

# St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

June 2021



Hello friends,

I hope that this month's Newsletter finds you all well and in good spirits?

June marks another month with, hopefully, a further move away from the restrictions we have living with for so long now. Although I write this hesitantly because as I write this piece, there is a lot of concern with the new variant of Covid that originated in India. We can but hope that the vaccination programme and our good hygiene measures will suppress the advance of this variant and therefore save lives.

As a result of the last easing of restrictions in May, we were able to undertake weddings once more across our church network. And being an old fashioned romantic sort, I do love weddings. We get to truly celebrate love in all of its glory.

As your Vicar, it is for me one of the many privileges I have. Being able to celebrate love is such a special moment. And we can do that at all of the services we do. Weddings are clearly special moments when we can celebrate the love that exists between two people. A lighter moment in what can be a difficult world. But sharing and celebrating all that the couple bring to our lives isn't just confined to a wedding of course.

Because funerals too offer a moment where we can pause and reflect upon someone's life. We can celebrate all that they are and all that they have been in our lives. At the many funeral services I take, I give thanks for the bond of love that flows from God and connects us all. Both those in the world that we see and those who we physically see no more. Love provides a bond that is unbreakable. A rich thread that connects us all to the tapestry of life, a never ending story that is constantly being sown.

In Christening Services too, we can celebrate the miracle of children along with the rest of the church. Whether they are our children or grandchildren, nieces or nephews or friends. We can say thank you for all that they are and all that they bring and all that they will bring! Either as young children or if you are like me, A big Child!

At our weekly services we always offer thanks to God for the gift of love. The bond that brings us all together. And St Olave's Church has been the focus of love since the beginning of time it seems! How incredible is that? I find that incredibly humbling and exciting.

Especially when I imagine how those celebrations have altered over the years. And even now things have changed again. At all wedding services we are now able to list all of your parents on your wedding documents. Not just your Father's name and occupation. So that's something to be celebrated. Slowly things are changing for the better.

As your Vicar if you ever want to talk to me about love and how we celebrate it through our services, then please do get in touch with me. I'd be only too happy to talk to you about it. And I'd be happier still if we could help each other celebrate love in all of its beauty and glory.

May I wish you all a wonderful month of June, pleasant weather to bring a smile to our faces and the opportunity to make special memories that will last forever.

With all my love,

Revd Steve xxxx



## Services and Readings for June

Sunday 6th June	11am	Holy Communion	2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1 Mark 3.20-end
Sunday 13th June	11am	All-Age Worship	2 Corinthians 5.6-10, 14-17 Mark 4.26-34
Sunday 20th June	6.30pm	Evensong	2 Corinthians 6.1-13 Mark 4.35-41
Sunday 27th June	11am	Holy Communion	2 Corinthians 8.7-end Mark 5.21-end

*Covid precautions are still in place. Please ring Liz Taylor or Harriet Robinson if you would like to come to any of the services.*

### In Your Prayers... please pray...

... for the safe, planned progress out of the present Lockdown as we are able to mix in greater numbers;  
... for all those working in St Mary's, and all other hospitals;  
... for those suffering from Covid or other illnesses, and their families;  
... for safe visits to care-home residents;  
... for all key workers and those on the frontline, delivering services;  
... for the appointment of a new Bishop of Portsmouth;  
... for all places in the world where there is conflict and danger, especially in Jerusalem and Gaza. *Elizabeth Peace*



### Annual Vestry & Annual Parochial Church Meetings

The Annual Vestry Meeting (to elect the churchwardens) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held following the service on Sunday June 6th.

This year these meetings will be very short so Sunday lunch should not be delayed!

*Elizabeth Peace*  
PCC Hon. Sec.

### Confused??!!

The new Parish of Newport and Carisbrooke with Gatcombe came into being on June 2nd 2020. I would like to clarify Gatcombe's position in the new parish. When the new parish was being planned there was a possibility that an IW Central Rural Parish might be created, and that Gatcombe would be part of it. This is now on the back-burner, so Gatcombe has been put 'in plurality' with the new Newport Parish, as we have been with Carisbrooke for almost ten years.

At the last meeting of the Parochial Church Council on April 22nd 2021, the PCC voted to begin the rather complicated procedure to officially become part of the Parish of Newport and Carisbrooke with Gatcombe. This would mean 'with' being changed to 'and' in the rather long parish title. Hopefully a shorter name will be found soon!

The Ministry Team of the new parish is led by the Team Rector Ven. Peter Leonard. This is a half-time post. For the other 50% of his time, Peter is Archdeacon of the IW. There will be three Team Vicars who will be responsible for pastoral care, weddings, funerals, baptisms etc in The Minster, St John's and St Mary's, Carisbrooke with St Olave's, along with their other responsibilities in the parish.

We were delighted to welcome Revd Steve Sutcliffe as 'our' Team Vicar back in April - Gatcombe and Carisbrooke are under his special care.

Revd. Emma Cooksley has been appointed and will join the team in September. She will have responsibility for St John's in addition to children, families, schools and youth work.

The third Team Vicar, when appointed, will be responsible for The Minster along with other duties.

The Ministry Team is completed by Curate Revd Hannah Barraclough, who will be ordained priest next month, and the Lay Ministers (Readers) Richard Smout, Ethne Whitlock and Steve Brett-Hill.

I hope this explains our parish situation, which is a new for us all.

Please pray for our new parish that we may continue to work together in unity to further God's Kingdom.

*Elizabeth Peace*



## The Scouts and St Olave's.

I decided it was about time I became 'Miss Marple' and tracked down the two Scouting 'Standards' that originally hung at the back of the church and find where they were and why they had never been returned to us, having originally been 'borrowed' in order to be cleaned and renovated.

Following several phone calls to various Scout Leaders, a gentleman kindly put me in touch with the Executive Chairperson of the 1st Newport Scout Group, Graham Drudge, who kindly sent me an explanation as to how and why the Scout 'Standards' came to be laid-up at St Olave's Church in the first place.

The 1st Newport Isle of Wight Scout Group (The Old Guard) is now widely recognised as the longest, continuously operating Scout Group in the country, therefore, by definition – as Scouting was formed and founded in Britain – the world. Quite some accolade for this small Island to hold, and hence the reason that they declare the two flags to be of significant Scouting importance as they have photographic evidence of them in use, by the Scouts, dating back to about 1910.

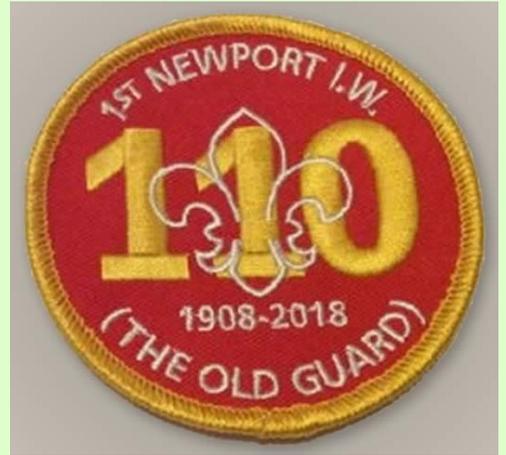
A short time after the Boy Scout Troop was formed (it was Boy Scouts back in 1908) the Scouts went off to their first ever camp which was held at Garston's, near Gatcombe. The Troop marched from their camp to St Olave's and back on the Sunday, for the service, and that started the long connection of the 1st Newport with Gatcombe and the church.

Many parades (and indeed, some members' weddings) have been held at the church over the years including two parades that Graham Drudge took part in, back in the 1960s; the first being the laying-up of the old standards and blessing of the new standards in May 1965, and the second, to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the 1st Newport in 1968.

Apparently, there is a book, sadly no longer print, written in 1946, about the early years of the 1st Newport Isle of Wight BP Scout Troop and Graham has kindly said he will be happy to let us have a copy to keep in the church.

It will be a very expensive exercise to have these Scouting Standards cleaned and preserved, (they are extremely fragile) and something, as yet, they are unable to afford. When, and if, they are finally able to have the work carried out, St Olave's environment is sadly not a suitable place to keep them and it is their intention to one day be able to display them in their Scouting Museum.

*Liz Taylor (Churchwarden)*



## Update on Harry...or...have ironing board, will travel!

I have been asked to give you a short update about my grandson, Harry who many of you met when he did his Community Service section of his Duke of Edinburgh's Award, helping at St Olave's.

He moved chairs and tables, painted walls, helped with the Spring and Autumn Churchyard Clear-ups, dressed as a waiter for the Ritz-style Afternoon Tea, read a lesson at the Carol Service and perched aloft on the window ledge behind the altar to dust the stained glass. I was not sure what to worry about most on that occasion - the William Morris windows or Harry!!

He has now, at last, and after many Covid delays, started his basic army training to go into the Military Police. This is a photo of him arriving at Purbright Army Camp. Who knew that you had to take your own ironing board with you to join the army?

After a difficult first few days and the shortest hair cut ever, he has settled in and been commended for his ironing and his locker. He must have placed everything with a ruler!! It was ultra tidy.

I will keep you updated as to his progress and hopefully we will see him in uniform at St Olave's soon.

*Harriet Robinson (extremely proud grandmother!)*



## An Old 'Thank You.'

Liz and I have been sorting through church papers so that the correct paperwork is handed on to Steve as he now has special responsibility for St Olave's. (Please see Elizabeth's article if the set up of the Team Ministry isn't clear to you.)

Some papers have to go into the church archives and some into the church Terrier. No I am not feeding Elizabeth's Jack Russell, Poppy with church papers!!! The Terrier is the inventory of all the items belonging to the church and a detailed record of all the alterations, additions and repairs carried out in relation to the church, its land and its contents.

Sorting through, we came across three old church-guides. One was dated 1971 and was a very thick brochure with hardly any illustrations. It went into the history of the church and the surrounding parish in great detail. A bit of a heavy but interesting read.

Nowadays we have an up-to-date fully illustrated (in colour) guide in the church, beautifully edited by Jill Webster. More user-friendly for today's visitors. Browsing through the old guide though, I came across a poem of thanks for all the cleaners, polishers and flower arrangers who quietly work away so that when you come into the church it looks beautiful and cared for. It was such a lovely poem and is as important today as it was over fifty years ago. It was written by Joan B. Howes and is called-



### **In God's House**

They are a faithful few who work unseen  
And unobtrusively give of their best.  
Who spend their lives perfecting little things  
Which often pass unnoticed by the rest.  
Their's are hands that dust the altar rails;  
That change the flowers and keep the linen fair.  
They sweep the aisles with cheerful reverence  
And polish silver with a murmuring prayer.  
These are the quiet ones, who freely give  
Their time and thought and love with glad accord;  
Who softly tread the byways of resolve;  
And share the peace of God for their reward.

Isn't that lovely? The only thing perhaps, that has changed, is that the present day cleaning and flower arranging team aren't that quiet or soft, but always chatting and laughing, dare I say noisy, and there is no mention of that important ingredient to the cleaning gang - Cake !!!

*Harriet Robinson (Churchwarden)*

## Contact Us...

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### **Churchwardens:**

**Liz Taylor - 840575**

**Harriet Robinson - 721766**

To use the church for private prayer, please ring Liz to make the necessary arrangements.

