



SVB Outlook

April - May 2023



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

www.svbcofe.org.uk

Our Team



The Rector
Post Vacant

Curate
The Revd.
Jane Jones-Williams
07498 878164
revjanejw@gmail.com

Churchwardens

St John's, Chipping Sodbury

Joy Gibson
01454 319288



Paul Jones-Williams
01454 324970



St James', Horton

Tina Hildick-Smith
01454 320380



Richard Needs
01454 329890



St Adeline's, Little Sodbury

Linda Hurst
01454 319183



Brenda Cordy
01454 316447



St John's, Old Sodbury

Karen Hunter
01454 319903



Administrators

Michelle Jenkins, Trish Gailey
and helpers

Advertising

Volunteer required

Safeguarding Nominated Person

Hannah Saunders 07515 915976
hcsaunders-home@talk21.com

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

A word from a churchwarden



Dear Friends,

By the time that you are reading this, Easter and all that it means to the Christian Church, will be with us. Easter always gives us two emotional extremes; ranging from great despair to huge elation and hope for the future.

I have always questioned what is good about “Good Friday”. In the days before, Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem being cheered and applauded by the crowds but by Friday he was being exchanged for a murderer and sentenced to death by crucifixion. Maybe it is ‘Good Friday’ because Sunday is coming, and in a way, life is like that. Jesus does not promise that the Christian life will be easy and for the majority of us, life is sometimes hard and we cannot get around that. We know that on the third day Jesus rose, triumphantly winning over death and saving mankind from their sins and that is definitely good.

However even in bad times, God is with us and He has a plan for us. Jesus’ death and resurrection was foretold thousands of years before. This plan was being worked out before those who were watching it unfold had been born. There is a heaviness of heart when I read about Jesus being betrayed, beaten and crucified but we have to examine tough situations like ‘Good Friday’ to find where God is in all of us. We may ask why? Is it because it makes Sunday so much sweeter? Whatever you are going through, God is there. You may have never looked for him before and that’s okay. The man on the cross next to Jesus did not look for God until minutes before he took his last breath.

Looking back at the lows in my life:

my youngest daughter being diagnosed with an incurable but controllable disease at a young age, a marriage breakup, business collapse from circumstances out of my control, the early death of a lifelong friend

and the highs in my life:

my children and grandchildren being born, meeting my wife, family gatherings, fabulous holidays, life changing experiences.

I realise that to fully appreciate those highs, I had to experience the lows and to remember that in all things, God is always there and He always will be.

Richard Needs, Horton

Simple steps to save energy and to keep warm – your ideas!

In February, during a sermon about creation, at both Chipping Sodbury and Horton, Steve Abbott asked the congregations for ideas of how they take care of God's world. Both congregations produced some great ideas which we'll share with you over the coming months.

For starters, here are some small steps we can take to save energy and keep warm:

Simple steps to save energy in the home



- Switch off all lights in rooms not being used.
- Avoid leaving electrical appliances on standby mode.
- Switch off all wall plugs when not needed.
- Switch off oven clock when not in use.
- Fill washing machine completely before use.
- Switch off heating in rooms that are not in use.

Keep doors closed.

Kettle – boil only water needed, put leftovers in a thermos.

Use LED lights where possible.

Reduce boiler temperature.

Improve insulation.

Use thick or thermal curtains.

Deal with draughts, use draught excluder.

A dedicated monitor to turn off lights and check heating.



Keeping warm



Wear more appropriate clothes in cold weather.

Try not to sit for long periods, try to do a simple exercise or move around every 30 minutes.

Put on an extra layer of clothes.

Wear several thin layers to keep warm.

Close curtains early to avoid loss of heat.

Visit a friend for a day and share their heat - Then reciprocate

If you have any "Eco-tips" to share, do let me have them by email or via the Church Office. **Chris Axford**, chris@robaxford.plus.com

Copy Deadline Please send all copy for the June-July issue to the church office by **Friday May 19**

Front Cover: Part of a stained glass window in which church?

Here is the News

Do you wish you could listen to news about your town or village?

Well, you can. We at the Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper know how important it is to stay in touch with your community. We read news stories about your local area from the Gazette, the Yate and Sodbury Voice, features from online news bulletins and from village and church magazines.

If you are visually impaired or unable to read print for any reason, you can listen to us online or on a soundbox with a USB stick that comes through the post every week. This service is entirely free of charge, easy to manage and we keep in touch with every listener for problems and feedback.

If you have a friend or family member, or if you are a carer for someone that you think would enjoy this, do get in touch with us. Look at our website www.cvtn.org.uk or call 01453 549133 and someone will call you back to arrange a visit.



Chipping Sodbury Music Society

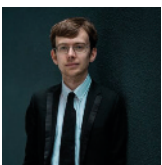
Tuesday 18th April 2023

7:30 pm Chipping Sodbury Town Hall
Meera Maharaj (flute)

Meera won the Royal Academy of Music flute prize and has performed at venues including Wigmore Hall, Kings Place and at the Proms. She plays alongside



pianist **Domingo Degavino** who has enjoyed considerable competition success. A passionate chamber musician, accompanist and jazz player.



Supported by :
The Countess of Munster Musical Trust

Chipping Sodbury Music Society

Tuesday 16th May 2023

7:30 pm Chipping Sodbury Town Hall
Piatti String Quartet

The quartet are widely known for their 'acute sensitivity' and their 'lyrical warmth'.

They have performed all over the world and made broadcasts from many countries. Passionate champions of contemporary music, they have made groundbreaking commissions with leading UK composers

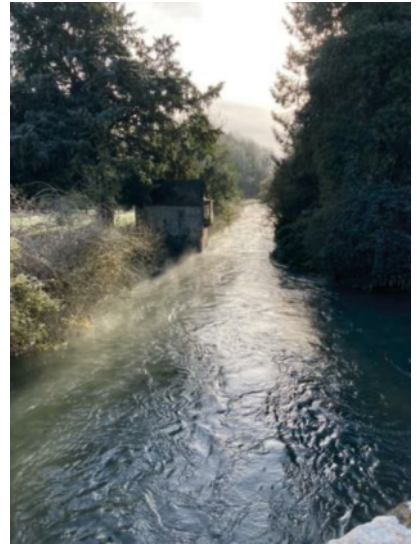


SVB Strollers



On another glorious Wednesday, our January walk led by Bev, took us from Old Sodbury, along the Cotswold Way to walk to Horton camp. As we approached Horton we were excited to witness an aerial display by a pair of Red Kites. Just outside the camp is this pictured bat and swallow roost, built by the National Trust to mark the millennium and here we stopped for coffee. We returned along the escarpment to reach the second camp just above Little Sodbury and then back to enjoy lunch at The Dog having completed just over four miles.

We were less fortunate with the weather for our first Saturday walk but four souls braved the fog to travel to Sherston where we strolled through fields along the edge of Pinkney Park, looking down on the River Avon. We stopped in Eaton Grey for drinks (see photo) before crossing the river, twice, to rise to the Fosse Way. This gave us a good track to follow parallel to our route out, before crossing fields to return to Sherston and the welcome Angel café for lunch.



February brought another day of sunshine and saw ten of us heading for Newark Park. The National Trust property is renowned for its snowdrops, which were stunning. After a section along the road we had a steep climb up the Cotswold Way to regain the escarpment, with super views over Wotton-under-Edge. After completing 4.5 miles, we of course entered into Newark Park for suitable refreshments!



Our April walk will be to Lower Woods to enjoy the bluebells so do come and join our friendly gang. All the details are on the SVB website, just follow the link. **Anne**

Nancy Nagle

Nancy will be much missed by all of us at St Adeline's Little Sodbury. Nancy was a formidable force for good, or not so good for you if you got on the wrong side of her! But she didn't hold grudges and once a disagreement was sorted she didn't let it affect her relationships with others.

This force began in her working career in the legal profession. She became the first woman president of the Bristol Law Society, ending 225 years of male dominance and went on to represent Bristol on the National Law Society Council.



It was Nancy with Peter Bush, Kit Rawlins and others who were instrumental in getting St Adeline's reopened and she remained prominent in the ongoing running of the church, for some time simultaneously taking on the roles of Churchwarden, Secretary and Treasurer of the PCC, until failing health meant she had to take more of a back seat in church organisation and just enjoy the services.



One thing Nancy was noted for in the church was her catering and particularly her cakes produced in quantity and quality for many church events and enjoyed by all.

Our loss is God's gain, and we wish her peace and blessings where she is now.

Michael Stephenson

Inclusive Church Action Group

Since the last update in the October/November 2022 edition of the SVB Outlook, this Group has continued to meet and examine ways in which our Church communities can affirm and celebrate difference in our congregations and work towards the inclusion of everyone.

In the light of the **ageing profile** in the national and local Church, our attention has been taken by the need to ensure that we are aware of and informed about the needs of older people who are statistically more likely to be at risk of memory loss, confusion and disorientation. Figures for the Church of England from 1998 show the growing proportion of retired people in church attendance figures.

In order to understand how our Churches might become more dementia-friendly, we are very pleased to publicise that a free two hour Dementia Awareness Session has been arranged on **Wednesday 26th April from 11.00 – 1.00pm in St John's Church, Wickwar Road, Chipping Sodbury BS37 6BQ**. Refreshments will be served from 10.30am

This **free event** is for anyone interested in finding out more and will be delivered by Kim Diment who will give an overview of dementia and its symptoms, the most common types, risk prevention, appropriate communication approaches and a signposting to support networks.

Kim is a Dementia Education Facilitator at Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust, where she also works as a drama therapist with inpatients on a dementia ward.

Chris Mason on behalf of the Inclusive Church Action Group



**FREE
Dementia Awareness
Session**

**Wednesday 26th April
11.00 – 1.00pm**

In

**St John's Church,
Wickwar Road,
Chipping Sodbury
BS37 6BQ.**

*Refreshments will be
served from 10.30am*



Kim Diment

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

Industrial
Commercial
& Domestic
Installations

- * **New Installations** *
- * **Maintenance Testing** *
- * **High Access Work** *

Paul L Tily & Son Electrical Contractors

37 High Street, Chipping Sodbury

*We offer a service for all
of your electrical needs.*



Tel: 01454 318029

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

Kylie's Mobile Footcare

Services Include

- Toe Nail Cutting
- Diabetic Care
- Callus Reduction
- Verrucae
- Cracking & Dry Heel
- Corn Enucleatio
- Fungal Nail Treatment

Kylie BA (Hons) DipCFHP
MPSPract and Diabetic Diplom

07903 197 516
kylie.thomas71@yahoo.co.uk

Fully Accredited, Insured
& DBS Checked

£30



Loft Boarding & Insulation



www.useyourloftspace.co.uk

USE YOUR LOFT SPACE

is the reliable,
affordable and trusted
local company for all
your loft boarding,
and loft insulation
requirements



0117 2980810

USE YOUR
LOFT SPACE

INFO@USEYOURLOFTSPACE.CO.UK

A message of rest from Bishop Robert



Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength ... (Isaiah 30:15)

I have found myself returning often to these words from the prophet Isaiah over the last few years as a reminder in busy, sometimes anxious, sometimes challenging times that it is in God we are to place our trust and from God our hope and our confidence for all that will be.

These words were first spoken to the people of Israel as a challenge to them for looking not to God but to the power of Egypt, the world power of its day. The people of Israel were feeling threatened and looking for security, but God is clear that will not be found here. Rather they are to return to the Lord and to rest, to recover equilibrium and regain a true sense of perspective on the world and their place within it.

This sense of rest and return is of course part of the very foundations of our faith, present at the beginning of the book of Genesis, where after the six days of creation there is the Sabbath where God rests and takes in all that has been made and that it is good. It is present in the resurrection on the Sabbath which then becomes for us, as Christians, the first day of the week. We begin with rest from where we go out to the activity of the week and to which we return to be remade. It is there, too, in our observance of this season of Lent where, as both Bishop Rachel and I have said before, we learn in the words of the liturgy to be God's people once again, walking with Jesus through the events of Holy Week to the Cross with the promise of resurrection life beyond.

There is a challenge here to the very way in which we live our lives and perhaps an immediate challenge to how we live these coming days. My lesson from last year was particularly focused on Holy Week and I have made a deliberate effort to keep it free this year of the day-to-day, in order to give space to attend to the rich themes of those days, to let God speak afresh to me. I wonder if even now you might look to pace yourself in these coming days that there might be space for you and for God also.

You might also like to give some thought beyond Holy Week and Easter to where you find such space in your life. For some that might be in retreat and there are details of some of what's available on the diocesan web site. These range from a quiet day to longer periods of time away, some in silence. We are also running a

'Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.'

two-day retreat at Holland House this summer, which is open to anyone in ministry or leadership in our Diocese.

My advice is to start gently and build up. If you can't do that, don't feel guilty (there is enough of that about already!) but find what is right for you that you can live alongside family, work and other commitments.

Then remember these words, just three verses after the call to return in Isaiah 30 at verse 18. 'Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.' This is the promise of the one who calls us to return and rest. **+ Robert**

Seaside Supper

On Thursday 9th February a group of us met for a 'seaside supper' – no not at Weston-Supper-Mare, but instead in the cosy environs of the Church Centre.

This was to be the next in our series of 'suppers', the food option being a freshly baked Cornish Pasty (delivered that day from Cornwall) followed by a delicious ice cream.

Rather than being a fundraising occasion we feel it is important to help to maintain the fellowship and fun part of being in a church. This led to us declaring the event a 'pay as you feel' evening to ensure that no one was precluded from coming because of financial constraints. This involved a convoluted way of distributing tickets, but it really worked well! The cost of putting on the event was £7.50 per person, so when you got a ticket you also got a small envelope to put some cash in with the guidance that if you can afford £7.50, pay that, if £7.50 would be a struggle put what you can afford in the envelope, even if that is nothing at all, THAT IS OK, or if the ticket buyer was in the happy position of being able to afford more then we asked them to consider putting in a little extra to subsidise someone else's ticket. We used the envelope system to keep everyone's ticket money confidential. Even we did not know who had paid what.

We are hugely grateful for all the people who generously paid more than the ticket 'price' which enabled us to make a small profit which will go towards essential Church Centre repairs, but more importantly we all had a fun evening.

A simple meal shared with friends.

We hope to repeat the fun soon, so watch out in the pew sheet and SVB mail for the next event – I wonder what we should do.....



Michelle and Christine

Afternoon tea and cakes



St John's church was transformed into a glorious, quaint cafe for the afternoon of Saturday 18th May, serving 80 or more people afternoon tea. There was a selection of delicious savouries and cakes, a raffle and a gift stall.

The easy listening background music provided a warm atmosphere for people to chat and socialise, some even reminiscing about being married in our dear old church.

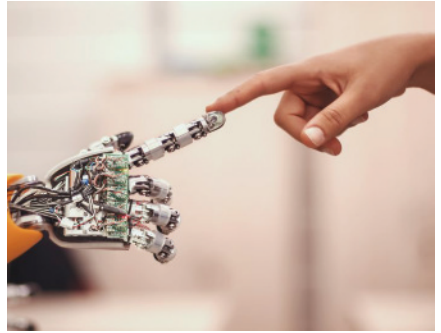
Thanks to a team of people providing food, gifts and their time and energy, an impressive £1000 was made, to go towards church repairs.



AI: The coming revolution

The worldwide artificial intelligence (AI) revolution is on its way. Once the preserve of science fiction, its impact is likely to be so radical and pervasive it amounts to a new industrial revolution.

Whereas earlier industrial revolutions have been based on mechanisation in textiles, steam power, electricity, steel and consumer products, the key shift in the AI revolution is towards mechanised autonomy.



As robots become increasingly independent in making decisions, philosophical and ethical issues are surfacing amongst ever widening circles of technologists. To what extent, for instance, can robots become conscious moral agents operating an ethical code?

For people of faith, these questions can appear inappropriate. Human beings may be made in the image of God but no human creation can exercise consciousness, morality and conscience. Just as they cannot be virtuous, they also cannot sin and therefore have no need for redemption.

But serious theological engagement with such issues is yet to get underway. It remains to be seen how useful this engagement will be to public debate and whether it can be sufficiently nuanced and technologically literate to avoid extremes and misconceptions. The way theology tends to engage with contemporary capitalism suggests this will not be easy.

Yet whatever status theology is able to attribute to robots (whether they are called cyborgs, artefacts, androids or transhumans) it is the dignity of the human person within its natural environment that will need to remain central. To the extent that AI compromises that dignity is the extent to which people of faith should join the likes of Bill Gates, Elon Musk, and Stephen Hawking in being wary of AI.

It will be important, however, to avoid knee-jerk reactions. It is true, for instance, that the AI revolution will – like all preceding industrial revolutions – bring job losses as existing knowledge and skills are made obsolete. But it will also create jobs, not least in the troubled manufacturing industry, and will help safeguard humans from the dull and repetitive jobs that are a chief cause of unhappiness and stress in the workplace. In helping humans to be more creative and productive, AI will increase human fulfilment.

The challenge for AI producers and consumers is to design and use machines that have greater autonomy for a purpose: to do things better than humans can do in the service of human and environmental flourishing.

Peter Heslam

(Dr Peter S Heslam, University of Cambridge and Director of [Transforming Business](http://www.transformingbusiness.org).)



Charles III



Coronation Day
Indoor
Street party

5:00pm Saturday 6th May

Old Sodbury Village Hall

£15 adults
£5 children under 10

*Bring your own
drinks and glasses*

Miranda Keys

*Last Night of the Proms
style singalong*

*Coronation-themed
party food*

*Best dressed child
and adult Fancy
Dress competition
Raffle*

**Tickets email OldSodburyFriends@gmail.com
or ring / leave a message 01454 501424**

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday 2nd April

| | | |
|---------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 9.30am | St John's Praise | St John's, Chipping Sodbury |
| 11.15am | Holy Communion | St John's, Old Sodbury |
| 11.15am | Morning Prayer | St James', Horton |
| 6.00pm | Evensong | St Adeline's, Little Sodbury |

Maundy Thursday 6th April

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10.00am | Holy Communion | Church Centre, Chipping Sodbury |
| 7.00pm | Communion with Foot Washing and Vigil | St John's, Chipping Sodbury |

Good Friday 7th April

| | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2.00pm | Service at the Foot of the Cross | St John's, Chipping Sodbury |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Easter Eve 8th April

| | | |
|-----|-----------|------------------------------|
| 8pm | The Vigil | St Adeline's, Little Sodbury |
|-----|-----------|------------------------------|

Easter Sunday 9th April

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 6.00am | Easter Dawn Service | St John's, Old Sodbury |
| 9.30am | Easter Holy Communion | St John's, Chipping Sodbury |
| 11.15am | Easter Holy Communion | St John's, Old Sodbury |
| 11.15am | Easter Holy Communion | St James', Horton |
| 6.00pm | Easter Holy Communion | St Adeline's, Little Sodbury |

The Extended Team

Honorary Assistant Ministers

Meet the members of the extended team who support our worship. They consist of retired clergy and lay readers, who take services and help with other events across the benefice.



Revd. Steve Abbott
abbott.steve@btinternet.com



Revd. Pauline Green
pauline.green936@gmail.com



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



Revd. Chris Mason
revd.chris.mason@gmail.com



Revd. Christine Axford
chris@robaxford.plus.com



Revd. David Powe
[01454 777745](tel:01454777745)



Revd. Canon Catherine Coster
catherinecoster3@gmail.com



Wully Perks (Reader)
wulstanperks@gmail.com



Mike Swain (Reader)
swain189@btinternet.com



Revd. Sue Gent
revsuegent@gmail.com



Revd. Colin Lunt
colin@lunt.co.uk

*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.***