

# **THE FRIENDS OF OLD SODBURY CHURCH REPORT for APCM**

## **St JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, OLD SODBURY**

### **Period from April 2024 to April 2025**

The Friends of Old Sodbury Church exists to raise funds for the fabric and churchyard of St John the Baptist church Old Sodbury. It is formally sponsored by the PCC and there is a committee which meets to plan and deliver fund raising events. However, due to the recent lack of volunteers for the committee, by necessity the number of events undertaken has had to be reduced. Currently only the two regular annual events, Camers and Stir Up Sunday, are being pursued.

There have been three events in the last year. These were as follows:-

- An evening of Desert Island Discs featuring Revd David Powe was held in July in Old Sodbury church. A table with a sunny desert island backdrop was placed at the Chancel steps arranged as a “studio” for the interview and the audience sat in the body of the church. There were around 50 in the audience and after the show canapés and Prosecco were served. The event raised £430 after expenses.
- The main fundraising event held every year in August is the Camers concert and picnic. This is held outdoors in the Camers Gardens which are situated within Old Sodbury. Jon Clare and the Fabulous Dough Boys, a local band, provided the live music which carried on until sunset when the more active danced as the sun went down. Attendance was slightly low this year due to the uncertain weather, but there were 190 in the audience. The event raised just over £2,300 after expenses.
- Stir Up Sunday took place in November marking the start of Christmas for the Village. This event is primarily aimed at children where they were able to mix ingredients for a Christmas pudding to take home and cook. There were activities for the younger children as well as tea and cake for the adults. The event was held in the church and 63 tickets were sold, but many more attended filling the church. The event raised £530 after expenses.

This brings the total raised towards the fabric fund from the Friends to £3,300 this year.

For the coming year Camers will take place as usual in August and Stir Up Sunday in November. No other events are currently planned.

Richard Hore  
April 2025