

# St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

October 2021



Hello my dear friends,

I do hope that this Newsletter finds you all well and in good spirits.

By now we are all getting used to the idea that Autumn is upon us. Those balmy days of Summer have departed. The trees and hedgerows are producing berries ready for the Winter season. The nights are drawing in, and all around the parish, people are getting ready for Winter.

For so many people, Autumn is a favourite time of year. There seems to be a pervading sense of cosiness surrounding Autumn. That sense of pulling closer to those near and dear to us. Nice sunny days, but with a hint of a nip in the air. Enjoying long walks in the countryside on those often nice, sunny, autumnal days. All those things that can make us feel a sense of relaxation.

I often think that nature pulls out a few stops for us as well. Especially with the colours of the leaves as they turn crimson and gold before falling foul to the first Autumn storms.

Autumn truly is a wonderful time of year. But in thinking about Autumn I have been looking at how we do prepare for the coming season of Winter. Both Spring and Autumn are what I often think, seasons of preparation. Preparing for Summer and Winter, of course.

For many people, Summer is the highlight of the year. Its bright sunny days can be filled with joy and happiness. Whereas Winter can bring about a sense of darkness and foreboding. These senses remind me of life, and how we can prepare for the differing emotions that life brings us.

How can we prepare for those happier times of our lives so that we truly appreciate them? How too, can we prepare for those darker times in our life when we might feel isolated and somewhat withdrawn?

What coping mechanisms do we use that help us see through the darker times in our life?

I am a natural optimist which always helps when times are difficult, but I am well aware that we have as many pessimists as we do optimists. Such is the beauty of people, because we are all so very different!

And each one of us will have different ways of managing the changing seasons in life. This is so important, I believe. How we use those strategies to cope with the changes in our life means that we can be better prepared when they come along.

How we focus upon those happier elements of life, when we face a period of difficulty, can help us ride the storms of life a little easier. Having an assurance that brighter days are ahead might help us to manage a little easier, the challenges that life brings us. Looking forward with anticipation to the brighter times, the cheerful sunny days of Summer, so to speak, certainly helps me deal with the rigours of the Winter and those darker times in my life.

As we draw deeper into Autumn, my prayer for us all is that we will be as prepared as we can be for the days of Winter. Both the days of our seasonal Winter and the wintry days in our life.

With every blessing this Autumn, *Revd Steve xxxx*



## Readings

Just to let you know that for the foreseeable future, we won't be including the monthly Readings in the St Olave's News.

Instead, the new, combined Parish News will be handed out at each service - this will include the Readings, the prayers for that service and any diary dates for everyone, both for the coming week and for advance notice.

*Thank you....*

## Contact Us...

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**Churchwardens:**

**Liz Taylor - 840575**

**Harriet Robinson - 721766**



## In Your Prayers...

Almighty and merciful God,  
Whose Son became a refugee with no place  
to call his own,

Look with mercy on those who today are  
fleeing from danger, who are homeless and  
hungry.

Bless and care for those who work to bring  
them relief.

Inspire compassion in  
all our hearts, and  
guide the nations of the  
world towards justice  
and peace.

*Amen*

Liz Taylor  
(Churchwarden)



## The Revd Emma Cooksey

Both of your Church-  
wardens were present  
at St John's Church  
for the Licensing  
Service for Emma  
Cooksey which was  
taken by our Archdea-  
con and Team Rector,  
The Venerable Peter  
Leonard.



It was a very special service, with the St John's choir  
singing together for the first time since the Covid lock-  
downs. Their singing of a piece by John Rutter was espe-  
cially beautiful.

All of Emma's family were there, and her son, Harry, read  
the lesson. Emma has 'special responsibility' for St John's  
Church and for families and young people.

We will be welcoming her to St Olave's on Sunday Sep-  
tember 26th to take our Holy Communion service.

We were made very welcome in the church hall after the  
service, and it was lovely to meet the whole Ministry Team  
and churchwardens of all the other churches in the com-  
bined parish, over coffee, tea and cakes.

Emma's contact details, when available, will be found in  
the new 'pew sheets' for the whole parish which are hand-  
ed out with the hymn books at our services.

*Harriet Robinson (Churchwarden)*

## Harvest Supper & Harvest Festival Service

***All is safely gathered in!!!***

The church looked its beautiful best, thanks to all the flower-  
arrangers who had excelled themselves with autumnal har-  
vest-themed window arrangements.

The altar, thanks to Leonie and Jill, had a seasonal arrange-  
ment of pumpkins, squashes, and apples with sunflowers in  
the vases, and all the tables were laid with embroidered cloths  
and posies of flowers.

Huge trays of cheese and pork pies, and baskets of bread  
were on the table, so everyone tucked in to their Ploughman's Supper after Rev'd Steve had said Grace.

A big thank you to Felicity for her Harvest Quiz, and to Ann who sold a record number of raffle tickets before  
the delicious puddings appeared - a choice of Chocolate Torte, Cheesecake or Trifle.

A final thank to everyone from Steve - who had a whale of a time auctioning off bags of rolls and cheese and  
drawing the raffle - concluded the evening.

After expenses, cheques of £202.50 each were sent to R.A.B.I and to the Foodbank, and the raffle proceeds  
for the church amounted to £179.

We are so grateful to all who gave puddings and other food for our supper and to all who moved chairs, laid  
up, cleared up, washed up and put the church to rights in readiness for Sunday's service - and laundered all  
the table cloths too.

The next morning, generous bags of supplies for the Foodbank were carried up to the altar during the Harvest  
Thanksgiving Service - Liz took a whole car load of donations to the Cowes warehouse on our behalf - and  
of course, we all sang, 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter' to end our Harvest celebration.

Hopefully, in some small way, we have been able to help those who have so little, and we have given thanks  
for God's bounty to us at harvest time. *Harriet Robinson*



## Autumn Produce Sale

How excited we all were to be able to hold this event again after all last year's restrictions.

Thanks to Roy and Joan Early, there were tables by the church porch laden with flowers, vegetables, plants and fruit. A real Harvest bounty.

Inside the church, St Olave's Coffee Shop was doing a roaring trade with hot drinks and mouth watering homemade cakes.

A bric-a-brac stall and a cake stall were busy too, as was the special Christmas Corner with beautiful Christmas decorations that Liz had made during lockdown. She even managed to sell a Christmas Kissing Ball to the Archdeacon. My goodness, what a sales lady!!!

The raffle was its usual success and the final total for the church was £611.75 - very much needed as last year there was almost no money coming in for the basic running of the church, and we now have the repair bill for the roof too.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped so brilliantly.

Harriet Robinson



## Coming Events & Services

Some of our Church Services to remind you to put in your diary, are-

**Sunday October 17th at 6.30pm**

We welcome Cantus Vesperi to the church for Choral Evensong. Please join us for this very special service.

**Sunday October 31st at 11am**

All Saints' Day Service.

**Sunday November 14th at 10.55am**

Remembrance Day Service. *Please note the slightly earlier time so we are all assembled in time for the 11am two minutes' silence.*

### **Coffee Mornings**

Hosts for the re-started Coffee Mornings in Chillerton Village Hall are now able to give the proceeds to a charity of their choice.

On **Saturday October 2nd** Leonie and Michael Terry are hosting the coffee morning and are donating the proceeds to St Olave's Church, for the fund to repair the hole in the roof. Goodness, how vital this is, as the bill to repair the hole will be huge. Although we are of course looking to see if we are eligible for any grants to help out a bit, we don't want to have to ask you to bring your umbrellas inside the church, so do, please come for coffee and cake at the village hall to support the fund.



## A Future Fund-Raiser? We think NOT!!

We recently received an email from Ace Cultural Tours, who had planned a historically educational tour of the Island for about 20 adults, accompanied by Paul Atterbury, 'he of the brightly coloured striped jacket fame from Antiques Roadshow.'

Their itinerary included visiting many buildings of historical interest - Carisbrooke Castle, ancient manor houses and a few of the Island's oldest churches, and, as St O's possesses the beautiful Pre-Raphaelite-stained glass window, they wanted to visit us to learn more about its history.

Of course, we were delighted, but over time, what originated as a simple pop-in-for-half-an-hour visit, 'grew like Topsy' when we offered to provide tea and cakes - an impossible task without great help from Jill Hawkes and Rosemary Shirlaw - but a 'trifle' more alarming, was that they then asked if the Churchwardens would be happy to provide a guided talk on St O's history and its artefacts.

We found the idea of giving a talk in front of Paul Atterbury somewhat daunting to say the least, but to his credit, if we weren't 100% date or history accurate, he graciously kept silent!!! Thank goodness Paul's knowledge of the Pre-Raphaelite window was considerably greater than ours, and we were extremely relieved to be able to let him take over.

The group have made a very generous donation towards church funds, and also took great advantage of the opportunity to buy Isle of Wight Honey, kindly donated for church funds, by Michael and Leonie Terry.

Following their visit, we received an email thanking us for making them so welcome, and adding how all concerned had commented that they rarely, if ever, visited a church which has the warmth, laughter and the team-work that Gatcombe possesses.

Having been a success, unfortunately it gave Scrooge (our Treasurer) the idea that this might become a new fund-raising idea!

'Think on' we said!!!! Liz and Harriet

