

St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

September 2022



HOT HOT HOT

My goodness, hasn't it been hot? We have had some rain, at last, as I write this, but a few weeks ago, I came out to my car in Long Lane, after a Pilates class and the temperature said 30 degrees!!!! That's 90 to an oldie like me. Luckily the Pilates studio had lovely cool fans. I confidently expected the temperature to drop as I drove away from the boiling car park, but it stayed resolutely at 30 all the way back to Chillerton. Phew.

In Noel Coward's Day he wrote about 'Mad dogs and Englishmen going out in the noonday sun' and '80 in the shade' was considered exceptionally hot, but this was even hotter. Everyone seemed to be rushing out to water plants with bowls of washing-up water and having to make decisions about which plants to save. It's years since we've had a heatwave like this and I hope a few years will pass before we have another one, although Climate Change is on most people's agenda nowadays. My car was covered with dust and if I wore sandals to be cool, so were my feet. I made me think about the weather Jesus and his disciples were used to in the Bible. A hot and dusty climate, just as we have been experiencing.

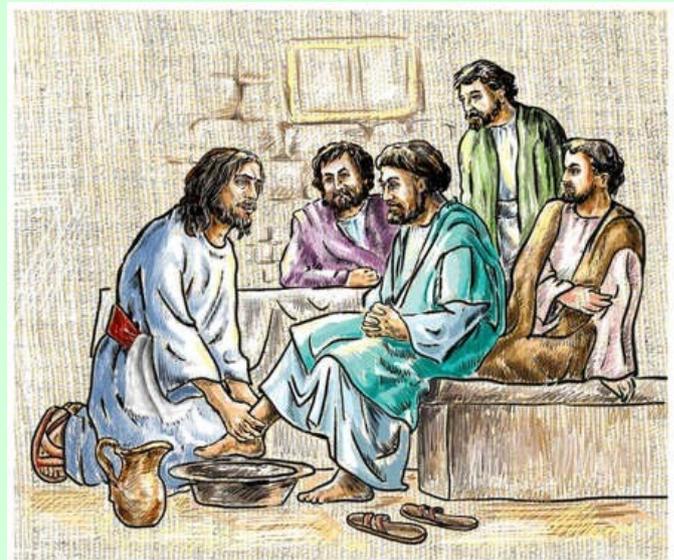
There has been a bit of debate in the papers recently about taking your shoes off or leaving them on when visiting other people's houses, as your shoes will be, in this weather, dusty and dirty on their clean floors and carpets. Even if you take your shoes off, your feet will be dusty. It made me think again about the stories of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. It was to be expected in those days that a lowly servant would kneel down and wash your feet to clean and cool them if you were a visitor to the house. Everyone sat round a very low table, maybe even on the floor, to eat, and their feet would be visible and nearer the table top and the food than our feet are today with our higher tables and chairs. This foot-washing was usual and everyone expected it, so when Jesus washed the disciples' feet, it wasn't the washing that was a surprise, it was the fact that Jesus, the most important person in the room, did the washing.

Peter, at first, couldn't understand and protested at this act by Jesus of humility, service and love. He hadn't thought it through; that Jesus had come to earth, not as an earthly King, but to cleanse us of our sins and finally, to die for us on the cross. The final act of selfless love. For Peter, the Crucifixion was in the future and he had much to understand and come to terms with. It's easier for us as we know what happens and have read the Bible. It's easier too, if you have an understanding of the bigger picture.

On Maundy Thursday we enacted this foot-cleansing at our services, and discussed its meaning in Christ's ministry. So, this heatwave and dust, is a reminder, yet again, that we shouldn't ask, as the disciples had, who is the most important and who is the servant who should wash feet. Even the highest born should live a life loving and serving others.

Whenever our cars and gardens are dry and dusty, we can remember that thousands of years ago, in the hot climate of Palestine, Jesus himself knelt and washed the disciples' feet to remind us of his love and service to all mankind, and to cleanse us of our sins so we can live a life of love and service to our fellow man, so we too may be Blessed.

Harriet Robinson (Churchwarden)



In Your Prayers...

At this time of the year we think of those starting back in education after summer breaks.

"Gracious Lord, as we come to the end of the summer season, we offer our thanks for holidays with family and friends, and time for rest and rejuvenation. For many of us and the young as they start the new year of studies, or new jobs, we pray that new adventures are full of excitement and fulfilment. And for those of us who haven't had time for rest and recreation, we pray they will have their own special time to recharge."

Michael Terry



The Marriage of
Terri-Louise Hanna &
Christopher James Russell
took place on
Friday August 19th 2022
at Gatcombe Church



The Marriage of
Claire Frampton & Gary Hetherington
took place on
Saturday August 20th 2022
at Gatcombe Church

Patronal Festival

A good congregation, tree planting, Prosecco, picnic, cake and strawberries! All the stops were pulled out for this year's Patronal Festival. It was a pleasure to host a joint service with the other churches in our grouping (it certainly enhanced the singing!) and be able to welcome our friends from within. Ethne, (from St John's), gave the Sermon and deftly managed not to say too much about St Olave - he of dubious character - and Peter (from St Mary's) read the Lesson.

Rev. Steve planted the tree....well, he put some soil on it, thankful he didn't have to dig the hole; the National Anthem was sung; the Queen and St Olave were toasted with Prosecco, and then many of the congregation socially enjoyed their picnics in the churchyard. (The tree, (Amalanchia), is Gatcombe's contribution to the Queen's Green Canopy initiative).

Delicious sticky toffee pudding and strawberries (with thanks to Leonie and Harriet) concluded a very pleasant few hours.



St Olave's connection to Gatcombe remains an enigma, but it's a good excuse for a celebration.

Hilary Jones

Afternoon Tea Ritz-Style

Although I had heard many things said about Afternoon Tea 'Ritz-style' at St Olave's Church, something had always conspired to prevent me from attending. Back, after a two-year hiatus, tea at St Olave's is an institution and is served in the style which epitomizes the elegantly frivolous comfort of Edwardian high life.

With a welcoming glass of Prosecco and a choice of teas and coffee, conversation was bubbling amongst the almost ninety guests and 'staff' for this delicious ritual and soon the church was full.



With a choice of homemade finger sandwiches, scones, meringues and other fancy cakery, the chink of bone china gradually gave way to satisfied bliss. The St Olave's platoon of 'Nippies', elegant in black and white, were on hand to top up and replenish where required.

Well done to all who contributed and attended, especially the washing up team who were tireless in their efforts.

An initial grand total of £970 has been raised for church funds. Roll on next year! *Leonie Terry*



September Services for St Olave's

Sunday 4 September	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 September	11am	Morning Worship with coffee afterwards
Sunday 18 September	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 25 September	11am	Holy Communion

Village Show

No rain, no wind, not too hot, not too cold, a perfect afternoon! There's a real 'buzz' about Chillerton's Village Show and is brilliantly organised and supported by so many of the village people.

St Olave's were delighted to be again invited to join in with their Tombola Stall. It provides a bit of fun (not only for those who prepare and man it) and raised nearly £200 for Church funds.

That is only possible because of the many donations to the stall - THANK YOU.

Hilary Jones

A Plea for Bric-a-Brac!

We have some Bric-a-Brac left from our Chillerton Show stall so we will be selling it at our Autumn Produce Sale on Saturday September 17th.

If anyone has more Bric-a-Brac to donate, it can be left at the back of the church or given to Liz or Harriet.

Good quality items please, that others might like to buy to support the church. Thank you.



Needing a New Home...!!!

St Olave's are getting rid of 36 metal folding chairs. These are sound, but have been stored at the back of the church so need a bit of a clean-up.

If anyone would like a few, or all of these, please contact Harriet on 721766 or Liz on 840575.

They are free ...but a small contribution to church funds, if you could, would be appreciated.



Contact Us

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You can also contact Churchwardens -

Liz Taylor:

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Harriet Robinson:

721766 or spottydogs@hotmail.com or harriet.robinson@cofeheartofwight.org

Events for your Diary...

Saturday September 17th

AUTUMN PRODUCE SALE at the church from 10am - 12.30pm

Much anticipated sale of Roy Early's plants and produce with lots of other stalls too. St Olave's Coffee Shop will be open for drinks and home made cake. Delicious!!

Saturday October 1st

HARVEST FISH & CHIP SUPPER at the church at 7pm.

Including of course, our usual special quiz!

Tickets cost £10 per person.... Contact Liz or Harriet for tickets.

All profits (along with Sunday's HARVEST FESTIVAL Holy Communion service collection) will go to RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution) and The IW Foodbank.

Looking further ahead... a date you can put in the diary....

Saturday November 12th

MERRY CHRISTMAS MARKET at the church from 10am till 2.30pm.

Not to be missed for all your Christmas shopping.... and coffee and cake too!!

Always a real treat!!

