

Anglican Parish of Avon



Sunday 27 September 2026, Pentecost 18

Welcome to services of Holy Communion at:



8.30am St Mary's Munro



10am Holy Trinity Stratford

The Two Sons



Matthew 21:28-32

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: 'All things bright and beautiful'

Refrain:

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful -
the Lord God made them all.*

1 The wildflowers in their beauty,
the mountain ranges tall,
the billabongs and rivers,
and friendly birds that call,
All things bright...

2 The cold wind in the winter,
the bright, life-giving sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden -
he made them every one.
All things bright...

3 The many-coloured corals,
the creatures of the sea,

of bushland, field or desert,
on farms, or roaming free,
All things bright...

Words by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95
Music by William Henry Monk, 1823-189
Together in Song 135
CCLI # 1510282

Greeting

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Acknowledgement of Country/Welcome

Call to worship

Show us your ways, O Lord:
and teach us your paths.

Lead us in the ways of your truth, and teach us:
for you are the God of our salvation.

In you we place our hope:
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Sentence

Come, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before him.
(Hosea 6.1a, 2b.)

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

**Lord of all,
we come together here to be with you.
We thank you for listening to us.
Help us to listen to others
and to speak up for those who can't speak for themselves.
In the name of Jesus, who speaks up for us.
Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day – *Together*

Let us pray.

**Grant, O merciful God,
that your people may have that mind that was in Christ Jesus,
who emptied himself, and took the form of a servant,
and in humility became obedient even to death.
For you have highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
Jesus Christ, the Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in everlasting glory. Amen.**

Early talk

The Ministry of the Word

The First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?' *Exodus 17.1-7*

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78

¹ Give heed to my teaching, O my people:
incline your ears to the words of my mouth;

² For I will open my mouth in a parable:
and expound the mysteries of former times.

³ What we have heard and known:
what our forebears have told us,

⁴ We will not hide from their children,
but declare to a generation yet to come:
**the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
his mighty and wonderful works.**

¹¹ For he did marvellous things
in the sight of their ancestors:
in the land of Egypt, in the country of Zoan.

¹² He divided the sea and let them pass through:
he made the waters stand up in a heap.

¹³ In the daytime he led them with a cloud:
and all night long with the light of fire.

¹⁴ He cleft rocks in the wilderness:
**and gave them drink in abundance
as from springs of water.**

¹⁵ He brought streams out of the rock:
and caused the waters to flow down like rivers.

¹⁶ But for all this they sinned yet more against him:
and rebelled against the Most High in the desert.

The Second Reading

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,

² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not

only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out

your own salvation with fear and trembling;

¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to

work for his good pleasure. *Philippians 2.1-13*

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ ²⁴ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” ²⁶ But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” ²⁹ He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Matthew 21.23-32

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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 Prayers

Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.

Response:

Lord of creation, 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 Confession

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence for self-reflection

We confess to you our lack of care for the world you have given us.

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.

Christ, have mercy,

Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our failure to protect resources for others.

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

May God forgive us,

Christ renew us,

and the Spirit enable us to grow in love.

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 Hymn: 'The Servant King'

1 From heaven You came, helpless babe,
entered our world, Your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give Your life that we might live.

Chorus:

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

2 There in the garden of tears
my heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' He said.
This is our God...

3 So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone Him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.
This is our God...

*Words and music by Graham Kendrick
Music arranged by David Peacock
Mission Praise 162
© Thankyou Music
CCLI # 78897*

Offertory Prayer

**Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.
Blessed be God forever.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us the fish in the sea, the birds of the air,
and every plant and tree;
the life that sleeps in the winter earth,
and awakens again in the spring.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:
**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts
of bread and wine may be for us
Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

**So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.**

**Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day when suffering is
ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with all your saints we give you
glory, through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
**so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with
thanksgiving.

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.

**Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal,
to tell the Good News to neighbours and strangers
with creative words
and compassionate service,
walking the way of Christ.**

Announcements

Missional Hymn: 'Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah'

1 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
hold me with Thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.
Feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be Thou still my strength and shield.
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside:
death of death, and hell's destruction,

land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee.
I will ever give to Thee.

*Words by William Williams
Music by John Hughes
Mission Praise 201
CCLI #1448*

The Blessing and Dismissal

May God the Father who clothes the lilies
of the field and feeds the birds of the air,
provide us with all we need for life in its fullness.
Amen.

May God the Son, who fed the five
thousand and turned water into wine,
feed us with his life and transform us in his love.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit, who hovered
over the waters of creation and formed
the world from chaos, form us in the
likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth.
Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go, walk gently on country to love and serve our God.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Bulletin Prayer Points

As we bring our thoughts, needs, and desires to God, let us still our hearts and minds so that we will be able to hear the answers he has for us.

Gracious God, we pray for peace, justice and reconciliation throughout the world. We bring before you our concerns about the decisions made for our own governance and ask for wisdom and integrity for those in positions of authority. We pray for an end to the wars that are devastating our world and ask for your blessings on all who are working for peace.

We pray for humanities safe control of Artificial Intelligence.
May it be the servant of human beings, not a destroyer.

Everlasting God, we thank you for our church leaders; locally in our parish, our diocese and throughout the Anglican Communion.

We pray for Bishop Richard and his family, and give thanks for our Priest Dave. May your Holy Spirit guide and sustain Dave in all his ministries, including his forthcoming second tenure in our parish and his work at the registry. Guide us all as we shape a new vision for the parish.

Bless Emma and their children.

We pray for all who preach your word, inspire and lead us. Help us grow discipleship as we reach out to our community, our country and the world.

For School Chaplains, especially Dr Steve.

Loving God, we pray for our local community and for all people who live and work in our parish. We pray for the young and for families, for their safety, refreshment and fun over the term holidays.

We give thanks for human love and friendship. We thank you especially for our own families and our friends, and for the way they enrich our lives. We ask for your protection and guidance for them.

Faithful God, we pray for the sick and the bereaved. We pray for all carers, medical, nursing and paramedical, and all who bring comfort, care and

healing to the sick and bereaved. For Dylan, Kerrie, Gail, Paul, Barb, Fiona, George, Edie, Tim, Keith, Angela, Cynthia, Lloyd, Dawn, Mick, Judy, Deb, Joy, Marion, Jan and Graeme.

Mighty God, we remember in your presence all those who have died, and particularly those we have known and loved. Thank you for them and thank you for your promise of eternal life and peace. Be close to those who are recently bereaved, strengthen them with the knowledge that you are always there to lean on and to be carried through difficult times.

We thank you for all the blessings and gifts you lavish on us. In the weeks ahead help us to keep the faith deeply and passionately.

Merciful Father: **accept our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

NEWS AND NOTES

Good morning, friends,

- **The final Congregation Meeting for this church year will convene after the 10am service here at Holy Trinity.**
- **We're invited to discuss ideas for fund raising at the Congregational Meeting.**
- **Daylight saving commences next Sunday.**
- **We will celebrate our Blessing of Pets Service on the first Sunday in November after Dr Steve returns for overseas.**

Parish Council

At its final meeting of the church year last Tuesday evening, Parish Council worked hard in preparation for the year ending on 30 September.

The subdivision of the Briagolong property continues to progress and is nearing completion.

Several maintenance projects will continue into the new church year and beyond:

The parish precincts, including the op shop, will soon be risk-assessed.

Planned maintenance includes: -

installing a ramp at the rear door of the op shop sorting shed, beginning next week;

commencing the streaming of services from Holy Trinity this week or next;

repairs to the roof at St Mary's Munro soon to commence;

engaging a casual grounds maintenance officer as needed, excluding lawn mowing;

repairing the sagging spouting on the east side of the rectory roof;

replacing damaged decking boards, including those with temporary patches;

removing moss from the south side of Holy Trinity's slate roof and clearing the spouting;

replacing the Parish Hall's rotted external wallboards.

Wish listed: painting the op shop and solar panel for the op shop and the rectory.

Finally, Council discussed the groundwork for the 2026–2027 budget. The draft budget and Mission Plan will be reviewed after this past meeting, presented at the October meeting for adjustments and approval, and then recommended to the AGM for adoption, together with the 2026–2027 Mission Giving Plan.

Following further discussion and reflection on the Vision, Lisa will soon be invited back to assist with its implementation.

We have been invited to the launch of an exciting and historic "The Spirit of MUNRO". Written by David Luxford, this near-complete history of Munro is a comprehensive revised edition of *Sap in their Veins: A History of Munro* (1988).

Where: Munro Hall.

When: Saturday 10 October 2026, from 3pm. No RSVP required—just come along to Munro on the 10th.

Sunday: St Mary's Church at 8.30am, followed by a catch-up and cuppa in the Munro Hall.

Please see the flyers available in the hall.

What's Coming up at the Abbey

Take a look at what the rest of the year brings, especially those events coming up in September and October:

- October 3 - Blessing of the Pets
- Hush Oct 8 – Hush Quiet Day: Being Present in The in Between.
Facilitator: Rev'd Gradwell Fredericks
- October 9-11. Weekend retreat: Restoration of Relationships.
Facilitator: Julia Fullarton
- October 16-18 - Weekend retreat: Zen and the Art of Lego. Facilitator:
Grant palmer.

Hopefully there's something for everyone amongst these treasures. After all, this is your place; come find a home here.

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 4 OCTOBER. PENTECOST 19

Exodus 20.1-4,7-9,12-20 Phil. 3 or 3.4b-14 Matthew 21.33-46

**PIC Dave. LA Denise. Chalice Judy K. 1st Reading Jillian. 2nd Miriam.
Intercessions: Denise. Org: Vic. Sides: Kerrie S, May
Camera: Paul, PPT. Wendy. Flowers: Bev T
Morning Tea: Theresa, Nola**

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

SEPTEMBER

Thursdays. mainly music. 9.30am Parish Hall During School Term.

Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayers at Holy Trinity

Mondays 7.30pm Bible Studies

Spring school holidays Saturday 19th September to Sunday 4 October

Retiring Offertory: MAF

Sun 27 Pentecost 18.

Congregational Meeting 3

Dave away from afternoon of Sunday 27th to Tuesday 29th

OCTOBER

Thursdays mainly music. 9.30am Parish Hall during School Term.

Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity

Mondays 7.30pm Bible Studies

Clergy Retreat 5-8 October

October World Community Day - the last Friday in October but we will celebrated on the last Sunday in October this year.

Retiring Offertory: Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation: Australian Charity in Ethiopia working to Eradicate Fistula (repeat from 2025)

Sun 4 October	Pentecost 19. (Feast of St Francis of Assisi always 4 October) 10am All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity and 5pm Briagolong Community Centre DAY LIGHT SAVING BEGINS – CLOCKS 1 HOUR FORWARD to the 4th April 2027.
Tues 6	AGM Reports to the Secretary Please!!
Sun 11	Pentecost 20 4pm Healing Service at Holy Trinity.
Sat 17	Men's Breakfast
Sun 18	Pentecost 21 All-age services
Tues 20	Parish Council Reports
Thurs 22	10am FFF de-brief meeting
Fri 23	Family Movie Night
Sun 25	Pentecost 22 World Community Day, Ecumenical Service at St Andrews UCA Usually the last Friday in October

It is very apt that Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) collections are also dedicated at this service because the FLC is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. The first FLC ingathering was held at the 1965 World Community Day.

Sharing through projects and offerings has been one of the main purposes of World Community Day since its beginning in the USA in 1943. This special day strengthens the bond of understanding between Church women as they join together in fellowship and worship for others.

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

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