

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 12 July, Pentecost 7

Last day of NAIDOC week

Sea Sunday



The seed that fell on
good soil represents
***those who truly hear and
understand God's word...***

Matthew 13:23 (NLT)

The parable of the sower

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.

Holy Trinity is fitted with a hearing loop.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

OPENING HYMN TIS 134 "PRAISE MY SOUL THE KING OF HEAVEN"

**1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me His praise should sing?
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Praise the everlasting King.**

**2. Praise Him for His grace and favor
To our fathers in distress.
Praise Him still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Glorious in His faithfulness.**

**3. Frail as summer's flower we flourish
Blows the wind and it is gone
But while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Praise the high eternal One**

**4. Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He Knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,**

**Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Widely as His mercy goes.**

**5. Angels help us to adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Praise with us the God of grace.
Tag: Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Praise with us the God of grace.**

Public Domain (Traditional melody) Text: Henry Lyte Music: John Goss

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND WELCOME

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.

GREETING

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

We wait for the Lord, our souls wait for the Lord,
and find hope in God's word.

Our souls wait for the Lord,
more than those who watch for the morning.

More than those who watch for the morning.
Let us seek hope in our God,

whose power is enduring love,
whose redemption brings healing and grace.

We wait for the Lord,
and find our hope in God's presence.

THE SENTENCE: *Seventh Sunday of Pentecost*

The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life. *John 6.63, 68*

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray,

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE CONFESSION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Silence may be kept.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have broken your holy laws
and have left undone what we ought to have done.
We are sorry for our sins
and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit,
enable us to live for you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God desires that none should perish,
but that all should turn to Christ, and live.
In response to his call we acknowledge our sins.
God pardons those who humbly repent,
and truly believe the gospel.
Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY - TOGETHER

**Bountiful God,
we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word:
by your Holy Spirit,
help us to receive it with joy, and to live according to it,
that we may grow in faith and hope and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

A Reading from Genesis

- ¹⁹ These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac,
- ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean.
- ²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.
- ²² The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD .
- ²³ And the LORD said to her,
'Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger.'
- ²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.
- ²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau.
- ²⁶ Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.
- ²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.
- ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- ²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.
- ³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.)
- ³¹ Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.'
- ³² Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?'
- ³³ Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.
- ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

PSALM 119.105-112 *We'll read the Psalm by alternate verses*

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lantern to my feet:
and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶ **I have vowed and sworn an oath:
to keep your righteous judgements.**

¹⁰⁷ I have been afflicted beyond measure:
Lord, give me life according to your word.

¹⁰⁸ **Accept, O Lord, the freewill offerings of my mouth:
and teach me your judgements.**

¹⁰⁹ I take my life in my hands continually:
yet I do not forget your law.

¹¹⁰ **The wicked have laid a snare for me:
but I have not strayed from your precepts.**

¹¹¹ Your commands are my inheritance for ever:
they are the joy of my heart.

¹¹² **I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes:
always, even to the end.**

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it

cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. *Romans 8.1-11*

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

HYMN TO WELCOME THE GOSPEL: TiS 209 “And can it be”

**1 And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

**2 'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love Divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.**

**3 He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;**

**For, O my God, it found out me.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.**

**4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.**

**5 No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.** *Charles Wesley 1707-88*

THE GOSPEL

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake.

2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow.

4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.

5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.

6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.

7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

9 Let anyone with ears listen!’

10 Then the disciples came and asked him, ‘Why do you speak to them in parables?’

11 He answered, ‘To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

12 For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

13 The reason I speak to them in parables is that “seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.”

14 With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

“You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

15 For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.”

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

17 Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

18 ‘Hear then the parable of the sower.

19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who

hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;
21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’ *Matthew 13.1-23*

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

EARLY TALK

SERMON

Time of discussion

During the time of discussion, we move into groups with those around us to discuss questions as displayed on screen, arising from the sermon’s themes.

If you’d prefer to remain by yourself in silence, prayer or reflection, please indicate by placing your hands over your heart.

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 Intercessions:

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.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers,
feeding us with your word,
and encouraging us in our meeting together.
**Take us and use us
to love and serve you
and all people,
in the power of your Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINAL HYMN: *the offertory will be collected during this hymn*

TiS 315 "Mine eyes have seen the glory"

**1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
his truth is marching on.**

***Glory, glory, hallelujah, glory, glory, hallelujah,
glory, glory, hallelujah, his truth is marching on.***

**2 He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat:
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.**

***Glory, glory, hallelujah, glory, glory, hallelujah,
glory, glory, hallelujah, our God is marching on.***

**3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom which transfigures you and me:
as he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,
while God is marching on.**

***Glory, glory, hallelujah, glory, glory, hallelujah,
glory, glory, hallelujah, while God is marching on.***

**4 He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave;
he is wisdom to the mighty; he is succour to the brave:
so the world shall be his foot-stool, and the soul of time his
slave:**

our God is marching on.

***Glory, glory, hallelujah, glory, glory, hallelujah,
glory, glory, hallelujah, our God is marching on.***

Julia Ward Howe 1819-1910 and others

PRAYER OF THANKS FOR THE OFFERTORY.

**Holy Spirit, may you bless
the gifts we bring with your powerful presence.
Through these gifts, bring new life,
new hope, new visions of life, new dreams of hope,
and new possibilities for unity and love in our world.
In Christ we pray. Amen.**

Francis Harold Rowley

WE SHARE A BLESSING.

**May the God of peace equip us with everything good for doing his
will, working in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to
whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

Go, walk gently on country to love and serve our God.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Copyright 1995. The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. From the text of A Prayer Book for Australia, published under the imprint of Broughton Books. Text also from A New Zealand Prayer Book. Copyright Anglican Church, Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. Text also from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000) (including the Psalter as published with Common Worship) and from other sources. Reproduced with permission. The words of the hymns have been taken from Together in Song and other sources. CCLI Licence No. 193899 used by permission.

B. J. Beu and Mary Scifres, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025: Worship Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2024), 186.

Bulletin Prayer Points

Dear friends, as we gather to hear the Word of God, let us bring our needs and the needs of the whole world before our loving Father, who sows the seeds of grace in our hearts.

Gracious God, we pray for your church, and the churches in our local community. We give you thanks for those who come up with fresh ways of making your name known to the wider community.

We give you thanks for our Bishop Richard and Priest Dave and for all those who give ministry and worship in our parish. We pray that they will be strengthened and protected by the Holy Spirit and that through them your Church will reveal the good news of salvation and draw all people together under your rule of justice and mercy.

Loving Creator, we celebrate the enduring cultures, histories, and strengths of First Nations peoples. Forgive the deep pains of history and grant us the courage to walk together in truth and justice. Guide us to listen deeply, respect one another, and build a harmonious future

Heavenly Father, on this Sea Sunday and always, we entrust all seafarers to Your mighty protection. Guide them safely through calm and stormy waters, keeping them alert and courageous in their duties. Comfort them in their loneliness, bless their families, and safely bring them back home to those they love. Amen.

Creator God, we pray for your world. Forgive us when we are ungrateful when spiritual blindness prevents us from appreciating the wonder of your creation and the endless cycle of nature. Forgive us for taking without giving; reaping without sowing. We pray for the farmers of the world, many of whom still use those methods described by Jesus and we especially pray that they may be treated with fairness for their labours.

We pray for all victims of natural disasters, thinking especially of the people of Venezuela. Please inspire their government and all other nations to give assistance and support to those who are struggling to find loved ones and to give aid.

Loving father, grant your loving comfort and peace to those who are deep in grief.

God of peace, we pray for all people subjected to the cruelty, starvation and trauma suffered by the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, all other countries suffering political suppression. May the conflict over the strait of Hormuz be resolved and ships of supplies to the world, safely pass through.

Gracious God, we raise before you all those who seek healing of body, mind or spirit asking that they will sense the touch of your loving hands and feel your peace and presence alongside them, each and every step of their journey towards healing and wholeness. We especially ask for healing for Dola, Kerrie, Gail, Barb, Fiona, George, Paul, Edie, Tim, Keith, Angela, Cynthia, Lloyd, Dawn, Mick, Judy, Deb, Joy, Marion, Jan and Graeme.

Gracious God, give us ears to hear and minds to understand the message of immortality for the children of your kingdom so that we may look forward with patience and confidence to that time when we will join you in the peace of eternity. We especially pray for any we know who have recently died and are on that journey to you.

Faithful God, we thank you for the opportunity of being together in prayer. As we look forward to the week to come, we pray for an awareness of your love and support in all we do.

NEWS AND NOTES

Good morning, friends,

Today is the second Sunday of NAIDOC week. Our heartfelt thanks again to Judy Tulloch for the tasteful NAIDOC display in Holy Trinity.

****My thanks to the children who participated with me in the presentation of the NAIDOC Early Talk.**

TODAY IS SEA SUNDAY



For Sea Sunday 2026, our theme is “**Harbours of Hope: The Church Alongside Seafarers**”, inspired by *Matthew 25*.

Sea Sunday is a moment each year when churches around the world come together to pray for seafarers, give thanks for their vital work, and support The Mission to Seafarers’ life-changing frontline ministry.

Seafarers are essential to everyday life, yet many work unseen, facing long periods away from home, isolation, and often dangerous conditions. Sea Sunday offers churches the opportunity to pause, reflect, and respond — standing alongside the men and women who keep our world moving.

Thanks to the prayer, generosity, and involvement of churches worldwide, The Mission to Seafarers is able to offer care, connection, and hope in ports across the globe. In 2025 alone, support through Sea Sunday and beyond helped us to:

- Make over **48,000 ship visits**
- Provide **shore leave transport for more than 150,000 seafarers**

- Grow vital programmes such as our **Family Support Network** and **SafeTALK** suicide prevention training

These moments of care — a visit on board, practical help ashore, or someone to listen — can make a profound difference to seafarers far from home.

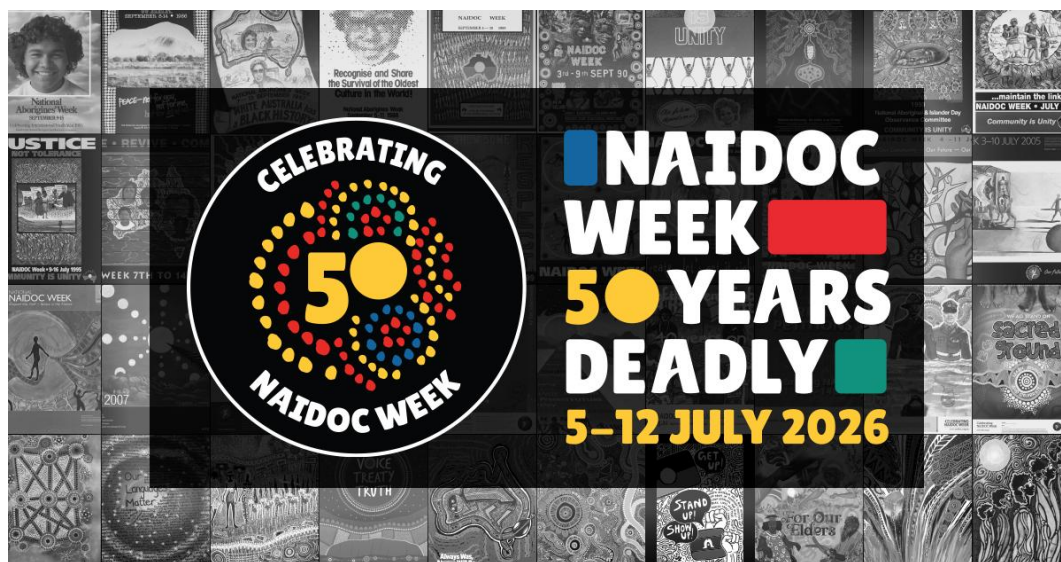
The Retiring Offertory for July supports First Nations People Ministry in the Diocese. Aboriginal Ministry in Gippsland is delivered by two ordained Aboriginal women - the Reverend Canon Aunty Phyllis Andy and The Reverend Kathy Dalton. They are available to support Aboriginal people and families across Gippsland, and they are sometimes called to travel across Victoria and interstate to support families in times of Sorry business. Their work in community is culturally safe, extensive, flexible, caring and responsive.

****You can get to know Rev'd Canon Phyllis and Revd Kathy a little more in their conversation with The Right Rev'd Dr Richard Treloar, Bishop of Gippsland and Revd Edie Ashley. [click to view](#) (36:14)**

<https://www.gippslandanglicans.org.au/aboriginalministry>

NB: "Deadly"
doesn't mean
something
scary; in
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait
Islander
cultures, it
means

something amazing, strong, and deeply wonderful!



FOGO

Has commenced in this area.

We have a 240-litre FOGO bin and kitchen caddy, compostable liners.

However, Dave feels that our needs exceed the caddy and liner system. He has suggested that we ask for the larger kitchen bin, especially needed when catering, hosting ecumenical services and even when we're hosting the Movie Nights. This may cost about \$1 per week. The FOGO bin is collected every week.



Looking to support us? Ways to give: - Via the offertory bags passed around during our Sunday services (sealed envelopes also available): Via bank transfer – Anglican Parish of Avon, BSB – 063526, Account number – 10493155.

- Or follow the QR code below:



READINGS AND ROSTER FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY

SUNDAY 19 JULY. PENTECOST 8

Genesis 28.10-19a. Romans 8.12-25

Matthew 13.24-30 (31-33) 36-43

**PIC Dave. LA Kevin. Chalice Paul. 1st Reader Nola. 2nd Jillian
Intercessions: Kevin. Org: Vic. Sides: Mirian, Nola
Camera: Paul, PPT. Denise. Flowers: Bev H
Morning Tea: Wendy, Bev T**

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

JULY

Thursdays. mainly music. 9.30am Parish Hall. During school term.

Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayers at Holy Trinity

Wednesdays Bible Studies during school term.

Winter school holidays Saturday 27 June to Sunday 12 July

Retiring Offertory: Aboriginal Ministry

Tues 14 5.30pm Warden's Meeting

Wed15 David Stothers to check and fine tune sound system

Sat 18 Men's Breakfast

Sun 19 Pentecost 8 All-age services

2pm. Community Carols Meeting

Tue 21 Parish Council Reports due.

Fri 24 Family Movie Night

Sun 26 Pentecost 9. Hosting Deans, preaching.

**Tues 28 Dave attending the Registry Team Retreat and
Organizational Review from July 28-29 at The Abbey.**

Thurs 30 7pm. Parish Council Meeting

Parish of Avon: The Reverend David Perryman: 0401 035 379.

Email:davidjrperryman@gmail.com