, Ps 78.1-4,11-16. Phil 2 or 2.1-13 Matthew 21.23-32

Priest: Dave. Lit Assist: Gail. Intercess: Gail. Org: Vic.

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