

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE PARISH MAGAZINE



DIARY FOR JULY & AUGUST
FLOWER FESTIVAL
SUMMER FAIR REPORT
APPEAL FOR HELP IN CHURCH
HERITAGE AND HARVEST WEEKEND
WEDDINGS IN CHURCH
INVITATION FROM SANDRIDGE WI
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

JULY DIARY

Friday 3 - Sunday 5		FLOWER FESTIVAL: see page 5 for details
Friday 3	7pm	Opening ceremony
Saturday 4	11am-5pm	Church open for Flower Festival
Sunday 5	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
	11.30am-5pm	Church open for Flower Festival
	5pm	Evensong at close of Flower Festival
Tuesday 7	10am	Midweek service
Sunday 12	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 14	10am	Midweek service
Saturday 18	10am-12pm	CRAFT CHURCH for children and families
Sunday 19	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 21	10am	Midweek service
Sunday 26	10am	Holy Communion, preceded by bell peal at 9am

AUGUST DIARY

Sunday 2	10am 3-5pm	Holy Communion Afternoon teas (see page 8 for details)
Sunday 9	10am 3-5pm	Holy Communion Afternoon teas
Sunday 16	10am 3-5pm	Holy Communion Afternoon teas
Sunday 23	10am 3-5pm	Holy Communion Afternoon teas
Sunday 30	10am 3-5pm	Holy Communion Afternoon teas
Tue 1 Sept	10am	Midweek service
Sun 6 Sept	10am	Holy Communion

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

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

A few weeks ago I was at Tara's Retreat to lead the two services we offer fortnightly. One is for those with memory loss, and one is a shortened communion service for those who reside in Tara's for other reasons. Both services get a version of the same talk.

That day I was talking about Jesus's commission to the disciples to go out into the world and spread the Gospel message: the message that we are infinitely precious to God and so are infinitely loved. That we can, if we choose, have a relationship with God which helps us to live our best lives and be the best people we can be. And I asked: "What does that look like today, for the church here in the parish of Sandridge?"

The disciples travelled thousands of miles, telling people about Jesus Christ. We, however, have a magnificent home for our church community – an ancient and beautiful building called St Leonard's. It means a lot of the time we are welcoming people into the building and its churchyards rather than travelling about.

We welcome people into the building all year round: through our regular services on Sundays and Tuesdays, through the great festivals of Christmas and Easter. We see many people at the occasional offices; baptisms, funerals, weddings, wedding blessings, burials of ashes and so on. And we see lots of people over the summer months as they come to enjoy our Summer Fair, our Flower Festival and our August afternoon teas.

Our prayer is that each person who enters the church and its churchyards is touched by the presence of God. We hope that people find the church welcoming. That those who are perhaps intimidated by the idea of entering a church, realise that each and every one of us has a small amount of faith and that for God this is enough. God isn't looking for perfect or clever. He simply wants for you to know you are loved. And if that means you visit the church to eat cake, or catch up with folk, or have fun, God (and his church) is delighted to see you. Holiness really isn't required.

Over the weekend of Friday 3 to Sunday 5 July we have our annual Flower Festival. Please join us. Enjoy the toe-tapping music of Katie's Jumping Fleas, accompanied by a drink and nibbles. Admire the amazing flower arrangements. Sing along to familiar and well-loved hymns at Evensong. Eat cake and catch up with folk. God will be with us, as he always is.

Hope to see you soon.

Revd Wendy



Flower FESTIVAL

at St. Leonard's

"Our favourite books" theme

Celebrated with beautiful flowers

Opening Friday 3rd July, 7pm

Music by Katie's Jumping Fleas

Enjoyed with a glass of Bucks Fizz

Saturday 4th July, 11am - 5pm

Sunday 5th July, 11.30am - 5pm

Closing with Evensong

Raffle of a beautiful handmade quilt

Refreshments available all weekend

Free entry



St. Leonard's, Church End, Sandridge, AL4 9DF
www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

St Leonard's Flower Festival

Friday 3 to Sunday 5 July

The first weekend of July sees one of the main events in the St Leonard's calendar: our annual Flower Festival.

Friday 3 July at 7pm

The Flower Festival opens with a performance by **Katie's Jumping Fleas**: an amazing band and wonderful entertainment. Their set features songs across a wide range of time and genres and it's all great fun! Refreshments will be available.

The event is suitable for all ages and, like all our events, **admission is free**. Any donations will be split between the church and a charity of the band's choice.

Saturday 4 July: 11am to 5pm

The Festival proper opens and this year's theme is:

Our Favourite Books.

Refreshments will be available to buy throughout the day, as will raffle tickets for yet another amazing quilt handmade by Kathy Tilney.



Sunday 5 July: 11.30am to 5pm

On the final day, the church will be **open from 11.30am**, when our morning service is over, and the weekend **closes with Evensong at 5pm**. Evensong is many people's favourite church service, featuring readings, music, prayer and no sermon! Do join us.

Revd Wendy Sellers

Help needed please with Church opening and Church cleaning

Our church building is open every day, from at least 10am to 3pm. This allows people to drop in for prayer and quiet. Many walkers call in to refill their water bottles in the kitchen or to use the toilet. It provides shelter in bad weather, a cool refuge when it's hot and a place for children to play in our children's corner. We are deeply committed to ensuring that the church remains open.

However, this is only possible because a rota of willing helpers opens the church in the morning and locks up again in the afternoon. Six months ago we had seven people on the rota. We now only have three, as one has moved away and others have stepped back for health reasons. With only three helpers, it will just not be possible to open the church every day. We will do our best, but apologise in advance if you pick a day to visit when there's no-one available. If you are local to the church and feel you might be able to help out on a regular basis, please do get in touch using the contact form on the website or the church email address:

news@stleonards.org.uk

St Leonard's has always been cleaned by volunteers and this is still the case. However, the group of people doing this has got smaller and no-one new has been added to the rota for some time. Again, if you feel this is something you could help with, please do contact us. It's just a couple of hours each time and can be done at a time to suit you and currently works out at once every six weeks per person or per couple. However, if more people joined the rota, then it would be even less frequently.

Please do consider seriously whether you can help out with either of the above. We know how much value and love the church. Let's keep it open and well presented for our visitors.

PCC of St Leonard's

Save the Date!

Heritage and Harvest Weekend 19-20 September

Saturday 19 September: Heritage Open Day from 10am with Craft Church, activities for all ages and the opportunity to have a go at some special skills and even explore some hidden parts of the church. There will of course be refreshments and the church will be decorated for Harvest.

Sunday 20 September: Harvest Festival service at 10am followed by Harvest Brunch. The church will offer afternoon tea from 3pm and the weekend will close with **Harvest Evensong at 4pm** with a chance to sing those wonderful and familiar Harvest hymns.

Weddings at St Leonard's

We recently had the most joyful wedding at St Leonard's. It might have rained, but no one cared and the day was just joyful. The Flower Guild had decorated the church beautifully and the bells rang out after the service. The vicar was almost as excited and happy as the bride and groom. The packed church sang along to the hymns, laughed at (most of) the vicar's jokes and cheered when the happy couple were declared married. A highlight for everyone was the attendance of the bride's beloved horse Sirius, who looked immaculate with his braided mane.



If you are thinking of getting married, then I promise you there is nothing quite like a church wedding. And I promise you it doesn't need to be stuffy or even especially 'traditional'. Every wedding I take is full of joy and love and the personalities of the bride and

groom. Please don't be put off by thinking you are not 'religious' enough or that you wouldn't be welcome. If for some reason a full legal wedding service can't be offered, then a thanksgiving or blessing can be enjoyed instead.



If you are interested in a wedding service, a blessing or a celebration service to mark a special anniversary, we would be delighted to hear from you. **Rev'd Wendy**

Afternoon Teas in August

For many years, St Leonard's has offered afternoon teas on Sunday afternoons in August. These teas are generously catered for and hosted by members of the congregation. Expect homemade cake and good company. You can even specify the exact shade of beige you prefer your tea!

This year there are five Sundays in August so do drop in **between 3pm and 5pm on 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd or 30th August.**

There is no charge but we do welcome donations. We hope to see you there.



DID YOU BUY AN ELECTRIC PROPAGATOR AT THE CHURCH SUMMER FAIR?

IF SO, YOU ARE MISSING TWO ESSENTIAL TRAYS TO PUT INSIDE IT!
PLEASE CONTACT THE MAGAZINE EDITOR TO ARRANGE COLLECTION

From the Registers

Wedding:

30 May - James Michael Milbourne Angus and Lucy Maria Featherstone
11 June - Justin Ridley and Emily Elizabeth Crossman

Burial of Ashes:

14 June - Eric Potts



Looking for friendship, fun and and new experiences?



Why not come along and visit the friendly Sandridge Evening WI?

We warmly welcome women of all ages who would like to meet new people, try new activities and become part of a friendly local community.

At Sandridge WI you'll find:

- A warm, relaxed and welcoming atmosphere
- Interesting guest speakers on a wide range of topics
- Quizzes, crafts, social evenings and outings
- Opportunities to learn new skills and try something different
- New friendships and plenty of laughter

Whether you come with a friend or on your own, you'll be made very welcome from the moment you arrive. We're always keen to hear fresh ideas and welcome new members to help our WI continue to grow and thrive. **And no, you don't have to be a crafter, knitter or baker!** The WI today is about friendship, fun, learning, sharing experiences and trying new things.

Come for the meeting – stay for the friendship:

On **Tuesday 14 July** we have Jeanette Misseldine giving us an informal talk on 'The Enigma of the Bra World'. We envisage this to be a really interesting subject and could be a great meeting for your first free visit!

**We meet at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month
in Sandridge Village Hall,**

ST LEONARD'S SUMMER FAIR 2026

A sunny and successful Summer Fair!

The day of the annual Summer Fair dawned bright and dry, after a week of unseasonal weather, and the organisers breathed a sigh of relief as good weather brings in the visitors.

This year's attraction was St Albans Morris, who danced two sets and invited the onlookers to join in with the last dance! The excellent sum of **£1,910** was raised on the day, with the fabulous homemade refreshments doing particularly well, as did the summer hamper raffle and the plant stall.



Once again, we have to thank our two local garden centres, Notcutts and Carpenters, for their very generous donations of beautiful plants which drew in the seemingly many gardeners amongst our visitors, as did home-grown plants donated by the congregation.



We also have to thank Stuart Cassidy of Cassidy & Tate for his generous donation of a bottle of champagne for the hamper raffle.

Here is your lucky Editor with her prize hamper! (right)

The day was enjoyed by all ages.



ST LEONARD'S SUMMER FAIR 2026 (cont)



Lastly, and most importantly, huge thanks go to this year's organisers, Lee and Sarah; all those who manned a stall on the day; all our generous donors and plant growers; Ruth and Nicky who served up the delicious refreshments, many of which they'd baked themselves; and all who helped in any way on the day, not least with putting the Fair together and taking it down again at the end of a long day. And of course thank you to all our generous visitors, who helped us raise such a magnificent sum towards the upkeep of the church.

Ros Adlard, Editor

PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT (ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES)

**AT A MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
10 JUNE 2026, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:**

TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Debbie Chachulski and June Reid.

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 13 MAY 2026**
The minutes of the meeting were duly approved.

QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS
There was none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
District Councillor Anne Chance-Read introduced herself as a new councillor representing Wheathampstead and Sandridge village. She looks forward to her involvement in the village and to working with the Parish Council. The Chair thanked Cllr Chance-Read for attending.

CLERK'S REPORTS
Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 14 May to 10 June 2026. It was unanimously resolved to approve payment of the online transfers on this schedule on 12 June 2026 and to ratify the payment of standing charges and debit card payments already made.

Co-option
On 14 April 2026, following the resignation of Cllr Roberts, the District Council posted notice of the casual vacancy, giving members of the electorate an opportunity to request an election. No request was received and so a notice of co-option was displayed on parish noticeboards and the Parish Council's website for the vacancy to be filled at this meeting. One application was received and the applicant was invited to attend the meeting. After discussion it was resolved to co-opt Mr Bryn Jenkins to Sandridge Parish Council, Jersey Farm Ward.

Summer Event 2027/28
The Clerk asked Members to consider whether to hold a community event on the Woodland Park next year.

Summer Event 2027/28 (cont)

It was agreed to bring ideas to the next Full Council meeting when scale and budget can be discussed and agreed ahead of the upcoming budget setting process.

Asset Register

Members reviewed a copy of the Asset Register previously reviewed by the Finance Committee and Internal Auditor and to be subject to external audit in due course through the AGAR. It was unanimously resolved to formally note and approve the Asset Register as circulated.

Internal audit – Year end 2025/2026

Councillors considered the 2025/26 year-end audit report and accompanying papers completed by Internal Audit Services (IAS Ltd). These consisted of:

1. The Internal Audit Analysis
2. The Auditor's observations and the Clerk's responses
3. The Auditor's covering letter

These were also reviewed by the Finance Committee on 1 June. It was unanimously resolved to formally note the audit report.

2025/26 Budgetary Control (outturn)

The Clerk presented a budgetary control report showing outturn for 2025/26. Final net expenditure was noted to be £351,455 against an approved budget of £377,832. This gave a reduction on budgeted net expenditure of £26,377. Material variations were summarised as:

- Increased National Insurance
- Purchase of air source heat pumps
- New front door to Parish Office
- Underspend on Sports and Recreation
- New chairs and tables for the committee room
- Grounds maintenance savings from no asset transfers
- Significantly reduced tree works
- Car park resurfacing
- No parish event
- Woodland Park pond

Reserves

Members reviewed and formally noted a table of Earmarked and General Reserves at year-end.

2025/26 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 31 March 2026 were reviewed. Also reviewed was a table of variations on outturn between 2024/25 and 2025/26 as required by the external auditor. These were also reviewed by the Finance Committee on 1 June 2026.

It was unanimously resolved to declare that Sandridge Parish 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 regards to the Supporting Statements for year ended 31 March 2026, the 2025/26 Annual Governance Statement should be approved and that the Chair of The Council and the Parish Clerk should sign Section 1 of the AGAR.

It was further resolved to confirm that to the best of its knowledge, the 2025/26 Accounting Statements contained in the Annual Return, plus the explanation of variances represent the financial position of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2026 and that the Parish Council Chair should sign Section 2 of the AGAR, the Parish Clerk (as RFO) having done so prior to this meeting.

The Exercise of Public Rights 2025/26

The Clerk informed members that the Exercise of Public Rights, during which members of the community are able to inspect the annual supporting statements (and Annual Return) and raise any issues of concern with the external auditor will run from 12 June to 23 July 2026 in accordance with regulations. It was unanimously resolved that Full Council formally notes and approves these dates and confirms that all regulations in this regard have been complied with.

Future Works to the Marshalswick Community Centre Car Park

The Facilities Manager and Centres Manager briefly detailed works to The Ridgeway car park they will recommend for inclusion in the 2027/28 budget setting process. Members were asked to consider this matter prior to the next meeting.

Matters of Note

- 3 new PCs have been purchased for the Parish Office.
- The tennis court at Spencer Meadow has been fully washed, lined and treated by a specialist company.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

- There were no grant applications this month.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont)

Update on Transfer of Public Toilets

Cllrs Thomas and Wells provided a verbal update on progress in transferring the Sandridge and Marshalswick public toilets from the District Council to the Parish Council.

Rebranding of the Parish Council

Cllr Ternouth updated Members on the results of a recent survey leading to the next step of this project – the creation of a design.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES:

Committee Chairs spoke briefly on committee meetings as below.

- Finance Committee 1 June 2026
- Planning Committee – see below

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

There was none.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 1 June 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:

40 Ardens Way: 5/2026/0814

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

Updates on rebranding and asset transfers.

**Next meeting date – 8 July 2026 at 7.30pm
Marshalswick Community Centre**

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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 August 2026
at the latest
please

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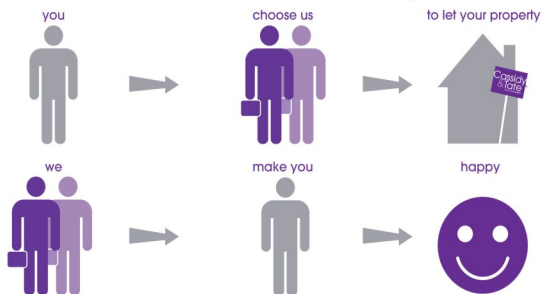
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