

St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

October 2025



It is with deep sadness that I must announce the death of a good friend to this parish.

The Revd Canon Sarah Chapman died on 23rd September.

Revd Sarah served the wider benefice of Newport and Carisbrooke with Gatcombe back in 2023 as Interim Team Rector. She brought great passion and tenacity to our parishes and her ministry was greatly appreciated by the ministry team and all who serve here. She will be remembered lovingly for her smile, her love and her deep faith. A faith which strengthened her throughout those difficult times of life, that we all face.

Revd Sarah was amongst the first female clergy able to be ordained back in 1994.

Thus her legacy is a powerful one, which enables others to go forward also.

We will pray for her husband, Giles and her children and grandchildren
as she prayed for us. Revd Steve



Hello friends,

As ever, I do hope that this newsletter finds you all well and in good spirits! Life, as we all know, can be filled with times when we feel energised and buoyant. Times of happiness and joy. But on occasions we carry burdens and worries that can weigh us down. So, I sincerely hope that at the moment, you are feeling positive and that this time will last for you. Whereas if your life is currently not producing the positivity you desire, and in fact need, then I hope this time soon passes.

I was in conversation with someone recently about the challenges of life. And we discussed the merits of what people often call 'the fight to life.' How we have to focus upon the joys of living so that it becomes our predominant nature. This focus can then reduce those times when we are going through difficult times.

Over the years, I have tried to condition my mind to see the good more often, rather than in things that might worry me. I notice the good that lies in the heart of all people. Even if they don't see the good in themselves. The little ways that connect us all, helps me to see a child of God in each and every person, rather than a person who is somehow different, for example.

In recent times this attribute has helped me a lot I must admit.

Because I do believe that if we wish to live in a world that lives in peace, we need to create that peace. And this involves us making an effort to see the good in folk. Including ourselves. Learning from one another and creating a society that is safe for all people, requires effort from us all. Only then can we truly live in a world that is without pain and division. A place that helps people to thrive, rather than merely exist.

Jesus Christ, came into this world to, not only teach us how to live the best life we could, but to lead us by his example. He didn't come to 'lay down the law' and demand we behave in a certain manner. Rather he came with humility and peace in his heart. And showed us, that if we lived as he lived, then we would live in peace. And in turn we would learn to thrive rather than merely survive.

Life is a blessing. It is an awesome adventure. Full of challenges and demands. But if we allow our minds to focus upon those moments, then our lives will be all the duller for it. Whereas if we focus upon the positives, the bonds that connect us all, then we will learn to flourish through life. And in time, the world, our society, our communities along with our families and friends will change.

Together we will make a difference to the world, so let's make our contribution a positive one. One where our positive legacy will be felt for an age.

With my prayers and thanks for all that you do, to make life better for both yourself and for those you walk alongside through your life.

Revd Steve xxx



In Your Prayers...

Dear Lord,
As the nights draw in and the days shorten, we give thanks for the warmth of the sun.

We pray that Your light may shine in our lives, however dark it seems to us.

And we remember all those in this world who are forced into darkness. *Amen.*

Louise Parsons



Services at St Olave's in October

Sunday 5 October	11am	Generosity Week Holy Communion
Sunday 12 October	11am	Harvest Festival <i>Please do stay afterwards for coffee and cake</i>
Sunday 19 October	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 26 October	11am	Holy Communion

Fifth Sunday Benefice Service at St Olave's

It was St Olave's turn in August to host the service on the fifth Sunday and to welcome members of the three other churches to our 11am Holy Communion. As the Revd Steve, who took the service would say, "It's a joy," and it most certainly was, to see over sixty people gathering together. Thank you, as always, to Lyndon, our organist. The large congregation, for our tiny church, certainly raised the roof singing the hymns.

Our thanks to members of the other churches who read lessons and gave the intercessions, and to the members of our congregation who brought and served coffee and cakes to everyone after the service. This gave everyone from the different churches time to chat and get to know one another. Such an important part of joining together in one benefice. *Harriet Robinson*

Ace Tours Visit to St O's.

On Tuesday 9th September, St O's was once again pleased to host a party from ACE Cultural Tours, during their tour of the Isle of Wight. The group of 17 were on the Island for a few days visiting various sites of cultural interest.



With our Pre-Raphaelite windows our beautiful 13th century church is an established feature of their visit. The tour group, under the guidance of their knowledgeable guide, spent time not only studying the windows but many of the other features of the church including the Seely monument.

As has become the custom the visitors were treated to refreshments, which consisted of a cream tea and cakes, during which the Revd Steve was on hand to enhance the story and to answer any questions; this culminated with the Elizabethan Chalice being explained and passed around for inspection. The group thoroughly enjoyed the visit and our hospitality making a generous £80 donation as they left replete ready for their next location.

Thank you to all those who assisted baking, preparing and serving the refreshments. *Steve Denness*

Harvest Festival

Do please join us for our Harvest Festival Service on October 12th.

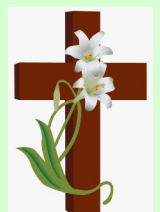
The church will be decorated with Harvest window flowers and we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food which will be blessed at the altar and sent to the Isle of Wight Food Bank.

There will be coffee and cake served after the service too, so please don't miss this Sunday at St Olave's.

**The Marriage of
Elliott Day &
Holly Jade Newton
took place on
Friday September 12th
at St Olave's Church,
Gatcombe**



**The Funeral of
Tyler John Hetherington
was held on
Thursday September 10th
at St Olave's Church,
Gatcombe**



Ride+Stride for Churches 2025

September sees the event called Ride and Stride, when you can walk, bicycle or just visit as many church's that have registered to take part, and sign the form to prove you have visited them.

St Olave's always registers to be one of the welcoming churches on the list. We leave out a drink and a biscuit for the Ride and Striders and are very pleased they have included our church on their itinerary.

This year the weather was biblical with a fair chance of seeing Noah's Ark on your travels, so a bit of a challenge for all. We only had six visitors who braved the rain to visit our church, but do hope they felt welcomed despite the bad weather.
Harriet Robinson



Jazz Eucharist at The Minster

On Sunday 28th September as part of the Isle of Wight Jazz Weekend Newport Minster once again played host to a Jazz Eucharist. As the congregation, drawn from the churches of the parish, including those from St Olave's, and 'Jazz Lovers' arrived, they were welcomed by the sound of The Unity Stompers playing Jazz/Gospel standards.

With the church extremely full the band continued to play as the combined choirs of the parish and the clergy processed down the aisle. Following the Gathering and a welcome from Revd Chris Bradish, the band struck up the first hymn - the gospel favourite *Down by the Riverside*. With the Minster resounding with this joyous tune the congregation sang with gusto, thus setting the tone for the rest of the service.

The Eucharist service proceeded in the usual manner; the choir was on excellent form adding to the uplifting feel of the event. The Gloria was sung as were parts of the Eucharistic prayer, during the Act of Communion the choir sang a collection of anthems specially arranged for the day.

The other hymns sung were *Amazing Grace* and *When the Saints Go Marching In*, by which time the congregation had really gottinto the Evangelical feel of the service, which was a fantastic way to praise the Lord, and for the Minster and the Benefice to support the ever-popular Isle of Wight Jazz Weekend. Following the service tea and coffee was served and the Jazz band continued to play.



The Minster was also one of the venues used for gigs throughout the weekend, its acoustics complementing acts including Derek Nash's Sax Appeal and the closing act of the weekend, Clare Teal.

Steve Denness

Afternoon Teas and Garden Tours.

Another highlight of this sun-filled summer has been the garden tours at Gatcombe Estate, held on Wednesday afternoons. These events, with guest numbers ranging from just two to twenty, have offered visitors a chance to explore the estate and hear about its ongoing restoration. There's been particular interest in the exciting future of the winery and vineyard, which hold great potential as we approach the first harvest later next month.

One of the most encouraging developments has been the renewed connection between Gatcombe Estate and St Olave's Church. After each tour, guests have been invited into the church for tea and homemade cakes, where conversations have continued in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

It's been a pleasure to see both the estate and church spaces coming to life through shared interest and local engagement.

Leonie Terry



Mother's Union

Mother's Union is a world wide Christian organisation which supports women and families. Here in Gatcombe, St Olave's had a thriving group who met monthly in the Reading Room in Chillerton, now known as The Gallybagger. Meetings began with prayers, followed by a guest speaker and ending with tea and biscuits.

The Enrolling Member was Sheila Swan when I joined, but some reader's memories may go back further. Elizabeth Peace took on the position more recently until dwindling numbers unhappily resulted in closure. Many group outings were enjoyed and a photograph taken at the Lavender Farm (July 2009) is one example.

How many people can you name?
Carolyn Hoyle



Mother's Union

Standing - Hilary Jones, Elizabeth Peace, Sheila Swan, Ann Taylor & Jill Hawkes

Seated - ???? Marion Belben, Rachel Attrill & Sheila Thompson

(Please let us know if you know the seated lady on the left)

Diaries out - here are the COMING EVENTS!!



We are holding our **Merry Christmas Craft Market** in **St Olave's Church** this year on **Saturday 1st November** from **10am until 2.30pm**. Wonderful craft stalls for your early Christmas shopping and St Olave's Coffee Shop open for hot drinks and homemade cake. St Olave's Stall will be a Chocolate Tombola so any donations of bars, bags, boxes or anything chocolaty will be very welcome and can be handed over to Harriet, Leonie or Hilary over the next few weeks.

St Olave's is running the **Chillerton Village Quiz** at the **Gallybagger Inn** on **Friday 14th November** at **7pm**. The bar will be open and there will be a raffle. Do make up a team and join us. £3 per person to enter.

We are running the **Coffee Morning** at **Chillerton Village Hall** on **Saturday 6th December** from **10am until noon**. Please join us for more homemade cake. Meet friends for a chat or make some lovely new ones!!

Funds raised from these events will help to support St Olave's Church

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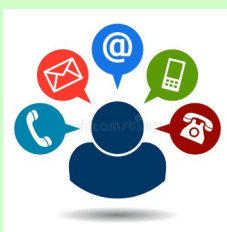
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