

St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

April 2021



While the reorganisation of the parishes has been going on, Liz Taylor and I have been taking it in turns to write the main article in our news letter. The Parish of Newport and Carisbrooke with Gatcombe has now been established, and from his licensing on April 15th the Revd Stephen Sutcliffe will join the team with special responsibility for St Mary's, Carisbrooke and St Olave's, Gatcombe. You will have enjoyed his letter introducing himself to you all in last month's news letter.

For the next news letter, in May, Liz and I will invite Steve, as he likes to be known, to write the leading articles for our news letter in the future.

'Invite.' Isn't that a lovely word? Not demand, compel, force, not even ask, but invite. We have been very short of invitations recently, haven't we? Not only the posh ones printed on stiff paper and put on the mantelpiece, inviting you to a wedding, a celebration or a big party, but the simple everyday invitations that we have missed so much. 'Do pop round for a cup of coffee' or 'Join me for a pub lunch this weekend' or 'Just about to take the dog out, fancy a walk?' We have all missed the contact so much. It's not the same to say 'Join me for a zoom chat' - although that is better than nothing.

The book the Lent course has been studying this year is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book, 'Living His Story' by Hannah Steele. The book is primarily about evangelism. A difficult subject that gives rise to many different feelings in people. Evangelism is not about a strange person on a street corner holding a sign aloft that reads 'Repent. The End Is Nigh.' It isn't about forcefully dragging lonely people into a cult with promise of friendship. Perhaps also, it isn't always talking about your Christian beliefs at the beginning.

It is more about inviting people to tell their story and perhaps letting them ask questions about your faith and beliefs, when they are ready. Inviting, is, perhaps, the first and most gentle point of contact; letting them see that you live a kind, thoughtful Christian life and would like to invite them to join you, but with no coercion or pressure. Their timescale, not yours. Christianity and Christian love is joyful, friendly and inviting, not over pious, demanding or frightening.

Reading the Bible stories, Jesus was always gently inviting people to follow and believe in him. He invited everyone, not just the rich, the successful or the important, but everyone, be they fishermen, Gentiles or those who in those days were considered unclean or beyond the pale. All are welcome and invited. We are celebrating Easter and reading about the Last Supper. Jesus inviting us to drink and eat the bread and wine in remembrance of Him. Perhaps with 'Follow me' that Jesus said in the gospels to many people, this is the most important invitation we can ever receive from Him. An invitation to share in the love of God, who gently guides and teaches us how to live a better and fuller life, healed and forgiven. Hopefully there is only one answer to this invitation. Not 'I am too busy' not 'I couldn't care less' but 'Yes please. Tell me more about it. Show me how to receive this invitation of God's love. My life is so stressful, I need help.' *'Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'*
Matthew 11:28

What a brilliant invitation.

Harriet Robinson (Churchwarden)



Team Rector, Ven. Peter Leonard: 023 9289 9699

Curate, Revd Hannah Barraclough:
hannah.barraclough@cofenewportandcarisbrooke.org

Lay Reader Elizabeth Peace: 551415
Churchwardens: Liz Taylor - 840575 & Harriet Robinson - 721766

To use the church for private prayer, please ring Liz on 840575 to make the necessary arrangements.

In Your Prayers...

Dear Lord, we thank you for the signs of spring – lovely flowers, bird song and increasingly longer days.

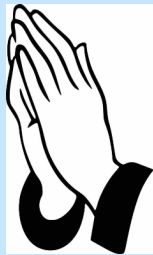
We pray for the many who are finding 'lockdown' difficult; for the unemployed, the charities endeavouring to continue their valuable work with a much reduced income. For all who are ill at home, in hospital or care homes, and those who care for them.

'What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.'

Hear our prayers for others and for ourselves and keep us in your care. *Amen*

Elizabeth Peace (Reader)



New Beginnings

A new year is usually a time for celebrating new beginnings. All of us need a new beginning from time to time, but sadly, the start of this year held no prospect for change, the 'same old' followed us from 2020.

So how about 'Happy New Easter' instead? A great deal can change in a few short weeks, so this year, let's celebrate Easter as our new beginning, and there's plenty to celebrate!

A vaccine to combat Covid; the prospect of an end to lock-down; the chance to meet up with family and friends again; the reopening of our church and services and for our new Team Vicar, Stephen, exciting new beginnings as he joins us at St Olave's.

Liz Taylor (Churchwarden)

Jesus rose from the grave – new hope, new beginnings.



Thank You!!

Those of you who know me, are fully aware that being speechless is something I don't EVER suffer from, but on this occasion I have to confess, I am - truly speechless. When Harriet and I sent out our plea for donations towards replacing a set of Communion Linen and the pulpit fall, costing £300 per set, we envisaged, donations permitting, that we would order the most frequently used Green Set, and when our fund-raising can resume, putting some of the profits towards a second set.

But.....due to your AMAZING generosity we have not only been able to order just the one set, but all FOUR seasons - Green, White, Red and Purple *plus* a set of All Seasons Collections Bags. Thank You seems so inadequate, but Harriet and I really do thank you and appreciate every single person's gift. Total raised to date: £1,140.00.

Liz Taylor



Services for Holy Week & Easter

Maundy Thursday

Thursday April 1st at 7pm
Livestreamed service from St John's

Good Friday

Friday April 2nd at 9am
Stations of the Cross released every
30 minutes on the Facebook page

Easter Eve

Saturday April 3rd at 7pm
Online service from St Mary's

Easter Day

Sun April 4th at 9.30am
Online service of Holy Communion
for Easter Day.



All services will be available on the churches
Facebook pages and on the St John's website
- www.stjohnsnewport.org.

Looking forward with Delight

We welcome Stephen Sutcliffe to St Olave's on Sunday April 18th at 11am for his first service after his licensing as part of the team at the Newport and Carisbrooke with Gatcombe Parish.

Both Carisbrooke and Gatcombe churches will be in his special care. If you would like to come, please ring Liz Taylor on 840575. Strict Covid rules will still be in place for everyone's safety.

From April 18th, our usual service pattern will resume at St Olave's with an 11am service on the first, second, fourth and fifth Sundays, and Even-song at 6.30pm on the third Sunday of the month.

For the moment, strict Covid rules will apply at all services.