

# St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

July &  
August 2026

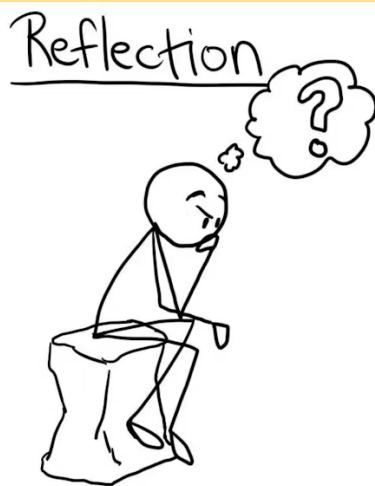


Hello friends!

As I write this piece for our combined summer edition, the weather is scorching hot and the sky is as clear as a bell. Isn't summer simply wonderful? The birds are singing their hearts out and the flowers are offering a lovely heady perfume to make us turn our heads and notice them.

Summer is always my favourite time of year. That often, more settled weather gives us the opportunity to spend more time outdoors and time to catch up with friends and loved ones. So, I sincerely hope that you all manage to spend some quality time with those you hold dear this summer and have the opportunity to appreciate the radiance of nature all around you.

In recent weeks I enjoyed some time off, to visit some dear friends in the north of England. A little place called Warkworth in Northumberland. Where I spent some quality time with friends who are approaching retirement. Isn't it a peculiar fact of life that time flies so quickly, the older we get? I wonder why? But as my friends draw close to the end of one chapter, so another will open soon enough. They will each leave a powerful legacy for others to build upon.



In my role as a Parish Priest, I am often called upon to support people through all stages of life. I find, that people like to reflect increasingly as they get older. Some, concerned at what their legacy might be. Whether that's of a personal nature involving their relationships or one where they have improved a particular home or garden setting or workplace environment. Generally, we all want to leave the world in a better place than the one we inherited. We would like people to think well of us and remember us fondly, I'm sure.

If that includes you, may I encourage you this summer to simply pop next door or across the road and simply say hello to your neighbour. See how they're doing. Brighten up their world and I'm sure your world will be brightened up as a result. Build a positive legacy and help to create a more harmonious society where all people will benefit.

With my love, Revd Steve xxxx

## Reverend Emma Cooksey

It has always been a pleasure to welcome the Reverend Emma to St Olave's, to listen to her ministry, and to share in worship with her. After five years in the benefice, Revd Emma has decided it is time for a new challenge. The Lord has guided her to seek a new parish, and the Bishop of Lancaster has appointed her Vicar of Ellel St John's and Shireshead St James, on the outskirts of Lancaster in the Diocese of Blackburn. Emma is expected to take up her new role in the autumn, subject to DBS, safeguarding, and legal checks. A date for the Service of Institution will be announced in due course.

It has been a joy to get to know Emma—who could forget Pass the Parcel at last year's Christmas Morning service? We will miss her greatly, but as one chapter ends another begins; our loss will be their gain.

Please pray for Emma, John, and Harry as Emma completes her ministry here on the Island and the family prepares for their move.  
Steve Denness (Churchwarden)



## In Your Prayers...

Our world has many regions of conflict. Wars are being fought over access to land and resources. And closer to home, disputes happen between people over similar, though smaller, issues.

Please pray for all of us, that political leaders and individuals grow insight and awareness of others, that we talk to understand our adversaries' positions, and we make a peace that disregards greed and self interest. *Amen*

Michael Terry



## Change of Service Pattern

Owing to changes at St Mary's Church, it was felt that a slight alteration in the pattern at St Olave's would ease the situation somewhat.

So from July onwards the structure will be as follows-

- 1st Sunday - Service of the Word (with after service refreshments)
- 2nd Sunday - Holy Communion
- 3rd Sunday - Evensong
- 4th Sunday - Holy Communion
- 5th Sunday - Still to be decided

## Services at St Olave's in July & August

Sunday 5 July	11am	Service of the Word <i>Please stay afterwards for coffee and cake</i>
Sunday 12 July	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 July	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 26 July	11am	Holy Communion <b>Patronal Service</b>
Sunday 2 August	11am	Service of the Word <i>Please stay afterwards for coffee and cake</i> TBC
Sunday 9 August	11am	Holy Communion TBC
Sunday 16 August	6.30pm	Evensong TBC
Sunday 23 August	11am	Holy Communion TBC
Sunday 30 August	11am	Holy Communion TBC

**A Patronal Service for St Olaf will be held on Sunday 26th July at 11am.**

Everybody is welcome to come along and to stay for refreshments afterwards.  
(More about St Olaf on page 5.)

The Wedding of  
Hannah Mudge &  
Jonathan Honey  
took place on

Friday June 12th at  
St Olave's Church, Gatcombe



The Wedding of  
Abigail Downer &  
Joseph Thurbin  
took place on

Saturday June 20th at  
St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

## Our Admissions as Churchwardens

On Thursday 25th June, one of the hottest days on record, this year's annual Archdeacon's Visitation took place at Newport Minster. This is the occasion when the Archdeacon meets representatives from churches across the Island, giving them the opportunity to raise concerns, ask questions, and meet members of the diocesan team. It was especially significant this year because we now have our own new Archdeacon for the Island, the Venerable Barry Dugmore. The proceedings began at 4pm and, while Barry carried out a series of appointments, cream tea was served and we had the chance to meet and talk with fellow churchwardens.

The afternoon concluded with a service for the admission of churchwardens, conducted by Archdeacon Barry. Because of the stifling heat, he and the other clergy present dispensed with their robes. During the service, the churchwardens were presented, and the Registrar, Sue DeCandole, described our role. This was

followed by the Charge, to which we responded, "With the help of God, I will." The Archdeacon then addressed us, asked the required question, and received our declaration before admitting us to office. He then addressed the congregation, who welcomed the churchwardens with applause, before all present joined together in prayer. During the anointing hymn, those admitted as churchwardens, together with their incumbents or other team members, received anointing with oil. The service then continued in the usual manner.

It was a very special day for everyone, and one I will always remember.

*Donna Dempsey & Steve Denness (Churchwardens)*

## A Special Sunday at the Minster

Sunday 28th June was a busy and memorable day for our Benefice and the Island as a whole. It began with a special Benefice service of Holy Communion, conducted by the Reverend Abbie, to mark her priesting the previous day at Portsmouth Cathedral.

The service opened with the processional hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns". The large congregation, drawn from across the Benefice, stood as Abbie entered in procession with her father, the Rev'd Jamie Cann, and the combined choirs of the Minster, St John's and St Mary's. A traditional service of Holy Communion followed, with the choir leading the Gloria and other responses. The first reading was given by Ann Smout, PCC Secretary, and the Gospel was read by Janet Holliday, Churchwarden. For the Gospel, the Bible was carried to the back of the church and the congregation turned towards it. The sermon was especially meaningful, as it was preached by Abbie's father, the Rev'd Jamie Cann, Curate at St Barnabas, Winchester. Abbie then presided at Communion for the first time. After the service, tea, coffee and cake were served, rounding off a memorable morning for Abbie and for our Benefice.

Later that afternoon, the Island welcomed our new Archdeacon, the Venerable Barry Dugmore. The Minster was almost full, with dignitaries, clergy, representatives and members of congregations from across the Island, including St Olave's, in attendance.

The Archdeacon entered in procession to "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven", which we had finished singing before the Joint Island Churches Choir had taken their places, the procession was so long! The service was led by the Reverend Chris Bradish, our Area Dean.



*Photograph courtesy of the Diocese.*

The Liturgy of the Word was read by Nigel Hartley, High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight, and the Gospel by Susie Sheldon, Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight. Archdeacon Barry then delivered the sermon.

After the Affirmation of Faith, Barry and his wife, Suzanne, were formally welcomed and presented with flowers and a book of Island landscape photographs from the Benefice. They were then greeted by other members of the Island faith community.

The intercessions were led by Maria Emery, Churchwarden of St Catherine's, Ventnor; Graham Salter, Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod; Barbara Cram, Churchwarden of St Peter's, Shorwell; Juliette Bradish, daughter of the Rev'd Chris Bradish; and the Rev'd Abbie Lynch.

The service included a pleasing mix of hymns, both ancient and modern, and the massed choir was in magnificent voice, filling the Minster with songs of praise. These included the anthem "I Will Sing with the Spirit" by John Rutter, specially arranged for the occasion by Martin Dover.

A reception with prosecco and cake followed, bringing another memorable Island occasion to a fitting close.  
*Steve Denness (Churchwarden)*

## Another Brilliant Coffee Morning!!

As always, thanks to the amazing helpers at the monthly coffee morning at Chillerton Village Hall on Saturday June 6th when it was our turn to run it for St Olave's Church and for Christian Aid.

Although the weather was frightful and most people had just given their all for the Scarecrow Festival, we still had a great morning enjoyed by all and made a profit of £176. 62 which has been donated to Christian Aid. Harriet Robinson



### Big Church Clean Up

Ahead of St Olave's Patronal Day, can you spare an hour or two on

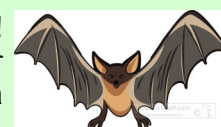
**Friday July 10th from 9.30am till noon** to help tidy, clean and spuce the church up?

If you could bring along any dusters, cleaning cloths and products, that would be a big help. Refreshments and chat will be provided though as usual!!



### Bat Walk

Yes, you've read that correctly! As part of the recent Space for Nature Survey, there will be a **Bat Walk** on the evening of **Friday 7th August**.



Meet at the church at 8pm and please bring a torch - and a bat detector if you have one although there are some which can be borrowed.

### Tickets Going Fast...

Have you bought your tickets yet for our **Pimms, Puddings and Jazz Evening** on **Saturday 18th July at 7pm?**

It will be a wonderful evening. What a combination of good music, pudding and Pimms. Tickets (£15) from Donna on 07701 306729 (Booking is essential, please)



St O's is running the **Chillerton & Gatcombe Village Quiz** on **Friday 14th August at 7.30pm** at the Gallybagger, Chillerton.

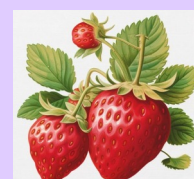


Do get together a team and come along for a 'brain teasing' evening. The bar will be open too!!

### Strawberry Cream Tea

St O's will be holding an **Strawberry Cream Tea** on **Saturday 15th August at 2pm** Tickets (£10) from Donna on 07701 306729 (Booking is essential, please)

*All funds raised from these and other events help to support St Olave's Church....thank you.*



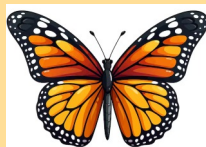
### Nature Walk

Richard Smout will be leading a **Butterfly and Insect Walk**

around the church grounds on **Monday 20th July at 11am.**

No need to book - just turn up.

There will be light refreshments served in the church afterwards.



(In the event of bad weather we'll try again on Wednesday 22nd)

A special plea for bottles of wine for the church's **Water or Wine** stall at the **Chillerton & Gatcombe Horticultural Show** on **Saturday 25th July**.



Bottles can be given to Harriet, Hilary, Donna, Steve or Carol. Thank you in advance!!!!

### Stop Press

Confirmation that Newchurch Male Voice Choir will be performing at St O's on Saturday 17th October.

This will be a 'free concert' with a 'retiring fund.'

Tea, cake and biscuits will be served too. More details as we have them in the September News.



## A Sister Church by the Sognefjord.

A few week's ago Ann and I were in Norway. As St Olave / Olaf is their patron saint his legacy was everywhere. His burial place is in the wonderful cathedral in Trondheim. In Valldal, a valley now famous for its strawberries, we were shown the pass where Olaf and his followers had retreated through the snowfields, 998 years ago. However, for us, the most unexpected discovery was on the Sognefjord, in the village of Balstrand.

Here a stave church was built in 1897, in memory of the English wife of the local hotel-owner. It is one of only eight Anglican churches in Norway, and is dedicated to St Olaf. All the other churches are in cities, but this church is in a community with less than 800 residents. The reason lies with the beauty of the scenery, because at the start of last century this was one of the most fashionable resorts in the country, visited by Kaiser Wilhelm II, Clement Attlee, and more recently by Kirk Douglas.

The wooden church is a delight: the carpentry is amazing, and the church has the most beautiful pews, with just a touch of Arts and Crafts to them, details highlighted in dull red and green.

We had a time for prayer for both of our congregations, and left a greeting from the St Olave's Gatcombe in the visitors' book. The church still has Anglican services, but no resident clergy. When they come to lead worship they are in for a treat. The Kviknes hotel here still honours the wishes of the original hotelier some 130 years earlier, and gives them accommodation for the length of their visit. Anyone for a placement with the Anglican Church in Norway?

*Richard Smout*



## The Collation and Installation of the Venerable Barry Dugmore as Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight

On Trinity Sunday, 31st May, Carol and I travelled with others from the Island to Portsmouth Cathedral for Choral Evensong, sung by the Girl Choristers, and the installation of the Venerable Barry Dugmore as our new Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight.

The service, presided over by Bishop Jonathan, was held in the Quire of the Cathedral. After the welcome and introduction, the Archdeacons presented the Archdeacon-designate to the bishop. During the Collation, Barry answered the required question, knelt, and was instituted as Archdeacon while the deed of Collation was read. He was then commended to the Dean and, after making his Declaration of Fidelity, was led by the Dean to his archdeaconry stall in the Quire and formally installed. The congregation then greeted Barry as our new Archdeacon.

After the formal proceedings, the traditional service of Choral Evensong continued. It was a delightful occasion, and the Cathedral resounded with the voices of the excellent Girl Choristers.

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Barry was born in Stoke-on-Trent and is married to Suzanne. They have three married children and six grandchildren. A keen musician, Barry enjoys playing the guitar, singing and recording, sport, and walking, especially in mountains. He'd love to walk the Camino in the future.



After studying chemistry, he began his career with ICI as a research technician and chemist before moving into commercial roles in the pharmaceutical industry, focusing on marketing and business development. His and Suzanne's shared love of music led them into worship ministry at Locks Heath, developing a passion for worship. Training for ordained ministry at STETS, Barry was ordained by the late Bishop Kenneth Stevenson in 2001. He served his curacy in Cowplain, followed by a first post in Whiteley, before moving to Tiverton, Devon, in 2007, where he led two churches through growth and renewal, and served as rural dean.

Later, as Mission Enabler for the Diocese of Exeter, he supported clergy and congregations in developing missional confidence, launching the innovative "Mission Shed" network and contributing to new church plants in Plymouth's outer city estates.

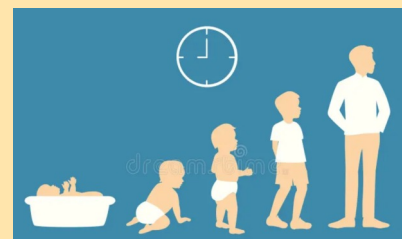
Since 2019 Barry served as Archdeacon Missioner in the Diocese of Coventry, leading diocesan mission and church growth strategy, and clergy appointments. Under his leadership, over 100 new worshipping communities have been formed, centred on collaboration, sustainability, and the development of Mission Hub churches. He also served as Chair for Together for Change, a charity which partners with churches to address challenges in areas of deprivation.

Steve Denness (Churchwarden)

### A Curious fact of Life....

Revd Steve reflected in his message, 'Isn't it a peculiar fact of life that time flies so quickly, the older we get?'

Try this for a theory...when we are 5 years old the time between Christmas and birthdays seems so long even though it's still only a year, but that year is one fifth of your lifetime so far or 20% of the amount of time you have been on this earth.



When you are middle-aged or even older you seem to notice that time passes more quickly; Christmases come round again and again and the birthdays just pile up, but if you consider one year as a portion of your lifetime then it is a much smaller fraction or percentage - every Christmas comes round really quickly to me as I have been here 70 years so each year is 1/70th of my lifetime (pretty quick but I'm hanging in there!) not 1/5th at age 5 or even 1/25th at age 25. What do you think? *Sue Hardy*

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**St Olave's Website**  
<https://stolaves.church/>



Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust (HIHCT) funds repairs to historic church buildings in this diocese by distributing valuable grants. HIHCT has helped 319 churches scattered throughout this region over the years, contributing £1m to essential repairs and refurbishment, especially where churches have struggled to find enough financial support to carry out the necessary works.

Its funds are raised largely via the annual Ride and Stride campaign, which is a Saturday each September on which faithful supporters are sponsored to ride, cycle or walk between different churches.

This year it takes place on September 12th. (More information nearer the date)

## A Run on Honey!!

As you all know, Michael and Leonie Terry's bees work constantly to produce the wonderful honey which they donate for sale in St Olave's.



At a recent wedding at St O's there was an unexpected rush on the honey jars.

The reason? The Bridegroom's surname is Honey and guests thought our honey would make a wonderful gift!

## Joining Forces!!

Gatcombe Estate Vineyard spans 50 tranquil acres of countryside with 18 acres currently under vine. While the vineyard is flourishing under the summer sun and moving towards a second harvest, the estate is undergoing a ten-year restoration journey, Gatcombe Park and Gardens now welcomes visitors to experience this revival.

Led by the Estate Manager, George Watts and local volunteers (Ali Cripps, Heather Lincoln, Michael and Leonie Terry and Linda Weeks), the **Garden & Heritage Tours** offer a two-hour journey through the estate's rich history, which dates back to the Domesday Book. Visitors can wander beneath ancient specimen trees, walk past the 1751 Georgian house, and explore the beautiful parkland, complete with the historic lake and stone bridge. The tour includes tea and biscuits at St Olave's Church as well as an opportunity to see how the vines are grown.

Tour Details & Pricing

**Schedule:** Wednesdays at 2:00 PM (until 16th September).

**Pricing:** £12 per ticket for Isle of Wight residents.

**Website:** Bookings can be made directly via [gatcombeestate.com](http://gatcombeestate.com).

