



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



**Sunday 22nd March 2026,
Fifth Sunday of Lent, Passiontide begins.**

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

Collect for Today

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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 Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NRSV)

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I

will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Old Testament reading from Psalm 130 (CW)

New Testament reading from Romans 8:6-11 (NRSV)

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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.

Gospel reading from John 11:1-45 (NRSV)

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those

who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Post Communion Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

COWES GROUP MINISTRY'S PRAYER LIST (group 1)

We pray for Audrey R, Ann B, Ann H, Arthur & Jane W, Barbara S, Betty B, Brenda P, Brenda & Brian, Brian C, Clive M, Christopher T, Amy & Wendy H, Colin & Clisby.

Contact Information

If you would like to contact any of our members of the Clergy or Church Wardens please email ParishOfficeiow@gmail.com or call 07472 358917

FOOD BANK DONATIONS, Tinned vegetables, baked beans, tinned meat, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, rice puddings. Thank you.

CHURCH SERVICES HAPPENING THIS WEEK		
Weds 25 th	St Mary's, Cowes	10:30 Holy Communion
Sun 29 th March (BST clocks forwards) Palm Sunday	All Saints', Gurnard	09:30 Holy Communion
	Holy Trinity, Cowes	09:30 Holy Communion
	St John's, Northwood	11:00 Holy Communion
	St Mary's, Cowes	11:00 Holy Communion

EVENTS HAPPENING THIS WEEK	
Mon 23 rd	09:15-11:15 Cloud Tots at All Saints' Gurnard. 10:00-12:00 St Mary's Garden Group. 14:00-16:00 Scrabble Club, All Saints' Garden Room. 14:00-16:00 Table Tennis at St Mary's Church Hall.
Tues 24 th	10:30-12:00 Bible Study at All Saints' Garden Room. 12:30 All Saints' Lenten Lunch (see below)
Thurs 26 th	10:00-11:30 Coffee and Chat at All Saints' Gurnard 12:45 Funeral of Amanda Lambert at Northwood Church. 14:00-16:00 Art and Crafts at St Mary's, Cowes. 18:30 for 19:00 All Saints' Film Club; The Passion of Christ (2004)
Fri 27 th	09:30 Prayer Walk around the parishes starting from Northwood. 10:00 Northwood Church cleaning group, please bring supplies 10:00 St Mary's Church cleaning group.
Sun 22 nd	12:30 Northwood Fellowship Feast at Cowes Community Club. Please sign the book in church.

CLOUD TOTS, a playgroup for the under-5's. Mondays, 09:15-11:15 at All Saints' Gurnard. For more info email CowesGroupMinistry@outlook.com

LENTEN LUNCHEES 2026 at All Saints Church, Gurnard. The lunch dates are March 24th and 31st, 12 noon for 12:30, there is no obligation to attend all lunches or Bible Study. A donation of £5 is invited.

ALL SAINTS' COFFEE AND CHAT Every fourth Thursday of the month, 10:00 to 11:30. Free coffee, tea and cake, all welcome - bring a friend.

ALL SAINTS' FILM CLUB 6.30pm for refreshments, film starting at 7pm in the Garden Room. "The Passion of Christ" (2004) These Christian films are free, all welcome to just turn up.

CHURCH CLEANING GROUPS, if you can help in any way, please chat with your Churchwarden.

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