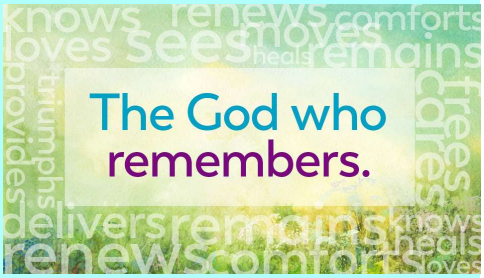
St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

November 2026

November is a pause between the year so far and the preparation and waiting for Christmas, it is also a season of remembrance. To remember is to call to mind in thankfulness and reflection, thinking about all that has happened as well as looking forward, creating a bridge between past and future whilst grounding us in the present.

Remembrance is not only about us. There is a deeper truth, God remembers us too. God's remembrance is active, faithful, loving and compassionate. To be remembered by God is to never be forgotten. In grief; joy; waiting; knowing; pain; celebration each of us are always remembered by God.

God's remembrance of us is steadfast and holds us in his loving arms and says, "You are known, loved and accepted by me."



Life rushes on around us easy to get caught up in it all, and Christmas will be here before we know it. Yet November offers each of us a gift, to pause, reflect and remember.

May I encourage you to accept November's invitation to look back with thankfulness and love, acknowledging all that has been and happened, whilst looking forward to with all that we have learnt, holding onto the knowledge that God remembers each of us this year and in all the years to come.

Rev'd Abbie

Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival service was held on Sunday 4th October, a bright autumn morning that illuminated the church and its beautiful harvest-themed flower arrangements. Around 20 people attended, including old and new friends and a young family.

Lay Reader Richard Smout led the traditional service. As generous as ever, the congregation donated a large quantity of produce to the local Food Bank, while a collection for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution raised £81.00 in much-needed funds.

Both charities gratefully received the donations and sent their thanks and best wishes to everyone at St O's. Steve Denness (Church Warden)

Contact Us

Team Rector:-
Revd Chris Bradish:
07985 427930
chris.bradish@cofeheartofwight.org

Curate:-
Revd Abbie Lynch:
07741 014541
abbie.lynch@cofeheartofwight.org

St Olave's



Churchwardens:-
Donna Dempsey
07701 306729
Steve Denness
07850779544

Safeguarding Officer:-
Louise Parsons:
01983 721804

PCC Secretary & Newsletter Editor:-
Jill Webster
(01983 721483 or jill.webster@outlook.co

Please send your news to:-
Harriet Robinson
(01983 721766 or spottydogs@hotmail.com)

St Olave's Website
https://stolaves.church/

In Your Prayers...

Dear Lord



In this month of remembrance we pray for the souls of all the departed.

We remember those who selflessly gave their lives for their country in the hope of peace for their and future generations.

We pray for all those grieving loved ones, that they will find strength in God. *Amen*

Donna Dempsey (Church Warden)

Thank you to Gardening in the Community and its volunteers who spent time in the churchyard on Friday 30th October tidying, clearing leaves and hedge trimming.



Services at St Olave's in November

Sunday 1 November	11am	Service of the Word *Please stay for refreshments afterwards.*
Sunday 8 November	10.50am	Service of the Word **Remembrance Service**
Sunday 15 November	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 22 November	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 November *1st Sunday in Advent*	11am	Service of the Word Lighting of the Advent Crown *Please stay for mince pies and tea/coffee.**



Please join us on Sunday 8th November for our Service of Remembrance.
The service will start at 10.50am in order to observe the Two Minutes' Silence.

There will also be a service for Armistice Day on Wednesday 11th November at 11am at the Chillerton War Memorial (Chillerton Villlage Hall)

I know, I know, I know...it's barely November and we are talking about Christmas, but as the shops have been selling Christmas cards and selection boxes etc since August, I think we can just about get away with it!!

Christmas Craft Market

Saturday 7th November from 10am till 3pm.

Lots of new ...and your favourite...
Artisan stalls to browse selling beautiful goods.
St O's Coffee Shop will be selling tea, coffee and cake.
Chocolate Tombola
Raffle



Christmas Services

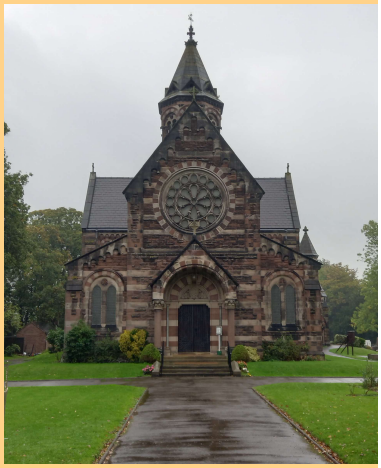
Sunday 29th November at 11am
First Sunday of Advent - led by Ethne Whitlock *

Sunday 13th December at 11am
Christingle Service - led by Revd Chris

Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm
Carol Service - led by Richard Smout

Friday 25th December at 11am
Service of the Word - led by Revd Chris

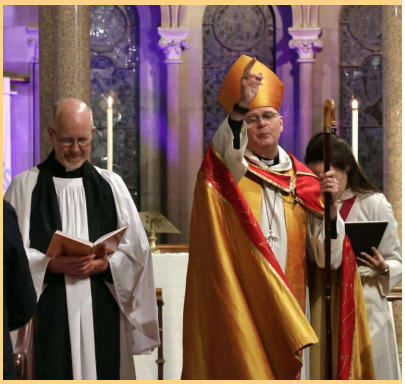
Licensing of Revd Steve



On a very wet and misty Tuesday, 20th October, we headed north to attend the Licensing of the Reverend Steve as Vicar of St Paul's Church, Hooton, near Ellesmere Port in the Diocese of Chester. St Paul's is architecturally distinctive within Cheshire. Built in the mid-Victorian period, it brings together several earlier styles, including Byzantine, Lombardic and Gothic influences. The result is a striking building, particularly when floodlit at night.

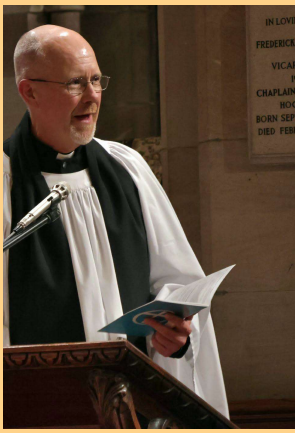
We received a warm welcome from everyone, from the Bishop onwards, as we entered a church packed for the special occasion. The congregation included senior clergy, civic dignitaries, representatives of the parish's three faith schools and members of many other local organisations. We were also delighted to meet members of Steve's family and many friends. Aong them was the Revd Emma, who had been Licensed in her own new parish the previous Sunday, together with around eight others who had travelled north from the Island.





It was a joyful service. Led by the choir, hymns ancient and modern filled the church with songs of praise. After the clergy entered in procession and the opening greeting and gathering, the Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Mark Tanner, presented the Revd Steve to the congregation. The liturgy included a warm and personal sermon from the Bishop, followed by the Declarations of Assent and Oaths and the Institution, or Collation. The Archdeacon of Chester then inducted and installed Steve. The congregation turned towards the west door as Steve formally took possession of the church and received its keys from the church wardens. Acts of dedication followed at the font, pulpit and Holy Table. The Rural Dean, church wardens and other dignitaries then formally welcomed him. Steve responded before announcing the next hymn. Members of the local Guides and Brownies read the intercessions beautifully.





After the blessing, the clergy processed out of the church and Steve received rapturous applause. After the service, we gathered in the spacious church hall for a reception. There was a toast, firstly with Adgestone wine (which was specially ordered in) that was the toast to the past, they then toasted with a local wine to the future. Steve was his usual exuberant self and will undoubtedly thrive in his new parish. Even so, he will never forget the Island—and St Olave's in particular—and sends everyone his love and prayers. Steve Denness (Church Warden)





Licensing of Revd Emma

We were really pleased to have the opportunity to go to Emma's licensing, near Lancaster. This was a Sunday afternoon service back on the 18th October. Emma's appointment to St John's Ellel, and St James' Shireshead is something of a landmark. This is the first time that the two churches have been brought together and Emma is the first woman to hold the position of vicar in either church. St John's is visible from the M6, and has a fine rather squat tower. It is an Edwardian building but looks older, down a narrow lane that squeezes past the old silk mill.



The weather was glorious; a little fresh, with a cool breeze but the day stayed sunny throughout. Steve came up from the Wirral, and Lorraine from the Minster was able to join us too. Emma and John had still not been able to move into the new vicarage at this point, although they have done so since, and Harry had come across from his studies in Chester, where he has already acquired a season ticket for the zoo.

The service was led by Dr Jill Duff, who is the Bishop of Lancaster, a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Blackburn. The Archdeacon of Lancaster inducted Emma into her new living, and Ann offered the commendation on behalf of Rev Chris Bradish. Among the hymns we had "Lord for the Years" as well as "And Can It Be," and the archdeacon spoke to the reading that Emma had chosen - Luke 4, where Jesus unrolls the scroll of the prophet Isaiah in Nazareth.

Emma's parish is really interesting, containing part of the University of Lancaster, and an aided C of E School. She has previously worked with the new chaplain to the university, and the primary school has had a new Headteacher who started in September. A small choir from the school sang the Gloria the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei, which was a delightful touch.

The service was followed by a celebration in the school hall, a couple of hundred yards down the road, and the spread was truly impressive. It was a chance to catchup with Emma's family, and to meet the new Head, and drink gallons of tea. We then headed back along the lane, past the silk mill to our car. A party of pink-footed geese corkscrewed down onto the fields to the north as the light started to fade. It was a great afternoon, and we send all our love and best wishes to Emma and her family as they settle into what is a really beautiful part of the world, close to both Morecambe Bay and the Forest of Bowland.

Richard Smout (Lay Reader)

Newchurch Male Voice Choir returns to St Olave's

We were delighted to welcome the Newchurch Male Voice Choir back to St Olave's for a free afternoon concert on Saturday 17th October. The community event was well supported by an audience of around 35, including parishioners, choir supporters and their families. The choir of eighteen were in fine voice and, under the direction of their choir master and musical director at the keyboard, the church resounded with a varied programme of choral standards and modern tunes.

The concert lasted for around seventy-five minutes, with a short interval during which the raffle was drawn. On conclusion of the concert the choir received well-deserved rapturous applause. Following which teas and light refreshments were served.



The main aim of the afternoon was to provide free entertainment and to draw new visitors into our church in which it succeeded. There was a retiring collection as well as the raffle and we were astounded by people's generosity as these raised £227.60 for church funds.

Steve Denness
(Church Warden)

It's always lovely to catch up with our former clergy. Many of you will remember Revd Marcus who was with us from 2011 until he, along with Emily and their daughter, Lydia, relocated to The Lake District in 2020. Recently Richard and Ann Smout travelled to the Lakes for Emily's Licensing Service....

A Licensing in the Lakes



At the start of September Ann and I had the chance to travel up to the Lakes and attend the Licensing Service for Emily Bagg, as she finished her curacy and began a new role. She was being made vicar for Crosthwaite, Cartmel Fell, Winster and Witherslack, (and, for good measure, priest-in-charge of Underbarrow and Helsington). All these parishes are in beautiful rolling countryside, full of stone walls, south of Kendal, and south-east of Windermere, with many of the churches down narrow lanes, which may be challenging to reach in the winter. The vicarage looks out over green fields in the village of Crosthwaite, with houses spread thinly along the length of the lane. It is walkable, but a fair step, from there to the church, past the local school. As Lydia is now in her second year of secondary school, the bus picks her up from the door, which is handy, but makes for a long day.





We parked in a field for the service itself and, with no street lights, had to rely on the parishioners' torches to find our way back. The church in Crosthwaite was packed and the service was taken by the Bishop of Carlisle, Rob Saner-Haigh, who spoke powerfully of the importance of centring one's ministry on being a shepherd to God's people. Both he, and Emily's training incumbent, from her days in Hawkshead, spoke warmly about her qualities as a curate, and it was lovely to catch up with the wider family.



Meanwhile Marcus is the incumbent, in a part-time role, for adjacent parishes in a different deanery: Staveley-in-Cartmel, Haverthwaite and Finsthwaite in the Leven Valley benefice south of Lake Windermere. It is good to see them so well used, and so settled in their life in the Lakes.

We were able to visit two more of Emily's six churches during our visit. We walked out to Helsington from the Sizergh Castle estate. It is a relatively simple building but with wonderful views west top the mountains of the southern Lakes. My favourite church was Witherslack, down lanes and bends, and set on a terrace looking across the valley – a 17th century church with a classical feel inside and, in a real echo of St Mary's, Carisbrooke, a very large royal coat of arms from Queen Anne's day.

We offer our thoughts and prayers for Emily, Marcus and Lydia, as this new, exciting, phase in their life begins.

Richard Smout (Lay Reader)

A Stone-Age Adventure – a Brief Account

A few years ago I became interested in how people lived before the discovery of metal, i.e. the Stone Age, and wanted to experience it for myself. The only way to experience this, beyond looking at artefacts in a museum, is to do it yourself, and the only way to do it is to develop the skills needed by a person living in a simple tribal society of the time. People had to keep warm, dry, fed and entertained: fire-making, shelter-building, preparing hides for leather, net-making, basket-making and foraging are just some of these skills, many of which we would still recognise today.

So, along with seven others I'd not met before, I enrolled on a year-long bushcraft course run by Living by Nature. The course consisted of ten weekends from March to December, followed by a ten-day long immersion in a remote Swedish woodland, to experience as close to time-travel as can reasonably be achieved by a group of amateurs. The idea is that by learning to live and work together during the year, your group becomes a harmonious 'tribe' that is skilled enough to survive the ten days in reasonable comfort. It was demanding but rewarding to get to a stage where we could rely on each other in an environment where there are no shortcuts. You discover your own limitations… and you quickly find out who will use the last bit of hot water without re-filling the kettle!

On 31st August we arrived in the middle of nowhere in the province of Värmland, which is about the same latitude as Oslo and Orkney. The temperature was in the high teens, dropping to near zero on some nights and the weather was much like home – overcast and damp.

We were not permitted any modern gear whatsoever, apart from a fire extinguisher and an emergency first aid kit. The idea was to be able to immerse ourselves in the colours, textures and smells of the past, to really experience how to live with primitive equipment, and when something was lacking, how to make do without. It is surprising how little stuff one needs and how much more important it is to have a wealth of experience and knowledge – a lesson for our internet-reliant lives today, perhaps.

Clothes and boots were made of wool felt, buckskin* and leather; equipment included flint flakes for cutting, natural cordage made of plant fibres and rawhide for tying, intestines, bladders and other leathers for pouches and containers, willow baskets for carrying, and a small amount of food. Per person, for the ten days, we were allowed: 400g pemmican (or pure tallow – which is like eating wax), 200g jerky (dried meat) and 200g fruit leather (dried fruit purée). All of this kit and food we had to make, from scratch, ourselves, as best we could during the course.

It would take too long to detail what happened during the entire ten-day immersion – you really had to be there – but there were some particularly interesting discoveries. First, that food deprivation is manageable but it makes you slow right down and adjust your movements to best conserve energy. Living with people that are not actually family, you learn where to draw the line between discussing a problem frankly, and just putting up with it for a week. That keeping a fire going continuously for ten days and nights is entirely possible, if everyone in your group knows how to do it… and that sphagnum moss is a life-saver in more ways than one: we thatched our shelter with it and it makes the best (literal) bog roll.

Overall it has been a wonderful adventure and has given me a much greater understanding of the world around me. I've spent countless hours of hard physical labour turning raw deerskins into buckskin, burned my fingers gathering nettles, made several yards of fishing net but caught nothing, and nearly given up trying to sew a set of clothes that look only slightly better than a sack with armholes. I've had some pretty uncomfortable nights, been poisoned by a mushroom and have stared across the campfire at annoying tribe-members, wondering why I was there. It has opened my eyes to how tough and clever our ancestors were – after all, had they been the useless troll-like cavemen of stereotype, we would not be here today.

*if you are interested in what this is, I recommend the paragraph 'What exactly is buckskin?' in Matt Richards' 'Deerskins into Buckskins'. Book is available to read on https://archive.org/ free of charge but you will have to make an account.

If you'd like to see (and smell) some of the stuff I made, I will be doing a show-and-tell in March 2027, for more information see the Chillerton and Gatcombe Horticultural Society.

Louise Parsons