

St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

April 2023



Forgiving...

Recently, while shopping in Newport, I came across a teenager, who was surrounded by a group of youths and being verbally attacked and abused. Cruel, spiteful and bitter angry words were being directed at the terrified young man, who had no option but to take the full force of this group's anger, unable, I imagine, through fear, to retaliate. I have no idea what instigated this verbal onslaught, and I only hope he managed to escape the situation unharmed.

I was thinking about it as I started to write my contribution to St O's Easter Newsletter, and it brought to mind how, as Jesus lay dying on the cross that fateful morning, He had been subjected to terrible verbal abuse from religious leaders, mocking and jeering soldiers and a stir-crazed crowd. "Come down from the cross if you are the Son of God," "He saved others but He can't save himself," "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." Bitter, sarcastic and cruel words.

What kind of people would mock a dying man and who would be so cruel as to sneer and deride a person who was enduring such suffering, pain and humiliation? Wasn't it enough for them that He was being crucified and shamed as a criminal?

But even in His agony, He did not retaliate. Jesus' desire was not for revenge, He did not bite back, shout meaningless words, or demand an apology. He left the judging to God.

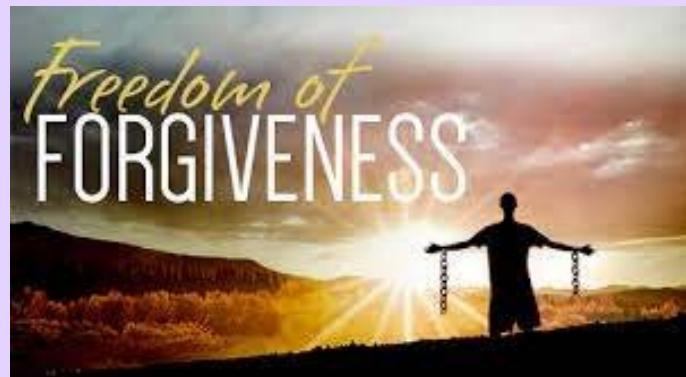
His concern was for the forgiveness of those who counted themselves among His enemies. He asked for forgiveness for the thieves, the soldiers who mocked Him and who drew lots for His clothes, and for the angry mob who had called for His crucifixion.

In response to the insults and abuse, Luke records His words, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

Sadly, in today's society, we appear to have reached a pinnacle of being easily offended by even the slightest wrong word. Forgiveness isn't given a second thought as we seek to achieve an air of righteousness or superiority.

What excuse do we have not to forgive those whom we feel have done us wrong? If we have suffered because of someone's cruel and spiteful words, we need to reflect on the words from Peter 2.23; "When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threat. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly."

Doesn't it make our grudges, anger and hard-done-by feelings suddenly seem pointless and futile?



Lord, forgive us when we allow anger and bitterness to cloud our judgement and teach us how to forgive those who would hurt or cause us harm.

Liz Taylor (Churchwarden)

Please join us at any, or all, of the Easter Services being held across the Parish - details are on Page 3.

In Your Prayers...

Dear God...

We seem to have had nothing but disaster and bad news this year. We pray that you hold us all in the palm of your hand with comfort and love to get us all through this difficult time.



Help us to support one another and to look on your beautiful Spring world around us, especially here on the Isle of Wight, with gratitude.

We are so lucky to be looking at Spring flowers and not at bomb craters and earthquake damage.

Thank you, Lord. Amen

Harriet Robinson (Churchwarden)

Love Your Graveyard Week!

Week Beginning Saturday 3rd June.....

We are registering for a count of the flora and fauna in our graveyard to be added to the National database and if anyone is good at identifying plant, trees and wildlife, we would be very glad of your help.

More details to follow about which day the count will take place on and how it will be organised.



Welcome!!

A very warm welcome to Sarah Chapman who is our temporary Team Rector.

She will be with us for about six months, to lend her experience and guidance to the Ministry Team and the whole benefice.

Sarah will be assisting with the advertising and selection of the permanent Team Rector.

She will be at the Palm Sunday Service at the Castle and St Marys next Sunday.

Her licensing will be at St John's Church on Tuesday April 4th at 7pm.

We very much look forward to seeing her St Olave's.



Mothering Sunday

Oh dear, we do miss not having many children attending St Olave's... but well done to Val's Grandson for coming along to Morning Worship and being so willing to hand out posies.

There were enough posies of camellias and daffodils, (created by Leonie and Hilary - thank you), to hand out to everyone present and to give to absent friends.

Mothering Sunday in the 21st century is an interesting concept with so many diverse families and 'Mothering' people, so well done to Revd Steve for concentrating on the Mother Church in his sermon and prayers.



Coffee Morning for the Scouts

The links with the 1st Newport Scouts The Old Guard go back a long way as was explained at the coffee morning by their chairman, Graham Drudge. The scout group is the only one of the original scout groups still meeting, and is therefore the oldest scout group in the world.

They used to hold their scout camp at Garstons and paraded with their scout band from the main road up to St Olave's church to lay up their scout flags when the flags were updated.

The flags hung in the church for many years but sadly, the damp, the moths and the bats nearly got the better of them.

The scout group has now had some extremely expensive restoration work done on the flags which have been cleaned, repaired and framed so they can be displayed in the scout museum.

St Olaves thought a coffee morning would raise some money as a contribution to the flag restoration and keep the link with the scout group alive.

Thanks to all of you who came and were very generous; we raised £213 which we have now sent to the scouts. We are looking forward to seeing the restored flags in their museum.



Contact Us

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Services for Easter & April

Sunday 2 April
Palm Sunday



Thursday 6 April
Maundy Thursday

Friday 7 April
Good Friday



Sunday 9 April
Easter Day

6am Dawn Service
11am Holy Communion

Please note - No service at St Olave's.

Short service at Carisbrooke Castle Chapel at 9.45am followed by procession with donkeys to St Mary's, Carisbrooke for a 10.30am Holy Communion Service with refreshments afterwards

A Lent Supper at St Olave's, followed by a 7pm Hand-Washing Service and Holy Communion.

Please let Liz or Harriet know if you will be attending the Soup Supper

Please note - No service at St Olave's.

There will be a service (An Hour At The Cross) at Newport Parish Centre at 2pm and a service (Olivet to Calvary) at St John's, Newport at 7pm



Sunday 16 April 6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 23 April 11am Holy Communion

Sunday 30 April

Please note - No service at St Olave's.

There will be a Joint Benefice of Holy Communion at 11am at The Parish Centre, Newport, while The Minster is closed for refurbishment.

Events for your Diary!!

Saturday 20th May 7pm in the church.... "Up The Garden Path." Gardener's Question Time with a panel of experts and a supper to raise funds for Christian Aid.



Saturday 3rd June St Olave's will be hosting Chillerton's Saturday Market and serving coffee, tea and fabulous cakes in the Village Hall from 10am to noon.

Saturday 19th August in the church at 3.30pm.....our 'world-famous "Ritz-Style Afternoon Tea."

Saturday 2nd September Autumn Market and Produce Sale in the church 10am - 12.30pm.

Saturday 7th October St Olave's will be hosting Chillerton's Saturday Market and serving coffee, tea and fabulous cakes in the Village Hall from 10am to noon.

This photograph was on our Easter card last year. It depicts a donkey and a Palm Cross for Palm Sunday, and Easter eggs and chicks which, although secular, remind us of the joy of Easter Day when the sadness of Lent is behind us and Jesus appeared to the disciples.

I realise that the Garden of Gethsemane and the garden at Jesus' tomb wasn't an English Spring garden, but the joy of our Spring flowers and blossom in this country illustrate to us, the happiness and joy of Easter Morning.

The snow drops, daffodils and primroses have been so welcome in our churchyard this year and have cheered us up in this rather cold and wet January, February and March.

The special tree, which Revd Steve planted for us by the porch for the late Queen's Green Canopy, is starting to shoot and soon there will be a drift of white blossom. Its common name is Snowy Mesphilus because of the small, snow-like and very pretty flowers.

In the last few days our fantastic card deliverers have been dropping St Olave's Easter card through your letter box to wish you and yours all happiness at this special time. There is a special message from Revd Steve inside and a reminder of the Easter services throughout the benefice.

