

# St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

March 2024



## Mad as a March Hare!

The poor old March hare is being driven bonkers by his hormones telling him it's time to breed.

This phrase always jumps to my mind though, as we reach the first month of spring, I have no idea why, as I can count on one hand the number of hares I've seen recently, they are few in number these days, unlike their bugs bunny counterparts. However, the day I wrote this, I glanced up from a customers garden in Shalfleet and there, just over the fence, was a real life, very large hare, who took one look at me and hared off!



Many people may think that being a Christian is pretty mad, and like the hare, we do seem to be getting rarer. But I'm not of the school of thinking that says the church or the faith is dying.

I think Christianity has seasons or tides, like all of God's creation. We know that when autumn gives way to winter, summer will return, however wet or cold it is now, or when the tide goes out, the sea isn't disappearing - it's being pulled elsewhere for a while, in approximately 6 hours and a few minutes it'll be back at the top of the beach. Likewise the Spirit of God floods one place with blessing and growth, whilst another seems dry, but, just like the tide, things turn around.

The Christian faith across the world is growing at amazing speed; we may not see much evidence here at the moment, but I believe the tide will turn and the Spirit will bless this land again.

When the tide is out we can't imagine it in again, but in it will come once more. Likewise, in the dead of winter, we cannot imagine balmy summer days. Hopefully by now the first signs of spring will be apparent. But both will be on their way in the due-ness of time.

It's the times of winter, or low water, in our faith journey or that of the church, when we are challenged the most, challenged to put our faith in something others have abandoned, challenged to stand out as different to society's fads and fashions, challenged to pray for renewal in the church and the land. Challenged to open our Bibles to see what God's got to say, rather than keep struggling in our own wisdom or strength, or the lack of it. Challenged to share how God has moved in you, and hear the same testimonies from others, so we collectively build each other up as we await the flood tide, the reborn season of faith in Christ Jesus in our land.

May God flood you and your family with a new season of blessing in his Spirit, may the living loving Jesus bless you and yours in the high tides and lows, the summer times and winters of your life.

Steve Brett-Hill



## In Your Prayers...

February can be such a long and sad month even though the shortest - in fact with grey and miserable weather and people dying - famous and very close to one's self, but there are the brilliant sunny days and lovely spring flowers, snow-drops, violets and daffodils bringing hope and joy.

Let us hope that that wonderful feeling will continue for us all through the rest of the year.

Amen

Ann Taylor



The Funeral of  
**Harold John Cooke**  
was held at Gatcombe Church on  
**Friday 16th February 2024,**  
followed by a family service at  
the IW Crematorium.



## **Harold John Cooke** (December 11th 1932 - January 1st 2024)

On Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 dad took his final journey through Chillerton, stopping at Hillside for a few moments. We then followed on to Gatcombe Church where there was a church full of family and friends there to pay their final respects to dad.

The service was led by Revd Steve Sutcliffe and we all sang together the hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. Dad's grandchildren read out their memories of dad, and Hayley read a poem written many years ago by mum. Thomas read out dad's life story, with the congregation frequently clapping and applauding. We listened to *Morning has Broken*, by Cat Stevens, which gave us all time to reflect, and we left the church singing along to *Take me Home, Country Roads*, by John Denver.



A wake for family and friends followed at The Gallybagger.

Dad's ashes will be interred at St Olave's, alongside those of Daphne, our mum.

Thank you to everybody for their love and support over the last few weeks.

Angie, Trev, Sarah and Jenny. xxxx



## Thank you...

The Ladies of Fund-Raising group would like say a BIG thank you to everyone who came to the Coffee Morning at Chillerton Village Hall, which raised the magnificent sum of £763 for The Benson Suite. To say it was 'standing-room only' was an understatement.

Both Eleanor and Neal have asked that their thanks be added for such a wonderful amount raised for their Charity and for all of the kind messages of love and support they have received.

## Lenten Soup Supper

On Maundy Thursday (March 28th) St Olave's are holding a Lenten Soup Supper at 6pm, to be followed by a Holy Communion Service.

All are very welcome, but it would be helpful to know if you are coming to the supper so that we don't run out of soup.

Please contact Jill Webster  
([jill.webster@outlook.com](mailto:jill.webster@outlook.com) or ring 01983 721483).

## Services at St Olave's in March

Sunday 3 March	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 March	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday 17 March	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 24 March		NO SERVICE AT ST OLAVE'S
Thursday 28 March	6pm	
Friday 29 March		NO SERVICE AT ST OLAVE'S
Sunday 31 March	6.30am	Dawn Service
	11am	Holy Communion

### **Mothering Sunday**

Please stay for coffee and cake afterwards.

### **Palm Sunday**

Procession from Carisbrooke Castle at 10am with donkeys, to St Mary's church for a 10.30am service

### **Maundy Thursday**

Lenten Soup Supper at St Olave's followed by service of Holy Communion

### **Good Friday**

St Mary's Church at 10am  
A Good Friday Reflection

The Minster (Parish Rooms) at 2pm  
An Hour at The Cross

St John's Church at 7pm  
Stainer's Crucifixion

### **Easter Day**

## Contact Us

**Team Vicar, with Special Responsibility  
for Gatcombe:-**

**Revd Steve Sutcliffe:**  
01983 520884

[steve.sutcliffe@cofeheartofwight.org](mailto:steve.sutcliffe@cofeheartofwight.org)

**Team Vicar:-**  
**Revd Emma Cooksey:**

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## Where is the Beauty? It's where you look...

(Michael recently crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a 13.5 meter yacht, with Giles and Jane Peckham)

There's an awful lot of water in the sea, and it goes on and on. It's deep too: much of the Atlantic Ocean I sailed across was as deep as the horizontal distance from Chillerton to St Mary's Hospital. From a casual viewpoint, it's very empty. But if one bothers to stop, to look and listen, the beauty of the world reveals itself. There were stunning sunsets and sunrises with purple, pink and orange colours.

At night, there were thousands more stars than we can see from our Island, and shooting stars too, which exploded with flashes that lit the whole sky. Fish, big and tiny, pods of dolphins and whales passed the boat, seeking food from beneath the floating Sargasso weed that forms a floating ecosystem across the ocean. Birds visited us, soaring over us, and occasionally stopping, perched on the boom to see what we were doing. Some skimmed the surface to catch the flying fish, but others beautifully streamlined for water, dived from height to catch their quarry.

Why did I go? Because the opportunity arose to sail the distance with 5 other sailors, and I wanted to travel this remote part of our world. In the true isolation, our team united to meet not just the challenges of wind and weather, but of 3700 miles chaffed halyards, a leaking bilge and flying hot cooking pots. Success depended on careful planning, understanding the environment, commitment to each other and working together.

Would I do it again? Wholeheartedly, yes!

*Michael Terry*

