

# St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

November  
2024



**Revd Chris Bradish is joining the Benefice as Team Rector. He will be in overall authority, supporting Revd Emma and Revd Steve in the ministry to this community.**

## **We asked Chris for a few words .....**

It's a great joy to have the chance to share just a few words to introduce myself. My name is Chris and I am the new Team Rector of Newport, Carisbrooke and Gatcombe. Me and my family moved to the Island over the summer and I was licenced at Newport Minster on 15 September. Prior to moving, we lived in Andover (North Hampshire) where I served as Rector for six years.

I am married to Naomi who is a social worker and we have three school age children. We are thrilled to call the Island home and we're beginning to find our way around – we've discovered some of the wonderful beeches and walks - as well as the rides at Blackgang Chine! Of course, we have also visited Carisbrooke Castle and enjoyed a lovely walk on Chillerton Down – what a great spot for walking our dog, Basil.

I can see already that the Island is a beautiful place to be this time of year. I hope you have begun to notice the leaves on the trees turning. We think of Autumn as a season of 'mellow fruitfulness', 'remembering' and 'reflection' – but speaking personally – that can feel slightly at odds with reality – and the busyness of being mid-term. The summer holidays are a distant memory and this always feels like a time of year when the pace is quick. So, it is surely a good thing that half-term is upon us – and on the Island our children get two weeks, no less! Whatever stage of life you are at, if you are managing a break of some kind over the next few weeks, I hope it gives you the chance to 'check-in' with yourself, maybe to visit a friend, enjoy the colours of autumn and to pause for thought.

There's a beautiful verse from the bible – in the book of Jeremiah (6.16) that holds all these themes. The wisdom of looking back and reflecting, the desire to walk forwards purposefully and to find rest in the present. It might be a good prompt – even a prayer - over the next few weeks.

This is what the Lord says:  
*“Stand at the crossroads and look;  
ask for the ancient paths,  
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,  
and you will find rest for your souls.*

And so, may you be blessed in this season of change and renewed in the busyness of life as you take the chance to rest, as much as you are able. St Olave's is a beautiful church – and I look forward very much to being there to lead worship later this autumn – and to meeting you as the weeks and months go on. If you see me about, please do say hello – I would be very glad to connect with you.

Best wishes, *Chris*



**Revd Chris will be leading and preaching  
at St Olave's Church on  
Sunday November 24th.  
The service starts at 11am**

**A quick reminder that our next Newsletter will,  
as usual, combine December and January's  
news and information.  
....hard to think about 2025 when it feels as  
though 2024 has only just begun!!**

## Reaching Out...

I was brought up with the poetry of John Clare, who lived much of his life, two centuries ago, in the landscapes that I knew as a child. His descriptions of each month form part of "The Shepherd's Calendar". This is the opening of his poem about November:

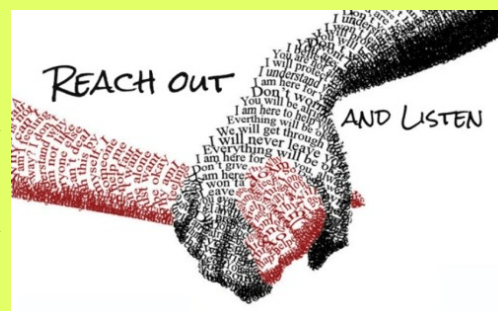
*The landscape sleeps in mist from morn till noon;  
And, if the sun looks through, 'tis with a face  
Beamless and pale and round, as if the moon,  
When done the journey of her nightly race,  
Had found him sleeping, and supplied his place.*

This echoes Keats "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". It is striking how, in recent years, many of the finest colours come in November rather than October. Although we may think of battenning down the hatches, and we will certainly worry about the costs of heating our homes for the winter, it is also a time of surprises, when we are stopped in our tracks by the mist in a valley, or the colours in a line of trees: times when we become acutely aware of the beauty of God's creation. It is a time when our estuaries and hedgerows play host to winter visitors, birds finding relief from the worst of the winter weather on the continent. The autumn offers stores of food for those who face shortages at home. Perhaps we too have more to offer than we realise.

It has been a privilege this autumn to volunteer at the Foodbank for an afternoon a week. It has highlighted for me the plight of too many of our neighbours: those who lack the things I take for granted, and those who are switching off the very resources, that could keep them healthy, because they do not know how they can afford to meet their bills. In November the Foodbank will run a Reverse Advent Calendar, accepting gifts of items that together could create a Christmas parcel. Such parcels not only help in themselves, but give a crucial morale boost to those who are not sure whether anyone cares, such is the damage done to their sense of self-worth. Details of this scheme can be found on the Isle of Wight Foodbank's website, ([isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk](http://isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk)) or search for their page on Facebook.

Showing others that they are valued is something that we can offer more widely, across our parish and our Island, and further afield, by emails, phone calls, and, where we can afford the postage, by letters and cards. Above all, it is the gift of time, particularly time for those we may not see in front of us. So many people feel they are invisible: this may happen when we no longer have a role, or a job. It is not exclusive to those who are older. Young mums may feel that they are seen entirely through the lens of their child, new arrivals may struggle to meet others without an invitation. As the days grow shorter, and we are out and about less, how are we going to support those who feel isolated, and wait for company and a message of love and care?

Richard Smout



## Churchyard Spruce-Up...and the Yew Too!

The Chillerton and Gatcombe Community Gardening Club meets with the guidance and inspiration of Debs Goodenough roughly once a month. We enjoy a laugh and also learn more about the plants that are found in our community.

The volunteers spend most time on the borders around the Village Green but, every few months, we turn our attention to the Churchyard at St Olave's Church. This year we have tidied ivy from the church walls ...discovering some long-covered gravestones in the process. Trimming the yew bushes bordering the church path was a big job, and recently we have enjoyed the new views of the Gatcombe Estate exposed by the recent tree work next to the church. This week the team have worked on weeding the gravel path and planting spring bulbs near the church gate.

Keeping the communal outside areas of the villages looking cared for is an ongoing challenge and new volunteers are always welcome. Look out for dates and times to meet up on YPM.

Leonie Terry



## In Your Prayers...

Holy and life-giving Lord, in a month where we reflect upon the lives of those who have died in conflicts and wars of the past.

Help us to make for everything that brings peace and reconciliation to the world in which we live.

And therefore, honour their ultimate sacrifice. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

*Revd Steve*



## Services at St Olave's in November

Sunday 3 November	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 November	10.55am	Remembrance Service <i>(Please note earlier time)</i>
Sunday 17 November	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 24 November	11am	Holy Communion

*Please remember that our Remembrance Service begins at 10.55 am so that the Two Minutes of Silence can be observed. Thank you....*



*A reminder that the All Souls Service will be held at The Minster on Sunday November 3rd at 6pm.*

## Harvest Festival

It is no coincidence that the Church of England's Gratitude & Generosity Week is celebrated at Harvest Festivals.

Our farmers may be struggling with climate change and crops not so abundant, but in comparison with other countries which are suffering from war or severe drought leading to starvation for its people we, in St Olave's, have much to be thankful for. We were able to sing our harvest hymns with genuine joy and gratitude whilst being uplifted by the beautiful flower arrangements within the church (thank you flower arrangers). "Come ye thankful people come."

Generosity was in abundance with multiple carrier bags of provisions, given and blessed, for the Food Bank. A generosity of spirit is evident week on week with our people's care for each other and being grateful for God's gift to us with new life and hope in Jesus Christ.

Having generously been given sheaves of corn by a local farmer for decoration and to enhance the flower arrangements, our church mice were not forgotten!! What fun they had.

"All good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love."

*Hilary Jones*



Can you spare an hour or two on  
**Friday December 6th**  
between **9.30am and 12.30pm**

to help to spruce the church up for Christmas?

We promise dust and cobwebs but also fun, fellowship and the promise of coffee and cake. Come for an hour ....or more if you are able...and bring dusters/ old clothes etc.

We would like to thank all those who have helped out on numerous previous occasions to keep this ancient part of our community alive.

Thank you!!

**Christmas Coffee Morning**  
**Saturday 7th December**  
**from 10am till 12.30pm**  
**in Chillerton Village Hall.**

If anyone can donate a cake or help us, please let Harriet (721766) or Hilary (721682) know.

If anyone has any Christmas Craft items for sale please tell us as there will be table space available.

Looking forward to seeing you there!!

## Howzat!!

Join the Church, they said... See the world, they said...

Well, a few weeks ago, I found myself in a place that I never imagined I would. In the middle of the Solent on the Bramble Bank! Once a year, a friendly cricket match takes place between the Royal Southern Yacht Club, based on the Hamble River, and the Island Sailing Club, based in Cowes. The timing is, of course, totally dependent upon the low tide.

So, at the incredibly early time of 5:30am (I had no idea there was another 5:30 in the same day!) I arrived at the Island Sailing Club. I joined several other members for a ride out into the middle of the Solent on a speedy RIB! And just as the tide approached its lowest state, the Bramble Bank was exposed. Along with moments later, dawn breaking across the Solent.

What an incredibly evocative moment it was!

So, after I blessed the pitch, the game began. This year it was the turn of the Royal Southern to win (each team takes turns to win). After about an hour, the tide came in and covered the pitch once more. Leaving nothing but happy memories behind.

The role of a Vicar is an incredible role; it takes me into places I never would have imagined. And this is just one of them. All of this came about as I had the privilege of marrying a lovely couple. One half

of which was an organiser for the event. It just goes to show, you never know what each day will bring!

*Revd Steve*



## Busy Bees!!

Michael and Leonie Terry's bees have indeed been busy and produced lots of beautiful honey.

Jars of this delicious, and very local honey, are again available to purchase in St Olave's.

£4.50 for a 250 g jar or 3 jars for £12.

There is an easy-to-use card payment machine for convenience.

As it has done for more than the last three years, all proceeds from the sale of the honey goes to our church fund.



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## Contact Us



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<https://stolaves.church/>

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