

# St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

April 2022



## "There's no such thing as a free lunch."

'Nothing is free in this world' - an expression that my kind, gentle, but often cynical, Father might say when I felt I had 'bagged a bargain' - and it is something I do try to bear in mind when shopping, which can be particularly difficult to remember as we are continuously bombard with multi-coloured discount offers and the so called 'free gifts.'

Supermarkets in particular, display eye-catching posters and bargain bins that easily trick us into believing we are able to 'snaffle a bargain', something for 'next to nothing', etc. Thank goodness the 'buy one, get one free', (bogofs) have disappeared, and a good thing too, I hear you cry, as how often did we realise, too late, that we did not need the extra anyway? Don't mention this to my fellow Churchwarden, Harriet, but..... currently I see, we are being tempted to buy Easter Eggs - buy two, get two free - very handy of course if you happen to have a chocoholic in the family!

Our profit-driven world may not provide us with genuine free gifts or bargains, but do we ever stop to think of the many 'free' gifts that God has bestowed on us? (Peter 4:10) ..."as each of us has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of God's grace." Each one of us has the ability to provide a free gift for someone - with no hidden catch or cost.

**The Gift of Listening.** *I mean really listening. Not interrupting or sitting there planning your response. Truly listen and show interest.*

**The Gift of Laughter:** *Share funny stories and jokes - it conveys how much you are enjoying someone's company.*

**The Gift of a Hand Written Note:** *Just a simple line can make all the difference, 'thank you for your help' etc. The personal touch shows you care.*

**The Gift of a Favour:** *Go out of your way to do something kind for someone. Kindness costs nothing.*

**The Gift of Silence:** *Be aware and be sensitive and give people space. Often there are times when it is best to 'back off' and leave someone alone.*

**The Gift of a Compliment:** *Simple and Sincere - "you look lovely" ... "you did a super job"!*

**The Gift of a Smile:** *"A smile costs nothing, but gives so much. It enriches those who receive, without making poor those who give." - (from John Bisner poem)*

**Part of God's many gifts to us..... Genesis 1: Light, atmosphere, land, water, plant life, sun, moon and the stars; the birds of the air and the fish of the seas, and finally, every land animal and the crown of His creation - human life!**

(John 3:16) "OF ALL THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN TO MANKIND, NONE IS GREATER THAN THE GIFT OF HIS SON."

There are so many 'free gifts' to thank God for; the ones we are aware of, and those we cannot bring to mind. And when we pray, pray not because we need something, but because we have so many gifts to thank God for.

Liz Taylor (Churchwarden)



## In Your Prayers...

When I realised it was my turn to write the In Your Prayers for the news sheet this month, I thought of all the troubles that the world is going through at the moment and how our prayers are all asking God for something - peace, help, health etc. but are we remembering to thank God for all our blessings as well?

This is a prayer from my childhood and is called *The General Thanksgiving* from the old service book. Although old fashioned, it has great resonance today, especially for us here on the Isle of Wight, safely worshipping at St Olave's with all our comforts and blessings. I especially love the phrase 'for the means of grace and for the hope of glory' which echoes our much loved and missed, Elizabeth who always used the phrase at the funerals she took, 'May they rest in peace and rise in glory.'



*ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.*

Harriet Robinson (Churchwarden)



The Marriage of  
**Sarah Guy and Peter Thomas**  
was held on  
**Saturday March 5th 2022**  
at St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

### **St Olave's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

for the election of parochial  
representatives will be held on  
**Sunday 1st May at 12 noon**  
in the church.

Further information is available on the church  
porch notice board.

### April Services at St Olave's Church

Sunday 3 April	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 April		No Service
Thursday 14 April	6pm 7pm	Lent Meal Maundy Thursday Service
Sunday 17 April	5.30am 11am	Dawn Service Holy Communion
Sunday 24 April	11am	Holy Communion

### Easter Services - Details

#### **Sunday April 10th - Palm Sunday - NO SERVICE AT ST OLAVE'S**

There will be a procession, with a live donkey, at 9.30am from the Castle, followed by Holy Communion at 10.30am at St Mary's, Carisbrooke

#### **Thursday April 14th - Maundy Thursday at 6pm**

Lent meal of soup and bread at St Olave's, followed by a 7pm Service

#### **Sunday April 17th Easter Day**

A Dawn Service at St Olave's at 5.30am, and later, Holy Communion at 11am



## A Happy Mothering Sunday

How pretty the churchyard looked, with its abundance of primroses, to welcome people to St Olave's Mothering Sunday Service, especially with the sun shining - a real Spring day.

It was good to have Revd. Emma Cooksey, with her sunny nature, lead the service and for us to enjoy her talk as it linked several threads from the horrors of Ukraine, the wisdom of Simeon to Mary as he blessed Jesus (from Luke's Gospel), to encouraging everyone's role in using the qualities of Mothering - patience, and loving and nurturing each other - especially those in need.



A comfortable number attended the service, including some mothers and their daughters, and each received a posy of blessed flowers, echoing the tradition of times when maids-in-service were allowed to return to their home for that special day to celebrate Mothering Sunday.

Hilary Jones

## One Hello...and Two Goodbyes...

### ***Firstly, the Goodbyes...***

A beautiful service was held at The Minster for the combined Parish of Newport and Carisbrooke with Gatcombe to say farewell and thank you to The Venerable Peter Leonard who was leaving the church to go to a new job as Chief Executive of a charity.

The combined choirs of The Minster, St Mary's and St John's made this a very special service, and it was only sad that the whole parish was worshipping and singing together to say a sad goodbye. He was not only our Archdeacon but our Team Rector too. His sermons were very special and always made you think. I shall long remember the 'Feisty Mary who said yes' sermon and of course, the sermon when he had a knitted trifle on the edge of the pulpit!!!



Peter was presented with a fountain pen (he always uses a pen and not a Biro) and a cheque from the whole parish. We shall miss him.

### ***Our second Goodbye...***

Hannah Barraclough, who been our parish curate for the past few years, is leaving to continue her training and ministry at Portsmouth Cathedral.

We wish her well. Our thoughts and prayers go with her.



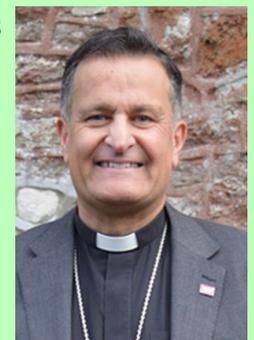
### ***And now... a Hello...***

A service was held in St Mary's, Cowes to welcome the new Bishop of Portsmouth. This service was meant to be in The Minster but dust and dirt from all the building works made it impossible, so, at short notice, St Mary's stepped in. Sadly there was no choir, but representatives of many of the Island churches were there; clergy, lay readers, churchwardens, congregation and civic leaders too.

A moving service, with Bishop Jonathan preaching, was followed by refreshments. You will be pleased to hear that the vicar and churchwardens of St Olave's not only attended, but Liz and I dashed around acting as waitresses serving refreshments to help the team from St Mary's!

Hopefully we can welcome Bishop Jonathan to St Olave's in the near future.

Harriet Robinson (Churchwarden)





The shocking and upsetting war in Ukraine is on all of our minds, and the parish of Chillerton and Gatcombe has, as always, stepped up to help out.

The village hall became a designated drop-off point for all the many clothes, blankets, medicine and equipment that we were told were greatly needed; the Gallybagger and the church also became drop-off points when it became obvious that yet more people wished to donate.

The first shipment has now left these shores. Many of us donated goods and money to help the refugees and those who remain trapped in Ukraine suffering from shelling, hunger and injury. We must hold them in our prayers.

We should also pray for the Russian people and the many young soldiers who, as untrained conscripts, are blindly following the orders of their President. We must pray for him too, pray that he will realise what unnecessary cruelty and pain he has, and is inflicting on others.

*Harriet Robinson (Churchwarden)*

## Fund-Raising Events for 2022

**Saturday 23rd April - 10am to 12.30pm**

Spring Market & Coffee Morning

St Olave's Coffee Shop will be open for hot drinks and homemade cakes, and there will be a number of Market Stalls for some Spring shopping.

**Saturday 18th June**

Pudding Party & Organ Recital  
at St Olave's at 7pm

Tickets (at £15 each) are already on sale and selling well.

Organ recital from Gerard Brooks MA FRCO Hon ARAM and a pudding supper.

Tickets from: Liz Taylor or Harriet (contact details in **Contact Us** section)

**Saturday 6th August**

Afternoon Tea - Ritz-style

**Saturday 17th September**

Autumn Produce Sale & Coffee Morning

**Saturday 1st October**

Harvest Supper

**Saturday 12th November**

Christmas Market



## Contact Us...

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