



Anglican Parish of Bass-Phillip Island
St Augustine's, San Remo St Paul's, Bass
St Philip's, Cowes

www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org

Rector – The Rev'd Jo White Mobile - 0490 831 299

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday 19th March 2023

Choose Hope, Love, Justice

MON 20 th	Rev'd Jo's Day Off 10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open
TUES 21 st	
WED 22 nd	10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open
THURS 23 rd	10.00am – Holy Communion, St Philip's, Cowes
FRI 24 th	10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room
SAT 25 th	
SUN 26 th	Lent 5 9.00am Prayer Praise Proclamation St Philip's, Cowes 11.00am Holy Communion St Augustine's, San Remo 12.30pm Holy Communion St Paul's, Bass

PRAYER PRAISE PROCLAMATION 4th Sunday of the month at St Philip's, Cowes.

Next service will be 26th March

You are welcome, we would love to see you.

Bookings are no longer required

CURRENT COVID-19 Information:

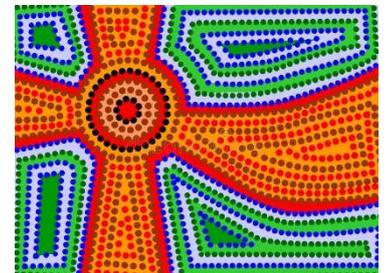
Please use the hand sanitiser provided

We respect your decision to wear a mask indoors.

If you are unwell please look after yourself at home.

Please be assured that our facilities are thoroughly cleaned weekly.

We meet for worship on the lands of the Bunurong people; Gunaikurnai people; Woi-Wurrung people; the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



This week's roster

St Philip's – Welcomers: M. Wright; Readers: J. Stephenson; Intercession: J. Wright; Vestry: H. Millward; Power Point: J. Millward; Music: K. White; Morning tea: J. Owens

St Augustine's – Leader: G. Ippel; Input: G. Ippel; Children: ...

St Paul's – Reader: Ro. Hayhurst; Prayers: Rh. Hayhurst; Chalice: A. Gloria

Next week's roster

St Philip's – Welcomers: W. Gladman; Readers: L. Wenham; Intercession: S. Goodluck; Vestry: ...; Power Point: ...; Music: G. Gijbers; Morning tea: P. Casey

St Paul's – Reader: E. Humphry; Prayers: Rev. Jo; Chalice: B. Maghanoy

– Please contact Wendy Gladman regarding St Philip's roster gladmanwendy@gmail.com

This week's readings - 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Next week's readings – Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN Glenys has subscribed to a weekly children's activity sheet. The activities follow the lectionary. If you have grandchildren coming to a service or know of children attending she would be happy to forward this on to you so you can print out as needed. You can email her on glenys.stacs@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook! Like, Share, Comment and Join our Events:

<https://www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes/>

The Sentence of the Day

'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow me will have the light of life.'

Prayer of the Day.

Gracious God, in order that we children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world: as the light of Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in truth and goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

[Silence]

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd:

Therefore can I lack nothing.

He will make me lie down in green pastures:

And lead me beside still waters.

He will refresh my soul:

And guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

For you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me:

You have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life:

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

(Response)

Glory to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

As in the beginning so now, and forever. Amen

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

[Silence]

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 9 beginning at verse 1:

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my

eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

[Silence]

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

LENT FOUR

Jesus often turns the world on its head. Jesus reshapes narrow thinking and tradition, asking us to put away hatred, and prejudice and lack of forgiveness; to embrace sinners; to feel God's love for us and to share God's love with others.

In Australia we are pretty keen about turning things on their head perhaps this is because we are described as the land down under. Perhaps that's why we like to cheer for the underdog. It is probably why we find ourselves looking to the traditions of the United States of America and to those of the United Kingdom. These comments lead me by twists and turns to our celebration of Mothering Sunday, also known as Refreshment Sunday.

Mother's Day for Australians falls on the second Sunday in May, following the American tradition. [We must wait for that one.]

However, Mothering Sunday falls in the middle of Lent, on this fourth Sunday and if we were in the UK, today is the day to celebrate Mother's Day/Mothering Sunday. Some of us would like to remember that appreciating our mothers (USA tradition begun 1912 by Anna Jarvis) is something we can do every day. Mothering Sunday has strong religious connections and has been celebrated since the Middle Ages. It is a day to honour the church of our baptism; the Mother Church, so called because it is where, at our baptism, we were welcomed into the family of the church and became a child of our heavenly Father. Mothering Sunday is an occasion to relax the strictures of our Lenten Discipline and enjoy Simnel Cake. Our Anglican Church with its roots in the Church of England marks this day with joy as we find ourselves turning with ever quickening steps toward Easter Sunday and the celebration of the resurrection.

Lent could be described as being a bit like a funnel as each Sunday we experience the stories of Jesus preparing us and bringing us ever closer to Easter. Over the last few weeks, we have listened as Jesus encountered temptation and prepared for ministry; we have listened as Jesus and Nicodemus discussed being born of water and the spirit; and just last week, with the woman of Samaria, we experienced the unconditional love of Jesus the living water.

We remember that every Sunday is a little Easter, a celebration in the midst of our Lenten Discipline. Each Sunday the funnel narrows as we approach Holy Week with its intimate moments and great solemnity and then in a torrent of joy we burst forth with praise and thanksgiving as we reaffirm our baptismal vows and feel the elation of Easter morning.

Dawn is about the coming of light, the sun rises and we experience the freshness of a new day. The darkness of night is both a time to rest and recover and a time when we cannot see clearly. We stumble around in the dark, perhaps we are even a little fearful of the dark, of shadows and spooks, of fumbling about and of falling. Darkness suggests more than just a lack of light, darkness is suggestive of struggle, of evil, of emptiness that seeks the light of God's glory.

The Lord sees things differently to mere mortals. With the light of life, the Lord God looks upon the heart not upon our fleshly failings. When the prophet Samuel comes to visit the house of Jesse the Bethlehemite he inverts the thinking of Jesse and his sons who think God will be impressed by strength or regal bearing, or being the eldest. (1 Samuel 16:7-10)

We are often caught up in these worldly, fleshly ideals ourselves. Some of these things are gradually being reworked but there is still preference given to a boy child. I'm guessing here, but I imagine Jesse would've had daughters too but they were not even presented to Samuel. And being tall and good looking is still something that attracts attention and maybe even gets the job ahead of a shorter plainer person. Sad but often true. We must come to understand, as Samuel does, that we don't see as God sees since God looks at the heart. How wonderful to know that God sees not what we look like but who we are on the inside.

The order of things is turned on its head. The youngest son, not the eldest, is anointed. David, the shepherd boy, not the manager of Jesse's flocks is anointed, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him from that day forward. (1 Samuel 16:13) Shepherd imagery is very important in the Jewish faith. God is portrayed as the true shepherd of Israel; looking after the sheep and bringing them to good pasture. Israel's rulers often fell short of God's standards. David was an exception who was to rule Israel with an upright heart and a skilful hand.

God looks upon the heart. It's as if God has a light that can see into the dark places of our hearts and with that pure light can bring healing and wholeness.

Jesus, the light of the world comes into the darkness of our lives to bring light and life.

As Jesus is walking along, he comes upon the man born blind. Blindness in this episode is more about spiritual blindness than it is about the inability to see. Now this spiritual blindness is not that of the man in the story but of those who observe and question what's going on. The disciples with their usual dimness ask;
Who sinned, the man or his parents?

Jesus turns their world on its head by announcing that none of them have sinned. We can imagine the disciples shaking their heads in disbelief because for them physical dysfunction was not about genetics or an accident or even what we might call a disability it was always about sin – someone did something that angered God and blindness was the payout.

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Our Lenten journey is always about challenging ourselves and our faith and through those challenges we grow and come closer to God. I love Lent, even though it can be very tough it is a place to become spiritually enlightened, stronger, more at peace, and more energised too. The healing of the man born blind is just such a challenge, it is a chance to reassess what it means to see. It is an opportunity to learn how to see with the eyes of faith.

At first the man's story is about the process of healing: the mud on his eyes and the instruction to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. At the same time, he doesn't know where Jesus is. He knows Jesus' name and he knows he can see but that's about it.

During his interrogation by the Pharisees the man says that Jesus is a prophet, a step toward faith in Jesus. All that questioning about who might be a disciple of Jesus starts leading the man toward his discipleship. The man's argument in favour of Jesus is astonishing, it's very convincing, so convincing in fact that the Pharisees cannot move forward but only reiterate that the man was born entirely in sin and has no right to be trying to teach them. And they drove him out. (John 9:34)

In the finale Jesus returns and announces that he is the one, Jesus is the Messiah, the one who is speaking to you. The man's response is a profession of faith;
Lord, I believe. (John 9:38)

The light of Jesus shines into the life of the man born blind to bring a wholeness that is more than just the ability to see it is the ability to see the truth; that Jesus is the light of the world. As a result, the man comes to fullness of faith in Jesus.

The light of Jesus also shines into the lives of the Pharisees. They get an opportunity to have their adherence to the law turned on its head by their encounter with the Son of Man but instead they see only their blindness and their sin remains. (John 9:41)

As followers of Jesus, we are encouraged by St Paul to live as children of light where our hearts are open to God in a way that cleanses and heals. (Ephesians 5:8) This is not a matter of earning salvation but about allowing the light of Christ to fully penetrate our lives so we can fully embrace our life as a disciple.

As Easter draws near let us greet each dawn as the coming of the light that is Christ.

When we see light, in whatever form, let us remember the words of St Francis of Assisi:
All the darkness of the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.

Let us pray for the world and for the church:

Loving God, open our hearts and spirits so that we can see others as you see them. Help us to look beyond appearances and see the goodness and dignity of all people. Take away the blindness that clouds our vision and give us courage to walk in your light. We pray for the insight to recognise the opportunities and challenges before us. Help us to grow as disciples during this season of Lent. **Amen.**

Lord who sees our hearts, we pray for the world and give thanks for the light and beauty of each dawn. We pray for those who govern in all corners of the world but especially in our region that they might make decisions that are peaceable and just. We pray for peace in Ukraine. Lord, we commit ourselves again to care for the vulnerable in our world especially those places most affected by climate change. Help us to see clearly what we must do to further the work of justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord who sees our hearts, we pray for the church and give thanks for our heritage as we celebrate Mothering Sunday. May we take this moment to remember those churches that have nurtured us and helped us to know and love you. We give thanks for our baptism and look forward to the renewal of our baptismal vows as Easter approaches.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord who sees our hearts, we pray for those who are experiencing spiritual darkness, may the light of Christ bring them renewal and joy. We pray for all who work to restore sight to the blind especially eye surgeons. Lord, there are many people who are struggling with life and we pray for them. We pray for healing and wholeness for those who are recovering from a time in hospital, for those who are worried about their future and for those who are burdened by illness and pain.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord who sees our hearts, we thank you that you see us for who we are, that we can be totally and utterly ourselves before you. We humbly pray for ourselves that our hearts might be turned toward you, strengthen our faith and bring us ever closer to you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord who sees our hearts, we give thanks for the resurrection to eternal life remembering now the dear departed praying rest eternal grant unto them O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them. **Amen.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory

For ever and for ever. Amen.

Suggested Hymns:

Ancient of Days

Lord Your Almighty Word (TIS 447) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Mz6u1g_sFI

The King of Love my Shepherd is (TIS 145)

Shine Jesus Shine (TIS 675)

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 all people, in the power of your Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A blessing is offered.

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

If you have any items for the pew sheet, please send to angbpi.office@gmail.com by Thursday each week.



DATES for your Diary

Saturday 8th April 9.00-2.00 Island Craft Market, Parish Hall, Cowes

Tuesday 11th April 2.00pm Parish Council, St Philip's, Cowes

Offertory

Thank you for your weekly offering it is much needed. During this COVID-19 period and post COVID-19 your offering can be made by either:

- Placing in the offering bowl at any church service. Use plain envelope if preferred
- Please make cheques payable to Anglican Parish Bass-Phillip Island
- Regular or one-off contributions can be made by internet banking to the Parish bank account, using Pay ID 0407410011 (or BSB & Acct No. below)
- Visit any Bendigo Bank branch and deposit cash or cheque to Anglican Parish Bass/Phillip Island BSB: 633 000 / Account Number: 169 629 797. Please put on deposit slip: "Offertory" or "Donation" indicating your usual congregation
- If in Cowes, drop your offering in the donation box at St Philip's, Cowes (located outside the front door of the Church)



ST PHILIP'S – We recommend parking in the church grounds. Parking in Thompson Avenue is restricted to 1 hour only. 2 hours for those with a Disabled Parking Permit

Helpful websites

Parish website www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org

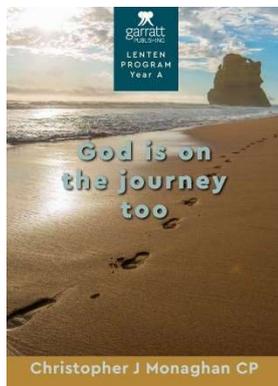
Dioceses of Gippsland website www.gippsanglican.org.au

Facebook www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes

CHAT 'N' CHEW is a shared ministry of the Combined Churches of Phillip Island. Would you like to help? Would you like to join the committee and represent the Anglican Church in this important ministry to people in our community? Training is available. Speak to Rev'd Jo or Richard Prideaux.



PARISH HOME GROUPS –



LENTEN STUDIES – God is on the Journey, Too \$10.00

Meeting weekly during Lent.

Cowes, Emmaus Room Group –Wednesday 1.00pm Leader: Richard and Ann Prideaux

Cowes, Palm Lakes Group –10.00am Contact Helen Millward

San Remo Group –Wednesday 2.00pm in the Mary Talbot Room Leader: John Dawson

Bass Home Group –4.00pm St Paul's Meeting Room Leader: Sandy & Les Ridge

Cancellation of MTR Cookery Book

Sadly, after some discussion, the MTR committee has decided not to proceed with the reissue of St Augustine's Cookery Book.

Learn a new skill - We are training new vestry helpers and Eucharistic assistants.

Speak to Rev'd Jo if you would like to help.

Can you help? Volunteers needed on 2nd Saturday of the month to assist with serving Devonshire Teas and at the Sausage Sizzle.



Please pray for:

Sue Chambers, Mike Heflingers, Len Chatfield,
Rev'd Gerald Wall, Rob Aitkin

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please tell Rev'd Jo

THE MARY TALBOT ROOM – Our Parish Op Shop would be grateful for your help with cooking [jams, pickles, biscuits etc. reimbursement for ingredients is available]; knitted garments; volunteering your time to serve and help out. The shop is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.



St Philip's

THE FLOWER FUND NEEDS FEEDING

Box for donations is located in porch on Sundays

You can help Refugees by putting items in the basket at St Philip's. Most needed items include: honey, tuna in oil, tinned tomatoes, tinned veggies, tinned legumes, sweet & savoury biscuits, black tea bags, dishwashing liquid, shampoo & conditioner, soap bars.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Sunday 2nd April Palm/Passion Sunday - Holy Communion & the Procession of the Palms

9.00am St Philip's
11.00am St Augustine's
12.30pm St Paul's

Thursday 6th April Maundy Thursday
10.00am Holy Communion St Philip's
5.30pm Pot Luck Dinner
7.30pm Foot Washing & Holy Communion, St Philip's

HOLY WEEK

Friday 7th April Good Friday
9.00am St Philip's
10.30am St Augustine's
10.30am St Paul's

Saturday 8th April Holy Saturday
8.30pm Easter Vigil lighting of the New Fire, St Philip's

Sunday 9th April Easter
6.15am Dawn Service Amphitheatre Erehwon Pt
9.00am Parish Hall Cowes
11.00am St Augustine's
12.30pm St Paul's