

### **David Hartley's Connection with Old Sodbury**

The churchyard contains the grave of David Hartley MP, who signed the Treaty of Paris which ended the US War of Independence.

Although the USA is celebrating its 250th Birthday, the American War of Independence continued for another 7 years until 1783, when the diplomat David Hartley was commissioned by King George III to finalise a peace treaty. Hartley's friend Benjamin Franklin, finally agreed terms and signed the Treaty in Paris, ending the war and making way for Britain to acknowledge American Independence.

David Hartley is buried in his family grave in the churchyard. The popular Cotswold Way national footpath winds through the churchyard, revealing spectacular views across the River Severn to the Black Mountains in Wales and William Tyndale's Monument in the north.

A memorial to the remarkable David Hartley MP and his family is set in an inner wall of the 900 year old church.