

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE
PARISH MAGAZINE
APRIL 2024



APRIL DIARY
LETTER FROM OUR VICAR
A KNITTED LAST SUPPER
FRIENDS OF JERSEY LANE APPEAL
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL DIARY

- Tuesday 2 **NO** midweek communion
- Sunday 7 10.00am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 9 10.00am Midweek Communion
- Sunday 14 10.00am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 16 10.00am Midweek Communion
- Saturday 20 10.00-12.00 Craft Church - free drop-in session for families, with refreshments**
- Sunday 21 10.00am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 23 10.00am Midweek Communion
- Sunday 28** 10.00am Holy Communion
11.30am Annual Parochial Church Meeting - open to all on the electoral roll
- Tuesday 30 10.00am Midweek Communion

MAY DIARY

- Sunday 5 10.00am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 7 10.00am Midweek Communion
- Thursday 9 Ascension Day**
Evening service at Redbourn (more details next month)
- Sunday 12 10.00am Holy Communion

Cover photograph: detail of the east window in the church

www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

The church is open daily from 10.00am until at least 3.00pm

Services: Sunday 10.00-11.15am and Tuesday 10.00-10.30am

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Regular readers will know I am a big fan of springtime. I can't tell you how much I'm looking forward to walks in Langley Wood once the bluebells are out. But while I wait, the dog and I often walk through our beautiful churchyard extension in House Lane.



I arrived in Sandridge almost three years ago now. One of the first things I did was meet the wonderful Roger Miller at House Lane to talk about the churchyard, which had become a bit neglected over the Covid lockdowns. Since then we have made a lot of progress with the hedges (which turned out to be 90% ivy) and with what Roger calls 'Brer Rabbit's briar patch' at the top of the churchyard. This is a work in progress as brambles grow back very quickly. We have held maintenance mornings and have recruited some regular professional work, funded by a grant from Sandridge Parish Council. We have cleared away a lot of unauthorised items too and continue to tidy up regularly. The churchyard is home to a host of wildlife.



'Brer Rabbit's briar patch'



We have received some generous donations from families, which gave us the chance to plant bulbs and flowers and these seem to be establishing themselves well. So far we have planted daffodil bulbs, native snowdrops, cowslips, perennial cyclamen and, most recently, some native primroses just by the main entrance. Now we have spring covered, I'd like to think about getting more summer and autumn colour too. But from February onwards there's been something to enjoy. Many of our families also plant small plants and bulbs on graves, or put fresh flowers on them, and the whole place was looking splendid when I walked through the other day.

(continued overleaf)

Our House Lane churchyard shows what can be done when we work together to slowly improve things. We don't have a lot of money or helpers, but we had a vision and I'm so proud of what has been achieved to date. It's a pleasure to walk through it. There's still a lot to do – in particular I need to find a way to get a lot of earth delivered to use in



levelling out some of the bumpier bits (sensible suggestions much appreciated) and the fencing needs attention (but I suspect that's a big ticket item).

Many of my visits are not for pleasure, but are because I regularly lay people to rest there – either by burial or burial of ashes. I know that it is such a special place for many friends and families. It

is also a sacred and holy place and that's why it's important to do what we can to maintain it.

The churchyard is in some ways like our lives. Our lives are sacred and holy places but they can get a bit neglected at times. They can get over-run with things that shouldn't be there. We can get caught up in our little bit and not see the bigger picture. Like the railings, our lives can show their age! As we live our lives, we can forget that the purpose of humankind is to love and respect God. The only way to get our lives back on track is to accept help. If people generously offer their assistance, take it. If you need help, ask for it. If your life needs to feel more like springtime, then tackle one small thing at a time. Accept that progress is not linear – those brambles will keep coming back. Enjoy the blessings and plant new ones. And know that some of those blessings are for the joy and comfort of others and not necessarily for ourselves.

If you've not been to House Lane for a while, do visit while the spring flowers still bloom. And say a prayer for those who rest there and for those who mourn them still. Give thanks for those who work to maintain that space. And perhaps ask how you could play your part in looking after this hallowed ground.

Yours in Christ

Revd Wendy

Knitted Last Supper

Some time ago a lovely lady at my sending church of St Francis of Assisi in Welwyn Garden City knitted me a set of nativity figures. These come out to play each Christmas-time and many of you will have seen them at our Crib services. They have been well used and loved.

I happened to mention to someone at church that I had a colleague who had a knitted Last Supper, which I had always envied. “Oh, I’ve got the pattern for that,” she replied. So I asked the Sandridge Evening W I (of which I am happily a member) if anyone might be able to knit me a set. I knew that they had a craft group and reasoned that they were my best shot at some talented knitters. If anyone could help, I certainly didn’t expect them for this Easter. Amazingly, a couple of weeks later, two speedy knitters (Jackie and Linda) had knitted me this splendid set of Jesus and his disciples. There is also some food to go on the table – which I now need to sort out. Thank you so much to both ladies, who wouldn’t even take anything for the wool.

The figures will feature in many a school assembly from now on. We can use them in church at Sunday School and in services. They will also go into our care homes, where those with memory loss in particular benefit from something both visual and tactile.

The figures can be seen in church at the start of April as part of our Easter decorations, but do get there early in the month before we have to take down the Easter Gardens and flower displays. The church will look magnificent and is open every day. I can’t tell you how happy these knitted figures have made me. As well as being a fantastic resource, they’ve also demonstrated how kind people are and how sometimes things work out unexpectedly.

The Sandridge Evening W I meets every second Tuesday in the Village Hall. Do come along and experience that kindness for yourself. I promise that you don’t need to be able to knit!

Revd Wendy



PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT (ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES)

AT THE MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13 MARCH 2024, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

Disclosures of Interest

There was none.

TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 February 2024 were reviewed. They were agreed to be a correct record and it was unanimously resolved that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the Chair.

QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Questions to Officers

There was none.

Public Participation

Wheathampstead and Sandridge District Councillor Simon Johns attended the meeting to introduce himself to Parish Council members.

CLERK'S REPORTS

Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 15 Feb to 13 March 2024. It was unanimously resolved to approve the schedule for payment on 15 March 2024.

Lone Worker Policy

Members reviewed the Parish Council's Lone Worker Policy, including two amendments to the original document approved by the HR Committee on 5 February. Following discussion and recommendations from Cllr White it was unanimously resolved;

- To include in the policy an option for staff to have their phones tracked should they so wish (for security).
- The policy to include a request to staff to upload the ICE Contact (In Case of Emergency) software on their phone to send a pre-composed message and GPS location to a selected ICE contact in case of an emergency (as appropriate and optional when the phone is not employer issued).
- That Full Council ratifies re-adoption of the policy and amendments for review in two years.

Note: Cllr Chachulski undertook to speak to the Clerk in respect of further standardising all policy documents.

Additional Clothing Bank

Following discussion it was unanimously resolved to ask the Parish Clerk to write to the Salvation Army asking for a clothing bank to be installed in the Sherwood Avenue car park.

Safeguarding Policy

Members reviewed a draft Safeguarding Policy, being a revised version of that presented to the last Full Council. It was unanimously resolved to adopt the policy for review annually.

Treasury and Investment Policy

It was unanimously resolved to re-adopt this policy for the forthcoming year.

Grievance Policy

It was unanimously resolved to re-adopt this policy for a further three years.

Matters of Note

- An officer from the Woodland Trust has agreed to attend a Parish Council meeting to share what's currently happening in Heartwood Forest and what's planned for the future. The Full Council meeting on 12 June has been provisionally agreed.
- The Parish Conference took place at Redbourn Parish Council on 11 March.
- An HAPTC training day for councillors and staff has been arranged for Monday 13 May from 3pm to 6pm. Attendees are encouraged to let the Clerk have details of any topics they'd like covered (this can be absolutely anything relating to the role of a councillor, the function of a council, working with other organisations etc).
- Cllr Wells, in collaboration with the Committee for Sustainability and the community garden volunteers, has installed two 1,000 litre water butts to the front of Marshalswick Community Centre. These will collect rainwater to sustainably irrigate the community garden.
- Redevelopment of the Marshalswick Parish Office and Community Hall site – the Clerk is working to agree a date for Cllrs Twidell, White and Wells to meet with Wheathampstead Parish Councillors to discuss the building of their new accommodation.
- The Clerk and Cllr Hale, Chair of the Finance Committee, met with Trustees of the Sandridge Youth and Sport Community Association (SYSCA) on 26 February to agree a recovery plan to be part-funded through a Parish Council grant. Various works were agreed and prioritised.

- The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer was interviewed by radio station Mix92.6 on 23 February to further discuss the expansion of the Paradise for Pollinators project.
- There will be an internal audit of the Parish Council's Annual Return on 25 April.
- The Parish Office is obtaining quotes to re-carpet the Parish Office and hallway.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

Sandridge Primary School (Sandridge 10k). Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Chalkley, seconded by Cllr White and unanimously resolved to award the sum of £750 to the Sandridge 10k for the purposes outlined in the application. This award made under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Clerk to ask for details of what donation the school receives as a result of the event.

A Report on the Effectiveness of the Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan in SADC Planning Decisions from 1 June to 31 December 2023

A report by Cllr Ternouth circulated with the agenda was reviewed. It was noted that comments made by the Planning Committee to the Planning Authority make increasingly detailed reference to the Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan to ensure planning officers reviewing an application consider the relevant elements. The report was formally noted.

B651 Footpath/Bridleway

A summary of a meeting held on 21 February to discuss this permissive bridleway was given by Cllr Ternouth. No further meetings are scheduled at this time.

Parish Summer Event 1 June 2024

Cllr Roberts provided a comprehensive update on plans for the Parish Summer Event to be held on Saturday 1 June 2024.

Meetings of Committees

Members received a brief summary from the Chair of each of the following committees;

- 6 March 2024 - Sports and Recreation Committee
- Planning Committee - please see below

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

Cllr Hale updated Members on progress in reinstating public access to the Oaklands College site. He suggested visiting the Oaklands College website's community page or the Marshalswick North Residents' Association website for future updates.

Also discussed was the potential closure of the B651 when installing mains services to the former Ivens Orchids development site.

PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 19 February and 11 March 2024. One planning application has been commented on since the last Full Council;

40 Ardens Way, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 9UJ – Planning Application: 5/2024/0253

Please note: Planning applications received at the Parish Office from the Planning Authority *after* the Parish Council agenda has been published may also be discussed at the meeting as may applications of complexity or applications likely to impact heavily on the Green Belt.

SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

- An update on Oaklands College public access (April)
- Highways flooding in the parish (May)

Next meeting date: 10 April 2024 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre (this will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm)

An appeal from the Friends of Jersey Lane

We are in the process of compiling information to use on our projected **Friends of Jersey Lane** website. We have tried researching the history of the lane, but a trawl of council archives and local history books has, to date, yielded very little information.

It is, however, possible that some long-time residents of the Marshalswick/Sandridge area may have particular memories of the lane - or know people who have - and we would very much like to hear from them. Any reminiscences can be forwarded to me via email: aboxer@hotmail.co.uk or on: 07507 105960.

Andy Boxer



W I report

At our March meeting, Joy Hall gave us a very interesting illustrated talk on *Japan, Land of Contrasts*, based on her personal experiences. She explained that Japan is indeed a land of contrasts between old and new, with deeply entrenched traditions contrasting with high-tech. There are four main islands and 7000 smaller islands: 60% is mountainous and there is not much agricultural land to cultivate.

Joy introduced us to the Kanji characters which are 2000 years old and based on Chinese characters. She showed us how the two elements form *Nippon*, the word for Japan, which translates as *land of the rising sun*. Phonetic spelling using Latin characters is a more recent development and Japanese people are always keen to practise their English.

Tokyo has a population of over 13 million people and is full of high-rise buildings contrasting with the old wooden buildings of Kyoto. There is snow for four months of the year, but surprisingly some of the roofs are thatched, with neighbours joining in to help renew the thatch as a communal effort. The houses are very simple inside with mats and paper walls, and sleeping involves using mattresses on the floor.

Nature is a force to fear and in response gardens are a refuge of water, with fiercely manicured greenery. Cherry trees are very important to the Japanese who hold night-time cherry blossom festivals with lights and will use artificial blossom if the real fails.

Religion is divided between Buddhism and Shintoism and often people will follow both, depending on whether they are feeling sad or happy. Shintoism teaches respect for ancestors and the environment, with sacred camphor trees where people write prayers on wood and hang them up. There is a tradition that every Japanese meal should have five colours as opposed to our five fruit or vegetables a day. Everywhere is very clean and there are no litter bins or litter.

Much of Japanese life is lived out via screens. One major phenomenon is the world of Manga comics, which is definitely not the real world. There is also the strange phenomenon of solo weddings where the bride dresses in a wedding dress and invites guests to celebrate but without a groom.

For our meeting on 9 April, Ken and June Brazier will be telling us about the Christian charity Mercy Ships, where volunteer medical staff provide free medical services. Visitors are always welcome, but if you are thinking of joining us please contact Jenny Roberts: jennysandwisec@gmail.com or Jean Thomas: jean.thomas111@btinternet.com

Christine Nutton, Vice President

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

3 March 2024 - Alyssa Jennifer May Condon
10 March 2024 - Amelia Lydia Leonard

Burial of ashes

22 February 2024 - Rose Patricia Kendrick

Magazine distribution

The magazine is available free of charge to anyone via email.

Please contact the Magazine Editor on
news.stleonards@gmail.com if you wish to receive a monthly copy.

Paper copies are available free in the church, at Carpenter's Nursery and in the Village Stores. For people unable to obtain copies in either way, contact Peter Hyde to arrange for a copy to be delivered.

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Publication notes

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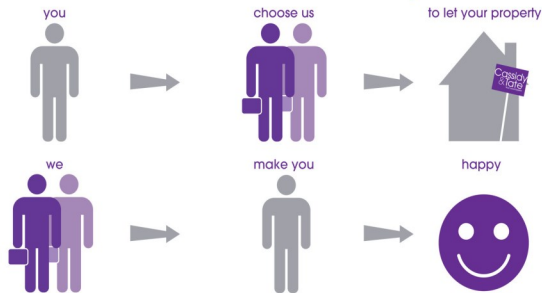


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