

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE

PARISH MAGAZINE

MAY 2025



DIARY FOR MAY
2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
FLOWER FESTIVAL
SUMMER FAIR
SWIFTS IN THE BELL TOWER
FROM THE REGISTERS
W I REPORT
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY DIARY

Sunday 4 May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 6 May	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Thursday 8 May	6.30pm	VE Day 80th Anniversary event: see page 9
Sunday 11 May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 13 May	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Saturday 17 May	10.00-12.00	Craft Church
	10.00-1.30	Christian Aid Market at St Mary's Church, Marshalswick
Sunday 18 May	10.00am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Farewell service for Bishop Alan in St Albans Cathedral
Tuesday 20 May	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 25 May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 27 May	10.00am	Midweek Communion

JUNE DIARY

Sunday 1 June	10.00am	Holy Communion, with burial of Peter Judd's ashes at 11.00am
Tuesday 3 June	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Saturday 7 June	11.00-3.00	Summer Fair in churchyard
Saturday 7 June	11.00-6.00	Flower Festival open: see page 7
Sunday 8 June	Pentecost	
	10.00am	Holy Communion
	12.00-5.00	Flower Festival open: see page 7
	5.00pm	Choral evensong and reception to close the Flower Festival

www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

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

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

Let's think of summer. It's fast approaching. What's your favourite thing?



It might be watching or playing cricket. It might be Wimbledon on the TV or eating ice cream. Perhaps it's a chance to take a trip to the seaside. In my view, Sandridge is lovely, but it would be even better if the coast was a bit more accessible from here. Maybe your favourite thing is the longer evenings and the chance to host a barbeque. Maybe it's strawberries and cream, or a nice glass of Pimms. Perhaps it's the long school holidays (that'll mainly be school staff and those still in full-time education). Maybe it's the smell of freshly mown grass or the chance to expose your knees for a few weeks.

One of my favourite things is hanging washing out! Yes, I know it's weird, but I love it when washing gets dried outside in the sunshine instead of lurking around the house. On fine days, I've even been known to hunt out things to wash when the laundry bin is empty.

Many of those favourite things will be featured in our Flower Festival—perhaps our first ever summer-themed one. Details are on page 7 in this magazine. I don't think anyone is doing a washing line-themed display, but I may now have to volunteer to attempt one.

Aren't we fortunate to have so much to look forward to? So many blessings to enjoy? So much to choose from? If you don't like strawberries, there's always raspberries. If you don't like a walk along the beach, then maybe you'll love a walk in the woods in the dappled shade. There is so much to thank God for every day and in summer that's especially easy.

I know life is tough for some of us - that unfortunately we all suffer at times from pain, worry, loneliness and grief. None of us are immune. However, we have just celebrated the great Easter festival. A time when we recognise that God is with us through every minute of our pain, worry, loneliness and grief. And that those things are not, in the end, what will define our lives. What will triumph are the blessings of our lives—the joy, the love, the happiness.

Whether life seems hard or not, perhaps you could try to take time, as summer approaches, to enjoy the little but beautiful things: maybe a sunset or the buzz of bees or a long cold drink of water. Or perhaps you could find unexpected joy in the ordinary - in the washing, drying on the line.

Yours in Christ

Revd Wendy

2025 St Leonard's Church Stewardship campaign



On Sunday 27 April St Leonard's launched its stewardship campaign. Regular readers will know that last year the church ran at a deficit. An article in the April magazine explained our financial position in some detail. Running at a deficit is obviously not sustainable. Our outgoings are modest and largely fixed, so the only option is to increase our income.

The church is much loved and used by many people in our community, and from elsewhere too. It is entirely supported by donations. If we want the church to be looked after, open and led by a minister, then we need to help towards its upkeep. This is about **£1,500 a week**, without us paying for any more substantial maintenance tasks.

We need to increase our income by at least **£5,000 a year**. We also need to be braver about asking people to leave us money in their wills so that the building can be maintained in the future.

How can we do this?

If you already give regularly to St Leonard's by any means, you will be asked to consider giving using the Parish Giving Scheme. This scheme allows us to move towards a more sustainable financial future by giving us a more regular cash flow and simplifying the way we reclaim any Gift Aid. We are also hoping that regular donors will think about increasing their monthly giving.

2025 Stewardship campaign (cont)

Then we need new people to join the Parish Giving Scheme. Giving packs are available in church or you can fill in the contact form on the website and we will get one to you. If you, our regular readers, each gave us just **£5 a month**, then we would not only wipe out our deficit but have some money to pay for some things we just can't afford at the moment. A photocopier is on the wish list.

The packs also contain a leaflet called *A Lasting Gift to St Leonard's* and this is to help you consider leaving the church some money in your will. The leaflet offers advice on how to do this. In the past couple of years, legacy money has paid for the sound system and the redecoration of the chancel. Future projects, such as the installation of new heating, will also be paid for - at least in part - by money left to the church.

If you love St Leonard's, if you'd like it to be there for your family in the future, if you are hoping your ashes will lie in the Garden of Rest, if the building brings you joy or comfort, if you value our heritage, if you enjoy the community events we offer or our worship, then please think about how you can contribute. The campaign runs until 14 June and I very much hope that I can report back soon after that on how successful the campaign has been.

Thank you for your generosity.

Revd Wendy Sellers


Dear Friends

It has always been a great encouragement whenever someone has left a gift in his or her will to our church in the past. It is their testimony to the faithfulness, goodness and generosity of God and their thankfulness for the life and work of St Leonard's Church.

We want to encourage everyone in our church family, old and young, to make a will, review it regularly, and consider the difference a gift in your will could make to the future of St Leonard's.

Thank you,

The PCC of St Leonard's Church, Sandridge



www.sandridgechurch.org.uk


A Lasting Gift


We welcome *all* gifts in wills, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish.

We have been fortunate to receive such generous gifts in the past. A generous legacy of £10,000 enabled us to install a sound system and hearing loop.

For more information visit www.churchlegacy.org.uk

You can also speak to the Vicar or Treasurer in confidence about gifts in wills.





A Lasting Gift to St Leonard's

Sandridge, St Albans

St Leonard's church acts to help save endangered swifts



Photo: Robert Booth



See page 19 for more photographs

Swifts are fast-flying, spectacular birds and St Leonard's church has teamed up with a local bird group to install four swift nest boxes in the belfry to help conserve them.

Swifts only spend a few weeks in the UK, as they come here from Africa to breed. They rarely land and fly continuously through day and night. They eat, sleep and mate on the wing and, in its lifetime, an individual swift can fly as many as four million miles.

Sadly, in the UK, numbers have declined by about half in the last twenty years and they are now red-listed for conservation concern. They nest in towns and cities, in small gaps in roofs and eaves, but modern building methods are gradually excluding swifts from these spaces. Fortunately, swifts take readily to hollow bricks called swift bricks and swift nest boxes, which are being installed to try and help reverse the decline.

We are extremely grateful to St Leonard's church for agreeing to install the nest boxes and hope local residents will enjoy seeing swifts and help in monitoring the boxes for occupancy. Swifts are relatively clean birds and usually take any mess out to open countryside and should not cause a nuisance.

Thanks to Anne Thomas for instigating the project, Maurice Wells for the magnificent carpentry involved in building the swift boxes and all at St Leonard's church for supporting the installation, which was approved by the PCC and Diocese of St Albans.

Gavin Vicary, North East Hertfordshire Swift Group

Summer Fair and Flower Festival Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 June

Flower Festival - Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 June

For many years, this has been held in October at Harvest time. This year, however, we've decided to have it on the same weekend as the Summer Fair. See the poster on page 13 for the Flower Festival opening times.



This change of date gives our flower arrangers a chance to use different seasonal flowers and to explore another kind of theme, which this year is: *Events of a British Summer*. This will include specific summer events, such as Wimbledon, and more general events such as picnics.

The church will, as ever, be beautifully and creatively decorated. There is no entrance charge but donations are very welcome. Refreshments will be available throughout the weekend, as will tickets for two raffles: one of a beautiful hand-made double quilt, and the other of summer-themed hampers. There will also be occasional musical entertainment.

We hope to close the Flower Festival at 5.00pm on Sunday 8 June with a service of Choral Evensong, followed by a reception to which everyone is most welcome.

Summer Fair - Saturday 7 June

There will be lots of activities for children including face-painting, crafts and a toy stall. Other stalls include a bottle tombola, homemade cakes and produce, bric-a-brac and other places to bag a bargain. The fair opens at **11.00am** and closes at **3.00pm**. At 1.30pm there will be a performance by the fabulous Rock Choir.



Please do join us for what promises to be a most enjoyable event.

Rev'd Wendy Sellers

W I report

On Tuesday 28 April we had a very interesting talk from Dr Aruna Mene: *From Rags to Riches*. She explained that she tries to act sustainably by creating upcycled artwork from her treasured pieces of fabric. We were shocked to hear that over 200 tonnes of textiles go to landfill every year and that even natural fibres release toxic gases.

She showed us some beautiful examples of her artwork, which included the multi-coloured domes of St Basil's in Moscow and even copies of Klimt's paintings. These are all created as collages using a iron on canvas. She has made some exciting trips all over the world, including a hot air balloon trip over Cappadocia and a visit to Patagonia. She has also visited Ghana, where a huge problem created by the second-hand market in European clothes has led to massive quantities of garments being washed up on the shoreline. It takes 1,700 litres of water to manufacture a T-shirt or pair of jeans and fast fashion adds to the problems.

She also makes collages, featuring landscapes, and calendars, using herbs from her garden and banyan trees. She also showed us upcycled mats created from the scraps of cloth and old clothes she uses, baskets made of rope, and bookmarks.

Her works are further embellished using machine embroidery. A St Albans connection was established by her reference to the cats of Louis Wain, the artist who was confined to Napsbury mental asylum and painted fascinating portraits of cats. All in all, a very inspiring and uplifting talk.

Our next meeting on 14 May will be our AGM, with presentations on the Resolutions to be submitted to the National AGM in Cardiff.

Christine Nutton, Vice-President

From the Registers

Baptism: 23 March 2025 - Kallie Rae Francis

Burial: 21 February 2025 - Eric Thomas Darby
7 March 2025 - Roger Charles Miller

Burial of Ashes: 6 April 2025 - Paula Diane Bishop



VE Day 80th Anniversary

Thursday 8 May

Thursday 8 May 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) and various national celebrations are planned to mark this significant anniversary.

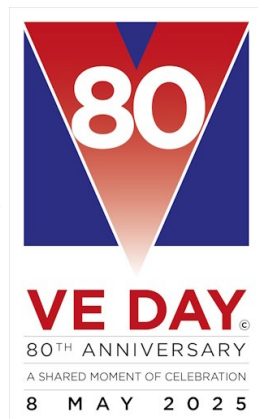
Councillor Jenny Roberts of Sandridge Parish Council, who is also a member of our congregation, has organised a celebration in Sandridge:

6.30pm Ring Out in Celebration: the bell ringers of St Leonard's church join in with bells around the nation, as they ring out in celebration.

7.30pm The Big Bake: refreshments served by Sandridge WI in the Roland King room at the back of the church, including ginger cake made to an authentic WWII recipe!

8.30pm Beacon: to be lit by Sandridge Scouts in the churchyard, followed by the singing of 'I Vow To Thee My Country', 'Jerusalem' and the National Anthem.

Please look out for alerts on Facebook from the Parish Council or the Sandridge 900 group. We will also post full information on our website. More information on national celebrations can be found on www.ve80.com



Craft Church dates and themes 2025



Saturday 17 May
Saturday 21 June
Saturday 19 July
Saturday 20 September
Saturday 18 October
Saturday 15 November
Saturday 20 December

part of our new Heritage Day
Harvest
Remembering
Christmas

Craft Church is FUN and FREE!
Do come along and see for yourself.

EASTER AT ST LEONARD'S - OUTSIDE



Left - Easter bonfire

Below - Our Easter cross and the congregation in the churchyard



Below - Lighting the Paschal candle from the Easter bonfire



EASTER AT ST LEONARD'S - INSIDE



*Flower arrangements
inside the church*



*With thanks to our
Flower Guild for the
lovely displays*

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market



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Saturday 17th May

10am - 1.30pm Food Served
All Day

Organised by **Churches Together in Marshalswick** for

Christian Aid Week

11 - 17 May

St. Leonard's Church

Events
of Summer
theme

FLOWER Festival

Saturday 7th June 11am - 6pm

Sunday 8th June 12 - 5pm

Opening with a performance by the Rock Choir

Summer Fair

Saturday 7th June 11am - 3pm

Refreshments • Entertainment • Quilt and hamper raffles
Facepainting • Activities • Bric a Brac • Tombola • Cakes

Free Entry

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www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

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 9 APRIL 2025, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors James Lambert, Adam Twidell, Julie Oakley, Debbie Chachulski

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There was none.

TO APPROVE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2025

The minutes were duly approved.

Questions to Officers

There was none.

Public Participation

Deferred to the later item concerning allotments.

CLERK'S REPORTS

Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 13 March to 9 April 2025, having been previously circulated. It was unanimously resolved to approve payment of this schedule on 11 April 2025.

Woodcock Hill Allotments

Mr Mike Caddy spoke to Members, informing them that an Allotment Holders Association has now been formed at Woodcock Hill as part of the National Allotment Society, creating an upsurge in interest from other allotment holders. He confirmed that County Councillor Allison Wren had requested a meeting with the relevant officer at Herts County Council to determine current levels of expenditure at the site and also the willingness of the Council to hand management to the Parish Council. Cllr Chalkley expressed an interest in attending.

This matter to be progressed at a later meeting once the above has been established.

Local Policing

PCSO Chris Stokes attended the meeting to update Members on current policing issues within the parish. A number of topics were covered, following which Chris was thanked for his attendance.

Library of Things (Share St Albans)

A member of Share St Albans was unfortunately unavailable to attend the meeting but expects to come to the next Full Council meeting on 14 May.

A verbal Progress Report from the Community Centres Manager on the implementation of Reserved Parking Spaces for Marshalswick Community Centre Users

The Centres Manager confirmed that the five reserved spaces and signage are expected to be complete by the end of April. It is hoped this will allow users of the centre to park more readily.

Wildflowers in Sandridge Parish

The Clerk read a statement from the PACE Officer regarding this year's wildflower beds at Harness Way open space, St Leonard's open space, William Bell open space, St Leonard's churchyard and Sherwood Park. It's hoped to produce a colourful display of annuals to support wildlife this year.

Community Garden – The Ollie Foundation

Cllr Chalkley explained some of the constructive talks she's had with The Ollie Foundation CEO in respect of their involvement in the community garden. This includes volunteer days and Arts in the Garden events. The Foundation's involvement in the garden was seen as very positive.

Matters of Note

- John O'Conner Ltd has planted eight new trees on The Ridgeway, Barnfield Road and Highfield Road on behalf of the Parish Council.
- The Parish Office has had reinstatement valuations for the two community centres carried out. These have been forwarded to the Council's insurers to be applied to the existing policy but have not resulted in an increased premium this year.

- The Year-End Internal Audit will focus around the auditor attending the Parish Office on 28 April.
- The Sports and Recreation Committee have engaged with a new street artist to finish the skate ramp on the Jersey Farm Open Space. This will be a collaborative event, with the community encouraged to attend and join in. A poster is enclosed and Members are asked to encourage resident participation.
- Around 32 swift nesting boxes will have been installed within the parish by this meeting. The Committee for Sustainability will continue with the scheme in 2025/26 with many more residents expressing an interest.
- The Jersey Farm Community Centre will be decorated internally in August 2025.
- Work to repair the tarmac surfacing around Spencer Hall will take place on Thursday 3 April.
- Traffic calming works on the B651 have now been completed by Herts Highways.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

Holiday at Home (St Mary's): Members discussed this grant application before it was unanimously resolved to award the sum of £1,200 towards the Holiday at Home event.

VE-Day 80 Commemoration

Cllr Roberts updated Members on a VE Day event to be held at St Leonard's Church on 8 May, when a beacon will be lit.

Cllr Ahmed informed the meeting that a street party will be held on Sherwood Avenue, Marshalswick.

A verbal update from Councillor Hale on the recent meeting with HCC Highway Team

County and Parish Councillor John Hale updated Members on issues relating to various addresses including Coopers Green Lane, Chalkdell Field, Oaklands Grange and Barnfield Road.

Red Eagle S6 Bus Service

Cllr Ternouth presented a report concerning issues with the S6 Red Eagle bus service. Following discussion, she undertook to draft for approval a letter to the County Council's Network Planners seeking a meeting.

East St Albans Development – Interim Report

Members reviewed a report from Cllr Ternouth regarding the next Taylor Wimpey development. It was noted that Planners may not always fully consider the Neighbourhood Plan when assessing large applications. Also noted was that, at the Parish Conference, Planners specifically asked Parish Councils to inform them of what infrastructure they would expect to be conditional for each large development.

Two things were agreed: firstly the recommendations in the report were agreed for action, with the proviso that the letters were to come from the Chair and the Clerk on behalf of the PC; secondly: it was agreed that a meeting be held at 2pm on 24 April at the Parish Council office for interested councillors to discuss a co-ordinated approach before attending the community engagement event at 3pm the same day.

(SPC has been invited to attend at 3pm, the general consultation event starts at 3.30pm).

Parish Summer Event Councillors briefly considered what event could be held this year. It was suggested that any ideas be brought to the next meeting.

An update on the St Albans Parish Conference held on 18 March

Attendees of the annual Parish Conference gave their views on the event. Overall it was felt to be useful.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES:

Committee Chairs briefed Members on meetings held since last Full Council

- Sports and Recreation: 17 March
- Committee for Sustainability: 1 April
- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee: 7 April
- Planning Committee: please see below

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

- It was asked when local florist *Flowers Flowers* would be occupying their allocated space within The Ridgeway car park and the Clerk responded it will now be Good Friday (18 April).

- Cllr Sieger informed the meeting he would be standing down due to work commitments and that this would be his last meeting.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 17 March and 7 April 2025. The 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 5/2025/0018
- 38 Briar Road 5/2024/2212
- 114 Osprey Drive 5/2025/0264
- 1 Wycombe Place 5/2024/2225

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

- Meeting with Taylor Wimpey regarding Oaklands Grange
- Co-option of new councillor

Note: In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Parish Council meetings will be open to the Public unless the Parish Council resolves otherwise.

Next meeting date – 14 May 2025 at 7.30pm

Marshalswick Community Centre

More photographs of the swift boxes installation in the Belfry



With thanks to Anne Thomas, Gavin Vicary and Maurice Wells

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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 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, with
many thanks to all our
contributors.

Please send contributions or
photographs for the next
issue by

**14 May at the latest please
to:**

news.stleonards@gmail.com

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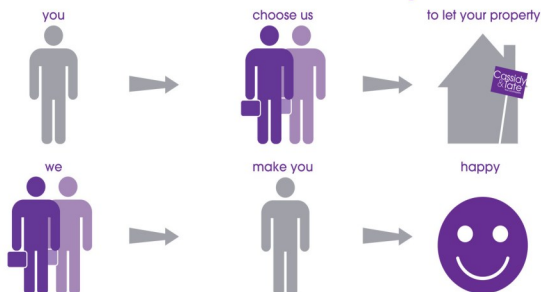


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