# ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE PARISH MAGAZINE SEPTEMBER 2025



DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER
LETTER FROM OUR VICAR
BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT
NEW HERITAGE DAY in SEPTEMBER
HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEKEND
CTM & AUGUST TEAS IN CHURCH
HOUSE LANE CHURCHYARD NEWS
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

#### SEPTEMBER DIARY

Tuesday 2 Sept	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 7 Sept	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 9 Sept	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 14 Sept	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 16 Sept	10am	Traditional Holy Communion

Saturday 20 Sept 10am-5pm Heritage Open Day - for details, see pages 4 & 5, including:
Craft Church session for children and families

Sunday 21 Sept	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 23 Sept	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 28 Sept	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 30 Sept	10am	Traditional Holy Communion

#### **OCTOBER DIARY**

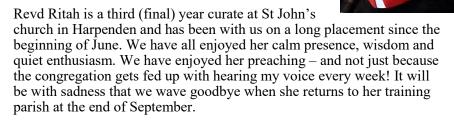
	3-5pm	in church Harvest afternoon teas
Sun 19 Oct	10am 11am	Harvest Festival service Parish Harvest Brunch
Sat/Sun 18/19 Oct Sat 18 Oct 10-12		HARVEST WEEKEND Craft Church session for children and families
Tuesday 14 Oct	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 12 Oct	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 7 Oct	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 5 Oct	10am	Holy Communion with hymns

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

#### Letter from our Vicar

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

God is often very good to me. However, I have been feeling especially blessed over the last few months as St Leonard's has enjoyed the addition to our church family of the Revd Ritah Namakula.



The purpose of Ritah's placement was to show her how ministry works in a different context to her usual one. Sandridge remains in many ways a rural village, although our parish does include a large chunk of Jersey Farm. The only 'staff' is me and I'm part time. We have no paid administrator. This means that not only do I have to do many things that a vicar of a large town church doesn't, but that almost every member of the regular congregation (and quite a few folk from the wider community too) plays a part in keeping the church open and vibrant. Everyone works as a team - without all that effort, the church would die and close. Being part of this is the great joy, but also responsibility, of being the vicar of a small church.

I have loved having a colleague to work alongside. I have learned as much from Ritah as she has learned from me. And I thank God for sending her to us, and the good people of St John's for doing without her for four months.

If you haven't met Ritah yet, she's with us until the end of September. And if you haven't met me yet, then I'm with you for the foreseeable future! Both of us would love to meet you or to see you again. And if you've been meaning to come into the church building (I'm always amazed by how many people have never quite got round to it) or not been for a while, then the Heritage Open Day provides the perfect opportunity. Perhaps we will see you then?

Every blessing.

Revd Wendy

#### Heritage Open Day - Saturday 20 September



On Saturday 20 September we will be holding our first

### **Heritage Open Day**

as part of the national Heritage Open Days week:

https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/

**Activities for all ages** 

10.00-12.00: Heritage Day Craft Church

All day: refreshments and trails

Other special events include: guided tours, the chance to try bellringing, a talk by a proper historian, an organ recital on our Victorian organ and a flower arranging masterclass.

Look out for further publicity or check our website for timings:

www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

#### Heritage Open Day—Saturday 20 September

St Leonard's church is well over 900 years old. It is one of the oldest buildings still in use in St Albans and there are actually few buildings nationally - still intact and in use - as old as our humble parish church. It's been in continual use by its community all that time and our records show that an even older church lies under its floors.

Do come and join us to celebrate the history of this wonderful building. We will be **open from 10am to 5pm**. We have all sorts of things planned, but at the time of going to print we don't have confirmed times for them all, so keep an eye on our website, posters and the local Facebook groups, or contact us using our website contact form.

**10am-12pm:** Heritage Day Craft Church with activities and crafts; also a chance to have a go at brass rubbing. People of all ages are welcome.

At other times, there will also be:

- an opportunity to find out how our bells work and even to ring a bell
- a flower arranging masterclass bring your own flowers and arrange them with some expert help. We will provide the greenery, trays and Oasis
- a tour of the church or the recently restored Lychgate
- a talk by Dr Vivian Nutton historian, bellringer, organist and jolly nice chap on the history of the church
- time to admire our stained glass, Norman font, medieval tiles, graffiti covering hundreds of years, our unique rood screen made of recycled Roman building material and much more.

Refreshments and trails around the church will be available all day. There will be a book sale of quality books about history, as well as books about the local area, as our resident professor of history is downsizing. Our wonderful Victorian organ will be played during the afternoon.

As ever, we don't charge for entry to our church or for the activities we offer. We simply welcome any donations which will help keep this magnificent place of worship open for future generations.

Please tell your friends and neighbours. Bring a guest. But whatever you do, make sure you come along and join in the fun. *Revd Wendy* 

# AFTERNOON TEAS IN AUGUST AT ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

During August, we offered afternoon tea in the church on every Sunday afternoon. As in previous years, these proved very popular, whether it was a sunny afternoon or not - tables were laid both inside and out.

Our grateful thanks go to the generous volunteers who baked and donated cakes, scones and biscuits, and also to the kind souls who were on duty each Sunday afternoon to make numerous pots of tea, to wash up endless cups and plates, and to serve up the delicious home-made goodies with a smile.

Here are some of those volunteers who generously gave of their time and



three Sundays had collected £200 towards church funds.

Ros Adlard

#### From the Registers

**Marriages:** 4 July - Joseph Patrick Luke Hodson and Ashley Anne Nelson

5 July - Thomas Edward Duke and Hayley Marie Bourne



# Harvest 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 Weekend.

The church will be open all weekend for people to drop by and admire our beautiful harvest decorations. We aim for traditional with plenty of local fruit, vegetables and often stalks of wheat too.

#### The church is open daily from at least 10.00am to 3.00pm.

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

We can assure you of a warm welcome, whether you are a regular at our events or you've never stepped inside the church before.

These events are **free**, although we always welcome donations.

Revd Wendy



#### **House Lane Churchyard News**

The Parish Council has very kindly once again awarded us a grant for the maintenance of the churchyard extension in House Lane, for which we are most grateful. Last year we spent it on urgent safety work to the two big trees at the playground end of the churchyard, plus some levelling of graves which had subsided.

This year we have already committed the grant to a full survey of our many trees, to help us spot any problems before they become urgent. We are also having some work done to the yews to remove dead branches and lower the tops slightly. Regular maintenance continues to be done by volunteers and the Community Payback team.

We have a new **Do and Don't** poster to clarify the Regulations for users of the churchyard. Posters have been up since I arrived four years ago, but I suspect not everyone reads them! Hopefully the new brief and colourful poster will be more popular. The Churchyard Regulations are in place to help all churchyards in the Diocese and not just ours.

They have several purposes:

- To make churchyards safe spaces hence the Regulation about no glass or breakable items.
- To enable churchyards to remain valuable, indeed unique, habitats for plants and wildlife hence the Regulation restricting what can be planted and the use of artificial flowers.
- To enable churches and parish councils to maintain the spaces as easily and safely as possible hence the Regulation prohibiting the introduction of edgings, chippings and bark.
- To make churchyards as beautiful and peaceful as possible for all users hence the Regulation prohibiting the introduction of items such as solar lights and windmills. While some families may find these uplifting, many find them less pleasing near their loved one's grave, so loose items are simply not permitted. This has nothing to do with taste and everything to do with considering the wider needs of the community.

Many families are surprised to be reminded that churchyards remain entirely the property - and therefore responsibility - of the church. Families don't buy graves or plots, but instead pay a fee allowing them (or their ashes) to be buried. However, any authorised memorial stones are the property, and therefore responsibility, of the family.



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

#### **PLEASE DO:**

- remember the safety of all users of the churchyard including children and those who maintain it

#### PLEASE **DON'T**:

- x 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

Please remember we are always happy to offer advice and often practical assistance too. Just get in touch via the website contact form or our email address on the inside back cover.

Thank you as ever to the many families and friends who help to make our churchyards beautiful places – even in the hot weather there have been plenty of flowers to admire.

\*Revd Wendy\*\*

#### **News from the Building Committee**

St Leonard's Building Committee is very busy at the moment with several projects aimed at maintaining and improving our beautiful village church, both for us and also for future generations to enjoy.

St Leonard's church is a Grade II\* listed building and therefore requires specialist input when any repairs or improvements are carried out. You may have noticed the scaffolding and boarding that has been erected around the church. This is in order to facilitate repairs to three areas of the roof which are leaking when it rains. After consulting with our architect and a specialist building company, a plan of action was decided upon. We then had to put the plan to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for their input. After careful consideration the plan was approved, permission to proceed with the repairs was given and a small grant obtained to help with the cost. A stonemason has repaired and replaced some stone and tiles on the two chimney stacks and several roof panels on the south side will be replaced, making everything watertight again.

We have also begun an ambitious project to update our rather inefficient heating system, in order to make our church a more welcoming place during the colder months and in an effort to become carbon neutral. Included in this project, we hope to redecorate the main body of the church and the Roland King room, as well as update the lighting in both areas. This project is currently in its infancy, working with our approved architect to produce a plan of action and finding a suitable heating system which would be acceptable to all.

As ever, we will be looking for grants to help fund all this work, as well as

using church funds, and funds from legacies left to the church, as this is going to be a very costly project. With this in mind, we always welcome donations to help keep St Leonard's church at the heart of our village and in good repair to pass on to future generations. If you would like to donate we have an electronic card machine available in church or please take a Parish Giving leaflet from the church, which is open daily from (usually) 10am to 3pm.

Jenny Dundon



#### **Churches Together Songs of Praise**

On Sunday 6 July we gathered together at St Leonard's for our annual **Churches Together in Marshalswick** (CTM) **Songs of Praise** with afternoon tea. There were representatives from most of the churches and we enjoyed homemade scones with jam and cream and a variety of cakes, before singing hymns to celebrate the 1700<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Nicene Creed – the words of which are shared by all churches across the world, professing our faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately, the weather was unsettled and there was a downpour just as we were due to start at 3pm. This meant the residents of Lyndon were unable to join us as they usually do. Those of us who braved the weather had a jolly good time (we were indoors) and the sun was out by the time we finished. Thank you to all who came and to those who provided the afternoon tea.

\*\*Revd Wendy\*\*



# PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT (ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES)

AT THE MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9 JULY 2025, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

## TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Raihaanah Ahmed, Mary Ternouth, Mike White, Jenny Roberts.

## **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 11 JUNE 2025 The minutes of the meeting were duly approved.

#### **QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS**

There was none

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

At this point the agenda item regarding Sandridge Allotments was brought forward.

Cllr Hale updated Members on a meeting held with the Clerk and a representative of Herts County Council's Managing Agents from which several questions remained unanswered. He suggested it might be feasible for the Parish Council to take management responsibility for the allotments themselves but not the access from Woodcock Hill to the allotments' gate.

He pointed out that there is likely to be a new unitary authority in place within three years which could potentially override any arrangement in place. He told the meeting that County Councillor Wren was still in discussion with officers at the County Council regarding this site.

#### **CLERK'S REPORTS**

(see opposite)

#### **Monthly Accounts**

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 12 June to 9 July 2025, having been previously circulated. Questions were asked and responded to before it was unanimously resolved to approve payment of this schedule on 11 June 2025.

#### **Creditor Payments in August**

There is no scheduled Council meeting in August. Creditor payments will therefore be made as usual by the Parish Office with the schedule emailed to Members on August 13 for payment on 15 August 2025 and ratified in September at Full Council. It was unanimously resolved that the Council approves the creditor schedule being sent electronically in August before being ratified in September (this approval is an audit requirement).

#### **Triennial Pension Fund Valuation**

As part of the 2026 Pension Fund re-valuation, the Parish Council is again being asked if it intends remaining in the pooled Herts Pension Fund for the next three years. There have been no changes to the circumstances in which Sandridge Parish Council first joined the pool.

The key benefit to remaining is that pooling with other employers (councils) with similar characteristics produces a stability that would be lost if the Council stood alone. HCC Actuaries have proven reliable in riding the volatility of recent years.

The current review of funding levels will allow HCC to re-calculate each employer's contributions for the next three years (these fell in the last valuation). There would be fees payable should the Parish Council decide to leave. It was unanimously resolved that Sandridge Parish Council will remain within the scheme for the next three years and will abide by the rules of the group for that duration.

#### **Privacy and Cookies Policy**

Members reviewed the Council's Privacy and Cookies Policy. Some minor amendments were agreed before it was unanimously resolved to re-adopt the policy as amended.

#### **COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(see overleaf)

#### **Grant Applications**

- St Mary's Church Access and Green Spaces
- Community First Responders

It was proposed by Cllr Wells, seconded by Cllr Lambert and resolved to award St Mary's Church the sum of £1,500 towards the Access and Green Spaces project.

It was further proposed by Cllr Twidell, seconded by Cllr Reid and unanimously resolved to award St Albans First Responders the sum of £1,800 towards resuscitation equipment.

#### **Woodcock Hill Allotments**

Please see previous item.

#### **Housing Developments**

Cllr Leonard spoke to Members regarding recent meetings with potential developers within the parish.

#### **Storage on Jersey Farm Woodland Park**

Members discussed a report and recommendation by Cllr Wells to install within the Woodland Park a small steel container to house the Kubota mower currently stored at the Sherwood Park garage.

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Chalkley, seconded by Cllr Thomas and unanimously resolved to proceed with the installation in accordance with Cllr Wells' report within a budget of £2,202. This will be subject to the District Council giving consent.

#### Installation of Heat Pump for Office and Committee Room

Members considered a report and recommendation from Cllr Wells regarding the installation of a heat pump(s) at the Parish Office and Committee Room. Following discussion it was unanimously resolved for Cllr Wells/Office Staff to obtain costings based on contractor site visits before reporting back in September.

#### 2026 Summer Event

Members discussed the establishment of a working group with a view to holding a summer event in 2026.

It was proposed by Cllr Leonard and seconded by Cllr Reid before being resolved not to establish a working group at this time because of potential resource issues.

#### Sandridge Youth Sports and Community Association

Cllr Hale updated Members on efforts being made to bring investment to the Association.

#### **MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES:**

Committee Chairs spoke briefly on committee meetings as below

- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee 16 June 2025
- Sports and Recreation Committee 18 June 2025
- Committee for Sustainability 24 June 2025
- Planning Committee see below

## MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

There was none.

#### PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 30 June 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;

13 Briar Road 5/2025/1066

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
- The Oaklands Development (Stage II)

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 – 10 September 2025 at 7.30pm Marshalswick Community Centre

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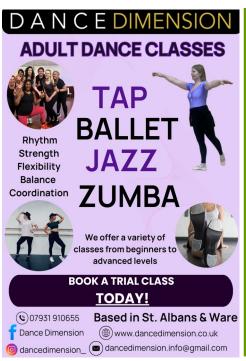
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Paper copies are available free in the church, at Carpenter's Nursery, at JTB Butchers and in the Village Stores.

Alternatively, please contact Peter Hyde via the church website for a copy to be delivered.

# Family History Research in Hertfordshire and London

#### All Enquiries Welcome

Mrs Carolynn Boucher

1 Ivinghoe Close Chiltern Park St Albans AL4 9JR



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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, with many thanks to all our contributors.

Please send contributions or photographs for the next issue by

14 September at the latest please to:

news.stleonards@gmail.com





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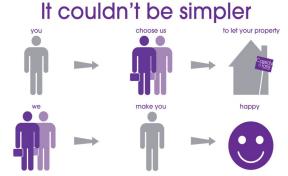
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