

## St John's Vicarage

The 'cottage' attached to the church is the oldest surviving part of the parsonage house of St John's. The vicars of St John's had their house on the site from about the year 1600, and it was built during the incumbency of Thomas Leonard, a wealthy vicar who largely rebuilt the house; it is possible that the massive chimney stack it incorporates is (in part) older.

The building is of particular significance as an early example of the use of brick to infill the spaces between the timber frame-work in Worcestershire – the gable end above the car park shows this now it has been restored (but it is most easily seen in the inner courtyard).

Leonard's work was incorporated into the Victorian Vicarage of 1884/5, but not without alteration: the stone-paved room at the rear appears to be Victorian but is actually largely 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The 'hipped roof' below the gable end, facing the car park and lawn, and slightly extending those rooms out beyond the gable, is a late 17<sup>th</sup> century addition; it seems to be the same date as the small staircase to the cottage's upper floor.