

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH
SANDRIDGE PARISH MAGAZINE
APRIL 2023**



**APRIL DIARY : SPRING & EASTER
HOUSE LANE CHURCHYARD
TRIBUTE TO CONNIE PEARSON
BELL-RINGING FOR THE CORONATION
LYCHGATE WAR MEMORIAL REPAIRS
WI LIVESTOCK & PARISH COUNCIL
REPORTS**

APRIL DIARY

Holy Week and Easter services

Sunday 2 April 10 a.m. – Palm Sunday with blessing and handing out of palm crosses and refreshments at the end. St Mary's Marshalswick are offering Compline on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week and all are invited to join them at 7.30pm for this quiet service of Night Prayer .

Thursday 6 April 8 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion – a reflective service at St Leonard's.

Friday 7 April 10-12 a.m. – Good Friday Craft Church for families with refreshments, activities, story telling and an egg hunt. All welcome and no need to book.

Friday 7 April 2-3 p.m. – Good Friday Final Hour service.

Saturday 8 April – the church will be decorated in this time. Do pop in to admire the flowers.

Sunday 9 April 10 a.m. – Easter Day Celebration of Holy Communion.

For full details please read the vicar's letter on the Page opposite

Sunday 23rd	10.00am	Holy Communion
	11.30am	APCM . The church's Annual General Meeting to which all residents of the parish are invited

MAY

Sunday 9th	10.00am	Holy Communion
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Magazine Distribution

This magazine is available free of charge to anyone via email. Contact Christine Nutton if you wish to receive a monthly copy.

Paper copies are available free in the church, at Carpenter's Nursery and in the village shop. For people unable to obtain copies in either way, contact Peter Hyde to arrange for a paper copy to be collected and delivered. Contact details are on page 19.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Easter is nearly upon us at last. It has been a long dark cold winter but Spring is here. What a glorious time of year it is.



The highlight of the church calendar is Easter Morning. St Leonard's will be decorated beautifully – we don't have flowers during Lent so we will appreciate them even more.

We start the service with a bonfire to remind ourselves that Christ the Light of the World is risen. During the joyful service we re-new our baptism vows and get sprinkled with water from the font. Then we will hand out or hunt for Easter eggs, depending on our age! The service will as always end with refreshments. Whether you used to come to church or whether you've never been, you will be most welcome to join us as we celebrate that fact that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. Alleluia.

Have a very happy Easter-time.

Rev Wendy

Church Website

The St Leonard's website has recently undergone a complete revision. This was necessary as the previous format was about to be removed from use, but also gave us a chance for a refreshment. Luckily a member of the congregation offered to do this along with her husband and they have done a wonderful job. The new website contains significantly less information than the previous one, in the hope that this makes it easier to navigate as well as keep up to date. There is a contact form to help people get in touch with us. The website address remains the same: www.sandridgechurch.org.uk.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with this over years past. I'm overjoyed with this latest version.

Rev Wendy

www.sandridgechurch.org.uk
The church is open daily from 10.00am until at least 3.00pm.
Services Sun 10-11.15 am & Tues 10-10:30 am

The Roland King Room

As you will know, our Churchwarden Emeritus Roland King died at the end of 2022. He had served St Leonard's for over 70 years and he is a major reason why the church building is in such good shape. The PCC and congregation have therefore decided we would like Roland to be remembered in a way that is fitting and lasting. The room at the back of the church, behind the glass screens, has therefore been named The Roland King Room and PCC are considering a way to include a memorial in that space. The room will be formally named at our event on the evening of the Coronation – which seems fitting given Roland's surname. Everyone is invited to come along and raise a glass to a truly remarkable man.

The Coronation of King Charles III

Hymns and Pimms !

We thought it would be lovely to offer a social event for the evening of the Coronation Day at the church. We will be serving drinks and nibbles from 6 p.m. on Saturday 6th May. We are calling the event Hymns and Pimms , because who doesn't love a rhyme ? But other drinks will be available and other types of singing will take place too. We hope to see you then.

Sound System and Hearing Loop

We are all set for our new sound system and our first ever hearing loop to be installed. We have the necessary permission from the Diocese and hopefully the whole thing will be installed by the end of June at the very latest. The vicar is looking forward to a microphone that doesn't randomly cut out, the congregation are looking forward to hearing the readings and prayers and the vicar's husband is looking forward to testing the hearing loop with his new hearing aid. This has been made possible by a generous donation from the family of a much loved member of our congregation, in memory of this gentleman and his wife.

Learn to bell-ring for the King's Coronation!

The Coronation of the King and the Queen Consort will be held in Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May. It will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. In preparation for the Coronation, a national call has been made to recruit thousands of new bell ringers to ring in the new King in May.

A new website, Ring for the King, (ringfortheKing.org) has been set up by The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, especially hoping to encourage young people to try their hand. The website says that bellringing is "an activity like no other – a unique mix of physical exercise with mental agility that is a deep part of our history, but still practised and evolving today." It suggests that after a few hours one-to-one tuition, a beginner can learn to handle a bell, use a bell rope, and begin to ring with others.

There are about 38,000 church bells, but only 30,000 ringers in the UK. The Central Council has said that while a swell of new recruits in time for the Coronation would be 'fantastic', "we hope that people find this new hobby, skill and social activity something they would want to continue with beyond 6th May."

Sandridge is one of the towers that are very short of ringers, especially as two of our members are away at university, If you would like to learn to ring, please contact Vivian Nutton on 01727-831623 or email: vivian@nutton.org.uk. You still have ample time to be trained during April .

Churchyard Tidy Up

The next community churchyard maintenance session is scheduled for the morning of Monday 15 May and this time it is suggested that people can either tidy up at House Lane or do some gardening around the old churchyard. The Garden of Rest was always been well cared for and both churchyards are looking much better as they have been cared for over the winter by a professional gardener, so hopefully there won't be too many tasks to complete. Please do come along either to tidy a family grave or to help out generally. And as ever, the vicar would love to hear from any family who would like advice or practical help with maintaining a family grave.

REMEMBERING ROLAND (see also pages 4 & 11)

On Monday 13th February we had a remembrance service at St Leonards, Sandridge for our father Roland George King. He would have been very pleased to see so many people in his beloved church. With it being mid-February and an expectation that the weather would normally be cold and wet at this time of year, we were actually blessed with warm sunshine for the whole ceremony and on into the afternoon. On behalf of my sisters, Susan, Rachel and myself we would like to send our thanks to everyone who has said many kind things about our father. We would especially like to thank Rev. Wendy Sellers for the service and also Martin at the Green Man, for organising food and drink in the afternoon.

Donations for the Restoration of the Lychgate

Cash - Put your donation in a blue envelope marked 'Lychgate' and put it in the Donations Jar in church. For Gift Aid, add your name and address.

Credit card reader in church. To add Gift Aid, use a blue envelope with Lychgate, the amount and your name and address written on it and put in the jar.

The 'Lychgate' QR code in the church porch or use it here below. Gift Aid may be included.

Or Cheque payable to :
'Sandridge PCC – St Leonard's'
with 'Lychgate' on the back.
Deliver or send to:
Peter Hyde,
18, St Leonards Court,
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WI Report

At our March meeting Ceri Noor not only demonstrated her skills at Macramé , an intricate knotting craft but explained how starting from a stall at her daughter's nursery Christmas Fair she has built up a portfolio business including demonstrations, viewable on U-tube and custom-made orders as well as a range of creations and kits available through her website as well as at stalls at craft fairs and the Herts Show . She also teaches at a prep school with a rolling programme of skills for life. She told us how relaxing she found the craft with its opportunities to problem solve, and how much she valued the time she could spend with her children, having given up her previous job as a Chartered Accountant.



At our April Meeting on April 11th Chris Jones will be speaking about the topical subject of Energy , Economics and the Future .

Visitors are always welcome, so do come along to the Village Hall at 7.30 for 8 pm. Your first visit is free *Christine Nutton , Secretary.*

St Leonard's Card Deliveries.

Three times a year St Leonard's endeavours to deliver cards to all its parishioners - Christmas, Easter and Harvest/ Flower Festival in order to tell people about the services arranged and any events associated with them, e.g. Craft Church, concerts, harvest supper etc. This involves around 1500 houses. We have lost some of our deliverers due to age and moving, so in order to keep these communications going I need some more deliverers. The following roads are in need of someone to deliver. If you are able to help with this, please contact me on 01727 833664 or see me in church.

Your help would be much appreciated

Carolynn Boucher

North side Gibbons Close[30];

High Street from village to shops [24];

High Street farm to Taras and opposite to 42 [not Lyndon] [25];

High Street from 44 to Highfield Road [38]

Langley Grove 1-40 [40]; and Langley Grove 41-79 [38];

St Albans Road 106-134 ,[even] 136-188, & 153-167 + 4 new houses [66];

St Albans Road 1-19 * opposite [13]; Taylor Close [47]; Hopkins Crescent [21]

A Tribute to Connie Pearson

Connie passed away peacefully with family by her side on Saturday 11th of March, at the Orchard Nursing Home, where she had received excellent care since January 2020.

Vin and Connie Pearson had moved to Sandridge in September 1983 and immediately became a part of the Congregation at St. Leonard's. They very soon made many lasting friendships, whilst also immersing themselves in the life of the Church.



Vin sang in the Choir and later Village Voices and Connie joined in with various groups and activities, which, later for some, led to a leadership role. Both served on the PCC and Connie also became one of the Lay Representatives at the Deanery Synod.

She led the Women's Guild for many years and was presented with a certificate for 18 years of exemplary service. Connie was passionate about the group becoming all inclusive and reaching out into the community. This happened and she continued to lead the St. Leonard's Fellowship, as it became known, for many more years until her health prevented her and she

retired from the role.

Along with husband Vin and John Blandford, she also used to hold services for the residents of Lyndon over many years. Connie would lead the service and the prayers; Vin (having a beautiful tenor voice), would lead the singing, with John accompanying on the keyboard.

Connie believed in the power of prayer. She was one of a number in the Congregation that would pray for others who had asked to be remembered. She also regularly wrote and read the Sunday Service intercessions. And for many years, she organised the World Day of Prayer Service - originally a day for women around the World, which she regarded not only as a powerful display of prayerful bonding, but also as an important act of outreach.

Connie loved her garden and also flower arranging in a more natural style. She supported the annual Flower Festival and it gave her great joy at the age of 93 when, although housebound, she was still able to make an arrangement, which was carried across the road to the church and admired by the Mayor, among many others. Connie's arrangement included her wedding photo and the colours paid tribute to Vin's Welsh roots.



Connie always put others first and showed she cared - a 'thank you' gift to all visiting speakers, a listening non-judgmental ear for anyone that needed it, a silent hug or a touch of the hand. She will be greatly missed by her family and all who had the privilege to know her. A memorial service for Connie will be held on Monday 24th April at 11.30 am to which everyone is invited .

Diana Ashton - Connie and Vin's youngest daughter



Connie and Vin with their friend John Blandford with whom they joined to lead services at Lyndon



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Sandridge

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<http://www.villagevoicessandridge.co.uk/>
<https://fleetville-harmony.org.uk/>



Livestock Report

On 13th February we had a remembrance service at St Leonards Church, Sandridge which was very moving and well attended. We could not have asked for better weather, as the sun shone and it was pleasantly warm as we placed dad's ashes next to our mother's in the garden of rest.

People were offered the opportunity to join my sisters, myself and our families at the Green Man for some refreshments after the service.

As everyone arrived at the Green Man it was quite 'apt' that dad's cows were grazing quietly in the warm sunshine and visible from the pub car park. Dad spent as much time as he could down with his blondes, handling, stroking and talking to them and I am sure they enjoyed his company as well. The picture below shows him in the yard only last July, doing what he loved to do.

Dad spent as much time as he could down with his blondes, handling, stroking and talking to them and I am sure they enjoyed his company as well. The picture below shows him in the yard only last July, doing what he loved to do. Over the last few weeks and months before dad passed away, he spent less time with his cows although he would sit and watch them on



his ipad. I must admit though there were other visitors caught on camera that we decided Dad would

not be happy to see. (see page 12)

What happens now?

My nephew Stuart has been helping dad with feeding, bedding and mucking out and also taking control of the bobcat even though dad was still driving it around the yard up until his late 80s.

Unfortunately, we lost two cows just before dad passed away at the end of last year. There are just three cows left now, Eloise (nearly 14 years old), Poppins (3 years) and Patience (nearly 3 years).

Continued overleaf



These three are presently able to use the barn at night and graze the field during the day. I am sure they miss Dad as there was a very strong bond between them.

The health and well-being of Eloise, Poppins and Patience has

always been a priority and will continue to be so.

Dad spent a great deal of time over the last 40 years, rearing pedigree Blonde D'Aquitaine bulls and heifers. He enjoyed meeting his fellow stockmen at the numerous shows he attended and on many occasions he was accompanied by our mum, Mary. This last picture is a drawing I did many years ago and I felt it 'light heartedly' shows how I think mum felt at times!!

Mike King



AT THE MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 8th MARCH 2023, THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE RAISED:

TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies received and accepted from Councillors June Reid, Graham Leonard, John Newton Davies and Patsy Cann.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There was none.

TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 8th FEBRUARY 2023

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th February 2023 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 the Officers

One question was asked and responded to.

Public Participation – an opportunity for residents to raise issues or ask questions of Members

The member of the public present asked to speak later on the agenda and this was agreed.

CLERK'S REPORTS

Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 9th February 2023 to 8th March 2023. Questions were asked and responded to before it was unanimously resolved to approve the payment of this schedule on 10th March 2023.

Internal Audit Report

It was noted that in February, the Finance Committee had reviewed an internal audit carried out on November 30th 2022 by the Council's new auditor, IAC Ltd. It was unanimously resolved to formally note the audit summary as circulated with the agenda.

Treasury and Investment Policy

It was noted that on February 20th the Finance Committee reviewed a draft Treasury and Investment Policy, created

internal auditor. It was unanimously resolved to adopt the Treasury and Investment Policy as circulated with the agenda.

2022/23 Budgetary Control

Members reviewed a budgetary control report compiled by the Clerk and reviewed by the Finance Committee in February. It was noted that projected outturn showed an overspend on budget of £25,748 and a schedule of material items contributing to this projected outturn was noted. It was unanimously resolved to formally note the projected year end position.

Member/Officer Protocol

This Protocol was discussed at an HR Committee meeting held in February when it was agreed the document was difficult to navigate because of its scale and layout. The Committee Chair (Councillor Hale) undertook at that time to write a draft summary as an introduction to the document.

It was proposed by Councillor Harris that the matter be deferred for further review of the existing protocol. A vote was taken and this was not pursued. Following further discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hale, seconded by Councillor Hegerty and resolved to adopt the amended protocol as circulated. It was also recommended that the new council in May consider whether the new Civility and Respect protocol, created by NALC, SLCC, HAPTC and others might be a more appropriate protocol to adopt at some point in the future.

Privacy and Cookies Policy

Members reviewed the Privacy and Cookies Policy circulated with the agenda. It was unanimously resolved to re-adopt the policy for review in 2025.

Data Protection Policy

Members reviewed the Data Protection Policy circulated with the agenda. It was unanimously resolved to re-adopt the policy for review in 2025 or earlier if appropriate.

Matters of Note: - Triennial Pension Review

On 20th February, Finance Committee Members noted that the Members noted that the triennial valuation of the Parish Council's Pension Fund, administered by Hertfordshire County Council, shows the fund to be in good order with a recommended 1% reduction in the Parish Council's contribution in 2023/24. This was also noted by the HR committee at a

meeting on February 6th 2023,

Hong Kong Market

The recent Hong Kong Market, held at Marshalswick Community Centre, is estimated to have attracted up to 2,000 visitors. Further events are planned throughout this year.

Parish Office

Work to refit the kitchen used by the Parish Office completed on March 3rd .

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications. There were no applications this month.

Councillor Roberts passed on the thanks of the 30th St Albans Guides for the grant previously awarded.

Meetings of Committees:

- Finance Committee 20 th February 2023
- Planning Committee 23 rd February 2023 (see below)

The meeting took a brief verbal report by the Chair/a member of the above committees.

St Albans Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Consultation Members considered a report and proposed response drafted by Councillor Hale. The member of public present pointed out that there was little reference to Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan and agreed she would forward to the Clerk and Councillor Hale those elements of the Neighbourhood Plan relevant to this consultation response.

Councillor Hale explained that the draft LCWIP had limited available funding and was restricted to work on highways and as such was a separate draft plan to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.. It was proposed by Councillor Hale, seconded by Councillor Geoff Churchard and unanimously resolved to submit the suggested draft to the consultation, subject to the above addition. The consultation deadline is March 20th .

Armed Forces Covenant

An email from the County Association was sent to Members on the 14th and 22nd February asking local councils to consider signing a covenant to demonstrate support for the British armed forces. A report and proposal drafted by Councillor Leonard was circulated with the agenda. During the discussion Councillor Roberts pointed out that, in addition to the Lychgate at St Leonard's church, there are two memorials on the Jersey Farm Woodland Park – the Burma Star Association and the Landing Craft Association.

It was resolved to commit the Parish Council to the Armed Forces Covenant.

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

The Clerk informed members that work to replace the CCTV at Marshalswick Community Centre will commence on Wednesday 15th March 2023.

Councillor Roberts reminded councillors that the Wildflower Paradise for Pollinators evening was scheduled for Tuesday 14th March 2023 at Marshalswick Community Centre.

PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 23rd February 2023. Planning applications commented on since the last Full Council meeting are: - 27 Barnfield Road 5/2023/0182 - 4 Tilsworth Walk 5/2023/0301

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

There was none.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Sandridge Parish Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 12th April 2023 – Marshalswick Community Centre at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting closed 8.55 pm.



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BURIAL : 28th February Joan Eileen Webb

BAPTISMS 5th March: Jade Roberts and Hadleigh Yasmin
Thomas– Moore

BURIAL OF ASHES : 7th March Joan Cozens
11th March Frederick Knight

FUNERAL : 17th March Maurice Victor Adams



The Cross outside the church door for Holy Week which Roland used to erect



Publication Notes

This month's magazine was edited by Christine Nutton. Thanks to all our contributors. Next month's magazine will be edited by Peter Hyde.

Please send any contributions, including photographs,
as soon as available or by April 14th as email attachments to:
news.stleonards@gmail.com or to 18 St Leonard's Court Thank you.

Earthquakes and Early Christianity

The recent earthquakes in Southern Turkey, with their dreadful destruction of homes and communities, reminded me of my visit there in spring 1966. I had been awarded a travel scholarship for six months to examine ancient sites in Greece and Turkey as part of my history thesis. My supervisor wanted me to see how people lived there, still largely working in the same way and often living among the same buildings as their Roman predecessors. He was right, for Turkey in particular was just about to undergo huge changes that saw villages become large towns and towns mega-cities.

I managed to see six of the seven churches of Asia mentioned in Revelation, not without adventures, as well as two important centres of early Christianity, Antioch and Edessa, both badly damaged in the latest earthquake.

Antioch/Antakya was then a sleepy town on the tree-lined banks of the river Orontes, nestling under a high hill surmounted by a crusader castle. I climbed up to see the church built into the hillside where St Paul was said to have preached to the first Christians (the name was first applied there), but my main interest was in the Museum. Here one could see some of the most beautiful of ancient mosaics, many brought from nearby Daphne and showing the huge wealth of the city around 300 AD. There



A mosaic from Roman Antioch

was also a port a few miles away at the mouth of the river, where I wandered among the remains of warehouses and shops. I also encountered a Syrian orthodox priest clad in his bright robes returning from celebrating communion. After a few days there I moved on, through many cities now lying in ruins, to Edessa/Urfa, which was for long the intellectual centre of the Nestorian Christians of the Middle East. It was a beautiful medium-sized town on the fringes of the desert, blessed with springs, pools and fountains. Below the main church, now a mosque, was a pool filled with leaping fish and overhung with fragrant trees.

No wonder that it was said to have been visited by Abraham, and considered sacred by Jews, Christians and Muslims alike. My memory is of buildings of all periods, Greek, Roman, Early Christian, Crusader and Muslim, many still inhabited. One could see tombs inscribed in a variety of languages, as well as a handful of Eastern orthodox churches. There was a hill with, again, a crusader castle on top, and a bustling market at its foot, for Urfa was a major trading centre with North Syria, but, alas, no trace of the famous theological school said to be founded by King Abgar, an early convert of St Thomas and the first monarch to bring his subjects to Christianity. It introduced me to a new world of Eastern Christianity, aspects of which, most notably its charitable work, I could include in my thesis.



The sacred pool at Urfa /Edessa with fish

But what of today? In both cities Christians are a tiny minority, suffering along with their Muslim fellow-citizens. Some of the buildings I saw have been destroyed or badly damaged, and I do not know what has happened to the mosaics or to the sacred pool. Antakya has suffered more than Urfa, being closer to the epicentre of the earthquake, but both have been destroyed before and risen again. They need our prayers and our help to ensure the continued existence of our fellow-Christians in this cradle of early Christianity, *Vivian Nutton*

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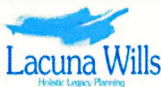
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Vicar: Revd Wendy Sellers, The Vicarage , 2 Anson Close 301542
email: revwendy55@gmail.com

*Wendy's days off are Wednesday to Friday,
but if you need her urgently please telephone her.*

Churchwardens:

Christine Nutton email: christine@nutton.org.uk 831623

Kathy Tilney email: kathleentilney@hotmail.com 848136

Online News: www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

Facebook: St Leonard's Church, Sandridge, Herts

Twitter: @stleonards2016

PCC Secretary:

Kathy Tilney Fairwoods, Woodcock Hill, Sandridge 848136
kathleentilney@hotmail.com

Book Keeper:

Peter Hyde 18 St Leonard's Court, Sandridge 836728
peterwhyde@btinternet.com

Organist: Vivian Nutton 831623

Organist emeritus Trevor Hawkins

Choir contact:

Louise Gordon Hulme 762969

Bell ringers:

Vivian Nutton 225 Sandpit Lane, St Albans 831623

St Leonard's Fellowship: Kathy Tilney - as above
Meetings are currently suspended.

Flower Guild Christine Nutton 831623
christine@nutton.org.uk

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Harmony
Singing a cappella
for fun**

**two choirs for
the price of one**

**Charity Concert
St. Leonard's Church Sandridge
29th April 2023 7.30 pm**

**Join us for a fun evening of songs for life, love and hope
with chances to sing along**

Entry £10 on the door - children free