

# St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

October  
2024



## When Two or Three Are Gathered Together

I've had a lot of fun over the years designing and making three cushions for our church. The first one I made was a cushion for the Bishop's Chair, beside the altar. I had chosen to depict St Olave's boat which is carved on the ends of the choir stalls. I picked up the colours of the altar rail cushions and some from the Morris windows and used a variety of stitches to give it texture. Bishop Christopher blessed it, but never sat in it as he preferred the clergy seat by the pulpit. Sadly not a success to make the Bishop's visits more comfy!!!!



The second cushion I made was a memorial cushion for Elizabeth Peace - our much missed friend and lay reader who had devoted her life and her love to our church, taking services, being PCC Secretary, organising all the ins and outs of the church's year and enthusiastically helping the fund raising group. I had originally designed the cushion with a background of Lay Reader's blue and a cross with lilies, but realised that of course, although the blue was right, it should be poppies not lilies, as I had inherited Elizabeth's dear little Jack Russell, Poppy, when she died. This cushion was for the clergy seat which Elizabeth always sat in, by the organ.



The last cushion was for the opposite clergy seat, by the pulpit, in memory of another Elizabeth - our late Queen - and was finished for the second anniversary of her death last month. It is complimentary in colour to the opposite clergy seat cushion, but instead of poppies it has an arrangement of the flowers of the British Isles.... and I enjoyed incorporating a corgi and a horse, both loves of the late Queen.



So why continue decorating and making things for our church? Is it important? We are often told you can worship anywhere; alone or with others, in your home, in a field or walking down the road. This is, of course, true. Perhaps you can say that your whole life as a Christian should be a living worship.

But is there something special about worshipping in a church? In buildings that have always been called The House of God? I think there is. The importance of coming together in this special place, worshipping as a congregation, in a place where generations before have worshipped, saying many of the same prayers, singing many of the same hymns cannot be set aside. Nowadays we have Cafe Church, we have Jazz Church, we have many more modern services, but most of them still involve a coming-together in support and friendship, just as has happened for generations.

The church building is also a place of quiet in this frantic world; to just sit for a while in this special place and gain strength, to know this is somewhere where you can be heard and where you can sit quietly and listen too.

Sadly, many churches are closing nowadays as congregations dwindle and finances become insurmountable. I still feel that we should try to beautify, to love and to attend our churches. It would have been awful if people a few centuries ago had said they couldn't be bothered and just let our beautiful churches go to rack and ruin. The wonderful continuity of love and worship that St Olave's Church has seen over the centuries is to be treasured and enjoyed and as each morning the church is unlocked it affords a new chance to welcome everyone to be in God's House. *Harriet Robinson*

## In Your Prayers...

Dear Lord...

Autumn shows us how to embrace change in glorious splendour....

It reminds us to accept and flow with the change; just like the falling leaves, you have to let go in order to move forward, grow and heal.

Amen.

Maggie Puckett



## Services at St Olave's in

### October

Sunday 6 October	11am	Holy Communion
<b>Harvest Festival</b>		
Sunday 13 October	11am	Morning Worship <i>(Please stay for coffee and cake.)</i>
Sunday 20 October	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 27 October	11am	Holy Communion

The Marriage of  
**Charlie Dennis Broomfield &  
Katie Louise Morris**  
took place on  
**Saturday 7th September 2024**  
at Gatcombe Church



The Marriage of  
**Ricky Clayton &  
Sophie Wyndham-Lewis**  
took place on  
**Saturday 21st September 2024**  
at Gatcombe Church

## Michaelmas

Hear us Michael,  
Greatest angel,  
Come down a little  
From thy high seat  
To bring us the strength of God  
And the lightening [levamen] of his mercy



## St Olave's Welcomes Ace Tours!!

On a bright September afternoon, ACE Tours brought a group of 20 visitors to St Olave's Church for their annual visit.

The group was warmly welcomed by Revd Steve and treated to a fascinating talk by Suzanne Fagence Cooper, an expert in art history and the Pre-Raphaelites. She focused on the church's stunning Morris & Co. stained glass windows, a masterpiece of the Arts and Crafts Movement, designed by William Morris, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Ford Maddox Brown, Edward Burne-Jones and Philip Webb. Dr. Cooper delved into the history and craftsmanship behind these vibrant windows, explaining how they reflect the broader cultural revival of medieval traditions in Victorian England.

In addition to the windows, Dr. Cooper highlighted other historical elements of St Olave's, including its Norman origins and centuries-old architecture. The talk provided context to the church's place within the region's history.

During the discussion, the group enjoyed tea and homemade cake, served by members of the church congregation. The relaxed atmosphere allowed for further conversation, making it a delightful end to the visit. We look forward to welcoming another group next year.

(Learn more about Ace Cultural Tours here -

<https://www.aceculturaltours.co.uk/>)

Leonie Terry

ACE  
CULTURAL  
TOURS

## The Licensing of Revd Chris Bradish

On Sunday 15th September, we were all invited to the Minster to witness the Institution, Induction and Installation of the Reverend Chris Bradish as Team Rector of the Benefices of Newport St Thomas, St John and Carisbrooke and the Benefice of Gatcombe by the Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Frost, Bishop of Portsmouth, in the presence of his family, the Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Mrs Susan Sheldon, members of the local clergy, members of Chris's previous Parish of Andover, and our four Parishes. The Minster was full to wish him well.

The Team Rector was welcomed by the choir and then he was Instituted by the Bishop. We were then asked to rededicate ourselves to one another which various members of the congregation, including members of the PCCs represented by Peter Ednay and myself, did on behalf of the Congregation. The Team Rector was then installed by the Archdeacon.

Finally, as the first public act of a new ministry, the Rector led us in an act of a new ministry.

A most memorable occasion for all those who took part.

*Ann Taylor (Gatcombe PCC)*



Photos courtesy of  
Michael Dunkason



**Top Left** - Chris and Bishop Jonathan  
**Top Right** - Chris speaks to the congregation  
**Bottom Left** - Ann Taylor and Peter Ednay rededicating on behalf of the congregation.  
**Bottom Right** - Leonie Terry presenting a bouquet of flowers to Naomi,



## Contact Us

**Team Rector:-**  
**Revd Chris Bradish:**  
[chris.bradish@cofeheartofwight.org](mailto:chris.bradish@cofeheartofwight.org)

**Team Vicar, with Special  
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**St Olave's Website**  
<https://stolaves.church/>

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## Coffee Morning for St O's.

St Olave's Team organised the monthly September Coffee Morning at Chillerton Village Hall. The usual delectable array of cakes were made by The Team and friends for the regular supporters of the coffee mornings and casual 'popper ins' to enjoy. The happy buzz of chatter and murmuring sounds of delight as cakes reached lips show how much people enjoy these coffee mornings.

Some generous donations of fruit and vegetables, along with Gillian's preserves, for people to buy - plus the anticipation of winning a raffle prize added to the enjoyment. A very healthy sum of £276.90 was donated for St Olave's Church funds.

Surplus cakes were very much appreciated to be enjoyed after Morning Worship in church the following day, and by a tour group from the mainland who come each year to look at the renowned William Morris stained glass window at the east end of the church.



Thank you everybody. *Hilary Jones*



## Dates for your Diary

**Harvest Festival**  
**Sunday 6th October at 11am at St Olave's**

Please, if you are able, bring items of non-perishable food stuff which will be blessed during the service and then taken to the Food Bank.

### **Items Needed...thank you.**

TINNED VEGETABLES / TINNED FRUIT / TINNED SOUP / TINNED MEAT MEALS / TINNED FISH /  
PACKETS OF RICE / PUDDINGS / MALE AND FEMALE DEODORANT / SHAVING GEL AND RAZORS /  
SHAMPOO

**Items NOT needed** due to the generosity of the public.... Cereals, pasta and beans.

**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!!