

# THE FRIENDS OF OLD SODBURY CHURCH REPORT for APCM

## St JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, OLD SODBURY

### Period from April 2025 to April 2026

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. Due to the lack of volunteers, by necessity the number of events in the last year had been reduced and just the two regular annual events took place, that is Camers and Stir Up Sunday. New volunteers have recently stepped forward and this will help considerably with planning and the laying on of future events.

During the last year events were as follows:-

- The Camers concert and picnic is held outdoors in the Camers Gardens which are situated within Old Sodbury. Last year this was on the 9th August 2025 and featured Jon Clare and the Fabulous Dough Boys for a second year. This was a popular choice and the event was well supported with 231 tickets being sold at £16 each. Luckily the weather was reasonable although it had rained earlier in the day. Being outdoors the weather is always a concern and some hold off buying tickets until the last minute. The overall profit including takings from the raffle and after expenses was £3,100, which is a good result.
- Stir Up Sunday took place in November marking the start of Christmas for the Village. This event is primarily aimed at children where they are able to mix ingredients for a Christmas pudding to take home and cook. This was held on the 23rd November 2025. 63 pudding tickets were sold at £9 each and hot drinks and cake were available for parents and friends. Many others also came to enjoy the social occasion and refreshments. Crafts were available for children within the ticket price and once again this proved to be very popular. This year we had donations of ingredients from three local supermarkets, Waitrose, Tesco and Morrisons and that was worth about £200. The overall profit was £720 including the ingredient contributions and donations for the drinks and cake.

This brings the total raised towards the fabric fund from the Friends to just over £3,800 this last year. It is hoped that more will be done with a stronger committee and a band of people who are willing and able to plan and run events. There is never any shortage of support on the day of an event, but when it comes to the planning and organisation, people are not generally so keen.

Camers for 2026 has been planned and will take place on the 15th August. An ABBA tribute band, Inferno, has been booked and the ticket price will be increased to help cover the more expensive fee. Stir Up Sunday is being planned for the 22nd November 2026.

Richard Hore  
April 2026