

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE

PARISH MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2025



DIARY FOR OCTOBER
LETTER FROM OUR VICAR
APPEAL FOR CHURCHYARD INFORMATION
HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEKEND
UPCOMING EVENTS
JERSEY FARM DAY CENTRE APPEAL
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

OCTOBER DIARY

Sunday 5 Oct	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 7 Oct	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 12 Oct	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 14 Oct	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sat/Sun 18/19 Oct	HARVEST WEEKEND: see page 7	
Sat 18 Oct	10-12	Craft Church session for children and families
Sun 19 Oct	10am	Harvest Festival service
	11am	Parish Harvest Brunch in church
	3-5pm	Harvest afternoon teas
Tuesday 21 Oct		No midweek service
Sunday 26 Oct	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 28 Oct	10am	Traditional Holy Communion



NOVEMBER DIARY

Sunday 2 Nov	All Souls	
	10am	All Saints service with communion
	3pm	All Souls service with afternoon tea
Tuesday 4 Nov	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 9 Nov	Remembrance Sunday	
	10am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Refreshments in church
	10.50am	Act of Remembrance at the Lychgate
Tuesday 11 Nov	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sat 15 Nov	10-12	Craft Church session for children and families with Christingle service at 11.30am

www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

HARVEST TIME IN SANDRIDGE



*Photos taken by
Peter Hyde at the
top of Woodcock
Hill in Sandridge*



Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

One of the joys of leaving the teaching profession is that I can take holidays whenever I like. So this letter is written in mid-September from Saltburn-by-the-Sea, on the north-east coast of England. Tomorrow we move on to Filey, which is near Scarborough and is where my husband Dale comes from originally.



I myself am definitely a Southerner! I was brought up in a village on the edge of Portsmouth Harbour. Out of our lounge window we could, on a fine day, see the Isle of Wight. Holidays were usually taken in Dorset, Devon or the New Forest. We seldom ventured 'north', apart from one visit to Sheffield for a family baptism. My parents were therefore horrified when I chose to go to university in Leeds. There was much knitting of warm jumpers and socks before I went off to the unknown frozen north. I spent three happy years in Leeds where I met Dale and we then settled in Hertfordshire where we have lived for 41 years, originally to suit Dale's job. But marrying Dale meant that the north of England became much more familiar; with regular trips to see extended family, holidays in the Lake District, and eventually all four of our children choosing a northern university to study at. My eldest daughter has lived in Yorkshire ever since.

Many people view Christianity in the same way as I viewed 'the North' as a child. It's something far off and unfamiliar. It belongs to other people. And it might not welcome new folk. But I promise you that isn't the case.

Firstly, you don't have to move house, you can just visit. So no-one is expecting you to turn up and commit to follow Jesus in one visit. Although that does happen sometimes! Why not just pop in when the building is empty, or for one of our special events or services? If you prefer to be anonymous then the Cathedral is a great choice. Or you can join a streamed service or on-line church group.

Secondly, it's undoubtedly easier if you have some past experience of faith, however small, like my one visit to Sheffield. Many of us experienced Christianity as children through school assemblies. And yes, I still take those at our local school. But if you have poor memories of singing *Kumbaya* every day (or something much worse perhaps), then I promise you church has changed.

Letter from our Vicar (cont)

At St Leonard's we are pretty laid back and try to make our services as welcoming and non-threatening as possible. And there's no wrong way to do things. There's no kneeling, sermons are short, the music is varied and the coffee (like the welcome) is good.

And thirdly, the north of England is vast and so is the Christian faith. We'd planned to go to Northumbria this week, until we realised it would take longer to drive from York to Northumberland than from Sandridge to York! That means there is something for everyone in Christianity, indeed in the Church of England. Whether you think you might enjoy band-led worship, or the ancient words of the Book of Common Prayer. Whether you want Sunday or another day. Whether you want a small community or to be lost in a crowd - all can be found within half an hour's drive of our parish. You don't have to attend your local church, or even the same one each week. You don't have to physically attend at all if you have access to the internet. But if God is calling, if you feel something is missing in your life, then please do something about it.

I have come to love the North of England, just as I have come to love my faith. Eventually Dale and I plan to retire to York. For Dale, it will be going home. For me, it will be a new adventure. Coming to faith, or returning to faith, can be either or both of those things.

Every blessing

Revd Wendy

From the Registers

Baptism:

31 August 2025 - Philippa Alice Sellers

Burial of Ashes:

31 August 2025 - Elizabeth Gordon

1 September 2025 - Richard John Anson

8 September 2025 - Lloyd Emmanuel Arquelles Fuller

Burial:

15 September 2025 - Poppy Louise Dayman



JERSEY FARM DAY CENTRE

Would you be interested in joining our team of volunteer helpers?

Jersey Farm Day Centre would love to hear from you if you think you may be interested in becoming a volunteer helper with us.

The Day Centre runs on Tuesdays during school term-time, 10.30am to 3.00pm at Jersey Farm Community Centre, providing companionship, activities and entertainment for senior citizens living in Jersey Farm, Sandridge and Marshalswick. We have up to 20 clients, the eldest of whom is 107! Some make their own way to the centre, whilst others are either brought by relatives or picked up by minibus from their homes. Most of our clients live alone and, for them, a day at the Centre is often the high spot of the week.

On arrival, tea/coffee and biscuits are served and the morning activities can include completing pencil and paper puzzles, reminiscing on topics of general interest and having a good chat, before a hot lunch is served at 12.30pm. The afternoon session begins at 1.45 pm and is given over to a wide variety of activities, including seated keep-fit, team quizzes, bingo and table games, and entertainment provided by visiting musical groups and soloists, choirs, school student musicians, and speakers on a range of fascinating topics. We round off the day with tea and biscuits before finishing at 3.00pm.

Our volunteer helpers undertake a variety of jobs, the most important of which is chatting with our clients and encouraging conversation. In between, they serve refreshments and lunch, clear away and wash up afterwards and join in with the afternoon activities and entertainment.

**If you would like to find out more,
please contact **Andy** on **07507 105960**
for further information and, we hope,
to arrange a visit**

Harvest Festival Weekend

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October



There are some things St Leonard's is really good at:

- Welcoming in our wider community
 - Uplifting and joyful worship
- Decorating our wonderful building
 - Making and eating cake!

All this will come together for our **Harvest Festival Weekend**

The church will be open all weekend for people to drop by and admire our beautiful, traditional harvest decorations

In addition, please join us at any of the following

Saturday 18 October 10am-12pm

Harvest-themed **Craft Church** with refreshments

Sunday 19 October 10am

Harvest All Together Service with hymns, readings and communion

Sunday 19 October 11am

Harvest Brunch in church - please just turn up and enjoy

Sunday 19 October 3pm-5pm

Afternoon Tea in church

You are assured of a warm welcome, whether you are a regular at our events or you've never stepped inside the church before

All these events are **FREE**, although donations are always welcome



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCHYARD

Please follow the Churchyard Regulations to keep this churchyard beautiful and safe for all users.

PLEASE DO:

- ✓ plant bulbs, seeds and annual plants. Anything else will need our permission
- ✓ take home rubbish such as pots and flower wrappings
- ✓ put green waste or unwanted soil on our compost heap
- ✓ ask if you need help clearing or levelling a grave
- ✓ remember the safety of all users of the churchyard including children and those who maintain it
- ✓ get in touch via our website for further help or advice

PLEASE DON'T:

- ✗ leave any artificial plants, grass or flowers
- ✗ place any loose items on a grave – including candles, vases, statues, chippings and solar lights
- ✗ put edging around a grave
- ✗ use anything breakable such as glass or pottery which can be a safety risk

Items not allowed under the Regulations can be removed.

This churchyard is covered by the Churchyard Regulations 2020 which are made pursuant to the provisions of section 77(1) of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018. They came into effect on 1 August 2020. A full version is available online or in the church porch.

www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

Graves in House Lane Churchyard: appeal for information

We recently commissioned a survey of the trees in House Lane churchyard to enable us to plan work more effectively - there are a surprising number of trees in that small area. We have asked the tree company to do some routine work on the yews to thin them out and keep them healthy.

There are four trees growing on graves which we shall be seeking permission from the Diocese to remove. These trees will be cut down to stumps and the stumps poisoned so as not to interfere with the graves any further. Both the trees and their roots can also damage nearby graves, not just the grave the tree is growing on. There is also a grave with a broken statue on it and this needs clearing.

The affected graves are:

Hazel Rosemary Armstrong – Buddleia
Fanny French, d.1964 – Holly
Caroline Callaghan, d.1961 – Holly
David Clark, d.2007 – Juniper
Charlie and Mary Towner, d.1988 and 2019
– broken items on grave

We would like to contact the families concerned, if we possibly can. However, we do not retain family details for funerals and burials for more than a short time, due to GDPR. If you are a member of the family of any of the above, or can put us in touch with any of these families, then please email the Vicar on: sandridgechurch1@gmail.com



Heritage Open Day - Saturday 20 September

Our first Heritage Day took place on Saturday 20 September, joining in with the national festival of Heritage Open Days from 12 to 21 September. We had no idea how many people would come to find out more about the living history of the church but we welcomed lots of visitors.

In the morning families came to join us for Craft Church. As well as activities involving stained glass windows, make a ringing bell tower or make a mouse, there was also brass rubbing and a trail to find images of animals in the fabric of the building. For younger visitors there were mice hidden around the church to find, some knitted, and some from the Vicar's collection of church mice!

Throughout the rest of the day people enjoyed:

- Reading the display boards made for the 900th anniversary, with information about both the church and the original parish
- Eating first class refreshments, sometimes while listening to our beautiful Victorian organ played by Dr John Winter.
Quite a few people throughout the day also took the opportunity to try playing the organ – no musical ability required!
- A flower arranging demonstration by Perfect Moment Florists
- A talk on the history of the building by Prof Vivian Nutton
- A tour of the building and Lychgate with Cllr Jenny Roberts
- A chance to understand how the bells work, see them in action on a film clip and then ring the tolling bell

It was a busy and joyful day and we are hugely grateful to everyone who made it possible. We very much hope to offer something similar in

September 2026.
Watch this space!

Revd Wendy Sellers
(opposite)

*900th anniversary
display boards in
church (left)*



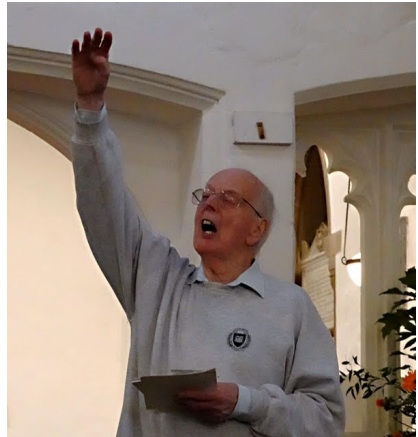
Heritage Open Day (cont)



Richard Hayes explaining bellringing



Never too young to start playing the organ!



*Vivian Nutton talking about the history of the building (above)
Flower arranging demonstration by Ingrid of **Perfect Moment** (below)*



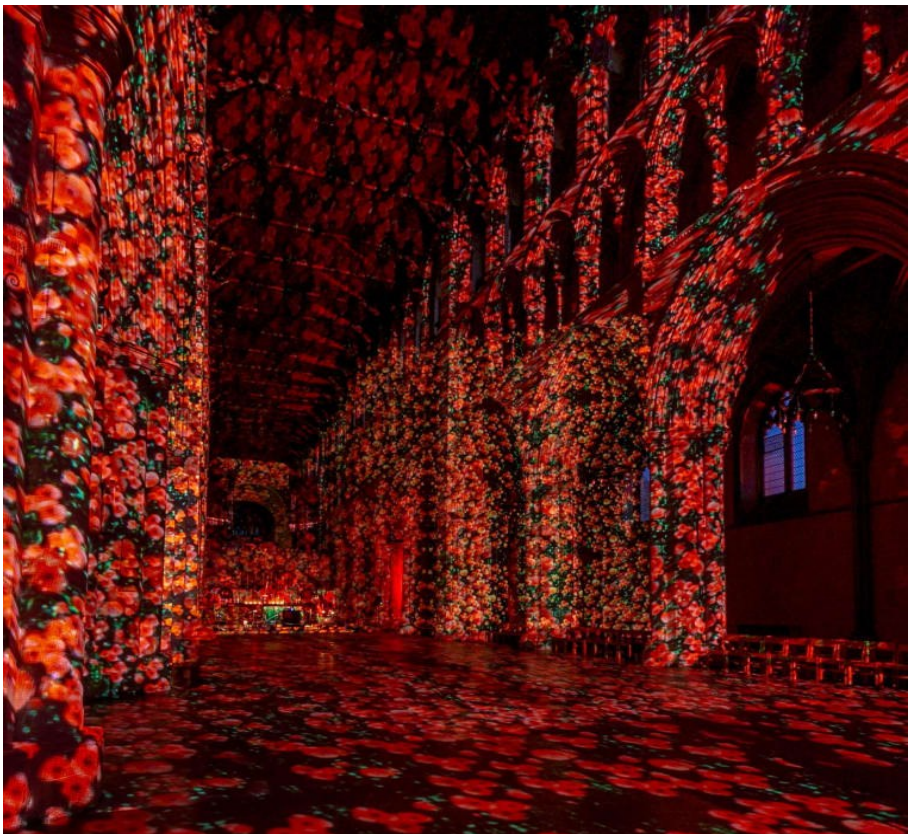
Poppy Fields by Luxmuralis

This October half term, experience *Poppy Fields* by Luxmuralis, an immersive journey of light and sound reflecting on the World Wars and hopes for peace.

Stunning projections and evocative music will transform the Cathedral into a moving work of art.

Eves: Tuesday 28 October - Saturday 1 November

Tickets bookable on the Cathedral website:
<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/Event/poppy-fields>





St Leonard's Christmas Fair 2025

**Saturday 29 November
10.30–1.00 in the Church**

Crafts and gifts stalls

Tombolas for all ages

Famous Christmas Hamper raffle

Guess the weight of the cake

Send a letter to Father Christmas

Cakes and preserves

Seasonal refreshments

Please come wearing your favourite
Christmas outfit
or jumper

A chance to prepare for
the excitement of
Christmas!

Priory Women's Club



Make a note in your diary: on **Tuesday 14 October at 2.00pm in Sandridge Village Hall** Mike Barbakoff, who is a volunteer guide at Bletchley Park Trust, will be giving a talk on St Albans from 1939 to 1945 and the important part St Albans played during WWII.

All are welcome, this talk is open to both men and women.

Fee is £4 per person, payable at the door.

Please note we are unable to take card payments.

Refreshments will be provided after the talk. **Kathy Tilney (Secretary)**

News from CTSA (Churches Together in St Albans)

Marlborough Road's **Thinking Lunches** are back on the menu on the first Thursday of the month.

The next one is on **Thursday 2 October, 12.30-1.30pm** and the speaker is Maggie Dodd, the Live Longer Better Champion and Anna Chaplaincy Lead. She will be speaking on:

How we can enable people to live better for longer, increasing healthy life expectancy and enjoying a better quality of life into older age.

You may be aware that there is a huge **reorganisation of our local council** (coming into effect on 1 April 2026) and St Albans will be merged with our local councils. You are encouraged to:

Read about this here: <https://www.hertfordshire-lgr.co.uk/>

Read about the proposed options here:

<https://www.hertfordshire-lgr.co.uk/proposed-options>

Complete a survey to give your opinion (anonymously) here:

<https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/LNoAgAHR/i/0>

On **Thursday 9 October**, Computer Friendly and Community Link will be running a session at **Marshalswick Free Baptist Church** focusing on helping older people stay safe online.

The session starts at 2pm and is free.

No need to book - everyone is welcome, even if you haven't been to Community Link before.

PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT (ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES)

AT A MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2025, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Thomas

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Wells abstained from voting at the item regarding awarding a grant to St Albans Fixers, being a member of the applicant organisation.

TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 9 JULY 2025

The minutes of the meeting 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 July to 13 August 2025. It was unanimously resolved to ratify the payment of this schedule made on 15 August 2025.

Members also reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 14 August to 10 September 2025, having been previously circulated. It was unanimously resolved to approve payment of the online transfers on this schedule on 12 September 2025 and to ratify the payment of standing charges and debit card payments already made.

Sandridge Parish Council's Risk Management Policy

Members reviewed the Parish Council's Risk Management Policy. It was resolved that Sandridge Parish Council re-adopts the policy as circulated for review in September 2026.

Parish Council Logo/Rebrand

The Clerk presented a report regarding the existing Parish Council's crest and 'branding' as used on Parish Council letterheads, buildings, van and welcome signs etc. It was generally agreed that there is the capacity for misunderstanding the Council's role within the current design. Members were asked to send the Clerk their ideas for a fresher, more meaningful design. It was unanimously resolved to instruct the Parish Office to bring back to a future meeting some draft designs/straplines that would address the above and bring a fresh and modern look to the Council's crest. A budget of £500 within 2025/26 was also approved (if required).

Library of Things

Members reviewed a short written update on the Library of Things (Share St Albans) to whom storage is provided. The Council is happy to be assisting this worthwhile project.

Benches outside Jersey Farm Community Centre

Councillors considered a request by a member of the public for two benches in the vicinity of the Jersey Farm Community Centre. There was some doubt to there being sufficient space and Cllr Wells undertook to produce a scale site plan to bring to the October meeting for consideration.

Matters of Note

- The National Joint Council has approved a Pay Award for 2025/26 of 3.2% on all salary points. This award will be implemented in the August salary run, backdated to 1 April. A 3.5% increase had been budgeted for.
- 14 new fence panels have been installed without cost between the Parish Council's car park on The Ridgeway and the Food Hall car park. This was completed following discussions around where liability for maintenance stood.
- Members are reminded that two vacant seats remain on the Planning Committee. There is also one vacancy on the Finance Committee, one on the HR Committee and two on the joint Nomansland Management Committee.

Matters of Note (cont)

- Stage 2 of the Sandridge Parish Swift initiative is now underway with the date of 5 November in the diary for a public information evening. This will commence at 7pm with both Tim Hill of the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust and Clive Fleming of Hertford Swifts in attendance. Members are encouraged to attend.
- The Committee for Sustainability will be discussing a move from hard copy agendas to electronic versions held on tablets at its meeting on 16 September.
- Herts County Council's Annual Meeting for Parish, Town & Community Councils and County Councillors will be held on 12 September either in person (Hatfield) or online. Please see the reminder emailed on 2 September for details.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

- **Sustainable St Albans (St Albans District Fixers)**
Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Leonard, seconded by Cllr Ternouth and resolved to award the sum of £750 towards the purchase of a PAT tester and training for one person.
- **Quadrant Traders Committee**
Following discussion it was resolved not to award a grant towards the provision of Christmas lights/tree at The Quadrant at this time.

Lease of Community Space (Hall) on the Oaklands Development

The meeting was updated on discussions with Taylor Wimpey around the Parish Council taking a lease on a community building on the Oaklands Phase II development. It was unanimously resolved that, in principle, the Council is prepared to progress this matter subject to a number of provisions. Cllr Leonard to write to Taylor Wimpey confirming this. The Clerk and the Centres Manager to be included in future discussions.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging in Parish Council Car Parks

Cllr Chachulski updated Members on discussions held with an EV charging point provider. She undertook to follow up that meeting with the intention of establishing viability and cost.

Community Governance Review (Boundaries)

Cllr Ternouth presented a draft report and proposal in response to the District Council's CGR consultation. It was unanimously resolved to submit the report as circulated (with two minor amendments).

Installation of Heat Pumps for the Parish Office, Hall and Committee Room

Cllr Wells talked Members through a report detailing three quotes for the installation of air source pumps in the Parish Office, Committee Room and Community Hall. It was explained that the existing systems for heating/cooling these spaces are not environmentally sound, cost effective or efficient. Questions were asked and responded to, after which it was unanimously resolved to approve the installation and also the recommended contractor, this subject to approval for the release of funds by the Finance Committee at its meeting on 22 September.

S6 Bus Service

Members received a verbal report from Cllrs Ternouth, White and Chalkley on a follow-up meeting with Mr Robert Handbury of Herts County Council Network Planning regarding the S6 bus service. It is hoped there will be improvements to the service, particularly following the development of Oaklands Grange Stage II.

Sandridge Youth Sports and Community Association

Cllr Hale updated the meeting on efforts to bring the Association onto a more stable footing.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES:

Committee Chairs spoke briefly on committee meetings as below:

- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee: 8 September 2025
- Planning Committee – see below

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

Cllr Chalkley reminded Members that the new bus shelter on The Ridgeway, incorporating a living roof, local artwork and timber planters will be officially opened on 22 Sept between 1pm and 3pm.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 21 July and 18 August and 1 September 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 objected to/commented on since the last Full Council meeting were;

- Land at Sandridgebury Lane: 5/2025/1218
- 3 Westfield Court: 5/2025/1293

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

- EV charging in Parish Council car parks
- Energy contracts
- Benches at Jersey Farm Community Centre

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 – 8 October 2025 at 7.30pm
Marshalswick Community Centre**

AFTERNOON TEAS IN CHURCH IN AUGUST

As mentioned in the September parish magazine, we had a very successful series of afternoon teas in church on every Sunday in August. Once again these proved very popular and, thanks to the generosity of our visitors who were invited to make a contribution towards their tea, we collected an excellent **£321** towards the running costs of the church.

A huge **THANK YOU** to the valiant bakers, tea makers, servers and washer-uppers who made this possible. Without the generous gifts of their time and commitment, such events wouldn't be possible. *Editor*

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Carpenter's Nursery, at JTB Butchers and in the Village Stores.

Alternatively, 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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Tel: 01727 812244

Treeves House

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WD6 1DS

Tel: 020 8953 1444



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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 are very
welcome:
please send to the Editor for
the next issue by
14 October at the latest
please
to:

news.stleonards@gmail.com

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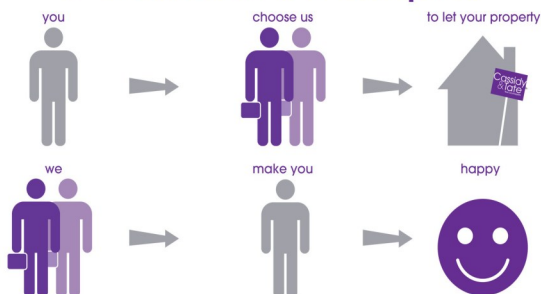


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