

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE
PARISH MAGAZINE
JULY/AUGUST 2023**



**JULY and AUGUST DIARIES
VICAR'S PRAYER LETTER
WILDFLOWERS IN THE CHURCHYARD
AUGUST TEAS AT CHURCH
LIVESTOCK UPDATE
PRIORY WOMEN'S CLUB and W.I.
SUMMER FAIR REPORT
FOCUS ON CRAFT CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

JULY DIARY

| | | | |
|----------|----|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 2 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 4 | 10.00am | Morning Prayer |
| Sunday | 9 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday | 9 | 3.00 pm | CTM Tea & Songs of Praise |
| Tuesday | 11 | 10.00am | Midweek Communion |
| Saturday | 15 | 10.00am - 12noon | Craft Church |
| Sunday | 16 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 18 | 10.00am | Midweek Communion |
| Sunday | 23 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 25 | 10.00am | Midweek Communion |
| Sunday | 30 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |

AUGUST DIARY

(no Tuesday morning services in August)

| | | | |
|--------|----|----------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday | 6 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday | 6 | 3.00 - 5.00pm | Church Teas |
| Sunday | 13 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday | 13 | 3.00 - 5.00pm | Church Teas |
| Sunday | 20 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday | 20 | 3.00 - 5.00pm | Church Teas |
| Sunday | 27 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday | 27 | 3.00 - 5.00pm | Church Teas |

SEPTEMBER DIARY

| | | | |
|----------|----|-------------------------|---|
| Sunday | 3 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 5 | | (no service) |
| Sunday | 10 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 12 | 10.00am | Midweek Communion |
| Saturday | 16 | 10.00am - 12noon | Craft Church and Pet Service (more details next month) |

LETTER FROM OUR VICAR

Dear Friends

I can't tell you how often people ask me to pray for them, or for someone else they are concerned about. The bad news is that the vicar's prayers have no special place with God – I am quite simply equal to all His other children. The good news is that everyone can pray and that it doesn't even need words. God knows and understands all our hopes, dreams and fears and is always ready to listen when we want to share those with him.



One way the Church has traditionally prayed for those who might especially need prayer is through a 'prayer list'. Years ago, these names were read out in the Sunday service but for some time now they are instead listed on our weekly pew sheet, mentioned more generally as a group during the prayers and then entrusted to folk to pray over at home. I should stress that most names are first names and we have been given permission to do this.

Nonetheless, the PCC has decided that the time has come to review this system. This is mainly because we would like the pew sheet to be available digitally in the near future, as well as on paper, and this means a review of those permissions. In addition, many people stay on the prayer list for years. For many of these people, we have no information on why they requested our prayers, never mind updates on how things are going for them. So, we are introducing a new system.

If you would like to be prayed for by the Church, or would like to pray for someone, you could consider the following:

Add something to our prayer tree. The tree is usually on the font or the side altar. Please use first name only if you need to put a name. But you don't actually need to write anything at all unless you wish to. You might like also to sit a while in our peaceful church and give your worries to God.

Ask us to pray specifically for someone at a Sunday or Tuesday service – this would almost certainly be due to some urgent need. Any requests can be emailed to the Vicar with name, brief details and confirmation of permission to do this. The Vicar will then decide how best to deal with the request.

Join us at a service on Sunday or Tuesday – both at 10.00am. Our time of prayer allows some silence for us to pray for those we are most worried about, or situations we are most concerned about. The Tuesday service is a smaller service and always includes a time of shared prayer.

If any of those things bring you comfort, then please use them. But be sure that God is always with you, through good times and bad. He is always ready to listen when you want to share your burdens with Him. Prayer is simply a conversation with God and, as with all good conversations, we can communicate with words or without.

Every blessing.

Revd Wendy Sellers

WILDFLOWERS IN THE CHURCHYARD

Recently we have enjoyed the uplifting sight of a large patch of wildflowers in the corner of the old churchyard, nearest to Church End. These were sown by volunteers and funded by Sandridge Parish Council as part of a parish-wide initiative. There is another patch just outside the Vicarage back gate. The flowers include cornflowers, daisies and poppies. Not only do they look lovely but they will hopefully provide food and shelter for insects.

Advice we have been given from the Living Churchyards project is that wildflowers will not thrive on mown grass, especially when the grass clippings are not collected, so initiatives like this are the only way to give our native wildflowers a chance. Therefore the Church would like to thank all involved and we look forward to advice and support in ensuring the flowers re-appear next year.



CHURCH TEAS IN AUGUST



Put the dates in your diary for our afternoon teas which will be served on **all the Sundays in August from 3.00 to 5.00pm on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.**

Featuring delicious homemade cakes, **afternoon tea is free** but donations are always welcome, in aid of the church.

You can have tea inside the cool of the church, or at one of our picnic tables in the sunny churchyard, enjoying the wildflowers and birdsong.

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

20 May – Aimee Louise Ball
20 May – Macy Grace Dubbersley

Burials

17 May – Peter Messenger
5 June – Justine Gardner
19 June – Matthew J Miller

Burial of ashes

14 May – Richard William Thrale
20 May – Barbara Joan Cunningham

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**

LIVESTOCK REPORT

from Mike King

It is now almost 42 years since I joined my Dad, Roland King, to go and look at some Blonde D'Aquitaine cattle with the idea of buying some and bringing them back to Sandridge. Four pedigree heifers were purchased and initially they stayed in a yard opposite the house.



This photo shows the very first four heifers that Dad bought. They were a bit of a handful to begin with and actually escaped at one point, ending up in Porters Wood! Dad spent many hours forming a very strong bond with the girls and making them feel safe and secure. Some of you may remember he also built up a small herd of Highlands that shared the paddock with his beloved Blonde D'Aquitaines.

Dad decided to build a barn in the field next to the playing fields and then moved the cows down there and they have been there ever since. He enjoyed rearing the Highland calves but his first love was always his Blondes and so he decided to focus on building up his herd.

In the early years, I helped Dad by looking after the cows, but it soon became clear that he was quite capable of taking on responsibility for them. When my family and I moved to Sevenoaks to manage another farm, Dad took complete control, although for the first few months I would travel back to help him. Every now and then he would bring his trailer down to Kent and collect some bales of hay. His confidence grew quickly and soon he was taking his cows to shows and promoting the 'Sandridge Herd' very successfully.

When Dad passed away at the end of last year, I knew it was going to be difficult to keep the cows. Dad would have wanted them to carry on breeding and being part of The Blonde Society, and so I spent a great deal of time trying to find a suitable home. After speaking to the Blonde D'Aquitaine Society, they suggested a livestock farmer in Maidstone, Kent. They will be going to someone who is building up a herd, and who also shows his own cows, and judges at shows around the country.

It is with sadness that we, as a family, are announcing the ‘ladies’ will be moving to their new home very soon. I will do my best to keep you informed of their progress as I know they have been very much a focal point for many in the village. Dad loved being with his cows and they loved him. He will continue to watch over them, I am sure.



Over the last few years, Stuart, Dad’s grandson, helped with the cows and I know Dad was very grateful for that as it meant he was able to keep them for longer and enjoy their company right up to the end. Personally, I would like to thank everyone who helped Dad over the years.

Thank you.

Mike King



Mike’s report (above) arrived in late May, and didn’t make it into the June magazine.

However, we have since received an update from Mike.

LIVESTOCK UPDATE

On 30 May, Dad’s ‘ladies’ left Sandridge to head for their new home in Kent. They were very good loading into the trailer, especially as they had not travelled in one before. The trip took around three hours but they arrived safely. I had a call in the evening to say they were well and settled. The following morning, I checked again and the farmer assured me they were already grazing and he sent me a short video.

Over the past few weeks we have spoken on several occasions and the farmer has kindly sent some photos of the ‘ladies’ enjoying their new home. The most recent message was that they have been running with one of his bulls and at least one of Dad’s cows has started ‘bulling’.

Building works at St Leonard's

We have been busy at St Leonard's gathering permissions for various things that needed doing both inside and outside our church. A new hearing loop and sound system have been fitted in the church – the hearing loop was funded by a grant from the Benefact Trust.

We have permission to repair and restore the Lychgate and are now applying for further grants to pay for this. Both the church and the Parish Council are already committed to contributing. Please do consider donating towards this worthy cause too. We also have planning permission for new noticeboards in both churchyards.

Work will soon begin on rewiring and decorating the chancel of the church (the end you access through the arch). All of this is being funded by a generous donation from the family of some former parishioners, legacy money and other grants, and we are grateful for their generosity, which enables us to maintain our beautiful listed building and its churchyards.



Donations for the restoration of the Lychgate

Cash or cheque: please put your donation in a blue envelope marked 'Lychgate' and put it in the donations jar in church.

For **Gift Aid**, please add your name and address.

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Credit card reader in church: to add Gift Aid, please use a blue envelope, adding 'Lychgate', the amount, and your name and address, and put it in the donations jar.

The 'Lychgate' QR code is in the church porch or as above.

Gift Aid may be included. Thank you.



PRIORY CLUB

The Priory Club is a women's club which is part of the National Association of Women's Clubs. We meet **every Tuesday afternoon** (except in August) between **2.00pm and 4.00pm** in the Village Hall in Sandridge.

Our social committee organises something interesting for us each week, usually a speaker, or maybe a craft afternoon, a social event or a summer trip. Last year we had a canal trip from Hemel Hempstead, enjoying a fish and chips lunch. This summer there will be a coach trip to Windsor. We celebrated the Coronation with a party.

Speakers' recent topics have included stained glass, training a hearing dog, the history of Harpenden, and jewellery design, to name but a few.

We would welcome new members to our friendly group who enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a chat during the afternoon. It's all about friendship and fun.

If you would like to know more, please contact
Jean Whiting: 01727 763371 or Kathy Tilney: 01727 848136

W.I. Report

At our June meeting our speaker, Serena McCarthy, gave us all food for thought and a spur to creativity through writing with a series of simple exercises, accompanied by music, to help us unwind and focus on the moment in our thoughts. She explained that telling stories – whether sad or happy – stimulated the neurons in the brain of both listener and narrator and, as an example, told us a story about someone facing an interview to be an elf in Santa's grotto and his extreme nervousness at the prospect of humiliation should he fail to get even such a lowly position.

At our next meeting on 11 July we shall welcome a speaker from SERV Herts and Beds which was formed in 2009. This is part of a nationwide voluntary organisation that provides a free delivery service for blood products and patient samples, as well as frozen breast milk, medical equipment and drugs, to the main hospitals in our region, as well as hospices and milk banks.

Visitors are always welcome, so do join us at 7.30 for 8pm at the Village Hall. Your first visit is free.

Christine Nutton, Vice-President

ST LEONARD'S SUMMER FAIR

On a baking hot day in early June, we held our annual Summer Fair in the churchyard, which was a great success. A good crowd of people attended and enjoyed the various stalls: bottle and sweetie tombolas; guess the weight of the cake; book, plant and bric-a-brac stalls; cakes and preserves to buy; and face painting and crafts for children. There was a wonderful variety of refreshments, ranging from delicious cakes and bakes with tea and coffee served inside the church, to an excellent barbeque and Pimm's served outside. Takings on the day (before costs) were **£1,133** towards the upkeep of the church and huge thanks go to all those who helped by contributing goods, gifts, items for sale, cakes and preserves, and of course their time on the day, and also to all those who came along to support us. The next church fair will be on **Saturday 2 December**, in good time for Christmas!



MORE SUMMER FAIR PHOTOS



Former churchwarden calls for assistance when the Vicar is left in charge of the Pimm's stall!



Clockwise: a knitted crown; bottle tombola; cakes and preserves; Craft Church activities.



FOCUS ON CRAFT CHURCH

For many years St Leonard's has run a monthly session for families with children, with crafts, activities and refreshments. This was suspended during the pandemic but relaunched on an occasional basis in 2022 and is now back every month apart from August.



So what is Craft Church? It is a drop-in activity session between 10.00-12.00, usually on the third Saturday of the month. We put posters up around the village in the week before as a reminder and we try to get the word out via social media too. There is no need to book and **the sessions are free**, although some families are kind enough to make a donation.

The activities are aimed mainly at primary-age children, but with adult support we often have younger children coming along too. Activities are themed – perhaps by season or a Bible story. Popular sessions are our Easter one each Good Friday, our Christmas-themed one with Christingle, our Mothering Sunday session and the Pet Service in September.

After we have welcomed the children and shown them which crafts are on offer, they choose one to start with, then move on when they wish. Usually there are no more than 5 or 6 children at each activity, with an adult team leader to help them along, so there's plenty of opportunity to chat too.

The 'cooking' activity is always popular, so we make sure everyone has a turn. This could involve decorating a ready-made cupcake or biscuit, which can be taken home at the end of the session – if it lasts that long!

Halfway through the morning we all stop for a well-earned break, with a drink and a biscuit for the children and a welcome cuppa for the adults. Before we finish, the children stop their crafts and join our Vicar, Wendy, in the chancel to listen to a story and talk about what they have made.

We are always keen to welcome new children and expect most parents to stay. This is essential with younger or less confident children but if you would prefer to leave your child with us without your support, please talk to us. All helpers are regular members of our church who are DBS checked and trained in safeguarding.

The remaining dates for 2023 are:
Saturday 15 July
Saturday 16 September with Pet Service
(more details next month)
Saturday 21 October
Saturday 18 November
Saturday 16 December with Christingle service

Please do pass this information onto any families who might be interested in joining us.

Any questions? Please contact Revd Wendy at: revwendy55@gmail.com



Children enjoying Craft Church activities with Krystyna at the Church Summer Fair in June

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.



The Sandridge Summer Market

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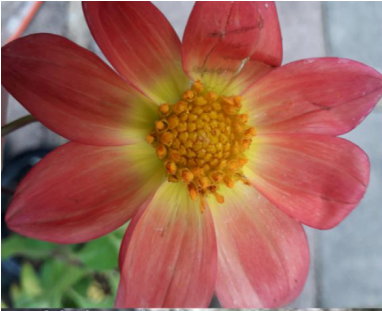


Publication notes

This month's magazine was edited by Rosamund Adlard,
with thanks to all our contributors.

Please send contributions for the next issue, including any photographs,
as soon as available or **by 14 August at the latest** please to:

news.stleonards@gmail.com



In Full Flower The Bishop's Garden

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grow in my garden.*

Bishop Alan

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PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT

AT THE MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14th JUNE 2023, THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE RAISED:

There were apologies received and accepted from Councillors John Hale, Maurice Wells, Julie Oakley and Debbie Chachulski.

Disclosures of Interest

There was none.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17th May 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

There was none.

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

There was none.

CLERK'S REPORTS

Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 18th May 2023 to 14th June 2023. It was unanimously resolved to approve the payment of this schedule on 16th June 2023.

Internal audit – Year end 2022/2023

Members reviewed the 2022/23 year-end internal audit report and accompanying papers completed by IAC Ltd. The Schedule of Audit Observations containing the Clerk's responses to the matters raised were noted. Also noted was that these papers were reviewed by the Finance Committee at a meeting held on June 5th and that the internal auditor had signed off the AGAR as having no issues requiring the External Auditor's attention. It was unanimously resolved to formally note the audit report.

2022/23 Budgetary Control (outturn)

A budgetary control report showing outturn for 2022/23 was reviewed. It was noted that final net expenditure is £273,103 against an approved budget of £303,817. Members noted the outturn position in relation to the next item.

Reserves

The Clerk presented a table of earmarked and general reserves at year-end.

2022/23 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

A set of Supporting Statements compiled by George Street Accountants, together with a copy of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31st March 2023 were considered along with a table of variations on outturn between 2021/22 and 2022/23. It was noted that these were also reviewed by the Finance Committee on June 5th.

It was unanimously resolved that Full Council acknowledges responsibility for ensuring there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the Supporting Statements, and confirms that to the best of its knowledge and belief, with respect to the Supporting Statements for year ended 31st March 2023, the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement should be approved and that the Chair and the Parish Clerk (as RFO) should sign Section 1 of the AGAR.

It was further unanimously resolved that Full Council confirms that to the best of its knowledge, the 2022/23 Accounting Statements contained in the Annual Return, plus the explanation of variances represent the financial position of the Council for the year ended 31st March 2023 and that the Parish Council Chair and the Parish Clerk (as RFO) should each sign Section 2 of the AGAR.

The Exercise of Public Rights 2022/23

The Exercise of Public Rights, during which members of the parish are able to inspect the Annual Return and raise any issues of concern with the external auditor was recommended by the Clerk to run from the 16th June 2023 to 27th July 2023 in accordance with regulations.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the proposed dates for the Exercise of Public Rights and note that all regulations in this regard have been complied with.

Matters of Note

Fifteen hanging baskets have been installed in the parish through the grounds maintenance contract.

It has been previously indicated that the Clerk, in liaison with involved councillors and staff, intends bringing a proposal to the July meeting to restructure elements of the PEAP and Community Centre Committees. Other priorities will now mean this report comes instead to the September meeting.

The Open Garden event, as part of the Parish Council's involvement with Sustainable St Albans, took place on June 14th 2023 in the Community Garden at Marshalswick Community Centre. Volunteers were on hand to share their experience with visitors.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

There were no grant applications this month.

Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan

Members considered a report by Councillor Ternouth, recommending that a working party be established to review the Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan. Following discussion it was unanimously resolved to form a working party responsible for reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan and then making recommendations to Full Council of any updates deemed necessary. Also to adopt the draft Terms of Reference circulated with the report. Councillors Hale, Ternouth, Reid, Lambert and Ahmed volunteered to join the working party.

Jersey Farm Open Space Bike Track

Councillor Leonard, Chair of the Sports and Recreation Committee, updated the meeting on the ongoing issues relating to planning permission being given for this project.

Meetings of Committees:

The Chairs of the following meetings updated other Members on discussions held.

- Finance Committee 5th June 2023
- Planning Committee – see below

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

Councillor Chalkley informed members that she intends writing an article for the next edition of Neighbourhood News. She asked if anyone would object to reference being made to residents funding or sponsoring trees in their own street and there were no objections.

The Clerk informed Members that a quote had been received to install CCTV at the Jersey Farm Open Space and that the matter would be discussed at the next Sports and Recreation Committee meeting.

It was noted that County Councillor Annie Brewster has engaged an engineer to explore potential traffic calming measures on St Albans Road

near the junction of Sandringham Crescent and is keen to work with the Traffic Calming Working Party to agree and implement a solution.

It was noted that Councillor Sieger and the Clerk are working together to bring a recommendation to a future meeting to end the issuing of hard copy agendas.

The Community Centres Manager shared an initiative to replace the dated artwork in the Committee Room with scaled up covers from previous editions of the Neighbourhood News and this was well received.

PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 18th May and 12th June 2023.

Planning applications commented on since the last Full Council meeting are;

29 Wheat Close, St Albans AL4 9NN – Planning Application:
5/2023/0836

4 Milvus Close, St Albans AL4 0LJ - Planning Application:
5/2023/0965

2A St Helier Road, Sandridge, AL4 9LG – Planning application:
5/2023/1065

21 Slimmons Drive, St Albans, AL4 9AW – Planning application:
5/2023/1011

13 Pirton Close, St Albans, AL4 9YJ – Planning application:
5/2023/0942

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.

It was noted that there remains a vacant place on this committee.

SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

There was none.

Next meeting date: 12 July 2023 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre

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(next to Sandridgebury Stables)

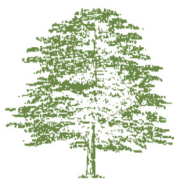
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Church Directory

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Revd Wendy Sellers revwendy55@gmail.com 301542

Wendy's days off are Wednesday to Friday

Churchwardens:

Christine Nutton christine@nutton.org.uk 831623

Kathy Tilney kathleentilney@hotmail.com 848136

Website: www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

Facebook: St Leonard's Church, Sandridge, Herts

PCC Secretary:

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Bookkeeper:

Peter Hyde peterwhyde@btinternet.com 836728

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Vivian Nutton vivian@nutton.org.uk 831623

Organist Emeritus:

Trevor Hawkins

Choir contact:

Louise Gordon Hulme louisegh4515@gmail.com 762969

Bell ringers:

Vivian Nutton vivian@nutton.org.uk 831623

Flower Guild:

Christine Nutton christine@nutton.org.uk 831623

Young Church:

Anne Peck annelouise.peck@outlook.com 07962 665818

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Our buyer databases
Our marketing might
Our energy and commitment
Your development



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