



SVB Outlook

April - May 2022



The magazine of the churches of The Sodbury Vale Benefice:
Chipping Sodbury, Old Sodbury,
Little Sodbury and Horton.

www.svbcofe.org.uk

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and helpers

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Volunteer required

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



A Word from David

Dear Friends

As most of you will know, I am retiring at the beginning of May and Judith and I will be leaving you to move to our new home in Ledbury in Herefordshire. My last service will be at St John's, Chipping Sodbury at 10.30am on 1st May and I hope you will be able to join us for that. We will not be moving away from Chipping Sodbury immediately after I retire, as we have to wait for some work to be completed on the house in Ledbury so I will circulate our new contact details when we have a definite moving date.

Judith and I will have been with you for almost six years and we will take many happy memories of our time here. I am very grateful for all of your friendship and support and I know that this will also be appreciated by my successor as you look to the future. I have been especially privileged to work with a wonderful and gifted team of clergy, readers, churchwardens and many others.

We will continue to pray for the benefice and we hope you will remember us in your prayers also as we move into a new setting in our life journey with God. The journey of ministry has taken us from Manchester, where I was ordained 38 years ago, through to Bolton, Rochdale, Deerhurst, South Cerney and Sodbury Vale.

As I write this, the attention of the world is rightly focused on the war in Ukraine and we are called to pray and work for the peace which God wills for all people. Even after the fighting has ended, the people of Ukraine will face many years of rebuilding lives and communities. As we prepare to celebrate Easter and the victory of Jesus over death and evil, may we especially hold in our prayers all who suffer from human conflict, that our world may know the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Judith and I wish you all a blessed Easter and we thank you for your fellowship over the last six years.

David

My last service will be at St John's, Chipping Sodbury at 10.30am on 1st May and I hope you will be able to join us for that.

Judith and I wish you all a blessed Easter and we thank you for your fellowship over the last six years.

The LLF Project in the Sodbury Vale Benefice

Readers of this magazine may be interested to know that a group of twenty people met at the Church Centre during February and March of this year to complete a 5 session course for groups called '*Living in Love and Faith*'.



What is LLF? This is a national Church of England initiative supported by the Archbishops which invited people across the country to consider, reflect and examine our changing social attitudes about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage - issues which have been the source of painful divisions in the Church over recent years.

How did it work? An excellent range of learning materials were available to us, commissioned and commended by the House of Bishops which had set up advisory groups in Biblical studies, Theology, History and the social & biological sciences to offer advice and support. We used a range of resources comprising:

- A course handbook
- A new book: '*Living in Love and Faith: Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage*'
- Podcasts
- Video films
- Online library

As facilitators, it was mine and Hennie's job to provide opportunities for everyone to prepare each week, work together in pairs and small groups and ensure there was space to listen to different views and reactions.

What did we learn? Our task was to listen and learn together in love and faith and to be aware of our own stories, values and prejudices particularly when we encountered people in the video films whose life, faith and Church experiences were similar to and radically different from our own. For example:

Alex and Jo who are both United Reform ministers living in Scarborough, married and living in a stable lesbian relationship

Bill, Jayne - parents of son, Luke - who worked through the shock of seeing their son 'come out' as a gay man

Julie and Alice living in Cheshire, who talked about their stable relationship together and their warm acceptance in their local Church where Julie is a Lay Reader and Alice the verger

Elaine and Alan from Cambridge who talked intimately about their marriage relationship and their family of three sons and 6 grandchildren

David (later Debbie) married to Stephanie – both teachers - who shared their struggle with David's transition to a female identity

It was a real privilege for me to be a part of this group and the experience certainly enabled me to move in my own thinking to a place of deeper acceptance of a great truth, that despite the differences and diversity of our upbringing, gender and sexuality, we are all children of the universe and infinitely beloved by God. My warm appreciation to everyone for their participation.

What next? If you missed out on this course – for whatever reason – do have a look at <https://llf.churchofengland.org/> for more information.

Watch this space for further updates on LLF!

With best wishes

Chris Mason

The return of the Pew Sheet.

As we return to more normal routines in Church, it's time for the return of the pew sheet. Have you missed it? We've kept in touch by lots of other means and the plan is to continue to utilise these methods as well as providing a limited number of hard copy news sheets for people to pick up in church. We've learnt a lot during the pandemic, so we don't want to abandon some of the good things we've learnt to do.



So, from the beginning of April a new version of the pew sheet will be sent out via SVBMail on Thursdays from the office (replacing David's Saturday update), we'll also have links to it on the website. We would encourage anyone who can access it online to do so, as we are very conscious of the environmental impact of single use printing and the intention of the printed copies will be to reach those who do not use technology. Please bear with us as we try and work out how many copies are needed in each of our churches.

It will be really good to receive any news and notices, if you could send them to me in the office by 9am on Thursday to be published in that week's pew sheet (sodburyvalebenefice@gmail.com). I'll be experimenting with designs to see what works best with both technology and hard copy. Let me know what you think!

Michelle

Copy Deadline

Please send all copy for the June-July issue to the Church Office by

Wednesday May 18

Front Cover:

Weekday altar at St Adeline's

A new Pipe Organ for St Adeline's

Well not exactly new, but new to us.

The organ is an Osmond Priory Pipe Organ built in 1972 when it was installed in the Bristol Royal Infirmary chapel. It was next moved to St Brenden's Sixth Form College in Brislington. It outlived its usefulness there and has now found a home with us in Little Sodbury.



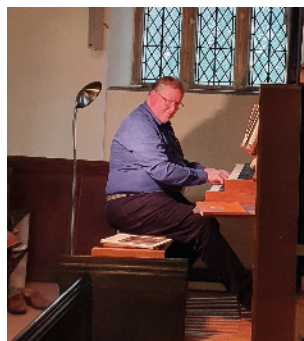
Before



After

Its arrival with us was managed by Nick Sherwood who also generously paid for the transportation and installation costs for which we are most grateful.

Shortly after its installation Nick treated some of our congregation and local residents to a demonstration and impromptu recital which was enjoyed by everyone.



The organ was dedicated by David Bowers at a communion service on February 6th.

The organ will be able to be used by our local organists for practice which may prove an unexpected bonus to visitors to the church and it is hoped that we may, in the future, be able to hold organ recitals and musical soirees as a means of raising funds for the church,

Framilode Riverside Retreats

Monthly Quiet Days



Dates for 2022

All Wednesday's

2nd March	Rev'd Anne Spargo
6th April	Rev'd Catherine Williams
4th May	Rev'd Helen Sammon
1st June	Rev'd Liz Palin
6th July	Rev'd Steve Abbot
3rd August	Rev'd Diane Daymond
7th September	Rev'd Chris Mason
5th October	Bishop Bob Evens
2nd November	Rev'd Michael Cozens
7th December	Rev'd Ian Bussell

10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

**Allowing
Ourselves
Space for
God**

Cost of the Day

£15 to include all refreshments and lunch. Please bring cash on the day or a cheque made payable to PCC St Peters Framilode

Booking

Please e-mail

framiloderiversideretreats@gmail.com

Or phone 01452 741410

International Women's Day!

8 March 2022, was International Women's Day and Bishop Rachel was nominated as one of 100 Inspirational Gloucester Women in a project by Hundred Heroines and the Museum of Gloucester.

From the front-line workers who have kept us going during the pandemic to our very own bishop – women in Gloucester have proven, on countless occasions, their indomitable, pioneering spirit.

Bishop Rachel used the day to recognise the work of women across the world who strive to bring peace and promote well-being in the places where they live.

She said, "Today I am giving thanks for the women working for peace and well-being in their communities. I am giving thanks for the women who have influenced me in my encounters in Egypt, Bosnia, Israel, Palestine, South Africa and beyond."



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F. WOODRUFF

Local Family Cremation and Funeral Directors
24 Hour Service

2 High Street, Winterbourne
118-120 Station Road, Yate
Tel: (01454) 320005
192 Badminton Road. Coalpit Heath

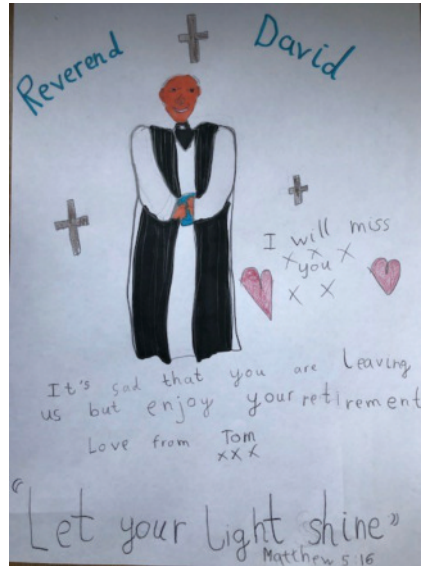
email: info@funerals.uk.net

Private Chapels of Rest at Coalpit Heath & Yate

Children's Tributes to David

A HAPPY CHAP
A friendly face
A welcoming smile
Loves football like the rest
A caring man, whose work is done
We wish him all the best.

Ralphie aged 10



Tom aged 6

Dear Lord,
We pray for reverend David because
he has been an amazing leader for
St John's church I pray for him as
he has not just been a great reverend
he has been a great friend. We pray
for his retirement May he enjoy time with
his family.
Amen X
by Winter Rose Clarke

Winter aged 8



Elyse

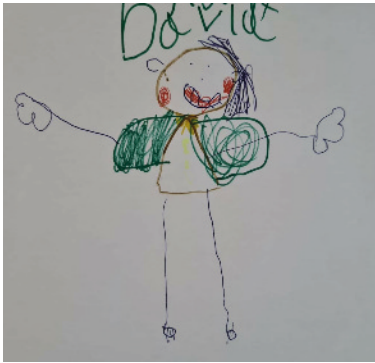
The Reverend David

Reverend David is full of joy,
he is funny, clever and brings
out the good side in me and you.
It is sad that he and his wife
are leaving.

I will remember his assembly's
and the very best part is he is himself.

by Leo (age 8)

Children's Tributes to David



Daisy age 4



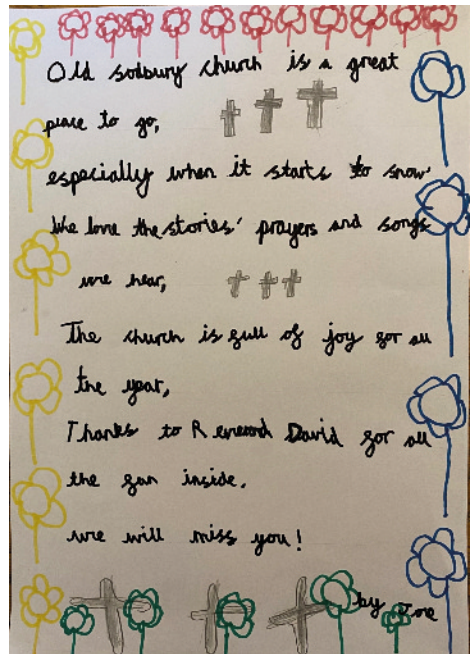
Rose age 7, William age 13



Lola age 5



Louis age 8



Joe age 6

Reverend David Bowers by Matthew (age 13)

I will miss you very much as I really liked going to church. You made the experience more exciting for me. You made it really easy to understand the Bible and helped me to recognise the message that each of the stories were trying to say. Thank you for setting up the online meetings, so we could all still worship God even whilst a pandemic was going around. I thank you also for giving me the opportunity to do readings as it has really boosted my confidence in reading to other people.

Children's Tributes to David

Reverend David Bowers

We will miss you Reverend David. When I was little, I looked forward to Sunday School and that would not have happened without you. Thank you for the opportunity to say a reading aloud during services. I really appreciate the hard work and time you have put in for me and the rest of the church community during Covid.

It has been a pleasure learning from the Bible because you explain it in great detail. What I really love about you is that you make Jesus' teachings very clear and all of us understand word after word. I love your sense of humour too. I feel I could go to you when I was sad, miserable or wanting to laugh. That's what makes you, you!

Steven (age 11)

Prayer for Reverend David

Dear God,

Thank you for blessing us and opening church so we can say farewell to our wonderful vicar Reverend David. Thank you for giving him the courage to travel from one school to another to teach us more than just Jesus' stories but also to show us some religious artefacts.

Please keep Reverend David and Judith safe and out of harm, danger or risk. We all love him as much as we love ourselves.

Amen

A thank you prayer

Thank you, Reverend David for coming into school for our assemblies.

Thank you for letting the children take part in the services.

Thank you for being kind and caring to all the children.

Thank you for letting us have juice and biscuits at the end of church.

Thank you for giving me and Winter special jobs at the end of the service.

Thank you for being the best Reverend ever.

Please Lord keep Reverend David and Judith safe on their travels. Amen

By **Nancy Parsons** (age 9).



FGR vs SALFORD

Like me and my dad, Reverend David is a huge football fan. However he is a Manchester United fan and that's a bit annoying but I forgive him. (I'm a Liverpool fan #1) Reverend David came with me, my dad, my granddad and 3 friends to watch Forest Green Rovers v Salford. He was supporting Salford as it's near Manchester, and we are all FGR fans. We all travelled up in my Dad's car, and it was really crammed. Me and Thomas had to sit in the boot! We sat in the centre of the main stand so there was lots of chants and noise. Reverend David was cheering on Salford. We had lots of fun and the final score was 2-0 to FGR. Afterwards we went to the pie pub, and Reverend David enjoyed a pie and a pint. Then we went home. We all had a great time. I am going to miss talking to Reverend David about football, especially when Liverpool beat Manchester United (which is very often!).

By **Will Parsons** (LFC number 1 fan).



The Children's Society box collection 2021/2022

I want to say a massive thank you to you all for your generosity with your donations to The Children's Society box collections this January. The job of counting the boxes was very easy this year as the majority of my box holders donated by cheque - well, very few of us have been using cash!!

The magnificent sum of £910.26 has been donated and sent off to the charity.

Thank you all once again - your generosity has meant that even in these difficult times The Children's Society has been able to remain constant in their work with vulnerable young people.

If you haven't got a house box and you would like one please get in touch and I will be happy to get one to you. (01454 311515).

Hilary Hurley - Box Coordinator

Making a Difference

If you haven't visited the newly refurbished Health and Refill shop, *Nature's Choice* in Horse Street in Chipping Sodbury then I recommend that you make this a priority. Karen Morris the owner has thoughtfully refurbished the shop and as well as a wide range of health products on sale, Karen has taken seriously the threat to our planet from plastic waste, and now sells re-fills of many household cleaning products. Take along any container and you can fill it with any of the following:

- washing up liquid,
- multi purpose cleaners,
- laundry liquid,
- hand wash
- fabric conditioner.



In addition to this Karen is trying to reduce plastic waste by selling biodegradable bamboo wipes, shampoo and conditioner bars and plant based cleaning implements. The coconut husk scraper I bought works every bit as well as steel wool!

Loose herbs are displayed in a splendid array of glass jars and you can purchase from the large collection as much or as little as you need.

Many other eco -friendly products are on sale, recycled toilet tissue, and my favourite – an Eco egg filled with plant pellets that is placed in your machine on top of your washing . After 70 washes refill pellets can be purchased. Since discovering this product I have used it for all my washing and it cleans really well even the extremely muddy towels I use to clean my dog! Paraben free shampoos/soaps, bamboo toothbrushes, organic cotton buds/pads, cosmetic cleansing pads that can be washed and reused are also some of the other environmentally friendly products on sale.

Where possible packaging is compostable and Karen uses environmentally friendly companies that limit or eliminate packaging in deliveries.

Karen and her staff are enthusiastic about researching the best environmentally friendly products on our behalf and are very committed to the philosophy "*Not everybody can do everything but everyone can do something*"

Do support Karen in her new venture. Her shop allows us to shop ethically and thoughtfully and to play our own small part in cutting plastic waste and reducing pollution.

Catherine Coster (Eco Church Group)

Horton Hosts Bell Ringers AGM

This year the Wotton under Edge Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Bell Ringers is hosting the annual AGM on Saturday 2nd April 2022. There is a church service at Horton at 3.00pm followed by the AGM and tea at the Horton and Little Sodbury Village Hall at 4.00pm.

The day starts at 9.00am with the Croome Trophy Competition at St. Andrew, Cromhall followed by the Penn Trophy Competition at St. John the Baptist, Chipping Sodbury at 10.00am

The standard of ringing should be very high and there will be open ringing at St. Mary's, Hawkesbury from 1.30 to 2.30pm and 6.00 to 8.00pm and at Horton from 2.00 to 3.00pm.



The Friends of Old Sodbury Events

We are delighted to be able to start planning a full programme of fundraising events again. Plans so far include:

Sunday 10 July

Queen's platinum jubilee church fête

Saturday 20 August

Picnic at Camers featuring ABBA's Angels

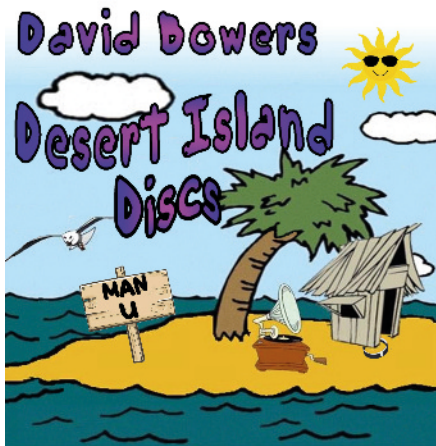
Saturday 8 October

Italian evening at Old Sodbury village hall

Further details will be available nearer the time in Outlook and on the Old Sodbury church website, but please do save the dates.

To mark the invaluable contribution that Revd. Canon David Bowers has made throughout the benefice since he and Judith arrived here almost six years ago, the wardens of all four churches are organising an informal evening get-together to be held at Old Sodbury church on **Friday 22 April at 7.30pm**. See the poster for further details and please remember to save the date.

Sodbury Vale Benefice Churches present



Friday 22nd April 2022 7:30pm
at Old Sodbury Church Entry£5
to be followed by tea or coffee, or a glass of wine

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday 10th April

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Chipping Sodbury
- 11.15am Morning Worship at Old Sodbury
- 11.15am Holy Communion at Horton
- 6.00pm Evensong at Little Sodbury

Maundy Thursday 14th April

- 10.00am Holy Communion at Chipping Sodbury
- 7.30pm Holy Communion and Vigil at Chipping Sodbury

Good Friday 15th April

- 11.00am Walk of Witness, beginning at Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church
- 2.00pm Good Friday Service at Chipping Sodbury

Easter Eve Saturday 16th April

- 8.00pm Easter Vigil at Old Sodbury

Easter Day 17th April

- 6.00am Dawn Service at Old Sodbury
- 9.30am Holy Communion at Chipping Sodbury
- 11.15am Holy Communion at Old Sodbury
- 11.15am Holy Communion at Horton
- 6.00pm Holy Communion at Little Sodbury

The Extended Team

Honorary Assistant Ministers

Meet the members of the extended team who support our worship. They consist of retired clergy (perhaps not quite?) and lay readers, who help David by taking services and helping with other events around the benefice.



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Revd. Pauline Green
pauline.green936@gmail.com



Revd. Canon Rob Axford
rob@robaxford.plus.com



Revd. Chris Mason
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Revd. Christine Axford
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Revd. David Powe
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*This magazine is brought to you **Free** by the four churches of the Sodbury Vale Benefice. If you would like to make a small donation towards printing costs which are 65p a copy that would be most welcome. **Thank you.***