

Welcome

to St John the Baptist
Chipping Sodbury



Welcome to St John's Church at Chipping Sodbury and to the Sodbury Vale Benefice.

I would like to warmly welcome you to our Church and thank you for visiting us and taking this welcome pack, I hope you will find it helpful. I would also like to express a huge thank you to everyone who has had a hand in producing it.

The current vision for our Church is:

‘Welcoming, Growing, Connecting with God and our Communities.’ As part of that vision, we strive to be an inclusive welcoming community, knowing that we are all a work in progress, connected by our love of God, each other and the world he has created.

As the local parish Church, we are here for the whole community and as part of that we work closely with the other church denominations in our area.

If there is anything else you would like to ask (theological or practical) please do feel free to contact myself or others named in this pack and we will do our best to help you.

With every blessing

Chris

Reverend Christine Butler
rectorchris@svbcofe.org.uk

Welcome to the Church of St. John the Baptist, Chipping Sodbury

We hope you enjoy your time with us and that you find this welcome pack useful as an introduction to our church fellowship.

We like to meet new people and work together to show God's love in whatever way we can.

If you are considering Baptism or Confirmation or wish to enquire about weddings please contact the office.

Bereavement is a very difficult and sensitive time. If you would like to talk to someone please contact the clergy.

We are one of four parish churches which make up the Sodbury Vale Benefice (part of the Wotton Deanery) and located in the southern extremity of the Diocese of Gloucester.

The other churches in the Benefice are:

- St. John the Baptist Old Sodbury,
- St. Adeline's Little Sodbury
- St. James the Elder Horton.

These peaceful village churches are situated a mile or so to the east on the Cotswold Edge.

Websites of the churches within the Sodbury Vale Benefice

<https://svbcofe.org.uk>

For Sodbury Vale Benefice

<https://svbcofe.org.uk/os>

For Old Sodbury

<https://svbcofe.org.uk/lis>

For Little Sodbury

<https://svbcofe.org.uk/horton>

For Horton

<https://svbcofe.org.uk/cs>

For Chipping Sodbury

Safeguarding Nominated Person

We will do all we can to ensure that our worshipping communities offer the safest places for children and vulnerable people.

Our nominated parish safeguarding officer is

Hannah Saunders 07515915976

hcsaunders-home@talk21.com

Hannah works closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team at Gloucester, the team can be contacted on 01452 835516 / 07744680320.

Please contact Hannah if you have a concern about suspected abuse of a child or a vulnerable adult

Useful Contact Numbers

Clergy Team

Rector

The Revd. Chris Butler

07985 708707

rectorchris@svbcofe.org.uk



Associate Priest

The Revd. Jane Jones-Williams

07498 878164

revjanejw@gmail.com



Church Wardens

Paul Jones-Williams

07980 240103

pjandjj81@outlook.com



Anne Vickers

01454 850942

a.e.vickers@talk21.com



Church Office

Michelle Jenkins

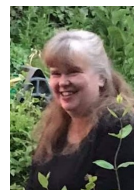
Monday 9 - 12

Tuesday 9 - 12

Thursday 9 - 12

01454 325160

sodburyvalebenefice@gmail.com



Services at
St. John The Baptist Church
Chipping Sodbury

Services begin at 9.30am

1st Sunday St. John's Praise (informal)

2nd Sunday Holy Communion

3rd Sunday. All Age Communion

4th Sunday Holy Communion

5th Sunday United Benefice Service –
Locations within the Benefice

This service is held at 10.30am.

Every **Thursday Morning** at 10.00am

A Said Holy Communion service is held in the Church Centre (just across the Wickwar Road from the Church).

Zoom Morning Prayer on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Mornings** at 8.30am if you'd like the link to join this service please email admin@svbcofe.org.uk

What makes St. John's tick?

All the things you need to know and didn't realise you needed to know!

How are things organised?

The Rector, Assistant Priest, two Churchwardens (who are elected for a maximum of six years), and the PCC (Parochial Church Council) enable the church to function. The PCC consists of Secretary, Treasurer, two Deanery Synod reps and members, who serve for three years. All these are confirmed or elected at the APCM (Annual Parochial Church meeting), which is usually held in April. To be an active member and vote you have to be on the electoral roll (this is not the one you go on to vote in political elections!). The PCC is normally chaired by the Rector but there is a lay chair, elected annually. It meets between six and ten times a year and may have sub-committees. Anything can be raised by you by speaking to one of the members, whose photos are on the noticeboard near the door.

What is the PCC responsible for?

- Ensuring that the buildings are well maintained. An inspection known as the Quinquennial is carried out on behalf of the Diocese every five years, which identifies any repair work to the church, which needs doing.
- Insure the building
- Making sure we comply with fire regulations
- Health and Safety
- Ensuring we can pay our bills
- Safeguarding

How is the church funded?

The PCC is responsible for good stewardship. Gloucestershire Diocese pays the Rector and provides their house but in return we pay a large sum of money each year to the Diocese, called the Quota. The money for this, the upkeep of the buildings,

administration and running costs all come from us, either through our giving or through fundraising. Most people, if they are a tax payer, now give what would have been their collection money, by direct debit or standing order so that we benefit from reclaiming the tax, but for anyone still offering cash at a service, there is a collection plate which is taken up to the altar or a card machine on the bookcase.

How can you get involved?

Getting involved is part of the fun of belonging to a community. Offers of help on a Sunday and with the running of our church are always welcome. We invite you to:

- Welcome our congregation
- Act as a Sides person, giving out books for the service
- Lead the prayers (intercessions)
- Help with IT, in particular the website, live streaming or sound desk
- Serve refreshments
- Fund raise
- Help with publicity, advertising or communications
- Help with Safeguarding
- Help with Health and safety
- Help with maintenance
- There are opportunities for flower arranging, cake making and helping at events. There are lots of groups to join and activities to take part in, which are detailed elsewhere, all of which mean you will soon get to know lots of people.

We make use of IT, with our Sunday service being live streamed and uploaded to You Tube. Our web site www.svbcofe.org.uk is full of up to date information on all the churches in the benefice, forthcoming events, the magazine and interesting articles. If you would like to join our regular mailing list, contact Frank at admin@svbcofe.org.uk.

Please do have a chat with one of us if you would like any further information.

Useful Contacts for Groups held within The Sodbury Vale Benefice

- Bell Ringing**** At St. John's Chipping Sodbury
Tower Captain Dave Clark
07414 191777
- Book Club** To read and discuss current/classical
fiction
Revd. Chris Mason 07749 903658
- Eco Church**** Sustainable Living.
We have attained Bronze award.
Revd. Chris Axford
e mail -chris@robaxford.plus.com
- Fellowship Group** Bible Study and Fellowship
(Evening Meeting) *Frank Gray 07740 192268*
- The Church Centre Fellowship Group** Prayer, Bible study and fellowship
(Meets 2.30 – 4.00) *Revd. Steve Abbott 07904 500417*
- Fellowship of Meditation** To spend contemplative time in silence to
encourage our sensitivity to God's word in
our lives.
Roger Nailer 01454 312228
- Global Action Prayer** Prayers for the mission agencies – local
and overseas— that we support.
Frank Gray 07740 192268
- Inclusive Church Action Group** A group working towards becoming an
inclusive and dementia friendly church.
Revd. Chris Mason 07749 903658

Mother's Union	A worldwide fellowship of Christians, united in prayer, worship and service. <i>Helen Hope-Bell 07979 318716</i>
Old Sodbury Together Group (Evening)	Zoom Meeting for Bible study and Prayer <i>Joy Fussell 01454 314074</i>
Open the Book	Taking Bible stories with 'action' to the local church schools of St. John's and Horton. <i>Revd. Catherine Coster 07702 349691</i>
Open the Book	As above but held at Old Sodbury School. <i>Sheila Purdom 07470 890500</i>
Pastoral Care Group	Supporting clergy in taking the Christian message of caring for others beyond the walls of the church building. <i>Christine Stephens 01454 314621</i>
StorKies	Carer/Toddler group run by the Church for all in our local communities. <i>Revd. Catherine Coster 07702 349691</i>
Sunday School **	Bible teaching for children attending the 9.30 service with their parents. <i>Simon Parsons 07980 803287</i>
SVB Strollers	A relaxed, friendly walking group for all ages <i>Anne Vickers 07956 300091</i>

**Taizé Singing
Group**

Singing chants and songs to enhance
worship
Bronwen Williams 01454 851819

**Tea and Chat
(Part of Pastoral
Care)**

A chance to meet new and old friends and
enjoy tea and lots of cake!
Christine Stephens 01454 314621

*** These Groups are relating to St. John's Chipping Sodbury*

*May the Lord bless you
And watch over you
May he turn lovingly towards you
And fill you with his peace
May he let his face
Shine upon you
And show you his mercy*

Church Schools in the Sodbury Vale Benefice

In the Sodbury Vale benefice we are proud to support three church schools:

St Johns Mead Voluntary Controlled Church of England
in Chipping Sodbury

www.stjohnsprimaryschool.org.uk

federated with **Horton** Church of England Voluntary Aided
in Horton village.

www.hortonprimary.org.uk

Old Sodbury Voluntary Controlled Church of England
in Old Sodbury village

www.oldsodbury-pri.s-gloucs.sch.uk

Our schools have a Christian character and are confident about their Christian identity and values. These values mean that our schools are inclusive and welcoming and personal spiritual space is respected for all. We see our church schools as part of what the church is rather than one of the activities that the church does.

We try to work with the schools to discern, identify and name the activity of God in all that contributes to the well-being of pupils.

We seek to support and deepen the ethos and the worship of the schools and to support the school as it educates pupils in all that promotes the flourishing of the children within Gods creation, prizing not only knowledge but wisdom and understanding.

We see our Church schools as fundamental to the church's mission as children and families encounter Christianity through local schools. There are benefits for the whole community when good relationships exist between our church and its local schools.

How do we do this?

- Find out the needs of the school and support through prayer
- Create reflective areas, quiet corners, prayer spaces in the school
- Create an “Open the Book” team.
- Support the school in exploring the church calendar, saints and special days and seasons
- Welcome schools to the church for special services for worship and celebration
- Provide “Experience” journeys in Church for important seasons
- Support the school in securing its vision as a church school
- Support the school ethos through the work of the schools ethos committee
- Share Bible stories with the children through the Open The Book team and worship led by clergy
- Recognise governance as part of Christian service.

A Brief History of the Church

The origins of St. John's Church date from the 13th Century. A Chapel of Ease was built off the main street to serve Chipping Sodbury, then a new town. It was dedicated on 9th May 1284. The building you see today is a mix of styles from the 13th, 14th and 15th Centuries, which underwent a substantial restoration during 1869 under the guidance of the distinguished Victorian architect, George Edmund Street (designer of the London law courts). The style is mostly 'Perpendicular' although the Chancel is of Early English design. The South Porch is a relatively new addition and built in 1869 during the Victorian restoration.

The Tower and Bells

The Bell tower was probably erected at the end of the 15th Century. It stands over 104ft tall and almost 120ft to the top of the weather vane. There are eight bells hung in the tower at 72ft above ground level. Four bells date from 1753, another was recast in 1950. The tenor is the heaviest at 16 cwt and was recast in 1984. Two further bells were cast and hung in the year 2000 as part of the church's Millennium celebrations.

The Interior

The chancel arch retains some pre-Reformation colour decoration and can be clearly seen. Steps in the stone pillar by the organ once gave access to a Rood Loft, which existed across this arch. The Pulpit is built into a pillar between the Nave and North Aisle and is very unusual. The large stone at the base of this pillar may have been an example of stone benching used for seating the elderly at a time before pews were introduced. St. Katherine's Chapel lies beyond the organ. It is dedicated to the patron saint of weavers.

The tomb of a member of the Walshe family, of Little Sodbury Manor House is found in this chapel. Sir John Walshe was King's Champion at the Coronation of King Henry VIII in 1509 and Patron to William Tyndale, translator of the New Testament into the English language. Close by is the grave slab of Richard Colmor and his wife Edith. They were master weavers of Flemish descent who lived in the town.

The vestry doorway nearby is quite small. It originally gave access to a chantry chapel.

The organ was built by W.G. Vowles of Bristol and installed in 1869. It has two manuals and a set of pedal boards and is of a compact design.

An octagonal bowled Font dating from the 13th Century stands at the west end of the Church. There were once numerous memorial tablets on the walls. These were removed during the 1869 restoration and repositioned in the bell ringing chamber where they are now out of view.

The Stained Glass Windows

The East window **(1)** above the high altar illustrates the Te Deum. Grouped around Christ are the four Evangelists and below are the four Greater Prophets. Saints and Angels complete the picture of the worshipping church.

The East Lady Chapel window **(2)** depicts the three Marys; Mary of Bethany, our Lady the Blessed Virgin, Mary Magdalene and also Martha of Bethany.

The South Wall window **(3)** in the Lady Chapel is devoted to figures representing Faith, Hope, Charity and Purity and accompanied below by scenes enacting the Works of Mercy.

The South Aisle wall window **(4)** depicts scenes from the Gospels including the raising of Jairus' daughter and the healing of the paralytic.

The Great West window **(5)** is under the tower vaulting and illustrates the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Confirmation.

The West window **(6)** which is in the North Aisle illustrates the ascension of our Lord.

To the right and on the north facing wall is the Christmas window **(7)**, celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Next right is the Calvary window **(8)** depicting Christ's crucifixion.

The window **(9)** immediately before the arch by the organ shows the Risen Christ to Peter at the lakeside. This window is a memorial to Revd J F Davidson, a former Priest of this Church.

Plan of Church

