

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE
PARISH MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER 2024**



**DIARY FOR NOVEMBER
LETTER FROM OUR VICAR
FLOWER FESTIVAL REPORT
LYCHGATE REDEDICATION
ALL SOULS' DAY & REMEMBRANCE**

NOVEMBER DIARY

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Sunday 3 | 10.00am 3.00pm | Holy Communion All Souls' service |
| Tuesday 5 | 10.00am | Midweek Communion |
| Sunday 10 | Remembrance Sunday | |
| | 10.00am | Short communion service |
| | 10.30am | Coffee served |
| | 10.50am | Service at the Lychgate |
| Tuesday 12 | 10.00am | Midweek Communion |
| Sunday 17 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 19 | 10.00am | Midweek Communion |
| Saturday 23 | 10.00-12.00 | Craft Church - free drop-in session for families, with refreshments |
| Sunday 24 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 26 | 10.00am | Midweek Communion |
| Saturday 30 | 10.30-1.00 | Christmas Fair - see page 7 |



DECEMBER DIARY

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Sunday 1 | Advent Sunday | |
| | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 3 | 10.00am | Midweek Communion |
| Sunday 8 | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 10 | 10.00am | Midweek Communion |
| Sunday 15 | 10.00am 4.00pm | Holy Communion Alban Duo concert - <i>Dance into Christmas</i> with music for four hands on one piano |

www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

The church is open daily from 10.00am until at least 3.00pm
Cover images by Peter Hyde: RNLi by Kathy Tilney, and Sandridge School pupils with Animals in Service by Jane Reid

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

Throughout the month of October many people will have visited St Leonard's. Some came to admire the church decorated for harvest. Some came to the Flower Festival or one of the services during that weekend. Some came to attend funerals, baptisms or the burial of ashes. Some came to one of our regular Sunday or Tuesday services or to Craft Church. Some came just to sit in the church – we have a number of people who pop in daily to pray.



October was a busy month for St Leonard's, and so will November be too. There's the annual All Souls' service with afternoon tea, Remembrance Sunday and our Christmas Fair all coming up. Looking ahead to Christmas, I hope the church will again be packed out for our Christmas services and events.

The centre of all this activity is our beautiful and very ancient building. We work hard to maintain it but it's an uphill struggle. Currently we have two separate leaks in the roof to try to sort out. We have damp in the Roland King Room at the back of the church. The floor needs some urgent maintenance as the wooden blocks keep working loose, and it also desperately needs cleaning and re-varnishing. We have work that needs to be done to some of the stained glass, which would cost many thousands of pounds, yet largely be unnoticeable. The nave requires redecorating and we need to look at the lighting in there too, just as we did for the chancel last year. We urgently need a new heating system because it's just too cold in winter for both the congregation and our visitors. It means we couldn't, for example, set up a toddler group or a weekly drop-in for coffee.

The building has been at the heart of the village for over 900 years and is precious to so many. If we all want it to stay that way, we are going to need to look after it. It costs more than **£1,500 a week** (yes, a **WEEK**) just to keep it open, with a part-time vicar in post. We are required to raise that sum ourselves in donations. Over the next six months or so, we will be launching a stewardship campaign, because at the moment donations don't cover our regular running costs, never mind the costs of all I've mentioned above.

(continued overleaf)

The church building is a house of God at the centre of our community. It is there for **everyone** - no matter how large, small or even non-existent their faith. It's a place where week after week we pray for our parish, for individuals, for all those who visit the church for whatever reason. We'd like to be able to make even better use of it.

The next few years are going to present some challenges. There is only one way we can step out - in the hope of God. Faith tells us that nothing is impossible if God is on our side. Please pray for St Leonard's and get involved, so we can hand on the church to future generations in good heart. It would be great if it was watertight too.

Yours in Christ

Revd Wendy

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 10 November we shall, as every year, remember those from our parish who fought for our country. A shortened Communion service at 10.00am will mark the occasion. Coffee will be available in church from 10.30am and we will then gather outside by the Lychgate from 10.50am.

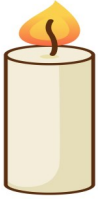


Last year, well over 100 people came to pay their respects, including many members of our uniformed organisations. We hope to see many of you there again this year. And let's hope the weather is dry, for once. We will serve more refreshments afterwards.



At the Rededication service on 14 October we read out the names of the fallen from our honour boards and we shall do so again on Remembrance Sunday. Please do find time to read the names of those who returned, now that they are legible. They will have returned changed men and we owe them all our thanks and our respect too.

Revd Wendy



All Souls' Day

This year All Souls' Day is being marked at St Leonard's on **Sunday 3 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. Afterwards tea and cake will be served, if you would like to stay 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 3 November at 3.00pm**.

Revd Wendy

Lychgate Rededication

Exactly a year ago, I was able to let you know that we had the funding and permissions to repair and restore the Lychgate and its honour boards. We thought the work would take a week, but in fact it took about six months, largely due to the wet weather.

We decided we needed to really celebrate this achievement and so our 2024 Flower Festival was called *Remembering with Thanksgiving*, with displays themed around the many who contributed to both World Wars.

On Monday 14 October, the Bishop of Hertford joined us to bless and rededicate the Lychgate. The pupils and staff of Sandridge School walked to church in pouring rain and enjoyed meeting Bishop Jane and hearing about her role (and her outfit!). They then heard about the importance of the war memorial and about some of those remembered in the flower displays, such as evacuees and service animals. At 10.00am we all went outside for the rededication and blessing, where we were joined by a number of rather soggy supporters. Thank you once again to everyone who came to St Leonard's over the weekend, and to those who have contributed to this important project.



W I report



At our open meeting in October, where we were pleased to welcome a goodly number of guests, Mike Barbakoff gave us a fascinating illustrated talk about the history of Bletchley Park in WWII, or to give it its official name: the Government Code & Cypher School.

Germany had developed the Enigma encryption machine, which needed three men to operate it, and involved 158.9 million million permutations which naturally led the Germans to consider it unbreakable. Mike explained why the organisation was sited where it was, largely because of the telecommunications and the existing railways which were very conveniently arranged and it was within easy reach of London. It was also thought that the distance made it effectively safe from bombing and so the Bletchley estate was bought in 1938.

Initially only 400 people worked there, although eventually 9000 did so, but none of them actually lived on the estate as they all went home to their billets at the end of their shifts. MI6 was accommodated upstairs and the cypher school downstairs, and as recruitment was largely from universities, the place was run more like a college. Other recruits included debutantes who had attended finishing schools abroad and would be familiar with colloquial forms of speech from the various countries.

75% of the recruits were women and all the available roles were open to them, which was unusual for the period. Women were also considered to be the most effective codebreakers as men tended to be distracted by politics and power struggles. To break the codes you needed mathematicians, and it was a brilliant Polish mathematician called Marian Adam Rejewski who finally broke Enigma.

Thanks to the mathematician, Alan Turing, and others, an actual computer - the Colossus Mark I - was developed, which is recorded as being the first ever computer. A Roll of Honour of all who worked there is kept at Bletchley, and everyone who is still alive is invited back annually.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 12 November, two of our members will be giving a craft demonstration which is always interesting and results in something useful to take home.

Christine Nutton, Vice President



SAVE THE DATE!
ST LEONARD'S
CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 30 November
10.30am - 1.00pm

We are all looking forward to the St. Leonard's Christmas Fair which takes place **in church on Saturday 30 November**. This year, we are making up wonderful luxury Christmas hampers to be used as raffle prizes. In order for these hampers to be the best that they possibly can, we need donations of items such as **sparkling wine, port, sherry, Christmas puddings, luxury chocolates, biscuits and Christmas cakes**. Any large baskets that can be used as hampers would also be very gratefully received.

Other much appreciated donations 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



Any donations can be left in the donations box at the back of church.

If you can, it would be great if you would sign up to help at the Fair on the sign-up sheet in church.

Please speak with Emma Hayes (emma@richardhayes.co.uk) if you would like more details or if you would like your donations collected.

Thank you very much to everyone for supporting our Christmas Fair. We look forward to seeing you there!



St Leonard's Church Flower Festival 2024

Remembering with Thanksgiving

This year's Flower Festival ran from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 October, and culminated in the rededication of the newly restored Lychgate by the Bishop of Hertford on Monday 14 October - see page 5.

Our churchwarden Kathy made and donated a beautiful quilt, which was raffled over the weekend, raising a magnificent £700 for the church. The lucky winners were Malissa and Ellis, who are moving back to New Zealand next year and will take it with them to use as a wall hanging.



The Festival was opened on Friday evening by the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Annie Brewster DL, and we welcomed many visitors over the next three days, who enjoyed the 25 varied displays.

The 'café' in the Roland King room raised £246 in donations - a huge thank you to all those kind people who baked and donated cakes, or served refreshments to our visitors over the three days - and we also took £430 in donations from the generous visitors to the church.





Altar displays by the Abbey Flower Guild and Krystyna Mitchell



WVS and WI by Sandridge WI





*Clockwise, from top left:
 Salvation Army by Lyndon & Marian Fooks
 Little Boats by Priory Women's Club
 Peace (floral arch) by the Flower Guild
 Railways by Jenny Roberts
 Scouts and Guides by the Scouts & Guides
 Bishop of Hertford and Revd Wendy Sellers
 at the Sandridge School service on Monday*

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

Burial of ashes

6 October - Mary Gwenda Coates
13 October - Nicholas George Hill
14 October - Julian Charles Morgan



Is this email from the Vicar? And why is she asking for money?

Recently someone used my work email address to mirror an email asking for money. This was a scam. There is nothing anyone can do to prevent their email address being used in this way – mirroring is when it appears that the email is from one person but it’s actually from someone else. One quick (although not foolproof) check is to click on the sender address – if a second address is revealed, it is definitely a scam. You can double check by clicking on ‘message properties’ to see where the email came from. My email address was not hacked for this mirroring to occur.

If you receive any email from anyone unexpectedly asking for money, be very suspicious indeed. Do not click on any link nor reply. If in doubt, speak to the person concerned to ask if it is genuine. I cannot foresee any circumstances where I would ask any of you personally for money or to buy something for me. Amazon vouchers are popular with scammers as you don’t have any of the protections that might be provided by your bank or credit card. If an email looks in any way suspect, delete it. A genuine request will be followed up properly. Apparently, two factor authentication can help prevent misuse of your email account.

Phone scams are also increasing. They can even mirror someone’s voice using AI. If it starts with “I’m calling from your internet provider/bank/credit card/Amazon Prime” or anything else general, I suggest you just hang up at once. If in doubt, you could ask for a number and name, then call your bank (or whoever it is) on their published number to check if it’s genuine. If possible, use a different phone.

Another way of scamming is to gain control of your computer and laptop and demand money to ‘release’ it again. This is why we have virus protection and other malware installed. I regularly backup my data and/or use a cloud-based storage system to protect my documents, photos etc, so that if it happens I haven’t lost everything.

Unfortunately, this is all part of modern life, and scammers are becoming increasingly sophisticated. All we can do is be as vigilant as possible. If you are concerned about anything you receive, I suggest that you talk to someone you trust and take no action at all until you’ve done that.

I’m not an IT expert, but the above is what I’ve picked up over time. If it helps just one person, then it was worth including this in the magazine!
Every blessing.

Revd Wendy

St Leonard's Church information card deliveries

Three times a year, at Harvest/Flower Festival, Christmas and Easter time, we deliver around 1500 cards to the whole parish of Sandridge. At the moment we are in need of regular deliverers for the following roads, all in Sandridge village:

- Hopkins Crescent [21 houses]
- High Street from the Village Hall to the shop [24]
- High Street from Pound Farm to Tara's Retreat and opposite to no.42 High Street
- High Street from no.44 up to Highfield Road [38]
- St Albans Road from Carpenters Nursery: nos.106 to 188 and opposite nos.153 to 167 [68]
- St Albans Road nos.1 to 19 and opposite: The Willows, Great Barn and Little Barn Cottage [15]

If you feel that you could deliver cards to any of these roads, please do get in touch with me: **Carolynn Boucher (01727 833664)** or see me in church. We would be most grateful for any assistance. Thank you.

CTSA (Churches Together in St Albans)

There will be a charity performance at the Abbey Theatre on **Thursday 7 November at 8.00pm** of *Nell Gwynn* by Jessica Swale (original music by Nigel Hess) by the Company of Ten.

By kind permission of the Company of Ten all proceeds will go to
Hands Together - Tiplyang Project
for health and education for children in Nepal.

Tickets are £16.00, obtainable from:
07821 726357 or 07768 177634 or 07976 277059

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4pm

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Publication notes

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






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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 (see page 19) for a copy to be delivered.

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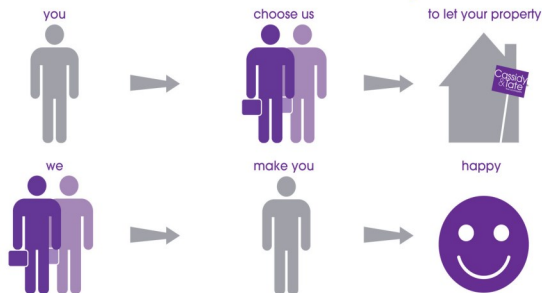


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