



Cowes Group Ministry
All Saints' Gurnard with St Faith's,
Holy Trinity Cowes, St John the Baptist
Northwood and St Mary the Virgin Cowes.



**Thursday 25th December 2025,
Christmas Day.**

Welcome to our benefice! If you are visiting one of our churches for the first time, please introduce yourself to us!

CHURCH SERVICES HAPPENING THIS WEEK		
Thurs 25 th	All Saints' Church, Gurnard	09:30 Holy Communion
	Holy Trinity, Cowes	09:30 Holy Communion
	St John's Church, Northwood	11:00 Holy Communion
	St Mary's Church, Cowes	11:00 Holy Communion

Collect for Today Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament reading from Isaiah 62:6-end (NRSV)

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to

daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

Reading from Psalm 97 (NRSV)

The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad. Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side. His lightnings lit up the world; the earth saw it and trembled. The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declared his righteousness, and all the peoples have seen his glory. Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in mere idols. Bow down before him, all you gods.

Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced, because of your judgements, O Lord. For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his faithful and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light has sprung up for the righteous and joy for the true of heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name.

New Testament reading from Titus 3:4-7 (NRSV)

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Gospel reading from Luke 2:8-20 (NRSV) [In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped

him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.]

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Post Communion Collect

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

COWES GROUP MINISTRY'S PRAYER LIST

We pray for Peter E, Peter S, Peter L, Pat R, Rachel T, Rosie L, Rosemary & John, Ruth C, Rachel & children, Sophie, Sophie, Terry G, Thelma, Vivienne, Amy & Wendy H.

Recently bereaved families of Michael Buckett who went to Heaven on Sunday 14th, funeral to be held at St Marys in the New Year. Reverend Roger Salter, a previous Vicar of our Cowes Churches. Also Jill Garrett who went to Heaven on Thursday 19th.

CHURCH SERVICES HAPPENING THIS WEEK		
Sun 28 th Dec'	All Saints' Church	09:30 Carols & Croissants
	Holy Trinity	10:30 Carols & Croissants (no service)
	St John's Church	11:00 Carols, poems and cake
	St Mary's Church	11:00 Carols & Croissants

FOOD BANK DONATIONS, Tinned meat meals, tinned mixed veg, tinned spaghetti, long-life milk, puddings, custard, shampoo and toothbrushes. If you can support us financially please email the Office Manager at info@isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk or write / visit us at the Isle of Wight Foodbank, Love Lane, Cowes, PO31 7ET.

RECYCLING INK CARTRIDGES, STAMPS, PENS AND BATTERIES: Boxes are available in Northwood Church for recycling.

Contact information

Cowes Group Ministry Churches joint Parishes Office is open Mon-Fri 10:00-14:00, Telephone 07472 358917, or email ParishOfficeIOW@gmail.com

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Church Wardens

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Northwood Church - Peter Lambert (526385), Pam Clements (526220)

St Mary's Church - Barbara Winder (293103), Chris Buckett (638906)