# ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE PARISH MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 2023



NOVEMBER DIARY
ALL SOULS' SERVICE
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
FLOWER FESTIVAL REPORT
CHANCEL REDECORATION
LYCHGATE APPEAL UPDATE
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
CHRISTMAS FAIR - SAVE THE DATE

#### **NOVEMBER DIARY**

Sunday	5	10.00am Holy Comm	union
Saliday	-	10.00dill 1101, Collins	WIII OII

Sunday 5 3.00pm All Souls' service, with afternoon tea

Tuesday 7 10.00am Midweek Communion

#### **Sunday 12 Remembrance Sunday**

10.00am Holy Communion in church

10.30am Coffee in church

10.50am Service of Remembrance at the Lychgate

Tuesday 14 10.00am Midweek Communion

#### Saturday 18 10.00-12.00 Craft Church

Sunday 19 10.00am Holy Communion

Tuesday 21 10.00am Midweek Communion

Sunday 26 10.00am Holy Communion

Tuesday 28 10.00am Midweek Communion

#### **DECEMBER DIARY**

Saturday 2 10.30-1.00 Christmas Fair in church

Sunday 3 Advent Sunday

10.00am Holy Communion

Tuesday 5 10.00am Midweek Communion

Sunday 10 10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 10 4.00pm Alban Duo (piano duet) concert

#### 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

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Cover photograph - Love Hearts by Jenny Dundon



#### Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

I am writing this a few days after our Flower Festival. What a wonderful weekend it was. It kicked off with Pimms and nibbles at the preview on Friday evening.

On Saturday we welcomed many visitors to admire the church, decked out for the very best wedding. There was much to look at – outfits and gowns, hats and balloons, even a Barbie car. There were interesting facts to read. The star of the show was, of course, the wedding-themed floral displays: from bouquets to buttonholes, from elaborate pedestals to simple table decorations.

They were arranged by many from our wider community, including the Abbey, Lyndon Care Home, the Women's Institute and Sandridge School. A huge amount of work was undertaken by the church's own Flower Guild, which planned, borrowed, made, arranged, tidied and did every other job that needed doing. Our wonderful congregation acted as stewards and made and served refreshments. Our multi-talented churchwarden Kathy made a gorgeous quilt (opposite) which was raffled for church funds. Sunday was even busier than Saturday, with singing from Village Voices and a second reception with fizz, wedding cake and toasts



If you helped in any way – or just came along – thank you. If you are inspired to try flower arranging, then our Flower Guild would welcome you. If you missed the fun, there will be another one next October. And if you can't wait that long to see the church dressed in all its finery, then why not visit us in December, when it will be full of evergreens and candles.

Our beautiful church always looks wonderful but it looks especially good when it is lovingly adorned with nature and full of people.

Every blessing.

Revd Wendy Sellers

#### W.I. Report

At our October meeting, we had a most interesting talk from Nick Hazell, a volunteer presenter at Radio Verulam, now rebranded as Mix 92.6, to reflect the fact that it is not confined to St Albans. It broadcasts widely over South Hertfordshire every day, 24 hours a day, though the core hours are 6am to 7pm. Five thousand people tune in regularly and they have 13,000 followers on social media. The station is a not-for-profit organisation, with no paid staff, and is run by 60 volunteers and regulated by Ofcom. It aims to bring the community together which was the original inspiration and motivation for its founding 30 years ago.



Mix 92.6 aims to enable local people to become involved in radio broadcasting and connect with local community, charitable, social and voluntary organisations. The station serves listeners of all ages and backgrounds. Daytime output typically comprises 75% music and 25% speech, and at night, output is 90% music and 10% speech.

Music broadcast during the day features popular music from the 1960s through to the present day, and local music from the local pub/club music scene. At weekends, specialist programmes feature music such as folk, jazz, traditional Irish, classical, big band and Christian music. Speech output comprises discussions, interviews, informative features (covering health, money, food, travel), local sports, events diary, national news, and local news and information.

The station also sees its remit as training people in radio–related skills and Nick told us the story of a young girl who volunteered aged 17, having previously hoped to work in the fashion industry. She subsequently went on to study audio engineering and is now a studio manager for BBC Radio 4.

The station is currently the fifth most listened to and, increasingly post-Covid, some of the work and broadcasting is done from volunteers' homes. If you have a local event to publicise, please let the station know two weeks in advance, to give it time to arrange an interview or an outside broadcast.

For our November meeting, Daniel McManus will be telling us how to avoid fraud and cyber crime in general. Visitors are always welcome, and we were very happy to welcome several to Nick's talk, so do think about coming to join us on 14 November at 7.30pm for 7.45pm in the Village Hall.

\*\*Christine Nutton, Vice President\*\*

# Lychgate Appeal Update and Remembrance Sunday 2023

We are delighted that the work to repair the Lychgate will hopefully begin in the week commencing 13 November. It is possible that the churchyard will not be accessible through the Lychgate and so everyone may have to use one of the other ways into the churchyard. We apologise for any inconvenience. The work should take about one week.

As regular readers will know, the Lychgate is Grade II listed and belongs to the parish and not the church, but it is on church land. We are hugely grateful to both Jenny Roberts and Jenny Dundon, who have worked so hard to source funding for this project, representing both the Parish Council and St Leonard's.

We have been blessed with grants from Sandridge Parish Council (£5,000), the War Memorials Trust (£5,450) and from our Herts County Councillor Annie Brewster's Locality Grant scheme (£1,000). We have also received a donation of £200 from a church family and £108 in other donations. Astonishingly, this now means that we have enough money to pay for all the work that needs doing.

The church has paid the architect's fees, as well doing all the work behind the scenes in order to get this important task done. A substantial part of the cost is the renovation of the unique honour boards in the roof, which list the men of the parish who returned from World War I.

On **Remembrance Sunday, 12 November**, we shall, as every year, remember those who fought for our country. Coffee will be available in church from 10.30am and we will gather outside by the Lychgate from

10.50am. Last year, well over one hundred people came to pay their respects, including many members of our uniformed organisations. We hope to see many of you again this year.

Hopefully next year we will gather at a renovated Lychgate, to honour the names of the fallen, with the names of those who returned from World War I fully legible for the first time in years.



Revd Wendy

#### **Chancel Redecoration Update**

By the time you read this, we should be well into the re-decoration of the rood screen and chancel of the church, but as I write this it is only Day 1!

The first stage is to apply a poultice to the existing paint. As some people react to the chemicals used, the church will have been locked up for this stage. After the poultice is removed along with the old paint, then repairs will be made to the walls before the decoration can begin. It will be white again (although I'm told there are many shades of white), but we're hoping the stone elements can be left uncovered. The work will finish in mid-November and, until that time, the chancel will not be in use, which is going to make our services quite cosy.



(Opposite: screened-off chancel and organ)

I hope everyone will come and admire the finished chancel during our many Christmas services and events. The work was entirely funded by those who left a gift to the church in their wills, or by families who donated in a loved one's memory. We are hugely grateful to those past members of the church, who have enabled our beautiful church to be used and enjoyed by future generations. If you would like to know more about leaving a legacy to St Leonard's, we would be happy to advise you.



#### Revd Wendy

#### **Publication Notes**

The magazine is 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 November at the latest please** to: news.stleonards@gmail.com



#### All Souls' Service

This year **All Souls' Day** is being marked at St Leonard's on **Sunday 5 November.** Do join us at **3.00pm** for a short, reflective service when the names of loved ones will be read out and candles lit. Tea and cake will be served afterwards, if you would like to stay on and talk.

If you would like a loved one remembered by name, please either sign the sheet in the church, email the vicar on **revwendy55@gmail.com** or fill in the contact form on our website. We do hope to see you on Sunday 5 November.

\*\*Revd Wendy\*\*

#### **Christmas Appeal from FEED Foodbank**

We have received an appeal from The Vineyard Church FEED emergency foodbank in St Albans. With Christmas fast approaching, the Foodbank would be very grateful to receive donations of any of the following please:

- Advent calendars
- Boxes of chocolates (large and small)
- Boxes of biscuits (large and small)
- Sharing bags of crisps (vegetarian)
- Boxes of cheese crackers (large and small)
- Packs of sweets
- Stuffing mix
- Bottles of Shloer
- Gravy granules
- Christmas crackers
- Alcohol-free mince pies (minimum date 25.12.23)
- Alcohol-free Christmas puddings
- Yule logs
- Chocolate coins
- Christmas gift shop items (new toys only please)







# MAGNIFICAT REQUIEM

**COMPOSED BY JOHN RUTTER** 

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2023 7.30PM

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#### St Leonard's Flower Festival 2023





Clockwise from top: Marion Brown DL, who opened the Festival; Wedding Pedestal, Krystyna Mitchell;

photo montage of St Leonard's weddings; The Hen and Stag Do, Jenny Roberts; Marilyn and Bob Gardner, who cut the cake at the closing ceremony: their Golden Wedding anniversary is in February





Vivian Nutton, Toastmaster, closing the Flower Festival







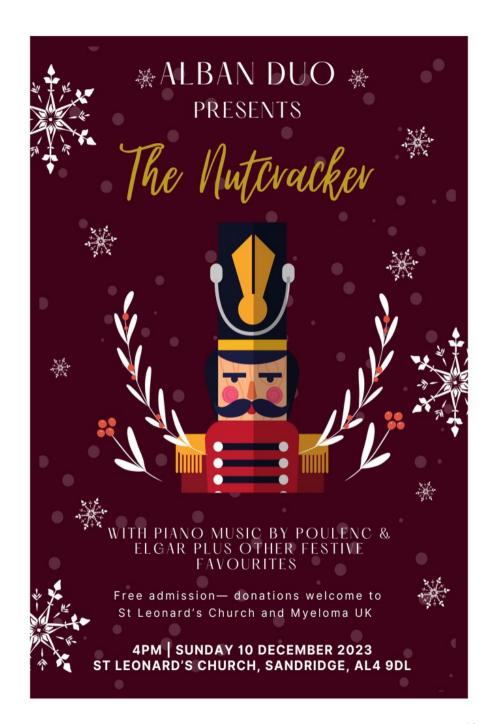
Top to bottom:

Exchanging the Vows by Christine Nutton;

Happy Wedding Anniversary by Jackie and Sue England for Sandridge Village Hall and Silver Threads;

The Wedding
Photographer by
Marion Fooks







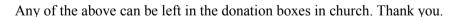
### St Leonard's Christmas Fair Saturday 2 December 10.30am to 1.00pm Save the date!

We are looking forward to the **St Leonard's Christmas Fair in church on Saturday 2 December**. As in previous years, we will be making up wonderful Christmas hampers for the raffle and so that the hampers can be top quality, we need donations of items such as sparkling wine, port, sherry, luxury chocolates and biscuits, and Christmas puddings and cakes please.

Also, any large baskets that can be used as hampers would be very gratefully received.

Other donations that would be much appreciated are:

- Bottles for the bottle tombola
- Toiletries
- Christmas stationery and wrapping paper
- Gift sets and nearly new gifts
- Toys and games
- Wrapped sweets
- Adult and children's books
- Preserves and cakes



If you can, please do sign up to help at the Fair on the sign-up sheet in church, or contact either of our churchwardens.

Thank you in advance for your help. We look forward to seeing you at the

Christmas Fair 10.30am to 1.00pm on Saturday 2 December





# PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT (abridged draft minutes)

# AT THE MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2023, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

There were apologies received and accepted from Cllrs White, Chachulski and Ahmed.

#### **Disclosures of Interest**

There was none

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 September 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 14 September 2023 to 11 October 2023. It was unanimously resolved to approve the schedule for payment.

#### New Website

The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer presented the Parish Council's new website to Members. The session was informative and the new website seen to be a huge improvement on the current version in terms of accessibility and informing residents of the Council's business in a bright and user-friendly way. Members showed their appreciation for the work that went into producing it. A launch of Friday 13 October 2023 is expected. It was proposed by Cllr Leonard, seconded by Cllr Hale and unanimously resolved to display future draft committee and Council minutes on the website.

#### Members' Allowances

Members reviewed the Parish Council's policy on Members' Allowances. It was unanimously resolved that rates remain as current.

# External Audit of the 2022/23 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

It was noted that the Parish Council's external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, has again returned an unqualified audit of the Parish Council's AGAR. The period for the Exercise of Public Rights produced no enquiries from members of the public and the audit certificate has been displayed, along with the Notice of Conclusion of Audit on the Parish Council's website and noticeboards. It was unanimously resolved to formally note the conclusion of the external audit of the Annual Return.

#### RAAC Surveys at Community Centres/Parish Office

Following discussion on the risks of there being reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in the fabric of the Parish Council's two community centres, it was unanimously resolved to have surveys carried out at each centre with a combined cost of approximately £1,500.

#### **Remembrance Day Representation**

It was agreed for Cllrs Roberts and Leonard to lay wreaths at St Leonard's Church.

#### **Budgetary Control**

Members were informed that there is projected net expenditure for 2023/24 of £306,453 against the budget of £343,095, a projected underspend on budget of £36,642. It was noted that this is an early projection, subject to a number of uncertainties.

#### **Matters of Note**

Further to Cllr Lambert's kind offer last month, a Climate Fresk sustainability session has been arranged for 23 October for those councillors and staff who expressed an interest.

The District Council continues to review options for the Sandridge village public toilets in the Village Hall car park. For this year, the likely solution will be to fully modernise the Accessible Toilet only, to be available to all users, thus ensuring at least one facility in the village. The timescale for this is likely to be weeks, not months.

The new clothing banks in the Parish Office car park are being emptied frequently and no fly tipping has occurred. If this continues, the Clerk will bring a recommendation to Full Council to expand the facility to other car parks.

#### Matters of Note (continued)

- Sally Evans, one of the community garden's founding volunteers has sadly moved away. Sally's horticultural knowledge and common sense approach proved invaluable and many of the garden's plants were generously donated from those she had grown at her Ridgeway home from seed.
- A traffic consultant has been employed through the Sports and Recreation Committee in respect of Highways concerns relating to the proposed pump track. It is hoped that this will move the project forward from its current position.

#### COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **Grant Applications**

There have been no applications this month.

#### New Bike Rack for the Community Garden and Library

It was noted that Cllr Wells and the Marshalswick Library Manager are in continued discussions regarding gaining approval to install a planter/bike rack at the front of the library building. It is hoped that, subject to approval of the design, this may still be achievable. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Reid, seconded by Cllr Twidell, and unanimously resolved that if the Library is unable to accommodate the rack, the £1,000 funding already approved be used instead to accelerate an installation on the Woodland Park (subject to committee approval of design and location).

#### Lych Gate

Cllr Roberts gave a verbal update on the St Leonard's Lych Gate restoration project, work on which is to commence soon.

#### **Bentsley Spinney**

A written report by Cllr Chachulski on a meeting held at Bentsley Spinney with the District Council's Green Spaces Manager was tabled. It was noted that there may be scope for interested residents, the District Council and Sandridge Parish Council to work together in enhancing this woodland.

#### St Albans District Association of Local Councils (SADALC)

Members received a verbal update from Cllr Hale on a meeting held on 2 October 2023. Cllr Hale told Members he considered the meetings to be useful in knowing what other councils are currently involved in and sharing knowledge.

#### **Meetings of Committees:**

Members noted this month's committee meetings with updates from the Chair of each;:

- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee 18 September 2023
- Sports and Recreation Committee 20 September 2023
- Finance Committee 25 September 2023
- Planning Committee see below

# MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

Cllr Hale updated Members on matters relating to the following footpaths:

Oaklands Grange to Oakwood School
Within the CEMEX quarry

Along the B651 from Sandridge to Wheathampsted Through Oaklands College

Cllr Roberts informed members that the St Leonard's Flower Festival had been a great success.

#### **PLANNING MATTERS**

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 25 September. Planning applications commented on since the last Full Council meeting are:

2A St Helier Road AL4 9LG 5/2023/1907 29 Wheat Close AL4 9NN 5/2023/1937

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

Cllr Hale may bring a proposal in respect of the Oaklands College footpath closure, dependent on progress in resolving the issues there.

#### Next meeting date:

8 November 2023 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre



- INDOOR AND OUTDOOR MARKET
- STALLS FROM SMALL BUSINESSES
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- FOOD MULLED WINE RAFFLE ACTIVITIES WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY

# 25TH NOVEMBER



SANDRIDGE SCOUT HUT, SANDRIDGEBURY LANE, ST ALBANS, AL3 6JB



#### **Christmas Tributes in our Churchyards**

I am sure many families will want to place something on their loved ones' graves at Christmas time. However, please remember someone also needs to tidy away once Christmas is over.

If you are leaving flowers or arrangements in the **Garden of Rest**,

please place them by the central stone and not on the grass or the flowerbeds. Vases are provided. Items will be removed and disposed of once they no longer look their best.

If you are leaving tributes on a grave in the **House Lane Churchyard**, please try to use natural materials, avoiding any lights, candles, glitter, polystyrene, fake snow, etc. One arrangement I noticed last year was just some holly and other evergreen sprigs placed in the metal flower holder on a memorial stone. It lasted for weeks, was without cost and was fully compostable afterwards. If you like this idea, both churchyards are full of evergreen trees and bushes you can prune!

If you are personally unable to remove any Christmas tributes once Christmas is over, then we will tidy these away for you and dispose of them. The date we do this will depend on the weather and other tasks that need doing so if you would like to reclaim your tribute, we ask you do this **by Sunday 21 January please.** 

Thank you so much.

Revd Wendy

### **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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#### **Church Directory**

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Revd Wendy Sellers revwendy55@gmail.com 301542

Wendy's days off are Wednesday to Friday

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**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/StLeonardsChurchSandridge

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Bookkeeper:

Peter Hyde peterwhyde@btinternet.com 836728

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**Organist Emeritus:** 

Trevor Hawkins

**Choir contact:** 

Louise Gordon Hulme louisegh4515@gmail.com 762969

**Bell ringers:** 

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Flower Guild:

Christine Nutton christine@nutton.org.uk 831623

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