

# St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

November 2022



There is a splendid irony when you are gently reminded that you have forgotten to write a piece about Remembrance!

I am writing a fortnight before Armistice Day, and the season of remembrance has begun. Since my youth, my awareness of the significance of these days has grown, and expanded. We remember those who fought and served, in the armed forces and as civilians, and increasingly we recognise the world-wide nature of the sacrifice that was made.

The tragedy of the SS Mendi, sunk off St Catherine's reminds us that loss was not always on a foreign battlefield, but came among us. Increasingly we remember those who waited at home. Mothers, brothers, sisters, grandparents were left in limbo. Everyone from Princess Beatrice to the agricultural labourer's wife at Garstons or Cridmore shared that sense of powerlessness, of never knowing what news the next post would bring. Even when soldiers returned, they were changed by what they had seen, and there was the sense of guilt if your own family had been spared, but your neighbour had lost one, two, multiple children and a husband.

That sense of waiting, and of powerlessness, in a different way, is familiar to many of us. We used to wait simply for buses, but now (in a society that has "sped up") it feels as if we constantly waiting for news, or a decision, or help. It can be painful and frustrating to feel that we cannot alter things, or move them on.

Perhaps it is helpful to remember that this experience is one that was familiar to Jesus. The word "passion" that we apply to Holy Week is not about emotion: it is about Christ experiencing what looks like powerlessness, and accepting it as his Father's will. These are days when he no longer appears to hold the initiative, when he is betrayed, bound and abandoned, days when others do things to him. And yet, through this time of passivity, comes his Resurrection and our salvation.

Today's world places far too much emphasis on our status, our followers, on salaries and what we are worth, on promotion till we reach a point beyond our natural skillset. Christ reminds us that the only value that he places on us is on who we are, and who we might become. He sees beauty and exemplary lives just as much in those who wait, as in those who do. And when we pause, and reflect, we know that this has been our experience too. *Richard Smout (Reader, St Mary's Church, Carisbrooke)*



## November Services for St Olave's

Sunday 6 November	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 November	<b>10.55am</b>	<b>Remembrance Service (NB. Earlier starting time)</b>
Sunday 20 November	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 27 November	11am	Holy Communion

## In Your Prayers...

Lord, may we respond by faith to what we hear and use our mouth to share who you are...

May we tell of your good deeds and love, and inspire faith in those around us.

Help us to have compassion and love for those in need and respond with acts of kindness and generosity.

*Liz Taylor*



## All is Safely Gathered In

It was, as always, at this time of year, special to join together for our Harvest Supper and Harvest Festival Service. The church looked its best decked with Autumn flowers (special thanks to the flower arrangers) when we gathered together for a Fish and Chip supper.

A slight delay with the arrival of the meal, (I think it was the fact that our order was for over forty people), meant that we drew the raffle early to fill in the gap!!! Thank you to Hilary and Lyndon for their wonderful food delivery service..... I understand the it is very 'in' to have your meal delivered to your door!

After our delicious fish and chips, coffee and tea with biscuits and chocolates were served whilst everyone racked their brains to complete Felicity's quiz. Felicity sets our quiz each year and as always, it was brilliant. The winners received beautiful cyclamen as prizes. Thank you Felicity.

A clear-up of the church by our fantastic team meant the church was ready for our Harvest Service the next day. The profits from the supper tickets and the collection on the Sunday was divided between RABI and the Food Bank.

Although we didn't man a combine harvester or gather in the sheaves, we still gave thanks for wonderful farmers and food producers, remembered those who were in food poverty and welcomed our Harvest Home.

*Harriet Robinson*



## St O's Autumn Market



The delayed Autumn Produce Sale at St Olave's was enthusiastically attended on Saturday 15th October in its revised form, replete with craft and produce stalls, bric-a-brac, Roy Earley with his fresh veg and of course the coffee and cake café.

The sun shone (for most of the morning) and the crowd happily raffled, shopped and chatted to each other whilst enjoying a range of delicious cakes and hot drinks.

Many thanks to all of those who donated produce or cakes and to those manning the stalls. Special recognition goes to Rosemary Shirlaw who once again, rolled up her sleeves to corral the washing up.

We look forward to seeing everyone again for the Merry Christmas Craft Market on Saturday November 12th.

*Leonie Terry*

## Minster's Autumn Fair

Once more St O's fund-raisers stepped up to the challenge - this time to run a stall in aid of Church funds at Newport Minster's Autumn Fair.

Bric-a-brac, along with pretty bags of cellophane and ribboned Brownies, Fudge, Flapjack, Tiffin and Rocky Road, sold like 'hot-cakes'... excuse the pun!

Overseeing proceedings, Ann, Harriet and Liz, encouraged by Revd. Steve, who was on-hand to judge the Minster's Cake Competition (well, there's a surprise!) and who enthusiastically oversaw the whole proceedings.

Only the St O's Merry Christmas Craft Market left now on November 12th (oh yes, and tea for the Paul Atterbury church tour.... and mince pies for the Carol Service) - and then the worn-out fund-raising platoon can hibernate until 2023.

*Liz Taylor*



## Welcoming Visitors to St Olave's...

On Tuesday 25th October, St Olave's Church was pleased to welcome a returning visit from Ace Tours accompanied by Paul Atterbury of Antiques Roadshow. As part of a historic tour of the Island the visitors were most interested in the Brock sculpture of Charles Seely which we learnt is of national significance, and the Pre-Raphaelite stained glass windows.

Harriet and Liz assisted Paul in explaining the multitude of historical features in the church and in turn, we learnt that the windows contain images of both William and Jane Morris, and are unique as contributions were made by all the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.

After all that art appreciation a fine tea and refreshments was enjoyed by all.

We also welcomed a large group from the Isle of Wight Ramblers this month who incorporated a visit to St Olave's into a longer walk. They paused for a short history of the church before continuing their ramble. It is so nice to be able to welcome so many visitors to our special church.

*Leonie Terry*

<https://www.aceculturaltours.co.uk/tours/isle-of-wight-iwit-22>



## Churchwarden Arrested Over Theft from Church

Liz and I had just spent a rather exhausting morning sorting bric-a-brac. Some for our stall at The Minster Autumn Fair, some for our own Autumn Fair and some for the charity shop as the items were more suitable to be sold there. We loaded up our cars and I put all the charity shop stuff in my car.

Luckily, when I got home, I unlocked the back gate and carried the bags straight through to the shed - not through the house. One bag looked a bit worse for wear, so I thought I would pop the things into a clean bag, but as I started to take stuff out, a Church Mouse leapt out and into my hand before disappearing under the work surface in the shed. Aaaaaargh!!!!!!!!!!!! I screamed the place down. Sadly, none of the neighbours came to help. I could have been being murdered but nobody heard.

Well, I've heard of all sorts of valuable things being stolen from churches, but never a mouse. Poppy, my little rescue Jack Russell was no help at all. She trotted in, had a sniff and said, 'Yes, Mum, definitely a mouse in here' Then trotted out again. Safi, my late Springer, was a real hunting dog and would have sorted out the problem in two seconds.



Had to call in my lovely neighbour, Barrie Shaw for help. Even if we could have caught it, it would have been no good returning it to the church as the rat-man has to call regularly there to stop the church being overrun.

Sudden thought ... what if there were two mice and one leapt out in my new car on the way home and eats the new upholstery? I have left a biscuit in the car to see what happens.

Kind neighbour, Jan says she will take everything to the charity shop for me, as long as I give it all a good shake first. Don't want any more surprises.

Note-to-self, must stop stealing livestock from the church. Can a Churchwardens be 'de-frocked' for bad behaviour?

*Harriet Robinson*

## Contact Us

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## Events for your Diary...



### **Saturday November 12th**

Our MERRY CHRISTMAS MARKET will be held in the church from 10am till 2.30pm. Fantastic stalls for all your Christmas shopping, and St Olave's Coffee Shop will be open as usual for business.... for hot drinks, homemade cakes and savoury rolls. Brilliant.



### **SNEAK PREEVIEW!!!**

For one night only, the cruise ship **SS Dibley** will be in port at St Olave's on **February 18th 2023**. Please "Dress to Impress" and join us at 7pm for a Cruise Ship Evening. A cocktail on arrival 'on board', a Special Buffet Supper and entertainment from Maurice Kachuk - actor, singer and tap dancer, well known both on the mainland and here on the island

Tickets £15 from Liz or Harriet will be on sale from January 1st. We already have a list open and some early bookings. Please join us for what promises to be one of our usual Fun and Slightly Mad evenings !!!

