

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE
PARISH MAGAZINE
APRIL 2026**



**DIARY FOR APRIL
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES
SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS
ORGAN RECITAL & ORGANISTS
SANDRIDGE EVENING WI & PRIORY WOMEN'S CLUB
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

APRIL DIARY

- Thursday 2 Maundy Thursday**
8pm Holy Communion
- Friday 3 Good Friday**
10.00-12.00 Easter Craft Church with egg hunt
2.00-3.00 Final hour service
- Sunday 5 Easter Day**
10am Easter Sunday service of Holy
Communion with bonfire and Easter eggs
- 
- Sunday 12 10am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 14 10am Midweek service
- Sunday 19 10am Holy Communion and celebratory farewell to
Revd Ritah Namakula**
- Tuesday 21 10am Midweek service
- Sunday 26 10am Holy Communion, followed by
11.30am Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**
- Tuesday 28 10am Midweek service

MAY DIARY

- Sunday 3 10am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 5 10am Midweek service
- Sunday 10 10am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 12 10am Midweek service
- Saturday 16 10.00-12.00 Craft Church for children and families**
- Sunday 17 10am Holy Communion
- Sunday 17 3pm Organ Recital of popular classics with William
Fox, Director of Music at St Albans Cathedral,
followed by tea and cake. FREE ADMISSION.**

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

Holy Week and Easter services

Sunday 29 March at 10am

Palm Sunday service. Palm crosses will be handed out at the service and are also available in church and by the Garden of Rest all week. As well as joyfully remembering the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, we also hear the words from the Bible which record all the events of Holy Week.

This is also the day we are celebrating all Vivian and Christine Nutton have done for St Leonard's.

Thursday 2 April at 8pm

A Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion where we recall that first 'Last Supper'. Uniquely it has no ending. We all just leave the church quietly, to recall that Jesus and his disciples did not go home to bed but went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

Friday 3 April: 10am–12noon

Good Friday Craft Church for families and anyone else who wishes to join us. There are refreshments served about 11am, and crafts and activities to enjoy at this **FREE** drop-in session.

After refreshments there will be an **Easter Egg Hunt**, hopefully outside. So, if you love hot cross buns, chocolate eggs and Easter craft, then do come along.

Friday 3 April: 2-3pm

The Final Hour service where we share the sadness and solemnity of Jesus' last hour on the cross, in a service of readings, reflection and music.

After the Final Hour, the church will be decorated ready for Easter. Do pop in over the weekend to enjoy our Easter Garden windowsills, admire the festival floral arch and perhaps spend a few moments of quiet prayer. The children's corner will contain Easter-themed story books and activities.

Sunday 5 April at 10am

Our Easter Sunday service of Holy Communion starts with a bonfire outside, celebrating the risen Christ as the Light of the World. It continues inside where we all renew our baptismal vows and sing joyful Easter hymns. After the service at 11.00am there will be refreshments (all are welcome just to join us for those) and there will be the gift of an Easter egg for everyone.

Revd Wendy

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Try, if you can, to cast your mind back to the evening of 25 December, Christmas Day. The days were short and dark and generally wet. And chances are you were, or had been stressed, preparing for the great festival which celebrates Christ's birth. You may have fed lots of people very specific foods. You may have bought and wrapped presents, or written and sent cards. You may have endured/enjoyed outings to the pantomime or elsewhere. If you have children in your home or life, you may have been busy controlling the excitement or thinking of ways to keep them occupied on all the days of the holiday that weren't Christmas Day. You may have come to one of the joy-filled services at St Leonard's (I hope you did). You may have had to travel or you may have been entertaining visitors.



All of that can be wonderful, but it's also quite a lot. Which partially explains why Easter is my favourite festival. And here's why it should be yours too:

There are no meal expectations. Pizza on Easter Day is absolutely fine. And chocolate cornflake nests are the easiest cake ever to make.

The weather is better and the days are longer. So if you are looking after children, you can entertain them a whole lot easier.

There's no need to think about gifts, as most people don't expect them. If you do give gifts, chances are they will be egg-shaped and made of chocolate. And it doesn't need wrapping. Few of us send Easter cards and, if we do, we don't expect them back.

Easter décor is a lot easier to manage. And can be completely ignored if you can't be bothered. I have a wreath on the door and I may have a bunch of flowers in a vase (possibly). And that's it. If you need a 'décor fix' then simply pop into church from the day before Easter onwards to enjoy our Easter gardens and other Easter decorations.

You may or may not be seeing family, it depends on your traditions. But no one thinks it's unusual if you choose to spend Easter Day at home, on your own. There are no expectations and less chance of disappointment.

However, I hope one thing you will consider doing is visiting the church; perhaps to see the decorations, or to bring a young person to Craft Church, or for one of our services. Because Easter isn't just my favourite festival for the reasons above - it is the most important festival because, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we are remembering an event which changed the course of human history and which changed our relationship with God and with death. Jesus' birth was truly astonishing but his resurrection is the reason that Christians see him as the Saviour of the World. It is the resurrection which conquered death so that we might have eternal life.

To mark and celebrate this unique event, we have an unusual service on **Easter Day – that's Sunday 5 April at 10.00am**. It is still traditional, it still offers holy communion and it still gives the opportunity to sing some incredible hymns. It also includes some ancient and rather jolly traditions: for example, the lighting of the Easter candle from the bonfire outside, and the sprinkling of water on the congregation after we renew our baptismal vows. And it includes some modern additions too: chocolate eggs and of course refreshments after the service. I look forward to seeing you at Easter – for the best festival of the year.

Every blessing

Revd Wendy

Sandridge Evening WI

We had a very enjoyable evening listening to Sherry Hostler who is a crime writer. She read a chapter from one of her books, which introduced us to some very interesting characters and we wondered what would happen to them all as the story unfolds. She described all that goes into producing a novel – the research, motivation when you're not sure how the story is going to develop, and dealing with editors, proof-readers and publishers. It was a very entertaining and informative evening and we learned some interesting facts about a variety of subjects, including werewolves and the surprising profile of a murderer!



Next month we will be hearing from Rennie Grove Peace Hospice about their Hospice at Home service. Why not come along and join us? We are a small but very friendly group and would love to see you there. Look out for the poster in the church porch.

Tricia Campbell

07760 354120

Update on our organist

In the last magazine I mentioned that our current organist is leaving us soon and that will happen on Easter Day. I'm glad to report we have made some progress since then.

We have two local organists who will play once or twice a month. And we have a young organ student who will be using the instrument for practice and hopefully will gradually move towards playing at services. We also have some pianists who may accompany us on non-organist days. We look forward to welcoming them all to the St Leonard's family.

Things are looking up, but we are still keen to add to the pool of those who would like to play at our services. We are a very kind congregation and understand that God appreciates it when we give him our best. He doesn't expect perfection (thankfully).

Do please get in touch if you can help or would like to talk to us about getting involved: contact details on page 23.

Revd Wendy

St Leonard's Flower Festival Friday 3 - Sunday 5 July 2026

The theme of this year's Flower Festival is **Books**
Perhaps your favourite book?

We welcome people either to sponsor an arrangement
or to do their own

Members of the Church Flower Guild are very
happy to give help and advice if needed

If you are interested in taking part in any way,
please do contact Marian Fooks via the church
email address:



SPRING

at St. Leonard's

Holy Week and Easter

Sunday 15th March - 10am

Mothering Sunday with cakes and a gift of a plant

Saturday 21st March - 10am-12noon

Craft church for families

Sunday 29th March - 10am

Palm Sunday

Sunday 29th March - 4pm

Evening Prayer (refreshments from 3.30pm)

Thursday 2nd April - 8pm

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday 3rd April - 10am-12noon

Easter Craft Church with Egg Hunt

Good Friday 3rd April - 2-3pm

Good Friday Final Hour

Easter Day

Sunday 5th April - 10am

**Service with bonfire,
eggs and
Easter joy**

All events are free of charge • Everyone is welcome

www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

Etty Goes to Austria

Many of you may have seen, or heard about, Sarah Finch's play based on the diaries of Etty Hillesum: ***Etty...in transit***. Having played in London and Edinburgh, we were invited to Austria in February.

The play is based on Etty's diaries, in which her refusal to hate in dire circumstances shines out: a Jewess, in the face of the Nazis and WW2 - it felt very appropriate to take it to Austria! We performed in two venues, with the largest audiences we have ever had! We also led both question and answer sessions, and workshops.



The big question – very pertinent in our current world situation – was: “Do we learn from history?” Young people, in particular, seem to recognise the need of learning from history. In one of the reviews we received when we played at the Edinburgh Festival, the reviewer, Brett Herriot, wrote: “*When we are all struggling to make sense of the maelstrom of hatred and violence all around us, who better to show us there is another way to be, another way to live, than Etty Hillesum.*”

Our venues were in and around Linz; in fact we already have an invitation to return to perform at a festival next May. The ‘framework’ for this play is currently the COVID lockdown. We now feel that this is history, and this autumn we are re-filming the scenes with our contemporary character ***Sam Edwards*** to make the play timeless and universal.

Whenever I travel for work, I feel very aware of the prayerful support of my church! Below is an article written about our visit.

English theatre: Etty in Transit

*With the moving performance **Etty in Transit**, we experienced a special English play with an actress from London. The production combined video, live acting and sound to create an impressive journey between the past and the present.*

It tells the story of influencer Sam, who discovers the diaries of Jewish woman Etty Hillesum during the 2020 lockdown and brings her words to life on stage. Between 1941 and 1943, Etty wrote about her inner search and the suffering of her time. In 1943, she was deported to Auschwitz and murdered there. Her texts encourage reflection on the meaning of life, inner peace, responsibility and humanity.

Sarah Finch

Beautiful St Leonard's Church with flowers

Visiting St Leonard's Church, on entering the building you are greeted with the beauty and peace of this very ancient place of worship! And just maybe the hint of perfume from flowers....



Would you, we wonder, like to place flowers, or contribute to the cost of flowers, to celebrate an anniversary or a birthday perhaps, for someone special or for someone you miss who is no longer with us?

We have a loyal group of flower ladies, the Church Flower Guild, who are always happy to arrange either a pedestal or a vase of flowers on your behalf, or you may like to arrange the flowers yourself. A small donation would be required towards the cost: a pedestal costs £20-£50, vases are £20-£30, depending on how many flowers are used. During those seasons when there are flowers in the garden, we do try to use what's freely available.

There is a flower rota on the noticeboard on the right inside the church; if you are passing by, or going into church, you may like to add your name against a date that is special to you, to help decorate our beautiful church.

Many thanks.

The Flower Ladies

Craft Church 2026

**10.00am to 12.00 noon on
Saturdays for children and families**



**3 April (Good Friday)
16 May
20 June
18 July
19 September - as part of Heritage Day
17 October
19 December
NB there is no Craft Church in August**

We hope to see you there – all are most welcome.

Krystyna, Kathy and Jenny



Hope for Rural Churches Conference

Hope in a World of Change

Join us for a day of inspiration, discussion, workshops and worship. Open to anyone with a heart for their local rural church. We encourage parishes or benefices to attend as a group.

Saturday 6th June 2026, 9:30 to 4:30 at Putteridge Bury Conference Centre, Luton

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PRIORY WOMEN'S CLUB

**Calling Sandridge and St Albans ladies
who like a chat
and bit of fun to join us!**

**We meet on Tuesdays from 2pm to 4pm
at Sandridge Village Hall**

We are mainly OAPs but all are welcome

We enjoy

- **Interesting speakers**
- **Games afternoons**
- **Outings to fun places**
- **Craft afternoons**
- **Tea, coffee and cakes**
 - **And lots more**

**Why don't you come and join us?
We look forward to seeing you!**

We support local charities

Charity No.1024673

ORGAN RECITAL

by William Fox

Director of Music, St Albans Cathedral

on Sunday 17 May at 3pm

We are delighted that William Fox, Director of Music at the Cathedral, has kindly agreed to come and play a recital of popular classics at St Leonard's church.

The recital is at 3pm
with tea and cake served afterwards at 4pm

FREE ADMISSION

Donations to our church are welcomed

St Leonard's donated a digital piano to the Cathedral: it had been left to the church by community choir Village Voices, but wasn't being used. The piano was collected by Jimmy and Tony from the Property Dept at the Cathedral and is now installed in the Hurford Rehearsal Rooms, to be used for choir practice.



The piano in its new home

By way of a thank you, Will has kindly agreed to play for us in Sandridge. Don't miss this opportunity to hear a top class organist put our Victorian organ through its paces! Look out for the programme for the recital, which will be in the May issue of the parish magazine.

Ros Adlard

St Leonard's Church, Sandridge
presents

AN ORGAN RECITAL OF POPULAR CLASSICS

**By William Fox, Director of Music,
St Albans Cathedral**



**Sunday 17 May 2026, 3pm
Followed by tea and cake**

**FREE ADMISSION
Donations to the church welcomed**

SUMMER

at St. Leonard's

Sunday 17th May - 3pm
Organ Recital

Saturday 16th May,
20th June, 18th July
- 10am-12noon

Craft Church for Families

Saturday 13th June
- 11.30am-3pm
Summer Fair

Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th July
Flower Festival

Sundays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd,
30th August - 3-5pm
Afternoon Teas

All events are free of charge • Everyone is welcome

www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL



PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT (ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES)

AT A MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11 MARCH 2026, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Raihaanah Ahmed and Mike White.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There was none.

TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2026

The minutes of the meeting were duly approved.

QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS

A question was asked regarding the resurfacing of the Marshalswick Community Centre car park.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

CLERK'S REPORTS

Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 12 February to 11 March 2026. It was unanimously resolved to approve payment of the online transfers on this schedule on 13 March 2026 and to ratify the payment of standing charges and debit card payments already made.

Co-option

Members considered an application for the casual vacancy left by Cllr Oakley's resignation (Sandridge Ward). The candidate spoke briefly and responded to questions from the table. It was unanimously resolved that Mr Nik Foreman be co-opted to Sandridge Parish Council for the Sandridge Village Ward.

Cllr Foreman joined the meeting at this point.

Information and Data Protection

Members reviewed an Information and Data Protection Policy circulated with the agenda. It was explained that this document was drafted to replace two existing policies, thus simplifying management of the associated risks. After agreeing to a number of minor amendments, it was unanimously resolved to adopt the policy as amended.

Internet Banking Procedures

Members reviewed an existing Internet Banking Procedure document, subject to a number of amendments highlighted by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. It was unanimously resolved to re-adopt the amended procedures for review in two years.

Matters of Note

- Resurfacing of the car park between Marshalswick Community Centre and the M&S Food Hall is due to commence on 9 and 10 March (*now complete*).
- Councillors are reminded that the Parish Council will host a Repair Fair at Jersey Farm Community Centre with St Albans Fixers on Saturday 28 March, 1pm to 6pm. This will be managed through pre-booked slots (via Eventbrite).

Matters of Note (cont)

- The Council's internal auditor will be carrying out a year-end audit focused around 27 April 2026.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

- Sandridge Cricket Club – grounds maintenance. It was unanimously resolved to award the sum of £1,380 under s.137 LGA 1972
- Marshalswick Carpet Bowls Club - new mats. It was unanimously resolved to award the sum of up to £2,000 under s.137 LGA 1972

Jersey Farm Woodland Park Pond

Councillor Thomas updated Members on this project, the key message being the need to suspend works while the ground is waterlogged.

Parish Council Rebranding

Members considered a report and proposals from Cllrs Ternouth, Chachulski and Twidell. Following discussion around the purpose of a rebrand of the Parish Council, in particular in relation to the upcoming restructuring of local councils, it was unanimously resolved to set up a Working Group of Councillors and staff to move the rebranding initiative forward swiftly, based on the necessary actions identified in the report.

Cllrs Hale, Foreman, Ternouth, Chachulski and Lambert to form the new Working Group.

Public Toilets in Marshalswick and Sandridge Village

A report compiled by Cllrs Wells, Ternouth, Thomas, Chalkley and Ahmed was reviewed. Various aspects of the upcoming transfer of these assets were discussed including access, cleaning and major works required before transfer. It was unanimously resolved that Members approve the Working Party, in liaison with the Clerk, to complete contract negotiations with the St Albans Community Pantry to provide access management at the Sandridge village toilet block.

It was also unanimously approved to fund up to £9,000 for the supply and installation of a fully automatic door system plus ongoing maintenance costs as detailed above for the Marshalswick toilet block.

Public Toilets in Marshalswick and Sandridge (cont)

A recommendation to be brought back to the April Council meeting. Also not to charge members of the public to use either facility (to be reviewed in the future).

It was further unanimously resolved that Members delegate authority to the Clerk in liaison with the Working Party to progress the appointment of cleaners, having followed all due diligence and with an undertaking to report back to Council as appropriate.

It was further unanimously resolved that Members delegate authority to the Clerk in liaison with the Working Party to progress minor cosmetic works as appropriate and with an undertaking to report back to Council as appropriate.

Lyndon Care Home

Cllr Roberts took Members through a report regarding the imminent closure of this facility. Members expressed their regret at seeing this longstanding institution close.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

Committee Chairs spoke briefly on committee meetings as below:

- Sports and Recreation Committee 4 March 2026 (deferred to 18 March)
- Planning Committee – see below

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

Cllr Hale informed the meeting that he will meet with Highways Officers on Wednesday 20 May at 10am in Marshalswick Committee Room. He also made reference to the ongoing application to quarry on land to the rear of Notcutts Nurseries.

Cllr Wells said he plans to bring quotes for the installation of air source heat pumps at Jersey Farm Community Centre to the next meeting.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 16 February and 9 March 2026.

Sandridge Parish Council's Planning Committee meets every three weeks to review and respond to planning applications received from the Planning Authority, St. Albans District Council. Planning applications commented on since the last Full Council meeting are:

- 235/237 Sandpit Lane: 5/2025/2029
- 13 Ardens Way: 5/2026/0121
- The Willows and Former Baptist Church: 5/2025/2321

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

Centres Manager Stef Hayes asked for three volunteers to assist her in compiling the Summer edition of Neighbourhood News. Cllrs James Lambert, John Hale and Adam Twidell agreed to join.

Next meeting: 8 April 2026 at 7.30pm

at

Marshalswick Community Centre

This follows the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm

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Paper copies are available free in and outside the church, at
Carpenter's Nursery, at JTB Butchers and Marshalswick Library.

Alternatively, please contact Peter Hyde
via the church website for a copy to be delivered.

Family History Research
in Hertfordshire and London

All Enquiries Welcome

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Church Directory

Vicar: Revd Wendy Sellers 01727 301542
(Wendy usually works Saturday through to Tuesday lunchtime)

Churchwardens: Catherine Bailey and Lee Myers

We have a new generic church email address, which is:
sandridgechurch1@gmail.com
or you can use the contact form on the church website:
www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

We welcome enquiries about our services, including weddings, funerals and baptisms. We can also help with other enquiries; for example, about bell ringing, flower arranging, Young Church or our church music.

For enquiries about the parish magazine please contact the
Magazine Editor: Rosamund Adlard on **news.stleonards@gmail.com**

Our Safeguarding Team can also be contacted via the website contact form, or contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser directly on: 01727 818107 or 07867 350886 or **safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org**

Publication notes

The magazine is edited by Rosamund Adlard. Contributions of local interest are welcomed.






If you have such an article, or photographs, please do send them to the Editor by
14 April 2026
at the latest
please

news.stleonards@gmail.com

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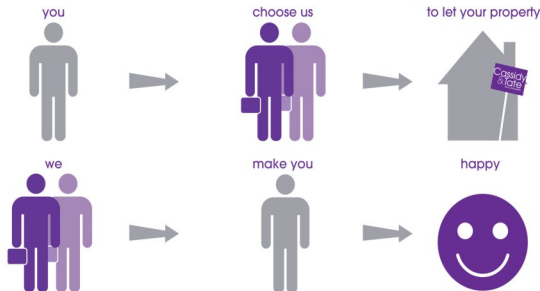


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