



ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE PARISH MAGAZINE MAY 2023



MAY DIARY
BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS
GARDEN OF REST



HOUSE LANE CHURCHYARD TIDY UP
LYCHGATE WAR MEMORIAL
HYMNS & PIMMS * SUMMER FAIR
CHRISTIAN AID MARKET * QUILTING
WI, GARDEN & COUNCIL REPORTS

MAY DIARY

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Tuesday | 2nd | 10.00 am | Weekday Eucharist |
| Coronation Weekend | | | |
| Saturday | 6th | 6.00 pm | Hymns & Pimms |
| Sunday | 7th | 10.00 am | Celebration Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 9th | 10.00 am | Weekday Eucharist |
| Sunday | 14th | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 16th | 10.00am | Weekday Eucharist |
| Saturday | 20th | 10am -12noon | Craft Church |
| Sunday | 21st | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 23rd | 10.00 am | Weekday Eucharist |
| Sunday | 28th | 10.00am | Holy Communion. Pentecost |
| Tuesday | 30th | 10.00am | Weekday Eucharist |

JUNE

| | | | |
|----------|------|------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday | 4th | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 6th | 10.00am | Weekday Eucharist |
| Saturday | 10th | 11.00am - 2:00pm | Summer Fair |
| Saturday | 17th | 10am—12 noon | Craft Church |



Magazine Distribution

This magazine is available free of charge to anyone via email.

Contact Christine Nutton if you wish to receive a monthly copy.

Paper copies are available free in the church, at Carpenter's Nursery and in the village shop. For people unable to obtain copies in either way, contact Peter Hyde to arrange for a copy to be collected and delivered.

Contact details are on page 19.

Dear Friends

For most people May is probably the season when they start to garden, go on holiday, plan barbeques or enjoy evening walks. To be fair the vicar also enjoys all those things. However, May and the summer months are also the season of the church for baptisms and weddings, and so I'm looking forward to my busiest time of year for these special events. Obviously, you can be baptised or get married at any time of the year, but most people prefer to wait for the better weather, longer days and higher temperatures (both in the church and out).



This morning I baptised a gorgeous little baby girl and there are lots of Christenings booked in over the coming weeks. Occasionally I get to baptise an adult and that is joyful too, but small children's baptisms are more likely to be family and friend celebrations with all the happiness that entails. Today's family had flown across the Atlantic to have their baby Christened surrounded by their loved ones. It is wonderful that St Leonard's pulls people back to it, even from so far away. If you interested in a baptism, I aim to be flexible with times of the service and try to make it as informal as possible. And baptisms are free of any fees.

While we have quite a few baptisms booked in, we don't have many weddings this year and we don't know why that is. It may be that people believe a church wedding is expensive (it doesn't need to be) or that the couple have to be church goers (they don't). It may be people believe they can't get married in church if they already have children (they can) or if they are divorced (in most cases this is not a problem). We really don't know.

If you are considering being baptised, getting married or having a child baptised then please do get in touch directly or via the contact form on our newly re-vamped website. **www.sandridgechurch.org.uk**

I'd be delighted to have a conversation with you to see how we can help.

I wish you a joyful May.

Yours in Christ,

Wendy Sellers, Vicar of St Leonard's, Sandridge



www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

**The church is open daily from 10.00am until at least 3.00pm.
Services Sun 10-11.15 am & Tues 10-10:30 am**

The Garden of Rest in the ‘Old’ Churchyard

Many people are very fond of the Garden of Rest which has been at St Leonard’s for over 70 years, since the churchyard around the church was closed for burials. It is in the Garden of Rest we most often bury ashes of the deceased and for some people the area contains the ashes of multiple family members.

The Garden of Rest is lovingly cared for by two members of the congregation and over the past year or more we have been planting additional flowers and bulbs in the flower beds. This is because they are ‘full’ and therefore only used for burials in exceptional circumstances. Burials now usually take place on the grass.

Family and friends often like to leave floral tributes, and these are welcome but please do the following:

- Remove all plastic and other wrappings from flowers or plants and place in the bin. If you don’t, then the flowers rot and die within a couple of days.
- Put cut flowers in the vases provided and not on the flower beds or grass. If you do this, we simply have to move them, as they adversely impact on the planting.
- If you would like to leave a large tribute – such as from a funeral – do ask us please. These should not be placed on the beds or the grass. After a week, it would be considerate for the family to return to remove the arrangement, placing the compostable parts in the green bins.
- Stones, cards or any other items should not be left.
- If you would like to donate a plant to be placed in the beds in someone’s memory then either get in touch or just leave the plant in its pot next to the memorial stone in the centre and, presuming it is suitable, we will plant it for you. Plants should come from a commercial grower to avoid the introduction of unwelcome weeds.

Please do remember that we have to work hard to keep the Garden looking beautiful and so we very much appreciate it when people do as requested above, as this means our efforts can go into gardening rather than clearing up.

Fairly soon the time will come when the Garden of Rest will be unable to cope and a new area will be needed. The PCC have already considered this and consulted the Diocese. When we have further confirmed information, we will share it. What is certain is that the Garden of Rest will continue to be maintained, and to delight visitors for many years. *Rev Wendy*

. House Lane Churchyard Tidy Up Morning

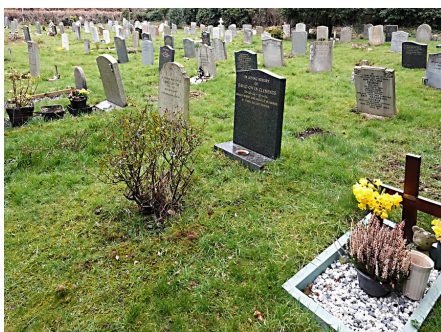
We will be holding our next routine tidy up at the House Lane Churchyard on Monday 15 May from 10.30 to 12.30.

Please do come along and help maintain this lovely space. You would be most welcome. It is always especially nice to see families who have relatives buried there.

Can we please remind families and friends that the regulations do need to be followed. They are displayed on the gates. This does mean no artificial flowers, plants or grass, no glass and no loose items please: the regulations allow for unauthorised items to be removed. If something is precious to you, please take it home to care for it safely. If something is missing then do contact us, in case it's something we have stored for you to retrieve.

We have recently noticed that some families are leaving large funeral tributes on the graves of family members, where there has been no recent funeral as far as we know. It is really helpful if you can let us know you are wanting to do this, so that disposal can be dealt with sensitively. We would be most grateful if after a fortnight or so you could return to dispose of these yourselves, but otherwise we can do so for you if asked to. Foliage and flowers should go in the green bins and non-compostable material in the brown bin. Alternatively, of course, you can take these home with you if you wish.

As a church we continue to work hard to make the House Lane Churchyard a peaceful and beautiful place for families and friends and indeed other visitors. We are hugely grateful to all who help maintain it with us. **Rev Wendy**



Flower Festival

The theme of this year's Flower Festival will be Weddings. If anyone has photographs of weddings that have taken place at St Leonard's or of other village family weddings, we would be grateful to have copies for use during the festival. Many thanks,

Christine Nutton

The Herts at War Project

I do some volunteer research for the 'Herts at War' project:

<http://www.hertsatwar.co.uk/>

This involves taking photos of memorials for their website and also using my family history skills and access to genealogical websites and other sources, to research information for short biographies of soldiers who died in the Great War. As I live in the parish I have been assigned the names of the men on the metal plaques and on the wooden boards in the roof of the lychgate at St. Leonards to research. Information I find about these are being added to the Herts at War database and can be viewed online.

I am interested to know of any additional information from local people in the area who are descended/related to the men who are listed on the lychgate. Contributors will get an acknowledge by name on the website above.

Anyone with information please contact me at burnssj43@googlemail.com.

Sarah Burns



Donations for the Restoration of the Lychgate

Cash or Cheque: - Put your donation in a blue envelope marked 'Lychgate' and put it in the Donations Jar in church. For Gift Aid, add your name and address. Cheques payable to : 'Sandridge PCC – St Leonard's'

Credit Card Reader in church. To add Gift Aid, use a blue envelope with Lychgate, the amount and your name and address written on it and put in the jar.

The 'Lychgate' QR code in the church porch or use it here above. Gift Aid may be included.



WI Report



At our April Meeting we held an impromptu discussion about Energy Economics and the Future , raising the topics of government policy and the need for better insulation, especially of older houses, followed by a Beetle Drive and refreshments. At our May Meeting on May 10th we shall be holding our AGM with presentations about this year's candidates for national campaign resolutions and voting for President and committee members followed by Cheese and Wine .

Christine Nutton , Secretary.

Garden News

Spring is well underway and there are green shoots everywhere. That's green shoots on all the plants that did not die over the extremely cold weather, which we had in winter. I think that many of us gardeners will have gaps to fill. For example, I have planted a Clematis where once there was a beautiful jasmine, flowering about now.

Another sad gardening loss are my agapanthus plants, including one which I bought a year ago. They have weathered many a cold winter, considering that they hail from South Africa, but not this one. Perhaps it was time to change them to something different, anyway.

However, there are bright flowers to see among the greenery. The daffodils were beautiful with their tall stems of yellow or lemon and white flowers. There is a new phenomenon this year as the tulips started to flower at the same time as the daffodils came out. Normally tulips will flower in late April or May when the daffodils are over. This year there is a strange but beautiful sight to see daffodils alongside colourful tulip displays.

The hanging baskets with their purple and blue Pansies are looking good. In the borders there are Forget-me-nots and Primroses. The Peonies are coming into season and the early Clematis have lots of buds, as well as the early climbing Rose. The Magnolia shrub was with its pinky-white flowers was spectacular, but it is just about over.

In the vegetable plot, (that is a large old basket), the Rhubarb crowns are looking healthy. It is almost time to put the Potatoes in, but don't worry if you don't have space in the garden or an allotment. Tubs or growbags will do. Remember though the adage, '*ne'er cast a clout till May be out.*' May nights can still be frosty, so be careful with your tender plants. Time spent planning and enriching the soil now, will reap benefits later. I hope you will have a fruitful Spring/Summer gardening.

Patsy Cann





You are invited to our 'Hymns
and Pimms' social event
to celebrate the Coronation.

St Leonard's Church, Sandridge
Saturday 6 May 6 p.m.

Refreshments and singing

Donations for refreshments welcome:
cash, phone or card.

And as part of this event we will be
formally naming the Roland King
Room at the church.

We hope to see you on 6 May.

ST LEONARD'S SUMMER FAIR

SATURDAY 10th JUNE

11am - 2pm



Stalls: Plants

Bric a Brac Tombola

Sweet Tombola Books

Cakes & Preserves

Refreshments:

Barbecue

Pimms & Soft Drinks



Judith Wilson, who died in March

Judith ran Patchwork/Quilting classes in the Sandridge Village Hall. She was very talented and won many awards for patchwork internationally, including in America. She taught Vanessa, Krystyna and Kathy. A wonderful display of her work was presented in the Wheathampstead Memorial Hall.



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market



**Refreshments · Lunch
Market Stalls · Live Music**

Books · Plants · Cakes · Tombola
Face Painting · Fairtrade Raffle

Saturday 20th May
10am - 1.30pm Lunch Served
11.30am - 1.30pm

Organised by Churches Together in Marshalswick for

Christian Aid Week 14 - 20 May

Publication Notes

This month's magazine was edited by Peter Hyde. Thanks to all our contributors. Next month's magazine will be edited by Ros Adlard.

. Please send any contributions, including photographs,

as soon as available or by May 14th as email attachments to:

news.stleonards@gmail.com or to 18 St Leonard's Court Thank you.

PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT

AT THE MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 12th APRIL 2023, THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE RAISED:



There were apologies received and accepted from Councillors Jon Hegerity and Patsy Cann.

Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Bolton expressed an interest in the Jersey Farm Day Care Centre grant application and Councillor Roberts declared an interest in the St Leonard's cemetery maintenance grant application. Each undertook not to vote on their respective application.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th March 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

The member of the public present asked to speak regarding an item later on the agenda.

CLERK'S REPORTS

Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 9th March 2023 to 12th April 2023. Questions were asked and responded to before it was unanimously resolved to approve the payment of this schedule on 14th April 2023.

Paradise for Pollinators – Wildflowers in Sandridge Parish

The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer updated Members on the successful public information evening held recently and on the significant number of pledges received from residents, schools and churches to sow wildflower seeds in the parish.

Locality Grant to Celebrate the Coronation and Volunteering

Following receipt of a £2,000 Locality Grant from County Councillor Annie Brewster it was agreed that Councillor Roberts will liaise with officers and Members in June to form a proposal on how the funds can be used in

commemoration of the coronation of King Charles III and also the work of local volunteers.

Designation of Jersey Farm Open Space to become a ‘Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space’ (SANG)

Councillors discussed this initiative, noting that further information was available through the following link :

www.stalbans.gov.uk/news/significantly-improved-recreational-green-space-be-created-st-albans-district.

Questions were raised by Members and also by the member of public present. It was recommended that the new Council (from May 9th) invites an officer of the District Council to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Award of Contract for the Jersey Farm Open Space Bike Track

Further to an internal audit carried out in March and, following the auditor’s recommendation it was unanimously resolved to formally note the award made to JB Extreme for the provision of the Jersey Farm Open Space Bike Track, subject to contract and planning permission.

Matters of Note

- Elections

It is anticipated that co-option to the vacant seats in Beech Bottom, Marshalswick West and Sandridge Village will be brought to Full Council on May 17th. The Clerk is currently taking advice on how soon these positions can be advertised.

- Lloyds Internet Banking

Following further issues with signatories having correct access to the Lloyds internet banking, the Parish Office has worked with the bank to find a resolution. Following negotiation a second compensation payment of £75 has been received. The recent amendment to Standing Orders has assisted this process.

- Marshalswick Community Centre

Work to repair and repaint the cladding to three sides of Marshalswick Community Centre has completed.

- CCTV

The CCTV cameras at each end of Marshalswick Community Centre have been fully upgraded through collaboration with the District Council.

- **Tree Work**

A significant broken bough has been removed from the Oak at Sherwood Park (by the youth shelter).

- **Internal Audit Report**

On March 28th, the Parish Council's internal auditor, IAC Ltd, carried out the first stage of a year-end audit. A summary will be circulated when the year-end process is complete and all audit checks have been carried out.

- **Bench**

The completely dilapidated bench to the southern end of the William Bell open space has been fully refurbished.

- **Recycling Centre**

Residents visiting the recycling centre at Ronson Way are now required to produce evidence of being a Hertfordshire or Essex resident.

- **Motion Sensor Camera**

A motion sensor camera has been purchased, primarily to identify wildlife on the Woodland Park.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

- St Leonard's Parochial Church Council.

It was resolved to award the sum of £2,500 towards cemetery maintenance.

- Jersey Farm Day Care Centre.

It was resolved to award the sum of £2,000 towards hall hire expenses.

- Sandridge Cricket Club.

It was resolved to award the sum of £1,200 towards grounds maintenance expenses.

- Holiday at Home (St Mary's).

It was resolved to award the sum of £1,200 towards the Holiday at Home initiative for elderly residents.

Traffic Calming on St Albans Road (B651)

Further to a report circulated with the agenda it was proposed by author Councillor Hale, seconded by Councillor Reid and unanimously resolved to contribute £2,000 towards a Highways study exploring the feasibility of traf-

fic calming measures at the junction of Sandringham Crescent and the vicinity.

Meetings of Committees:

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

- Sports and Recreation Committee 16th March 2023
- Planning Committee 16th March and 6th April 2023 (see below)
- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee 27th March 2023

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

The Clerk informed the meeting that the new Council forming on May 9th will no longer have a membership of two thirds of elected members and will not therefore hold the Power of Competence. This may impact decisions on future spending but is unlikely to be significant.

PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 16th March and 6th April 2023. Planning applications commented on since the last Full Council meeting are;

- 67 Harness Way 5/2023/0394
- Sandringham School 5/2023/0186
- 30 Elizabeth Court 5/2023/0480
- 51 Barnfield Road 5/2023/0513

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

Councillor Geoff Churchard asked the new council to consider current levels of maintenance at Bentsley Spinney by the District and County Councils.

Councillor Leonard, in his capacity as Chair, thanked those Members who will now be leaving the Council and wished them well for the future.

Next meeting date

17th May 2023 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.31pm.

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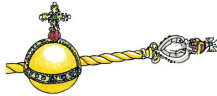


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Church Directory

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*Wendy's days off are Wednesday to Friday,
but if you need her urgently please telephone her.*

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