

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE
PARISH MAGAZINE
DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025**



**DIARY FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY
LETTER FROM OUR VICAR
CHRISTMAS SERVICES
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
ALBAN DUO CONCERT
JANE AUSTEN SHOW**

DECEMBER DIARY

- Sunday 1 December** **Advent Sunday**
10.00am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 3 December 10.00am Midweek Communion
- Sunday 8 December 10.00am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 10 December 10.00am Midweek Communion
- Sunday 15 December 10.00am Holy Communion
4.00pm Alban Duo Concert in church
- Tuesday 17 December 10.00am Midweek Communion
- Saturday 21 December** **10-12.00 Craft church with**
11.30am Christingle service
- Sunday 22 December 10.00am Holy Communion
4.00pm Family carols by candlelight followed by refreshments
- Tuesday 24 December** **Christmas Eve**
3.00pm Crib service by candlelight – especially suitable for families with young children
5.00pm Family carols by candlelight
11.00pm Midnight Mass
- Wed 25 December** **Christmas Day**
10.00am Holy Communion
- Sunday 29 December 10.00am Holy Communion

JANUARY DIARY

- Sunday 5 January** **10.00am Holy Communion for Epiphany**
- Tuesday 7 January 10.00am Midweek Communion
- Sunday 12 January 10.00am Holy Communion
3.00pm Jane Austen show in Village Hall
- Tuesday 14 January 10.00am Midweek service
- Sunday 19 January 10.00am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 21 January 10.00am Midweek service
- Sunday 26 January 10.00am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 28 January 10.00am Midweek Communion

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends in Christ

Christmas is almost upon us again. How did that happen? But I know it must be true. The vestry is full of items for the Christmas Fair, the candles for the Christmas services have been ordered, the plans are in place to decorate the church and I've even chosen the carols for Christmas Eve.



I'm sure that you too are making plans for Christmas, as that's what Advent is about. At home, I've made the Christmas cake and drawn out my name for the family Secret Santa. I've started shopping and made important decisions about how many pigs in blankets we may need and whether I buy Quality Street or Heroes this year (other sweet treats are available!).

If we aren't careful, then Advent becomes a time of 'jobs' and things to do. Then we are exhausted by Christmas Day. By the time January comes, we just want to forget the whole thing for another eleven months.

This year, let's try to remember 'the reason for the season'. Yes, the church is magical on Christmas Eve for the candlelight family services. I know we will see many hundreds of you there and I can't wait! But it's also magical at the quieter times too.

On the Sundays of Advent we make our journey towards celebrating the birth of Christ. At Midnight Mass we quietly worship God by candlelight in awe and wonder. On the Sundays after Christmas we recall the Wise Men's visit to Bethlehem and the visit of the Holy family to the temple. Christmas doesn't end on 26 December in church and we'll be singing carols for weeks afterwards.

So please do join us this winter, not just at the busy Christmas services but also in Advent or in Epiphany. To paraphrase the advertisement "Jesus is for life, not just for Christmas".

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas, full of joy and love.

Yours in Christ

Revd Wendy

W I report



At our Craft demonstration session on Tuesday 12 November, our President showed us how to arrange flowers in a vase and Jenny Roberts demonstrated the making of Christmas wreaths using seed heads, artificial berries, cones (which can be sprayed), and dried oranges and apples, wired together in groups of three. She also showed us how to make an artificial autumn wreath using leaves and feathers. Jenny stressed that the moss base which is wired round the metal ring must be well dampened. It is also a good idea to use a fairly large ring as a base to avoid overloading the wreath. Our next meeting on Tuesday 10 December will be our Christmas meeting, when we will enjoy festive refreshments and be entertained with seasonal music from the Alban Duo.

Christine Nutton, Vice President

Ecumenical services in St Albans Cathedral

Churches Together in St Albans

You are invited to attend a Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel of St Albans Cathedral on the following Wednesdays at 11.00am:

8 January 2025: The Reverend Simon Carver, Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain at St Albans Cathedral

Please note this service will include a celebration of the Lord's Supper, to which all Christian believers are invited.

5 February 2025: The Very Revd Jo Kelly-Moore, Dean of St Albans Cathedral

5 March 2025: The Revd Canon Dr Kevin Walton, Canon Chancellor of St Albans Cathedral

ELECTORAL ROLL

In 2025, a new Electoral Roll for St Leonard's church will be compiled. This is done every six years and there will be more information about this in the February issue of the parish magazine.

Tributes at Christmas

I am sure many families will want to place something on their loved one's grave 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** by the church, please place them by the central stone and not on the grass or the flower beds. Vases are provided. Items are 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, fake snow, polystyrene, etc. One arrangement I noticed two years ago was just some holly and other sprigs of evergreen placed in the metal flower holder on a memorial stone. It lasted for weeks, cost nothing and was fully compostable afterwards.

Last year I noticed quite a few families had adopted this idea. Please feel free to prune the evergreens in either churchyard – the old churchyard in particular has a large holly tree that's usually covered in berries.

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 26 January** please.

Thank you so much

Revd Wendy

From the Registers

Baptisms

27 October 2024 - Oliver Mark Spry

3 November 2024 - Noah Finn Smith

3 November 2024 - Mark Patrick John Curtis

Burial of ashes

6 October 2024 - Mary Gwenda Coates



Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday this year dawned dry and overcast, unlike previous years when the weather has been very wet. A large crowd gathered at the Lychgate just before 11.00am on Sunday 10 November to observe the two minute silence and to remember the fallen of not just the two World Wars, but of all wars, especially those commemorated on the Lychgate, our war memorial here in Sandridge.

These photographs were taken on the day.



With thanks to Peter Hyde for his photography



Christmas services at St Leonard's church

Saturday 21 December:

10.00-12.00 Christmas Craft Church with activities, refreshments and craft. There is no charge for this event.

One craft will be to make your own Christingle for the

11.30am Christingle service at which there will be a collection for the work of the Children's Society.

Sunday 22 December:

4.00pm Family Carols by candlelight, followed by refreshments

A service of Bible readings to tell the Christmas story, accompanied by familiar carols. During the service, we will assemble the crib scene ready for Christmas. This service is repeated on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm, but tends to be less crowded. There will be a collection to help us keep your lovely church open and active for the community it serves.

Tuesday 24 December:

3.00pm Crib Service by candlelight

This service is especially suitable for families with younger children, with an interactive story, well-known carols, animals to put in the stable and LED lights for the younger children to hold. There will be a collection for the work of the Children's Society.

5.00pm Family Carols by candlelight

A service of Bible readings to tell the Christmas story, accompanied by familiar carols. This is the same service as on Sunday 22 December. There will be a collection to help us keep your lovely church open and active for the community it serves.

11.00pm Midnight Mass

Join us as we celebrate the first communion of Christmas by candlelight, with carols and a more reflective mood than our earlier services.

Wednesday 25 December:

10.00am Christmas Day- Holy Communion with carols and a general sense of joyfulness.

At St Leonard's we welcome everyone. We love noisy children, crying babies, curious teenagers and adults of all ages. We don't care what you wear or whether you can sing in tune. We don't mind what 'type' of Christian you are, or if your faith is strong or weak. We simply aim to provide a safe and caring environment, where everyone can encounter the love of God. We hope to see you very soon.

Christmas events in aid of St Leonard's church

Dance into Christmas

**Sunday 15 December
4.00pm in the church**

Alban Duo (Emma Adlard and Stephanie Rawlins) will be performing a Christmas concert in the church on **Sunday 15 December** when they hope you will join them to *Dance into Christmas* - particularly apt the day after the Strictly Come Dancing final!



Music for four hands on one piano, including various dance forms such as the waltz, rumba and pavane, alongside popular festive favourites.

Refreshments will be served at the end of the family-friendly concert, which will last about an hour. **Entrance is FREE** but donations in aid of St Leonard's church or MIND will be very gratefully received.

Yours Ever, Jane

Sunday 12 January 2025 at 3.00pm in the Village Hall

Sarah Finch, a member of our congregation, presents her one-woman show *Yours Ever, Jane* on **Sunday 12 January**. Devised and performed by Sarah, the music - by Tamsin Lewis - will be performed on this occasion by Scilla Stewart.

Yours Ever, Jane is a witty look at Regency England through the letters and novels of Jane Austen, who wrote long, descriptive letters to her sister Cassandra.


Tickets are £5 for adults, children under 16 are free, with proceeds going to St Leonard's church. Refreshments available in the interval.

Please note: this show is being staged in the **Village Hall**, not the church.

Alban Duo presents

Dance into Christmas

Sunday 15 December 2024
4pm



Piano duet music
inspired by dance
forms and for the
festive season

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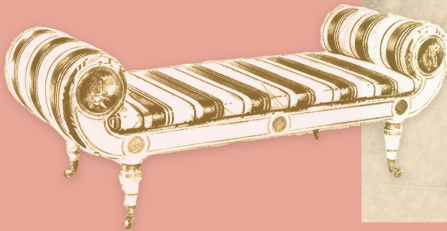
Free admission — donations
welcome in support of
St Leonard's and Mind

Yours Ever, Jane

Pride, Prejudice, Manners & Marriage

Devised & performed
by
Sarah Finch

Music
by
Tamsin Lewis



About the show

A witty look at Regency England through the letters and novels of Jane Austen

Jane Austen wrote long and descriptive letters to her beloved sister, Cassandra, with whom she shared everything. Sarah Finch portrays Jane and a host of her characters in many episodes you will remember – and some you may have yet to discover.

Through words, music and dance, *Yours Ever, Jane* weaves a dramatic tapestry as we discover Jane's sense of fun and her obsession with anonymity. Her sharp observations give an insight into the life of her times and the delightful music evokes the elegance of the period.

Yours Ever, Jane was devised and developed by Sarah Finch, coming out of her fascination with Jane Austen after playing her in the BBC adaptation of Fay Weldon's *Letters to Alice*. The music used in the performance is all played live on piano, violin and harp. This show has travelled widely, as far as New York, Los Angeles, Canada and Cuba.

Jane Austen at Prescott Shakespeare Festival (Ontario, Canada)

"The performance by Sarah Finch was outstanding, with both shows receiving standing ovations" Artistic Director Ian Farthing.

"Yours Ever, Jane is a wonderful evocation of the works of Jane Austen and the elegance of Regency England. I have booked this show three times, and on all occasions, audiences have thoroughly enjoyed it. Sarah and Tamsin are a pleasure to work with."
Steve Scott: Artistic Director Grove Theatre, Eastbourne.

"A splendid evening which has left our members crying out for more... such a pleasure."

"With a few well-chosen props, a striking costume and excellent acting, Sarah Finch brought Jane Austen to life."

"The breeding of a Royal Shakespeare-trained actress with a cut glass voice... so deft and hilarious she got a standing ovation. It's superb."

"The show was beautiful: elegantly presented with charming music."

"What a fantastic production! Sarah Finch was incredible, the music perfect, it surpassed my expectations. She was so entertaining, portraying the various characters, her charm, an ability to draw the audience in – it was splendid."

the Lions part

P A R I S H C O U N C I L S U P P L E M E N T (ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES)

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

TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mike White, James Lambert, Adam Twidell, Raihaanah Ahmed.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Ternouth declared herself a member of the Friends of Jersey Lane (grants).

TO APPROVE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2024

The minutes were duly approved.

Questions to Officers

There was none.

Public Participation

There was none.

CLERK'S REPORTS

Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 10 October to 13 November 2024. It was unanimously resolved that Members approve payment of this schedule on 15 November 2024.

Standing Orders

An electronic copy of the Parish Council's Standing Orders was sent to Members on 30 October 2024. After establishing that there were no amendments it was unanimously resolved to re-adopt the Standing Orders for the coming year.

ICO Model Publication Scheme

Members reviewed the Information Commissioners Office Model Publication Scheme. It was unanimously resolved to re-confirm the Parish Council's ongoing adherence to the ICO requirements.

Sandridge Youth and Sports Community Association (SYSCA) Membership

Cllr Reid confirmed her willingness to take the place of Cllr Twidell on the board of this association.

Matters of Note

- The PACE Officer has received three quotations for a full structural survey of Marshalswick Community Centre as requested by the Council. A contractor will shortly be selected.
- The prolonged power outage at Spencer Meadow has finally been resolved. The street lighting and CCTV are operational again.
- A solution to excessive surface water on the path between The Ridgeway and William Bell Open Space has been agreed with the adjacent householder and works will commence shortly. This expenditure was ratified by the Finance Committee on 28 October 2024.
- The draft 2025/26 Budget and recommended precept increase were presented to the Finance Committee on 28 October 2024. These will appear on the December agenda of Full Council.
- Members are reminded that there will be a public information evening at Marshalswick Community Centre on 14 Nov at 7.30pm to promote the welfare of local birdlife and, in particular, of swifts arriving in the parish from Africa next spring.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

- Jersey Farm Day Care Centre - assistance with Hall fee
After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Leonard, seconded by Cllr Ternouth and unanimously resolved to award the sum of £2,400 towards Hall fees, this award made under the LGA 1972 s.145
- Friends of Jersey Lane - various
After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Hale, seconded by Cllr Oakley and resolved to award the sum of £1,700 towards a strimmer and related paraphernalia. This award made under the Highways Act 1980 s.43

Parish Council Car Parking Provision

Members reviewed an interim report from the Car Park Working Party. After lengthy discussion it was proposed by Cllr Hale, seconded by Cllr Chalkley and resolved not to take further the suggested barrier(s) or lockable posts but to consider how better signage and/or bay marking might help maximise the spaces available to hirers of the centre.

Meetings of Committees

The Chair of the Finance Committee gave a brief verbal update on the last committee meeting.

- Finance Committee 28 October 2024
- Planning Committee – see below

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

- Cllr Wells thanked the PACE Officer for her work in managing the installation of the new footpath on the Harness Way open space.
- Cllr Chalkley confirmed that the installation of the new bus shelter outside Phoenix Barbers is imminent.
- Cllr Wells confirmed the new planter/bike rack to the front of the library is very close to being approved by the County Council.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 14 October 2024 and 4 November 2024.

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:

- 1 Bentsley Close AL4 9PN 5/2024/1587
- 13 Briar Road AL4 9TH 5/2024/0306
- 114 Osprey Drive AL4 OLU 5/2024/1504
- 28 Skys Wood Road AL4 9PG 5/2024/1814
- The Stables AL4 5/2024/1462
- Land to rear of 235 & 237 Sandpit Lane 5/2024/1691

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

Improvements to the Marshalswick Community Centre car park.

**Next meeting date:
11 December 2024 at 7.30pm
at
Marshalswick Community Centre**

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Paper copies are available free in the church, at Carpenter's Nursery, at JTB Butchers and in the Village Stores.

For anyone unable to obtain a copy in either way, please contact Peter Hyde via the church website for a copy to be delivered.

Family History Research
in Hertfordshire and London

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Church Directory

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

Churchwardens: Kathy Tilney and Catherine Bailey

We are in the process of setting up a new church email account, so please be patient with us. In the meantime, the contact form on the website is the easiest way to get in touch.

Website: www.sandrledgechurch.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 and our church music.

For enquiries about the parish magazine please contact

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 07867350886 or: safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

Publication notes

The magazine is edited by Rosamund Adlard, with many thanks to all our contributors.

Please send contributions or photographs for the next issue by

14 January at the latest please

to:

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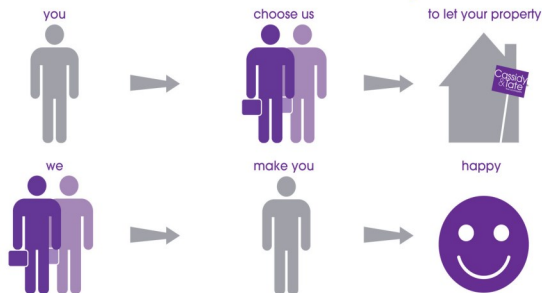


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