

St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

November 2021



Preparing Ourselves for Christmas

Every November it's the same - the radio is on and suddenly, Christmas music comes wafting through the speaker at me!!

And every year, I respond in the same way, even if the shops have been promoting Christmas since the end of August, I'm really not ready to think about Christmas, muttering, 'it's far too early', so I either turn the radio off or switch stations.



Organising Christmas can be very stressful, but the four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve, known as Advent, should be an opportunity to find the time during our busy day to prepare ourselves for the *true* meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ into the world.

Rather than let this busy time of year overshadow a festival designed to celebrate and remember God's love, let us consciously make time to pray and ask God how best we can truly celebrate *His* special time.

Liz Taylor (Churchwarden)

Cantus Vesperi

What a joy and treat it was to have SUNG Evensong at St Olave's evening Service in October.



This was the second visit by the Cantus Vesperi choir to our church to lead Evensong and, although not a big choir, they certainly fill the church with their beautiful harmonies. (Even the congregation sings with great gusto when encouraged and led by the choir!). We hope they will be enticed to return again.

It is a credit to their professionalism that they were able to fulfil this engagement as their Musical Director, Charles Patterson had to withdraw at the last minute due to ill health.

Fortunately Stuart McKerracher, who also read a lesson along with another member of the choir, stepped up to conduct. We wish the choir well.

There is nothing so good as a sizeable congregation united with good singing, familiar words, uplifting the soul in a comforting old church (especially one gleaming after a good clean the previous day!!).

Hilary Jones



The Funeral of
Margaret Eva (Jill) Luscombe
was held on
Tuesday October 5th 2021
at Gatcombe Church

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In Your Prayers...

Lord, forgive us if we think this world is simply here for us to exploit...

Open our eyes to see the damage we have done and continue to do...

Open our ears to hear and not disregard the words of those whose knowledge is greater than our own...

Teach us not to ignore the signs...

Open our hearts to change, for we are only temporary caretakers of this beautiful and fragile world. Liz Taylor

(Churchwarden)



Coming Events - Church & Social

Saturday November 6th

10am to noon.

Coffee Morning at Chillerton Village Hall for the Church Roof Fund (again - this will probably be very much a repeat cause as we've got to get the hole repaired).

Sunday November 14th

10.55am

Remembrance Day Service.

Please note the slightly earlier time so we are all assembled in time for the 11am two minutes' silence.



Sunday December 19th

6.30pm

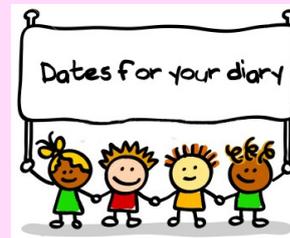
Please join us at St Olave's for this traditional 9 Lessons & Carols Christmas service, followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Friday December 24th (Christmas Eve)

3pm

St Olave's Crib Service

There will be traditional Nativity costumes in the church for the children to dress up in, but if they would like to come as Batman or Elsa or their favourite character, all Super Heroes and friends are welcome (not sure about Daleks though - you don't want to frighten the Churchwardens).



Coffee Mornings - How we have missed you!

What fun to have a coffee morning in the village hall again when Leonie and Michael organised one for the church roof fund.

Yes, we have a hole. Only a small one, but we don't want to have to ask you to bring your umbrellas to church.

We are, of course, looking into grants, but the estimate for repair will be huge as the church is Grade One Listed and the hole will only get worse if we don't do something as soon as possible.

What a great morning we had. Coffee, home made cakes and seeing friends again. What could be nicer? There were stalls selling plants, produce and honey too. It all felt as if we were getting back to a new sort of normal.

Grateful thanks to Leonie and Michael who raised over a hundred pounds for the Roof Fund. Another Coffee Morning coming up on November 6th - see the Coming Events.

Harriet Robinson (Churchwarden)



...and now, a prayer
for our Roof Fund...

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Last Christmas, Liz gave me a beautiful gift of Aled Jones's book entitled *Everyday Blessings*.

Each day, throughout the year, there is a short inspirational reading. It could be a poem, a quote or a saying. This week, very aptly and coincidentally, there was an ancient Indian proverb. It reads -

*'Treat the earth well
It was not given to you by your parents,
It was loaned to you by your children.
We do not inherit the earth from
our Ancestors,
We borrow it from our children.'*



Remembering Jill Luscombe

December 26th 1934 - September 4th 2021

Having been asked to write a short piece in remembrance of our dear friend, Jill Luscombe – what to say? The kindest, most sincere person one could ever wish to meet – so thoughtful but with a sharp mind and a fierce independence, Jill ensured that her family were spared the angst of planning her funeral, as she planned it all herself – such was the love and care she had for others. Fond memories of her life with her great friend Leo and their various animals, were shared, especially, Nelson, her donkey and latterly Max, her dog. Also, her great love of music, which was evident in the selections she had made for the service.

The celebration of Jill's life was simply that, with a beautiful service at St Olave's, made all the more special by the very personal memories of our new Vicar, Steve, who had once been a pupil of 'Miss Luscombe'. The church service was well attended by family, friends and neighbours who all wished to give Jill the send-off she deserved. The committal service at the Crematorium was attended by family and close friends, followed by a farewell at The Gallybagger Inn, which had latterly been a fun part of Jill's life, attending Folk nights and events – as long as she didn't have to sit with the 'old folk'!! A particular favourite was the Chinese night, where just about everyone fell in love with the automated Chinese Dragon Dogs!

Jill lived a simple life in her beloved Garn Lane Cottage, but latterly this had become a struggle, even with the support of her dedicated carers, family and friends. In the last few weeks of her life, she had more or less decided to stay at Springfield Nursing Home in Shanklin, where she was happy and looked rested. However, ill health took its course and Jill sadly passed away in hospital.

Our villages will be much the poorer without her presence and enthusiasm for all things local, which she embraced wholeheartedly and fully – her loss will be felt by many. I know if she was able to, Jill would thank everyone herself for their support over these past few years. Long may she live on in our hearts.

Sue Barber

Events at our other Churches

Saturday November 20th

The Minster Coffee shop will be open from 9.30am till 4pm for this eventful day. An ice skating rink on the quay; Father Christmas in the square from noon onwards, and finally, the switching on of the Christmas Lights. More details in The County Press or online. Please support the Minster by enjoying refreshments in their Coffee Shop.



St Olave's Ladies are helping out with serving, waitingand probably washing up too!!!

Saturday November 27th

Christmas Fair in St John's Church Hall, Newport from 10am until 2pm
Christmas gifts and cake stalls. Morning coffee served and also a Christmas menu of baked potatoes and bacon rolls etc., so come for lunch too!!!
St Olave's will have a Christmas Stall at this event.

Saturday December 4th

Christmas Fair at The Minster Newport from 10am until 2pm
Christmas stalls - including one from St Olave's. The Minster Coffee Shop will be open and will serve soup and sandwiches as well as coffee and cakes, so, food to keep you going while you buy everything on your Christmas list.