



SVB Outlook

June - July 2025



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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Rector's Rambles

I quite often walk Charlie on the Ridings. This morning there was no one else there so we wandered around the field, and he tried to sniff every single blade of grass. All I could hear was birds and the occasional golf shot. It was such a peaceful scene, and it reminded me just how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful peaceful place. In other areas of the world people would give anything just to be able to go for a peaceful walk and do things we take for granted.

'Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God.'

My problem is what we do with that contrast. If you watch the news, it is full of stories of violence and war; so much so, that we can almost get anaesthetised when we hear the numbers who have died in recent conflicts.

Most of us won't be able to influence such conflicts directly but we can pray. This prayer provided by the Church of England is written about the Middle Eastern conflict, but equally applies to Ukraine and Russia and too many other countries at this time. Please pray it with me as we hope for a more peaceful future for all the places of conflict:

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world. Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine. We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin. Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace. In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Recently we marked VE Day, the beginning of the end of World War II. It is a reminder that situations can change, and peace can come back to war torn regions. I lack the imagination to see how, so I am grateful that I can turn to God asking him to raise up others with the skills to mediate:

'Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God.'

Rev Chris



2025 Easy Eco Tips Calendar.

From A Rocha

Visit <https://arocha.org.uk/wild-christian/> for more eco tips.

JUNE

Join in with a nature and climate initiative.

One of A Rocha UK's firm beliefs is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God's creation if we spend time enjoying it. Joining in with wider initiatives also reminds us of the power and encouragement of being part of communities and taking action together. Churches Count on Nature, 30 Days Wild, and The Great Big Green Week all take place across June. Join an awareness-raising event or nature count as an individual, with your household or church. Find out more at caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-faqs, wildlifetrusts.org/30-dayswild and greatbiggreenweek.com.

JULY

Plastic Free July.

This is a great opportunity to review where you might be able to reduce single-use plastics in your life. Being part of Plastic Free July will help you find great alternatives that can become new habits forever.

Paying attention to what we consume and its effect on God's earth, can lead us not into guilt, but into action and prayerful determination to see change where it's possible. Read more about the effects of plastic at arocha.org.uk/plastic-summer.

Christine Axford



Outlook Magazine Front Cover

Do you have any photos that you think would be suitable for the Front cover of the Outlook magazine?

If so please send them to svboutlook@svbcofe.org.uk



Photo by Alexas Fotos

Drawing Apart (2)

In my article in the last Outlook, I wrote about making prayer a regular part of our day. But how should we best fill the time we've set aside? I often come back to the Lord's Prayer as a helpful guide - which is what, I think, Jesus intended it to be, not simply a prayer to recite, however thoughtfully.

If we look closely at the Lord's Prayer, we find that it contains all the main ingredients for a complete time of prayer. The opening words, *Our Father*, immediately declare our intimate relationship with God, reminding us that he is not remote, but deeply committed to us and interested in our daily life.

When we pray *who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name*, we are declaring who God is, and praising Him. We can sing to God, using some of our favourite hymns, or just say the words, or perhaps play a worship CD.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven: these words bring us to the part of our prayers when we pray for people and situations. There are so many things we could pray for that it's difficult to know where to start. We could pray for different groups of people/situations on different days of the week (e.g. friends, family, world events).

Give us this day our daily bread reminds us that we are dependent on God for everything, even the most basic things of life. So we can ask him for any particular needs, and thank him for all that he has given us. *Forgive us our trespasses (sins), as we forgive those who trespass against us* encourages us to examine ourselves. Have we thought, said or done anything that we need to say sorry to God about? If so, we bring it to God, and receive his forgiveness, not forgetting to forgive anyone who has wronged or upset us.

The Lord's Prayer is very realistic; it helps us to deal with the negative side of life. When we pray *lead us not into temptation*, we are asking God to give us the strength to resist temptation when it comes. When we then pray *deliver us from evil*, we may want to pray for protection from danger or harm, or what we take to be spiritual attack, but also for wisdom in making a right decision, or discernment in dealing with a tricky situation. The prayer ends where it begins, with praise: *thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen*.

The Lord's Prayer contains many elements of prayer, and each prayer time won't have to contain all of them. Depending on how much time you have, concentrate on what seems to be most important and relevant. Flexibility and openness to God is the key.

Steve Abbott



Partnering with a Remarkable School in the Slums of Kibera, Kenya.

It is hard to conceive of a more worthwhile venture than that of Turning Point Trust working in the vast Kibera slum outside of Nairobi, Kenya.

The focal point of their work is the Fountains of Hope elementary school which provides top-drawer education for so many disadvantaged children in an area where there is much poverty, limited clean water and facilities. It also helps them make it possible for their graduates to continue to secondary school through scholarships.



School staff work closely with the Kibera community, offering parenting courses, helping provide food for their students during school holidays, and running holiday camps.

Turning Point Trust has long-standing connections with Sodbury Vale Benefice. Revd David Parsons, was one of the retired clergy who attended our churches ten years ago. David and Christine's son Jon and his wife Jo established Turning Point in 2003 and it is in large part thanks to their vision that the work continues today, now with very capable Kenyan national leadership.

But now there is a local connection being forged between Fountains of Hope and our local schools here. Catherine Coster, chair of the schools' Ethos committee, describes how it is coming together:

"The Learning Point trust recently helped us to establish a link between the Fountains of Hope School in Kibera and two of our local primary schools, St Johns Mead VC and Horton VA.

An initial meeting on Teams facilitated a discussion about how the link might work and identified teachers in all three schools who would take responsibility for the exchange of information and open lines of communication.

We hope this link will be of mutual benefit to all the schools and children. All three have a strong Christian foundation so children learn how Christian faith is expressed in school worship and all the principles and practices of the schools involved.

Experiencing other cultures and traditions helps young people to understand the world that they live in and empowers students to become better citizens of the world. A global school partnership helps to reinforce values around respect and tolerance, and encourages growing minds to celebrate difference, broaden horizons and understand global issues.

This partnership will support and enhance the teaching and learning in both schools through curriculum projects. Just before Easter the children shared information about books they enjoyed reading during World Book Week.

The schools participating will contribute equally to the partnership and will remain committed to a long-term relationship. Maintaining such long distance partnerships is not easy so regular contact through video conferencing is important, giving children visual stimuli and the opportunity to share pictures and videos. Please pray that this new venture thrives to the benefit of all the children involved.”

Frank Gray

Read more about Turning Point Trust: www.tptrust.org or on Facebook @tptrust

Our Church Buildings.

We are so lucky to have four beautiful churches in our Benefice, all very different but all needing constant attention.

Currently each of them needs some work doing to keep them in good order. Horton needs a new roof and each of our other churches are also looking to make changes. For example, how might we put a toilet in Little Sodbury and Chipping Sodbury and how might we reorder our worship spaces to make them places which

help people on their ongoing spiritual journeys?; whether that is our worshipping community, the wider community or individuals such as those on a walking pilgrimage. These are long projects and will rely on good communication and listening. Each one of you can influence what we go forward with. We won't all get exactly what we want, but by working together I hope and pray we can get what the churches need to ensure our sacred spaces are the best they can be for those who worship in or visit them.

These projects are in their early days, so please pray and let myself or the PCCs know your views. You might have strong views about one particular thing; feel free to let us know. It would be really helpful if you could also explain why you feel that way. None of us have the answer and you might just have the puzzle piece which opens up the best solution. **Rev Chris.**



SVB Strollers

In March Strollers headed over to Newark Park for a four and a half mile walk. Parking at the National Trust car park we set off to follow the Cotswold Way,



with great views across the Severn Vale below. Stopping for coffee halfway down the descent of the escarpment, then continuing to the valley to

follow the road along Wortley Bottom. Here we discovered a small herd of pigs rooting among the trees.



We then re-entered Newark Park and enjoyed views of the house as we followed the bridleway back up the hill. We had a light lunch in the café and were kept amused by the peacocks as we returned to the cars.

Our walk in April saw us setting out from Sherston, joined by some family members, as schools were on holiday, for a four and a half mile walk. We followed well defined paths and bridleways across open farmland with pleasant long views, including towards Westonbirt Arboretum from Willesley. In Willesley we passed



an interesting cottage with a scallop shell design over the doorway, once the home of Siegfried Sassoon, one of the war poets.



A well deserved lunch was enjoyed afterwards at the Rattlebone Inn in Sherston.

Do come and join us on the third Wednesday of the month, it really is a stroll!

Anne Vickers

Pentecost

On Sunday 8th June, our churches celebrate the feast of Pentecost. Often considered the birth of the Church, it is the time the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus comes down on the disciples. The Holy Spirit is probably the least understood member of the Trinity. Many of you know I like to turn to poetry to help us connect with the mysteries of our faith and you also know one of my favourite poets is Malcolm Guite, who is a regular contributor to the Church Times. Here is his poem simply entitled Pentecost. Let it speak to you about the mystery and wonder of Pentecost.

Rev Chris

Pentecost

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.

Copy Deadline: July 16

Please send all copy for the **Aug-Sept** issue to the Editor or the church office by this date.

Front Cover:

Horton church and Court.
By Tina Hildick-Smith

Partnership working in action to safeguard children

The Revd Naftali Nkika is visiting the Diocese of Gloucester from our link Diocese of Western Tanganyika (DWT) in Tanzania.

DWT has a thriving children's ministry and Becca Faal, our diocesan Strategic Lead for Safeguarding Training and Learning has been working with Naftali, who is their Director of Christian Education, for a number of years to develop the safeguarding provision that the Diocese offers, empowering adults to understand about child welfare.



Naftali regularly welcomes at least 250 children to Sunday school and travels to different areas of his diocese to teach Sunday school teachers. This summer he is organising a huge camp for about 600 children over four days. They will sing, pray and learn about the Bible and of course, football brings everyone together too!

Naftali is passionate about getting all children into education, including children with additional needs. Many families in DWT have a lot of children and unfortunately having a child with additional needs can still be seen as something to be ashamed of. "Some parents hide their children, or do not allow them to come to school. They sometimes think that they are wasting time by taking these children to school."

Naftali not only visits the schools for children with additional needs but also tries to change the narrative by encouraging conversation between parents who send their differently abled children to school and parents who don't.

He said, "The Church can have an influence through preaching and through visiting different people. We make announcements about the change that we want to see – we want to let people know that we must love one another. Doing bad things to children means we are just competing with God. The Church has a responsibility to encourage people not to do bad things."

Among many other visits, including Clearwater School, Cheltenham Network Church and St Catharine's Gloucester, Naftali has been to Sladewood School in Stroud, where he was very impressed with both the welcome he was offered and the resources and facilities.

He said, “I want to thank all those who hosted me and gave me food, especially the Revd Canon Helen Sammon and Becca’s parents and Fiona and Martin. God bless you all so much. I thank God for what he has done – glory and honour be to God because he deserves it.”

Becca said, “We have a really active partnership, which is not just based on visiting each other, but on developing policy and training together.”

Source Diocesan web site

Thy Kingdom Come 2025 – Light up the world in Prayer

From 29 May to 8 June 2025, Christians across the world are invited to unite in prayer as part of Thy Kingdom Come.

Spanning the eleven days between Ascension Day and Pentecost, this global wave of prayer is about deepening our own relationship with God, while praying for others to experience that same transformation.

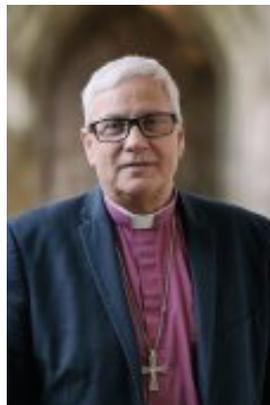
Thy Kingdom Come asks people to pray, daily, for five people they know to come to know Jesus Christ, and to encourage others to pray all over the world.

We have a wide range of free resources available on our webpage to help guide you through → <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/thy-kingdom-come-2025-light-up-the-world-in-prayer/>.

Bishop Robert said: “In what is an increasingly fragile world, Thy Kingdom Come takes us back the heart of prayer and Jesus’ promise to be with us always and everywhere.

“As I pray for people, some I know personally, others I know only of, I seek simply to hold them in God’s love; that they may know how precious and unique they are, and the fullness of life that God invites them to share.

“I find that praying in this way does, as Jesus promises, casts anxiety aside, strengthening and renewing my own faith, as I look to the needs and to the welfare of others.”



Whether you’re new to prayer or have taken part before, this year is another opportunity to join millions in asking God to reveal Himself in new ways.

Courtesy of the Diocese of Gloucester Messenger

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Spring into Summer

Schubert

Mass in G

Bizet

Te deum

Lauridsen

O Nata Lux

Vivaldi

Laetatus Sum

and other works

Yate
Choral
Society

Graham Coatman
Musical Director

Nick Sherwood
Accompanist

*Concert given in
joint memory of
GEOFF & HAZEL
WICKHAM*

Saturday 7 June 2025 at 7.30 pm

St Paul's (RC) Church, Yate
Sundridge Park, Yate, Bristol BS37 4DX

Tickets: £12 (under 16 free) *available from:*
Chipping Sodbury Tourist Information Centre
for more info: yatechoralsociety@gmail.com
or tel: 01454 313907

YCS is a registered charity No 1127423

Horton Church Teas

will begin on:



Saturday June the 28th
At St James the Elder, Horton
12 noon to 4.15pm

and every **Saturday** for the month
of July ending on
Saturday the 2nd of August .



*We look forward to
seeing you.*

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(See Genesis 1:1-2:3)

07-18-2014

LIGHT, DARK, SKY, WATER, SUN, MOON,
STARS, PLANTS, FISH, BIRDS, ANIMALS,
AND MAN IN MY IMAGE ... I NEED A DAY
OFF AFTER THAT WEEK

Pastoral Care - Visiting.

A quick note to remind you that we have a team of people who provide Pastoral Care for our Benefice(Clergy and Laity). To come and visit you and chat in your own homes or in hospital is a privilege, but I know it is not always easy to ask for a visit. It may be you are sick or housebound or would just appreciate the opportunity to chat to someone. Please do either contact myself or the following if you would like to arrange a visit or know of someone else who would appreciate it. The contact details can be found below.

The Pastoral Care Team



Revd Chris Butler
and Charlie the Dog



Edna Cooper



Brenda Cordy



Avril Harris



Helen Hope-Bell



Linda Hore



Richard Hore



Hilary Hurley



Linda Hurst



Richard Needs



Christine Stephens

For an initial contact email Office@svbcofe.org.uk
For an urgent response please call
Richard on 07894 248151 or Hilary on 07970 902391

Regular Church's Service Pattern

| | St John The Baptist, Chipping Sodbury | St John the Baptist, Old Sodbury | St James the Elder, Horton | St Adeline, Little Sodbury |
|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Service Time | 09:30am | 11:15am | 11:15am | 6:00pm Until Oct 26 |
| 1st Sunday | St John's Praise Child friendly informal service | Holy Communion | Morning Prayer | Evensong |
| 2nd Sunday | Holy Communion | Morning Worship | Holy Communion | Evensong |
| 3rd Sunday | All-Age Communion | Holy Communion | Morning Prayer | Evensong |
| 4th Sunday | Holy Communion | Morning Worship | Holy Communion | Holy Communion |
| 10:00 am every Thursday Holy Communion at the Church Centre, Wickwar Road, Chipping Sodbury | | | | |
| 8:30 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Morning Prayer via Zoom. Details from Jane | | | | |
| 10:30 am on any 5th Sunday Holy Communion in one of the four churches | | | | |

Tania Manners installed as “Sub Warden for Readers” for the Wotton Deanery

At the meeting of the Wotton Deanery Synod, held at St Bart's, Cam, the Rev'd Graham Stacey, our Area Dean, installed Matthew Riddle and me as 'Sub-Wardens for Readers' across the Wotton Deanery.



Our duties are to ensure that Readers are encouraged and supported in their various ministries, and that Reader ministry works alongside other ministries of the Church, for the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

By way of introduction, we hope to arrange our first social get-together for Readers across the Wotton Deanery, date and venue to be advised.

Tania Manners (Lay Reader, SVB)

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.



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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.***

For more information scan this code

