

The Parish Paper

Established 1968 Volume 57 Issue #3 November 2025

The Anglican Parish of Bass-Phillip Island

Rector: The Rev'd Ruth Hanlon



Choose
Hope
Love
Justice



A Perfect Pit-Stop

Photo: M Gould

◆ Glenys Gijsbers

Once again the team of volunteers worked very hard to engineer a very rewarding event for the Moto GP visitors. For the four mornings from Friday 17 to Monday 20 October, visitors could enjoy a breakfast of wonderfully creamy porridge, crunchy cereals, cold and crisp fruit juice, brewed coffee or an eclectic selection of teas.

The team of wait staff welcomed visitors and took their cooked breakfast orders which the team in the kitchen expertly presented.

Breakfasters had a choice of scrambled, fried or poached eggs and the cooks managed to satisfy orders including 'extra crispy' bacon or 'non runny' fried eggs. (Cont on P4)

Our parish acknowledges the Boon Wurrung people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and meet.
We commit to working respectfully to honour their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to this country

Ruth's Reflections

In early September, I celebrated 12 months in the Parish! What a wonderful time it has been. I am grateful to God for calling us here. As we currently work our way through the book of Esther, we can marvel at how God moves in mysterious ways, and how he is working his purposes out...

We are all part of his purpose to grow his church here in this parish, to shine his light and love. Thank you all for the part you play.

We are very blessed in this parish with so many things to celebrate and I have no doubt that the Lord is at work. We have received not one, but three financial grants this year—From the RSL, Bendigo Bank and the Council. With these grants and the generous donations from parishioners we have been able to refresh the parish hall, and it is looking wonderful with polished floorboards, fresh paint, LED lights, and we can now keep warm and cool with air conditioning. There are also new trees planted in the grounds.

We have been blessed with new people joining us in our congregations, some after taking part in the Alpha Course we ran in Cowes. This was a



sausage sizzle and Devonshire teas continue to be popular and are always a great time for building community connections and sometimes inviting visitors to come to church the next day!

While the Winter Shelter project had a delayed start, and numbers were small, it was still a great inter-church and community project and we look forward to hopefully reaching more homeless people next year.

There was a great vibe again at the MOTO GP breakfasts in the parish hall. A huge thanks to Erena Norfolk and her team. We welcomed old regulars and met some new people. Everyone was so impressed with the quality of the breakfast and more importantly, the friendly atmosphere. (*see pages 4 & 17 for more*)

Our combined parish services on the 5th Sundays, followed by lunch, have been wonderful times of worship and fellowship. We enjoyed welcoming Bishop Richard at the service at St Paul's at the end of June. And it has been great to have visiting preachers, Andrew Malone from Ridley and Andrew Prideaux from AFES. I look forward to our next combined service at the end of November.

After Easter we spent many weeks working through the book of Acts. To see how the early church began is so inspiring, seeing the work of the Holy Spirit through gospel proclamation, miracles, enduring persecution, the numbers of people coming to faith and being baptised, the care for the poor, orphans and widows. The church should be alive and growing, caring for one another, full of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I am encouraged that we are alive, that we look out for each other, we are joyful in worship and desiring and expectant to see further growth, all for God's glory.

Let us continue to pray for revival in our community. As we were inspired with Hope 25, let us continue to share the hope we have in Jesus with joy. And as we approach Christmas, let us share the greatest gift of all.

Finally, from Paul's letter to the Philippians, which we have also recently been encouraged by... ►

Contents

Ruth Reflects	2
PC Notes	3
Deanery	3
GP Breakfasts	4
Mission Matters	5
Mission Prayers	6
Modawa Institute	7
Mission Prayers	8
Ecumenical Ladies	9
Submerge	10
Seasonal Cooking	11
Pending Split?	12
CMA	13
Bendigo Grant	14
Christmas tableau	15
Grounds Work	16
GP Photos	17
Book Review	18
Parish Dates	19

wonderful time of meeting new people and growing in faith together as we enjoyed a meal and watched inspiring videos on Jesus and faith and prayer, including a special day away on the Holy Spirit. Following on from Alpha, two new home / Bible study groups have begun; a sign of a healthy church.

It is wonderful that we now offer weekly emergency food relief at San Remo.

The Op Shop continues to be an important part of the community also, as well as contribute to parish funds.

Our regular monthly

³ *I thank my God every time I remember you.*

⁴ *In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy* ⁵ *because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now*

⁶ *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*
(Phil 1:3-6)

Parish Council Notes

◆ Secretary, Sandy Ridge

Service times trial

Changed service times from Sunday 2 November for 4 months trial:

St Paul's 11.30 am and St Philip's 9.30 am.

St Augustine's remains at 11 am.

Ladies Conference at the Cowes Baptist Church.

The women who attended really enjoyed it. It was great to catch up with women from different denominations and churches.

Extract from Reports

St Philip's Report: Ann Prideaux, Rector's warden. The Parish Hall has been painted and the floor to both the hall and the passage to the Emmaus Room sanded and polished. There are still tasks that need to be done in the weeks ahead as resources allow. The Grand Prix breakfasts raised ~\$5,000.

Parish Hall Committee: Glenys Gijsbers.

Regular bookings continue with a few 'one off' bookings coming in. The new market booking has turned into a number of bookings—we may need to consider putting some rules around how many can be booked. Dates are now confirmed for Red Frogs and Theos.

The Panels (chair barriers) have been installed and will work well to protect the walls. Some donations have been received which will reduce the amount needed from the Reserve funds. Work still to be done: Lighting throughout the complex will be installed on 23/24 November. Hall foyer: Options are still being considered. Sound System upgrade: work to be scheduled. Staging to be refurbished. Work to be scheduled: Emmaus Room Veranda.

St Paul's Bass: Sandy Ridge

A sign has been erected advertising the sale of Land at Bass on Saturday 22 November.

Southern Region Deanery

◆ Sandy Ridge

The meeting was held on Friday 17 October 2025 at St John's Anglican Church, Lang Lang (Westernport) and was led by the Southern Regional Dean, The Rev'd Canon Dr Fran Grimes.

Parishes represented were Corner Inlet, Korumburra Poowong, Leongatha, Mirboo North, Westernport and Wonthaggi/Inverloch. Parishes not represented were Bass/Philip Island and Yarram.

Participants enjoyed a cuppa and a chat before the meeting commenced, and Morning Tea was enjoyed between agenda items.

Suggestions for Topics, Speakers and Venues for 2026 were made by those present.

The Ven John Webster delivered some Archdeacon's notes, including the news that the Ven Graham Knott is making a good recovery following heart surgery in early August. The Rev'd Kate Campbell is stepping back from some of her activities, so a bookkeeper is required at the Registry. Parish wardens are encouraged, in their property and finance duties, to exercise good stewardship.

The Ven John Webster was the Guest Speaker and engaged everyone present with his account of the history, geography and sociology of his birth country South Africa and of the evolution of his ministry in South Africa, UK and Australia.

All parishes in the region provided reports on their activities.

A service of Holy Communion was celebrated by Fran Grimes, during which Fran prayed for each parish and its ministry and mission.

Lunch was enjoyed by those who were able to stay.

2026 Meeting Dates:

Friday 20 March: Corner Inlet to host at Foster. The Rev'd Canon Dr Fran Grimes and The Rev'd Susan Liersch to lead. Possible topics of outreach and evangelism, youth and families, Hope25.

Friday 17 July: Bass-Philip Island to host at Cowes and the Rev'd Ruth Hanlon to lead. Topic—How God works in our lives

Friday 16 October: Wonthaggi Inverloch to host at Wonthaggi and led by Bishop / Registrar / Diocesan representative. Topic—looking at and hearing from the wider church □

Moto GP Breakfasts



Photo: L Heflingers

Rob McKay adds a final stir to a pot of awesome porridge

(Continued from cover)

This year we served a total of 260 breakfasts and went through 70 dozen eggs, 17.25 kg bacon, 21.6 kg sausages, 15 kg tomatoes, 40 loaves of bread, 48 cans of baked beans. There were many comments about the welcome received as well as compliments for the newly painted hall and freshly polished floors.

The organisation was once again impressive, with all the jobs being well defined. Many of our visitors were regular and some among us had time to *ooh* and *aah* over the bikes!

This year we made an effort to promote the event more throughout the community and via social media and we hope to continue this. In particular to encourage a few more to come along on the Friday and Monday, where numbers are a bit lower.

It was pleasing to see at the end that the hard work had really paid off and it put a smile on the Treasurers face, with around \$5,000 profit being made.

Report by Glenys G on behalf of the hall project committee: Ralph, Frank, James and Glenys.



From top: Bean-counter extraordinaire Michael H; Those smiles are what makes everything taste so good; Annie & Erena take a photo opportunity for a moment. All photos by L Heflingers.

(twice), and one of Ely's best friends Jemima (also godmother to Dorothy). Its always so



Josh and Ely Flynn

with their children Evelyn, Margot, Reuben and Dorothy are serving with MAF in the Arnhem Land Programme, Yolngu Country, NT, Australia

Hello everyone, it's been a long while between newsletters. Thank you for your prayers and support in the meantime for us and MAF in Arnhem Land. 2025 has been a big year and we wouldn't be alone in feeling it's gone quickly!

The school year has been good for Evelyn, Margot and Reuben. Dorothy has really enjoyed being a preschooler this year and is very keen to join the others at big school next year. There is so much for young kids to enjoy about living here. Unfortunately the challenges are real too, with much heartache when too-close friends leave in this transient community. Despite this, we're encouraged by the growing resilience in our family; there's always much cause to be joyful and thankful for.

Evelyn even got to fly to Darwin with the East Arnhem Regional netball team to compete at the state-wide competition - by far the team that travelled the furthest.



We've been lucky enough to have some visitors here, including Ely's mum Sue, Josh's dad John

precious to share this rare time with people special to us and the kids.

Ely's work has seen some change recently. The office space has closed, meaning she now provides counselling and therapy from home via video conference, on site at schools, or in client's homes. This has been a struggle at times, as Ely manages these changes and the associated challenges. A highlight of her job this year has been working in a remote homeland called Dhalingbuy, travelling regularly to provide therapy for a young person living there. The progress seen in this case is an answer to prayer.

Josh's work this year has included two trips to Timor-Leste. It was a huge privilege to experience this fascinating and beautiful country, the welcoming local people and to see the MAF programme there. The landscape is very coastal and mountainous. MAF is the only aircraft operator there doing medevac patient transport to the chronically overcrowded hospital in Dili. The programme there has 3 GA8 Airvans and



requires external engineering support as there's no LAME as part of the team. Josh was in the country primarily to work on one of the Airvans to replace all 6 cylinders on a mid-life turbocharged engine, which turned out to be a very interesting job. During his time there he was also able to attend to some minor issues with the other Airvans to keep things moving in the programme. It was great to be of service there and to see some of the impact MAF are doing in this developing country. ►

Mid-year we were invited to visit some friends serving as *Pioneers* missionaries in the communities on Elcho Island. It was delightful to experience this special place we'd heard so much about. The Darrwurr homeland was set up by some *Yolŋu* Christian ladies specifically as a place for people to come and worship God, pray, and study His word away from the distractions and noise of life in town. This vision is carried on by this amazing couple while they raise their 4 young kids here 'in the bush'!



Most of you would have heard the news in January of the devastating loss of a dear friend, MAF pilot Chis Coffee, killed here in a road incident along with three other people. He was a wonderful man who impacted so many with his generous, joyful heart and his deep love of Jesus. Though grief is held differently by all, his loss is still felt by all who knew him.

It's just been announced there is a foundation named after him to train pilots and engineers from the remote places MAF serves. *The Chris Coffee Aviation Foundation* was launched at MAF's 80th anniversary fundraising Gala on 25 October.

Mission Prayers

◆ Rhoda Hayhurst

MAF

Requests

- Prayers for Christ to be lifted up and glorified in Arnhem Land. Pray for Yolŋu believers to have strength in the sacrifices they make to follow Jesus.

- Ongoing challenges for the administrative and management staff in program.
- Flynn family needs: changes with Ely's work, pray for her to keep being able to use her therapy skills to serve the people here. Praise for the children's school, resilience and growing closeness to God.

Praise

- Praise God for smooth staff changes with new pilots starting in recent months...even the arrival of another engineer, Amber! A real answer to prayer. She's settling in well.
- Josh gaining some timely avionics qualifications after drawn out process of exams and practical assessment.
- The outreach ministry occurring in homelands, MAF staff facilitating some welcomed worship and fellowship events there.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Be joyful always, pray, continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

MAF International

Please pray for:

- The safety of all pilots and ground staff.
- Safe landing strips in dangerous areas.
- Good maintenance of all planes.
- Good cooperation between staff, spiritual protection in all areas of work.
- Health and strength of all members of the team.
- God's continued guidance, and for wisdom and unity, as leaders make decisions that will shape the next decades of ministry.

The Bush Church Aid Society

Please pray for:

- David and Lauren Horne and their children for strength and good health as they serve in Southern Beaches Tasmania
- For growth and protection of the church as it moves from being a church plant to being an established church.
- Give thanks for all those who support BCA in prayer and financially. ►

The Horne's Prayer Points for November:

The beaches are beginning to fill with locals coming out of hibernation. Pray for a great ending to our Alpha Course, and that many would consider the invitation to be baptized at the end of the month!

God of hope you call us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world; by your Spirit awaken in us a true vision of your kingdom, a greater certainty of our salvation, and a deeper dedication to your service; that through our words and actions the same Spirit may bring many who are lost to be found, and for them to celebrate the hope that we can only have in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Local Parish Missions:

Lord God, we pray for all the communities in which we live and work. Help us always to be good neighbours and friends; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for all involved in parish mission. Pray that God will protect and keep safe all workers. Make our places of mission places of peace, encouragement and safety. God is our strength and refuge let us lean on Him and praise Him for His faithfulness in all things.

Please pray for the work of the MTR [Mary Talbot Room].

- Pray for more volunteers
- Pray for health and strength of current workers
- Pray for cooks to fill the shelves.
- Give thanks for all who come through the door that they will be blessed and filled with peace
- Give thanks for the Emergency Food Relief at San Remo.

Give thanks for all who work at the Book Sales over the year, for all who worked serving breakfasts at Grand Prix weekend.

Give thanks for all volunteers in the local community serving your people.

Give thanks for all who attended the Alpha course. Keep their hearts and minds open to the work of God in their lives.

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created, and by whose love we are redeemed: Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love to you and to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Teach us gracious Lord, to begin our works with reverence, to go on in obedience and to finish them with love; and then to wait patiently in hope, looking joyfully to you whose promises are faithful and reward infinite through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Modawa Continues to Build Towards the Future

◆ Bishop Jeffrey Driver

The Modawa Institute of Higher Education continues to build towards the future, with formal recognition from the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology.

A new signboard for the Modawa Institute was erected, following a long period of consultation with traditional landholders regarding suitable wording to acknowledge the generosity of those who provided the land upon which “we work, learn, and pray”. ►

David Hand School of Teaching

The David Hand School of Teaching has welcomed its new head, Ms Jean Ifuda. A woman with an Oro Province background, Jean is a very experienced educator. In fact she was one the candidates for Education Department nominated for the Moresby South electorate for the knighthood medal for the King Awards. Ms Ifuda's pedagogical and administrative experience will be of great assistance, as she works with Principal Fr Gabriel Manae in the overall running of the institution.

The School of Education's Year Bachelor of Education (Primary) class is moving towards the conclusion of its first year and planning is well underway for the year ahead. A new female boarding facility is well advanced in construction.



A Ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the opening of the first building in the dormitory complex for female students. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the Australian High Commission, the Provincial Government, and the Kokoda Track Foundation.

Thanks are due to the support from the DFAT (Australia) PNG Incentive Fund, the Williams Trust (NZ) and the Kokoda Track Foundation. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on 25 September to celebrate the completion of the first of three buildings in this complex. These buildings may also provide some interim classroom space, while other construction progresses.

Planning for next year in the School of Education is well underway, with library and IT resources identified. Again, the intention is for all students in the School of Teaching to be provided with a laptop.

Bishop Newton School of Theology

The Bishop Newton School of Theology will go into 2026 with its existing cohort, with most students studying at the certificate level. The School of Theology has benefitted greatly from the expansion of Newton College into the Modawa Institute. It means that the larger overall student body can better support the infrastructure required for education, as required for accreditation. Renovated classrooms, IT, an expanded library and better administration are all benefits of being part of a larger Institute.

In 2026, Principal, Fr Gabriel Manae, will commence a part-time Master's Degree Course with Divine Word University, thanks to a scholarship from the St Augustine's Foundation in the UK.

Developing a Nursing Program

Mrs Estelle Jojoba LM continues to work towards approval for the introduction of a Diploma in Nursing. This would involve the use of a newly developed national curriculum. The Institute will need to be able to demonstrate that it has the staffing and infrastructure to be able to support such a program. Mrs Jojoba brings a wealth of experience in nursing education, largely with the University of PNG, as she now works with a planning team to bring nurse education to the Northern Province.

For your prayers and support

The development of the Modawa Institute of Higher Education has come about by the contribution and commitment of many, both in PNG and with our international stakeholders. But it is still an infant in swaddling clothes, full of potential but very fragile. It will continue to need the support of friends and partners if it is to fulfil its potential.

We continue to look to our supporters to provide student scholarships, in either ministry training or teaching (\$1,500, or \$750 for half). Most of the students have no support from their own dioceses and struggle for the very basics of life. Your support can be given through an account set up within the Anglican Deposit Fund, Diocese of Gippsland. ►

Account name: Newton College BSB 705 077
A/c 00041107 This is for online banking only
(Giving code: *student support*)

Support ABM's ongoing operational grants to the college (<https://www.abmission.org>)

Contribute to the Building Fund. This can be done through the Diocese of Gippsland Account, but please make the purpose clear (Giving code: building). The capital works needed to accommodate these new disciplines is an investment in the present and the future!

Renovate a student house (This can be done through the Diocese of Gippsland Account; giving code *shouse*). Here is a project for a parish that

might extend over a couple of years. We need to renovate each of the student houses, including better reticulation of water and renovation of septic toilets. \$5,000 over two years will make a big difference to one house.

Please remember our students. Each week they face basic challenges, such as the provision of an adequate diet for their families, access to healthcare, or items like school uniforms. They rely almost entirely on the small allowance we provide of K 150 a month for a family (about \$AUD 55) for all their extra needs. They make great sacrifices to train for ministry. Can we make a small sacrifice to support them? ☐



◆ Glenys Gijbers

Regularly a group of ladies from the various churches meet for morning tea.

This Ecumenical group provides a great time of sharing and getting to know folk from the other churches on the Island and San Remo.

The morning teas are held either in Cowes or San Remo. If you are interested in coming along keep an eye on the pew sheet for the next date.

The above photo was taken at the Cowes Golf Club in July. ☐

Parish Christmas Dinner

6 pm on Wednesday 10 December

We look forward to coming together to celebrate Christmas across our parish!

This year it will be a bring and share meal. So, please let Erena know if you are coming and can bring something sweet or savoury (or even both!).

However, don't feel you *have* to cook, so please just come along, as there will be plenty of food! We will enjoy some carol singing as well.

Your generosity has been a big blessing!

Submerge Phillip Island



◆ Deb & Julie, on behalf of *Submerge*

On Saturday 25 October, 'Submerge' held a very successful morning tea fundraiser in the Anglican Church hall, in aid of brain cancer research.

Submerge are a group of local women who swim every morning at Cowes beach. Some of the women are taking part in the 'Point to Pinnacle' half marathon up Mt Wellington in Hobart in November. Why would anyone be inspired to walk or run up hill for 21.4Km? In our case it's to support Sarah, a beautiful young mum who dips with the submerge group when she can. Sarah lives with brain cancer and is four years into a two to five year prognosis. However, cancer does not deter her from living her best life and doing her utmost to further brain cancer research. Sarah will have a team of about 50 fellow walkers this year heading up the mountain, including six *Submergers*.

The morning tea was a huge success, selling out of Janet's delicious scones by 11am! Followed by all the delicious, donated slices and cakes by 12! Sarah attended and shared, from a very personal point of view, just how vital these fundraising efforts were in furthering research.

It was sobering to hear: Brain cancer kills more children in Australia than any other disease, kills more under 40s than any other cancer, and 80% of those diagnosed will die within five years. I'm not sure there was a dry eye in the room. However, her words were also very inspiring. Sarah spoke of 'hope'. Hope for raised awareness, hope for new medical break throughs, as with other cancers, and hope for all those living with this currently incurable disease. Sarah shared, "I'm so grateful and humbled by the generosity of these beautiful *Submerge* women and all those who have helped out today".

Due to the generosity of the Anglican Church, the morning tea raised over \$2,500! We could not have done this without the donated space, the support of church members and of course Janet's amazing scones!

All the funds from the morning tea go directly to 'Carrie's Beanies 4 Brain Cancer'. If you'd like to know more, please check out:

carriesbeanies4braincancer.com

and: pointtopinnacle.com.au

Finally, if you're interested in hearing more of Sarah's story, check out:

[Sarah Kelly | Keynote Speaker on Hope, Resilience & Leadership](#)

Thank you so much!



Above: Brenda, Deb, Libby, Janet & Julie



◆ Sally Matthews

Everywhere we look, we see the beauty of spring. Spring always brings to mind the beautiful hymn, "Awake, Awake to love and work!" An absolute favourite of mine from school assemblies.

I thought I would share with you a recipe for strawberry jam and our famous CWA scones. The scone recipe is used every day for the 10 days of the Melbourne Royal Show and our wonderful member, Joy from Traralgon Branch, has just retired after 20 years as the chief scone maker. I was privileged to work alongside her. This year the scone record was beaten with over 17,000 scones baked over 10 days. This is the recipe I use for exhibitions and it is always a winning entry.

Have you ever had difficulty with strawberry jam not setting? A few tips: use fresh strawberries, just picked are best as the pectin is at its highest, a good excuse to go strawberry picking! Pectin is a natural setting agent. Jam sugar can be used if you can't be sure how fresh the strawberries are or if you wish to use frozen fruit, and lemon juice can also be added. Tartaric acid is a natural food acid and I find it consistently helps get a good set.

Strawberry Jam

- 500 grams strawberries, hulled
- 3/4 teaspoon tartaric acid
- 1/4 cup of water
- 500 grams sugar

Method

Chop the strawberries roughly and place in a preserving pan or saucepan with the tartaric acid and water. Bring to the boil and then simmer gently for 10 minutes.

Add the sugar and stir until dissolved. Bring to the boil and boil over medium heat for 20 minutes until a set is reached.

Ladle into sterilised jars and seal.

Hint: in my last post, I had details about sterilising and setting point in my marmalade recipe.

CWA Show Scones

- 4 cups of self raising flour
- Pinch of salt
- 300 mls thickened cream
- 300 mls full cream milk
- Preheat the oven to 200°C fan forced.

Method

Sift the flour with a pinch of salt

Add the mixed milk and cream and stir with a metal spoon to combine.

(This is a wet mix compared to a normal scone mixture.)

Put the scone mix onto a floured surface and softly bring the mixture together.

Pat the mixture and use a rolling pin to lightly flatten the top to about 2.5 cm high.

Cut into rounds with a cutter dipped in flour.

With a pastry brush, lightly brush the tops with milk.

Bake in the oven for 15 minutes.

Check by colour and lightly tapping the bottom of the scone.

Place on a linen tea towel and cover to keep the scones warm and soft.

Brush any flour off the bottom before serving with lashings of strawberry jam and whipped cream.

These scones are prize-winning and the pinch of salt gives a good flavour. Use the best self raising flour, as it makes a huge difference, I like to use White Wings or Lion Brand. The home brands can sometimes be great but not consistently so, ►

and nothing is more frustrating than a scone that doesn't rise! Thickened cream now is different - Aldi still uses gelatine, others use a thickener which is vegan friendly. Either is fine to use.

As we think about our Christmas cooking, if you made marmalade, remember it makes a lovely glaze for your ham and a tablespoon added to your mixed fruit for Christmas cakes makes them

very moist. Plum puddings can be simmered in a slow cooker instead of on the stove - I love this method, as you are not constantly topping up the water.

Happy preserving and baking, as always if you would like to chat please ring me,

Sally

Pending Split?

◆ Richard Gijsbers

The comedian Emo Philips tells a story that he says was once voted the 44th funniest joke in the world. He says it could have been voted number one, but...it just wasn't funny enough for that.

Philips says, Once I saw this guy on a bridge about to jump.

I said, *"Don't do it!"* He said, *"But nobody loves me."*

I said, *"God loves you. Do you believe in God?"* He said, *"Yes."*

I said, *"Are you a Christian or a Jew?"* He said, *"A Christian."*

I said, *"Me, too! Protestant or Catholic?"* He said, *"Protestant."*

I said, *"Me, too! What denomination?"* He said, *"Baptist."*

I said, *"Me, too! Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?"* He said, *"Northern Baptist."*

I said, *"Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?"* He said, *"Northern Conservative Baptist."*

I said, *"Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region or Northern Conservative Baptist Eastern Region?"* He said, *"Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region."*

I said, *"Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879 or Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?"* He said, *"Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912."*

I said, *"Die, heretic scum!"* and pushed him off the bridge."

It looks as if the Anglican church is about to split, the recent election of Dame Sarah Mullally as Archbishop of Canterbury being the last

straw for some. So, we can expect jokes to emerge soon about "GAFCON Anglicans" vs "Continuing Canterbury Anglicans" (or whatever the parties will be called) .

The church has been arguing and splitting for 2,000 years or so, ever since Paul and Barnabas's stoush in Acts 15: 39 and the first Council of Jerusalem (also in Acts 15—see Galatians 1 for Paul's opening salvo on that one, and James's letter where he talks about "faith and works". You can almost feel the undercurrent there!).

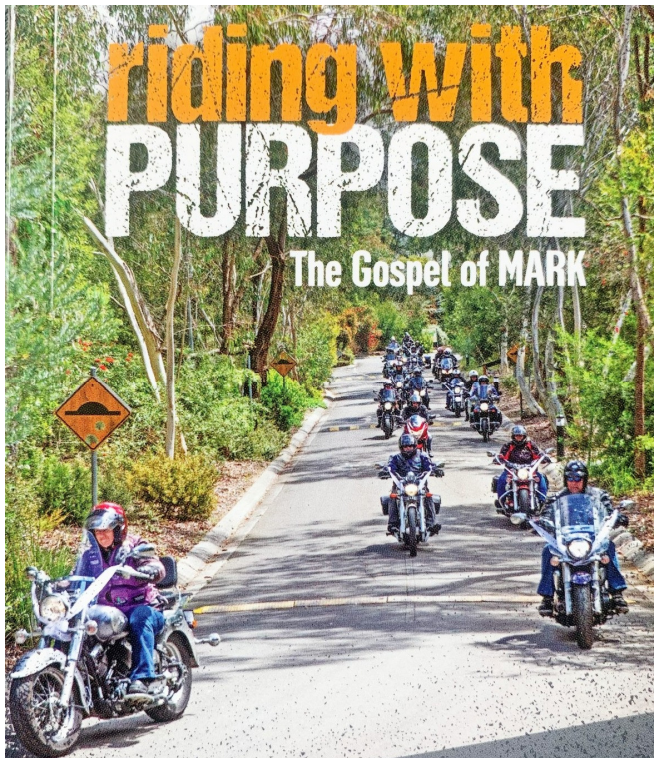
From where I sit, this latest tiff is about the way we read and apply Scripture in church life, with issues like gay marriage, the role and place of women in leadership, living with nature and abortion being some of the touchstones. There's plenty of room here to fight about and to hurt each other.

Tragically, sometimes the pain cannot be contained within the one communion and splitting will be better than maintaining an unhappy unity, however far from the ideal that might take us. For each of us, we will be challenged as to how we respond. Whose side will we be on? Will we continue to see ourselves as Anglicans? How will we understand that word? Will we continue to worship with some of our brothers and sisters, or will we be forced to separate? And so on.

We have painful times ahead but, regardless, our citizenship will continue to be in heaven (Philippians 3:20) whichever route we take. No matter how important these issues are to us now, can we please treat each other as fellow children of Christ and not as "heretic scum"? And can we pray for Bishop Richard and our Parish clergy as they work to lead us through these times.

Christian Motorcyclist Society (CMA)

◆ Glen Mercer



“Welcome to Phillip Island, the home of hypothermia!” These are the words immortalised with his usual London Cockney sense of humour and cheeky grin of the late, great, twice world Champion motorcycle Grand Prix rider Barry Sheene. At this point in time he had retired from racing and had become a world-renowned commentator for the motorcycles Grand Prix racing circus. Far from putting people off coming to the Island, his humour and passion for motorcycle racing further encouraged enthusiasts from all over the world to visit and explore the sites and sounds of this wonderful Island in God’s “tov meod” (Hebrew ‘very good’ Gen 1: 31) creation.

Well, another MotoGP week has come and gone. Apparently there were more than 95,000 visitors to the Island and once again volunteers from St Philip’s served memorable breakfasts and Christian hospitality to many motorcyclist visiting from all over Australia and indeed the world.

Some of our visitors are members of the

Christian Motorcyclist Association (CMA). They came not only for the MotoGP but also for the CMA National run.

The CMA was founded by Pastor Herb Shreve in Hatfield Arkansas, USA in 1974.

It became established as an Association in 1975. The first chapter of CMA Australia was formed in 1979 to encourage riders in their God-given ministries.

Their motto is “*Unity in Diversity*”.

The Christian Motorcyclist Association is not ‘a Club,’ it is a not for profit missionary orientated motorcycle riders group, serving God by primarily reaching out to non-Christian motorcyclists.

This distinguishes CMA from other bikie clubs that often associate because of brand loyalty or riding style.

CMA’s ministry team program is designed to: “make ministers of their members”. Though still recognising the importance of ordained ministers in their leadership role within the established church, it breaks from the traditional difference between clergy and laity by calling on all of its members to be adopted into the royal priesthood and serve the Lord as declared in 1 Peter 2:9

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Groups of CMA members ride all over the country attending various motorcycle functions such as the recent MotoGP and Superbikes, motorcycle rallies and the up and coming annual Phillip Island Christmas Toy Run from Caldermeade Farm to Cowes on 7 December.

Part of their witness at these events is the distribution of a little booklet called:

Riding with Purpose: the Gospel of Mark

Apart from containing the Gospel of Mark it also has a few very interesting and moving testimonies and words of encouragement of bikers from all over Australia. ►

The CMA will also often try to co-ordinate with churches—events are known as “Church Raids”. This is when a group of CMA members, with permission from whatever church it is, roll up on their bikes and become involved in the service. Generally there will be a testimony, special prayers and perhaps even a sermon.

The type of people who join the CMA are extremely diverse, Doctors and nurses, cricketers and footballers, artist and musicians, scientists and teachers, blue collar and white collar workers, CEOs and unemployed, Pastors and laity. All are welcome and all have two great things in common. The love of riding their motorcycles, but more so they love God with all their hearts, minds and souls and strive to love their neighbour as themselves.

Allow me to close with this CMA prayer.

As we gather from all points of the compass, we ask for Your divine protection over each rider. Guide our paths, keep us safe from harm, and bless our journey with your presence.



Grant us wisdom and direction as we ride, that we may honour You in all that we do. Fill our hearts with Your love and compassion, that we share Your light with everyone we meet along the way. Strengthen our bonds of fellowship and let our rides be a testament to Your grace and Mercy. Amen



Community Bank Appreciated

◆ Glenys Gijbers

On Wednesday 10 September, James Millward and I had the privilege of attending a presentation evening for the recipients of the 2025 Bendigo Bank Community Grants at the Dalyston sports complex. We were impressed with the range of organisations present, which included surf life saving and bowls clubs, fire brigades, community groups and networks.

The bank presented cheques totalling over \$190,000 and it was easy to see how the grants made very positive contributions in the community.

For us, the \$25,000 has made a huge difference and has meant that we were able to go forward positively to upgrade the Parish Hall (see photo on page.18). Thank you Bendigo Bank for your support for all the groups present.

Local Kids to Learn the Real Meaning of Christmas

◆ Glenys Gijbers

Once again we are planning an installation in the church grounds to tell the Christmas story. So many children and their families know so little about the story of the Christ Child and the impact He has had since His birth. The installation aims to tell the story and also bring a smile to people's faces. Back in 2021 the '*Bethlehem Spoonville*' got things started and this was a presentation which was very relevant in Covid times. We have kept some of those elements and have built on that in the last couple of years. Last year the fresh tree looked a bit sad as it got closer to Christmas so this year we are building a special tree made from recycled wood (the wood from the back fence which has just been replaced!) and again children will be invited to add decorations to the tree. Parishioners are invited to add their own decorations as well. ☐



Pictured above is a couple who have worked tirelessly over the decades in order to provide our parish with delightful breakfasts and dinners. Finally, they got the chance to be on the receiving end of such fabulous hospitality.

Bon Appetite Pauleen & Ralph!

Circ 2002, Three Margarets, a Dean and a Locum



Above from left: Long time member of St Philip's, Synod rep and Parish secretary, Margaret Hancock; Margaret Richardson, wife of Emeritus Dean of Melbourne David Richardson; the then Locum, the Rev'd Gerald Wall with his wife Margaret. Photo courtesy Ralph Leditschke.

New Growth from BCSC



Having given the sapling the best start possible, Richard adds a brief prayer to the fertilizer.

◆ Glenys Gijbers (Chair of Parish Hall comm)

The St Philip's church grounds in Cowes is a community asset which was in need of revegetation. This was due to a number of trees being removed and pruned, and shrubs dying and in need of attention. We were keen to enhance the property in keeping with our location central to the town and across from Berninnet. The church grounds are used for many community activities and have become a 'town square' with people meeting there and using the picnic tables.



We applied for a *Community Quick Response Grant* from the Bass Coast Shire Council for plants, tree guards and fertiliser and were successful in receiving a grant for \$550.

The trees and shrubs have now been planted and we are most interested to see that already we have good growth and we look forward to seeing how they all progress in the coming months.

Thanks to the Bass Coast Council for the provision



of the grant and also to everyone who has been involved in weeding, pruning, planting and making tree guards - your work is very much appreciated!

All photos G Gijbers

CHRISTMAS HAMPER DONATIONS

- ❖ Puddings
- ❖ Fruit cakes
- ❖ Mince pies & Tarts
- ❖ UHT Custard
- ❖ Tin ham
- ❖ Nuts
- ❖ Shortbread & Gingerbread
- ❖ Chocolates & Lollies
- ❖ Christmas decorations
- ❖ Bons Bons

*** Gluten free options appreciated.



Support local households in need by donating Christmas themed items to PICAL pantry.

They will then be included in special Christmas hampers and distributed in December. Thank you for your support.

Team BPI Does it Again!



Photo: A Hicks



Photo: E Norfolk



Photo: M Gould



Photo: T Bell



Photo: R Hanlon



Photo: M Hanlon

Doesn't She Scrub Up Well!



Photo: G Gijsbers

Above is an attempt to convey just how impressive the refurbished hall is. But while a picture may well be worth a thousand words, there is just no substitute for going and having a sticky-beak yourself.

Book Review

◆ Richard Prideaux

Review of Greg Sheridan:

*How Christians Can Succeed Today:
Reclaiming the Genius of the Early Church*,
p/b, Allen & Unwin, 2025.



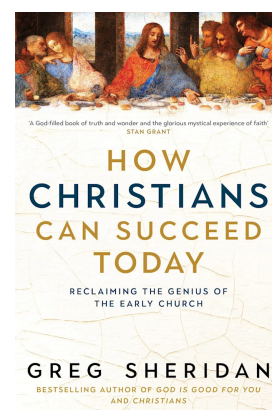
Greg Sheridan, well known Australian journalist and much published author, has produced a book full of encouragement. Especially perhaps for those thinking that the task of being a Christian is getting too tough. Sheridan has provided us with an outstanding account of early church history, alongside an equally enticing account of the lives of seven impressive contemporary Christian believers and their story of coming to faith.

In the first section Sheridan focuses on the impact of the coming of Jesus and his ministry with the apostles. Then follows the exceptional leadership of St Paul following his encounter with the risen Christ, resulting in his transformative missions leading eventually to Europe. A section on plagues and persecutions helps the reader to understand the heavy weather the earliest Christians had to handle whilst still making a transforming impact on Roman society. Another helpful chapter on slavery, money, and children is followed by an excellent treatment of

Augustine's impact, whom Sheridan calls the first and greatest modern!

The second section takes us to our current experience as Christians, with challenging stories of contemporary Christians who have made an impact for good on many lives and in many cases continue to do so. Many of these folk are well known, others less so. They include Leila and Danny Abdallah, Jess Echeverry, Robert Barron, Mark Varughese, Rosie Drum, Jim Baden, Andrew Mathieson, Dr Laurel Moffatt, Marilyn Robinson, Mike Pence, Niall Ferguson, Dallas Jenkins, to name a few!

A useful final chapter asks us to consider "What is to be done today?" In spite of the substantial impact of the stories in the previous section, there is still nothing easy in being a Christian in Australia today. I think the best way to answer this challenge is to read Greg Sheridan's book from the start! It has never been easy to be a witness to Jesus, but there is much in this account to encourage and enthuse us. I warmly commend *How Christians Can Succeed Today*!



Parish Dates: 11 November 2025 –

31 January 2026 November

11 Nov 10.30	Remembrance Day Services	Cowes, San Remo, Grantville
20 Thu 12 pm	Guild	Emmaus Room
20 Thu	NO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER	
23 Sun	Christ the King	
29th - 6th December	Red Frogs in Parish Hall	
30 Sun	1st Sunday in Advent	Lectionary Year A
30 Sun 9.45	Parish AGM	Cowes 30 Sun
10.30	Joint Parish Service	Cowes
30 Sun 12 pm	lunch	Cowes
30 Sun	No service at Bass or San Remo	

December 2025

7 Sun	Annual Meeting	St Philip's
7 Sun	Annual Meeting	St Paul's
10 Wed 6 pm	Parish Christmas dinner	Parish Hall
13 Sat 9 am	Craft Market	Cowes
13 Sat 9 am	Sausage sizzle	Cowes
13 Sat 9 am	Devonshire Teas	Cowes
14 Sun	Annual Meeting	St Augustine's
18 Thu 12 pm	St Philip's Guild	Emmaus Room
18 Thu	NO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER	
24 Wed	CHRISTMAS EVE	
25 Thu	CHRISTMAS DAY	PH
26 Fri	Boxing Day	PH
28 Sun	1st after Christmas	

January 2026

1 Thu	New Year's Day	PH
4 Sun	Epiphany Sunday or 2nd after Christmas	
6 Tue	Epiphany	
10 Sat 9 am	Craft Market,	Cowes
10 Sat 9 am	Sausage sizzle	Cowes
10 Sat 9 am	Devonshire Teas	Cowes
11 Sun	First Sunday after Epiphany	
11 Sun	Baptism of Christ	
15 Thu 12 pm	St Philip's Guild	Emmaus Room
15 Thu 7 pm	Parish Council	Emmaus Room

Parish AGM and Church Annual Meetings

The **Parish AGM** will be held on Sunday 30 November at 9.45 am before a combined Parish Holy Communion service held at 10.30 am in St Philip's Church, Cowes. The quorum is 10 electors.

Annual Reports to be sent to James Millward by Sunday 16 November for inclusion in a booklet to be handed out at services on Sunday 23 November:

- Rector Rev'd Ruth Hanlon
- Finance Richard Gijbsers
- Parish Council Sandy Ridge
- St Philip's Ann Prideaux
- Parish Hall Glenys Gijbsers
- Chat n Chew Richard Prideaux
- Safe Ministry James Millward
- St Philip's Guild Mary Zulian
- Winter Shelter Annie Taylor
- Emergency Food relief Erena Norfolk
- Home Groups report Ruth/James
 - * Home Group, Cowes Ann Prideaux
 - * Home Group, Cowes James & Helen Millward
 - * Home Group, Cowes Pam & David Bishop
 - * Home Group, Bass Sandy Ridge
 - * Home Group, San Remo Jenny Dawson
- St Augustine's Hugh Dixon
- Mary Talbot Room Ida Hyslop
- St Paul's Sandy Ridge
- Church House, Bass Sandy Ridge

Elections / Appointments

- Two (2) Deanery representatives
- and 2 alternates
- Safe Ministry Officer
- TGA Parish Contact
- Mission Secretary

*Nominations to be given to the Parish Secretary by **Sunday 16 November***

Church Annual Meetings

St Augustine's will be held after the service on Sunday 14 December

St Paul's and St Philip's will be held after Sunday services on 7 December.

Reports: Wardens

Elections /Appointments at each Church:

The quorum is 6 electors

3 Wardens (1 appointed by the Rector)

- 2 Parish Councillors
(1 appointed by the Rector)
- OH&S Officer

Nominations to be given to the Parish Secretary by the Sunday before the meeting.

(Continued on back cover)

Parish AGM (Continued from P19)

Notes:

- As the Principal Church, St Philip's Wardens and Councillors may all sit on Parish Council
- People can be both Wardens and Parish Councillors
- At least one Parish Councillor from each centre must be a warden
- Synod Representatives, may sit on Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings 2025–26

There will be no Parish Council meetings in November or December 2025.

The first meeting after the AGM will be held on Thursday 15 January 2026 at 7 pm in the Emmaus Room at Cowes.

The quorum is a majority of the members.

Elections / Appointments

- Parish Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Parish Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Hall Manager

Church Service Times

ST PHILIP'S

Sunday **9.30 am:**

Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month:

Prayer, Praise and Proclamation.

All other Sundays:

Holy Communion.

Thursday **10 am:**

Holy Communion

ST PAUL'S

Sunday **11.30 am:**

Holy Communion

ST AUGUSTINE'S 11 am:

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month:

Family Service

2nd & 4th Sunday of month:

Holy Communion

5th Sunday of month:

TBA

Service of the Word online

www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org

MTR Op Shop St Augustine's

Open 10 am – 1.30 pm

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

The Parish Paper

Editor: Les Ridge

0439 332 939

lesliejr1201@gmail.com

Published quarterly during February, May, August and November

Printed by Corinella & District Community Centre

The Parish Paper is the official magazine of the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland Parish of Bass-Phillip Island.

Rector: Rev'd Ruth Hanlon

Phone: 0401 637 071

Post: PO Box 324 Cowes 3922

Web:

www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org

Office:

bpi.office@gippslandanglicans.org.au

Venue Hire:

parishhallcomplex@gmail.com

Fund raising via IGA

If you shop at the Cowes IGA, make sure you quote our church shopper number: **1331**

If San Remo is where you shop, please ask for a loyalty card and nominate St Augustine's, San Remo.

NB: Any information of a personal nature in this publication shall be considered private and confidential for the use of this parish only and is not to be used for any other purpose.

Address Label