

St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

May 2022



Love One Another

During lockdown, St John's Church organised an inspirational email that went out each week to keep in touch with everyone in the Newport parishes. The clergy, lay readers and churchwardens all took it in turns to write the leading article. When it was my turn I took various words to investigate. I started with 'listening' - inspired by the phrase 'People don't need a good talking to, they need a good listening to.'

Our much-missed, Elizabeth Peace helped me with this as one of her favourite pictures was, 'The Light of The World.' In the picture, Jesus is knocking at the door and the only handle is on our side, so we have to really listen to hear him knocking, and open the door to him.

Liz touched on this in her article last month when she wrote about listening to someone and concentrating completely on them and their story. I am really bad at this because I am a real chatterbox, so my listening skills are a work in progress.

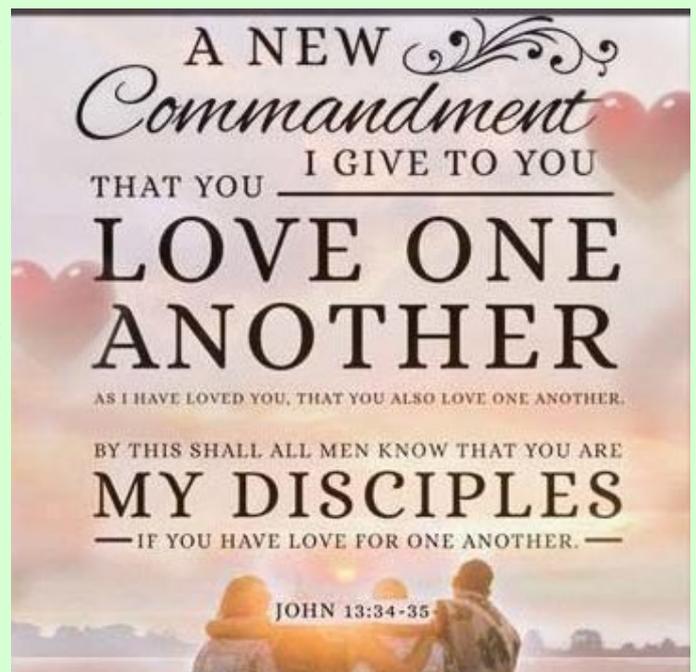
I next looked at 'open' and 'invite.' After the lockdown the excitement of things like the hairdressers being open and the renewed chance to invite someone round for a meal was amazing. I also looked at how we have to be open with ourselves and open to others about our Christian beliefs, and invite people to share our church and our love of Christ.

It was the last two words I looked at that made me want to revisit this theme. I looked at 'peace' and 'love.' I wrote about inner peace and world peace, but I had no idea what the people of Ukraine would be facing a year or so later. A real, and immediate, need for world peace and a need for love and tolerance between nations. The shocking pictures show the devastation wrought by the bombing, the refugees fleeing the country to safety, and the bravery of the soldiers fighting for their country and their people.

It is so hard to have Christian love and tolerance for all people when we think of this war with its ghastly acts of cruelty and oppression. The need to pray for peace is becoming more and more important. Sometimes there is little we can do, although as a community we have sent money and lorry loads of much needed supplies and medicines to Ukraine, but as Christians we must pray and offer our love to fellow humans who are suffering. Our peaceful Isle of Wight seems light years away from Ukraine, but sadly it might not be so as this war develops. So we must pray urgently for peace and love between all people.

As Jesus said, 'Love one another' and that includes everyone. He also said, 'Ask and it shall be given' - so we must ask for peace and open our hearts and ears to listen for his answer and his guidance.

Harriet Robinson (Churchwarden)



In Your Prayers...

God of compassion,
Have mercy at this time for the people of Ukraine.
Restore to them the gift of peace.
Give wisdom to the governments
of the world.
Bring good in the midst of evil and
suffering,
For the sake of your Son, Jesus
Christ,
Who gave his life to bring peace to
your world.

Amen

Liz Taylor
(Churchwarden)



Saturday Market & Coffee Morning

Chillerton Village Hall
Saturday May 7th from 10am to noon.

Organized this month by St Olave's Church
Please join us!!

All money raised will go to **Lend with Care** -
a charity which lends money to start-up
businesses in the poorer countries of the world.

The whole Parish of Newport is supporting this
charity. Information about the charity will be
available on the day

Holy Week, and Easter

Holy Week services started on Palm Sunday, not with a service at St Olave's but with the whole Benefice joining together. We started at Carisbrooke Castle chapel for a short service, with the combined choirs of The Minster, St John's and St Mary's singing from the gallery, which was wonderful. During the service we were all given a palm cross which was blessed, then we went out into the castle courtyard to meet the two special donkeys. Although there was only one donkey for Jesus, Jack and Jill, the donkeys from the castle, needed each other's company to lead our procession. Some of us had large palm fronds as well as crosses. We processed down the hill to St Mary's for a Holy Communion service. The church was already fairly full with people who had come straight there, so we had a large congregation to celebrate Palm Sunday with an uplifting service.

Maundy Thursday was the next service and this was held at St Olave's. A simple Lent meal of soup and bread was served, followed by a service of Holy Communion when the congregation could go to the chancel steps to symbolically wash each others hands in remembrance of Jesus washing the disciples' feet before the Last Supper.

Good Friday services were held in the other churches in the Benefice, then on Easter Sunday, St Olave's had two services - a Dawn Service at 5.30am and Holy Communion at 11am. The Dawn Service started outside, around a lit fire bowl. The Paschal Candle was lit from the fire bowl and we processed into the church for the second half of the service. Six-



teen people decided to get up early, and the service, which started in darkness and continued into the light, was very moving. The unaccompanied singing of the three hymns was very much rivaled by the dawn chorus as the sun rose. Everyone was given an Easter Egg for a chocolate breakfast!! This service was so much enjoyed that we hope it will happen next Easter Day too. A rural church surrounded by trees and primroses is a lovely and special place for a Dawn Service. Later, we had Holy Communion in the beautifully decorated church.

A special **Thank You** to all the flower arrangers who made our church look so beautiful for this special day. Again, the congregation went home after the moving service singing all the uplifting Easter hymns, but this time with Lyndon playing the organ, with a small Easter Egg gift from St Olave's church.

Harriet Robinson (Churchwarden)

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

for the election of parochial
representatives will be held on

Sunday 1st May at noon

in the church.

Further information is available on the church
porch notice board.

**The Baptism of
Finley Patchett
took place on
Sunday April 17th
at Gatcombe Church**



May Services at St Olave's Church

Sunday 1 May	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 May	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 May	6pm	Evensong
Sunday 22 May	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 May	11am	Iona Service

Spring Market

The cakes, coffee and tea were as enticing as ever, as was the array of stalls. Sadly, the buying public was not so much in evidence as they usually are at these events and, therefore there wasn't quite the usual buzzing atmosphere. Maybe there has been a surfeit of events recently (or too many Easter Eggs eaten!!).

The stalls, and generous raffle, where people work so hard producing their lovely array of craft goods, baking and growing, make the Church Marketplace look really attractive and create a lovely setting in which friends and strangers can meet, chat and enjoy a cup of coffee. The donkeys (from the donkey sanctuary) munching away on the grass outside were an added bonus.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone involved, whatever their role, and every bit of profit towards church expenses is always gratefully received (especially mindful of the many demands on everyone's purses).

The real joy is in people appreciating and enjoying our lovely church. *Hilary Jones*

Fund-Raising Events for 2022

**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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The Parish Map

I expect many of you visiting the church over the last couple of weeks have been surprised to see the embroidered parish hanging, and wondered where it had been all these years? Sadly, it was behind the curtain, hanging in the rear vestry.

Although on a beautiful wooden fixing, it was never seen and was getting increasingly damp and dirty. Liz said one day that she wished we could move it into the body of the church. What an inspired idea. We had some new fixings made to be able to hang it from the beams, and recently, moved it.

The back of the hanging has now been cleaned, but I am going to tackle the cleaning of the front rather more slowly. I am going to borrow a conservation vacuum cleaner (we don't want to suck up any embroidered houses by mistake if using a domestic one) and I shall carefully clean it and check it for any loose bits that need repairing.

It is so lovely and I think looks absolutely stunning now it is hanging where all can enjoy it.

Harriet Robinson

(Churchwarden)

