# ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE PARISH MAGAZINE DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026



DIARY FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY
LETTER FROM OUR VICAR
CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES
CHURCH HEATING PROJECT UPDATE
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
CHRISTMAS QUIZ
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

## **DECEMBER DIARY**

Tuesday 2 Dec	10am	Traditional Holy Communion	
Sunday 7 Dec	10am	Holy Communion with hymns	
Tuesday 9 Dec	10am	Traditional Holy Communion	
Sunday 14 Dec	10am <b>4pm</b>	Holy Communion with hymns Alban Duo Christmas concert (see page 11)	
Tues 16/23/30 Dec		NO midweek services on these Tuesdays	
Saturday 20 Dec	10-12	Christmas Craft Church	
Sunday 21 Dec	10am <b>4pm</b>	Holy Communion with hymns Family carols by candlelight + refreshments	
Weds 24 Dec	Christn 3pm 5pm 11pm	nas Eve Crib service with carols and candles Family carols by candlelight Midnight Mass with Holy Communion	
Thurs 25 Dec	<b>Christm</b> 10am	<b>as Day</b> Holy Communion with hymns	
JANUARY DIARY			

## (No Craft Church in January)

Sun 4 January	<b>Epiphar</b> 10am	ny Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 6 Jan	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 11 Jan	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 13 Jan	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 18 Jan	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 20 Jan	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 25 Jan	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 27 Jan	10am	Traditional Holy Communion

www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

## Letter from our Vicar

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

We have at last arrived at the end of 2025. Perhaps this year has sped past, perhaps it has dragged. Perhaps it has held many joys or perhaps it has held great sadness. If that is the case, I am sorry. For most of us December is the end of the year, the end of another chapter of our lives. We turn our faces to a new year, and a new season.



Yet for Christians, December heralds a beginning and not an ending. The start of this next Christian year was the beginning of Advent on 30 November. The start of the Christian narrative is the birth of Jesus, which we celebrate on Christmas Day.

It is during Advent we wait with eager longing for this new start and renewed hope for all the world and all people. On Christmas Day we celebrate the fact that God loves us so much that he decided he needed to join us here on earth, in human form. This is the meaning of the word Emmanuel: it means God with us. By being with us he could fully understand what it is like to be human. And by being human, Jesus did his very best to explain to us the nature of God and tell us of his unending and infinite love. How incredible is that?

For too many people Christmas has become a bit of a chore – too many tasks, too many social occasions, too many chances to spend money. For others it is a time of loneliness, as they feel they are missing out while everyone else is having fun. But no matter who we are, our Christmas will feel better if we make time to be with God and to thank him for the amazing gift he gave us that first Christmas.

As ever, the church will be **open daily, usually from 10.00am to 3.00pm**, so you can just drop by if you wish. If you prefer a church service then we have plenty on offer, from the stillness of Midnight Mass to the organised chaos of our services on Christmas Eve, to the more gentle Sunday afternoon offerings. We hope you will join us, as once again we hear the message of that first Christmas. God is here, God is with us, Emmanuel.

May I wish you a blessed Christmas season.

Revd Wendy

# What's happening this Christmas at St Leonard's?

## **Saturday 29 November 10.30-1.00:**

Our ever popular Christmas Fair with stalls, raffles, refreshments and general Christmas joy! Free entry, bag a bargain, win a prize or buy a homemade treat or two.

## Sunday 30 November 10am:

Advent officially begins today, so why not join us at morning service to mark the start of the season?

## Sunday 14 December 4pm:

The very welcome return of the super talented piano duet **Alban Duo**, with music for four hands on one piano. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

## Saturday 20 December 10-12:

Christmas Craft Church for all the family, with activities and refreshments.

## Sunday 21 December 4pm:

Candlelit family carol service, followed by hot chocolate and gingerbread.

## Wednesday 24 December 3pm:

Crib service with carols, candles and an interactive retelling of the story of the first Christmas.

## Wednesday 24 December 5pm:

Repeat of the candlelit family carol service (no refreshments)

## Wednesday 24 December 11pm:

Traditional Midnight Mass with Holy Communion and carols.

## Thursday 25 December 10am:

Join us to celebrate the birth of Christ at Holy Communion.

St Leonard's is just magical at Christmas, with our wonderful historic church decorated for the season. Many services are candlelit and sure to get you into the Christmas spirit by reminding you of the reason we celebrate this special time of year. We hope to see you soon. **Revd Wendy** 



## Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 10.30am-1pm Christmas Fair

Hamper raffle • Re-use a gift • Craft stall and homemade produce Quality refreshments • Children's activities – and we're hoping for a visit from Father Christmas • Lots more too. Free entry

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 4pm Christmas Concert

Musical Storytelling for Christmas with the Alban Duo Refreshments and free entry

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 10am-12pm Christmas Craft Church

Sunday 21st December 4pm
Candlelit Carol Service for all ages with refreshments

## Wednesday 24th December

- 3pm Crib Service with carols, candles and interactive story-telling of the first Christmas
  - 5pm Family Carols by Candlelight
    - 11pm Midnight Mass

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10am

**Christmas Day Service with carols and Holy Communion** 

Wednesday 18th February 10am

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
(also on Sunday 22nd February)

Saturday 21st Feb and 21st March 10am-12pm Craft Church

All events are free of charge • Everyone is welcome www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

## The Church Heating Project

If you attend St Leonard's, or read this magazine, you will know that in the winter months the church is very cold. The PCC therefore decided it was time to give up on the old gas boiler and radiators and move to a more modern and effective heating system. The problem is that the existing system heats the air, and there's just too much air and too large a roof space for that to work. We need to be heating the people and not the building.

When we started out, we hoped we'd have the new heating in for this Christmas. That turned out to be rather naïve, as a great deal has to be done before we get to that stage. However, we have been busy, along with our church architect, and made some progress.

Firstly, members of the Building Committee met with experts from the Diocese to talk about the possibilities, given we are a Grade II\* listed building. They recommended we visit some other churches with different heating solutions, which meant we had outings to other churches whose members were delighted to talk about their buildings. We decided that the best solution for St Leonard's would be radiant heating. Alongside the installation of this heating, which is electric, we will need to update the electrics in much of the church. The gas boiler, radiators and meter will be removed.

The next task was to organise a set of digital plans of the church. Our churchwarden, Lee, had a fascinating morning watching the high-tech equipment taking readings for these. Since then, we have plotted onto the plans where we would like the heaters, lights, sockets and so on.

## From the Registers

## **Baptisms:**

26 October - Narla Carol Freeman 26 October - Magnus Arthur Sutherland 2 November - Harry Alexander Arlett



#### **Burials:**

11 November - Fredrico Macedo Paes Barreto Pessoa

## **Burial of Ashes:**

17 October - Clive Rex Bostock

## The Church Heating Project (cont)

The difficulty is balancing the modern practicalities with the history of the building. We have had to write a Statement of Significance (which outlines the history of the building and its heating) and a Statement of Need (which tells the Diocese why these improvements are necessary). All of that has now been submitted to the Diocese for informal consideration. So, what happens next?

Once we have agreed any changes with the Diocese we can formally submit for legal permission to do this work. This is called a Faculty and part of that involves consulting more widely, including making the plans available in church. Once we have a Faculty in place, the architect can put together the specification and we can begin to consider who might do the work and eventually find out how much it will all cost. And yes, we are well aware that it would be nice to know that at an earlier stage! At this point, we can investigate whether any grants are available, to add to what we have saved from legacies left to the church by some wonderful people. Now you can see why the new heating won't be in by this Christmas.

We are most grateful to the members of our Building Committee who are overseeing this project, and especially to our churchwarden Lee who is leading it. Without their voluntary commitment to the church, none of this would be happening. Let's all pray that the new heating will be in by Christmas 2026.

Revd Wendy Sellers, Vicar and Chair of PCC

# CTSA Churches Together in St Albans

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in St Albans is organising a couple of special services. Both are free.

# Children's Christmas Play on Saturday 13 December at 11am Carol Service on Saturday 20 December at 11am

We'd like to invite everyone to come and celebrate with our Church the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

St. Albans Seventh-day Adventist Church is at 121 St. Peter's Street, St. Albans AL1 3EL.

## New Honorary Canons at St Albans Cathedral

At Solemn Evensong on Saturday 8 November, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, Acting Bishop of St Albans, licensed five new Honorary Canons. The new Canons - Revd Simon Cutmore, Revd Grace Sentamu-Baverstock, Revd Em Coley, Revd Darren Collins and Claire Robinson, a Cathedral Warden - were formally placed in their stalls by the Dean.

Dean Jo said: "It was a joy to install our new Honorary Canons. We are committed to praying for their ministries and we value their support for the mission and ministry of our Cathedral and Abbey Church."

Em, who is Associate Minister at St Peter, St Albans, was also made Diocesan Disability Advisor for Hertford and St Albans Archdeaconries on Saturday 1 November.



## My Birthday: The Silver Birch

I see the breeze slowly blowing in the trees, gently swaying, toing and froing. A glint of sunlight lights up the glory and hope shines through beyond the story. Twilight now descends, lark sings, and cuckoo in the distance rings. A power inside of us of delight, no-one else can ever bring such a sight.

by Margaret Maureen Sivyer

## **Tributes at Christmas**



We know that many families like to place a tribute 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**, 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 glitter, polystyrene, fake snow, etc. as these often end up shedding into the environment.

Churchyard regulations mean that loose items including candles, lights and statues or ornaments should never be left on a grave. Please do not use any breakable materials such as glass or pottery as these break and could harm other users of the churchyard.

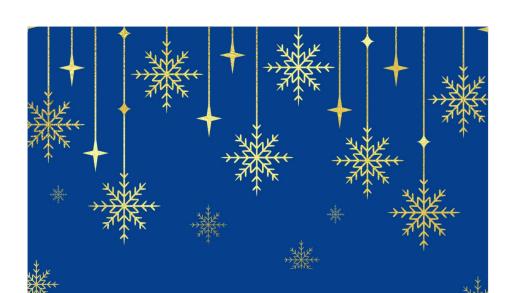
Over the past few years I have noticed a trend towards more eco-friendly Christmas tributes. This year, why not just cut some holly and other evergreen sprigs, to place on a grave? Even without water this will last for weeks, costs nothing and is fully compostable afterwards. Please feel free to prune the evergreens in either churchyard – the old churchyard has a huge holly tree that's covered in berries this year.

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 dates 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 Saturday 24 January** please.

Thank you so much.

Revd Wendy





## **ALBAN DUO PRESENTS**





St Leonard's Church, Sandridge, AL4 9DL



Donations welcome in support of St Leonard's and St Albans Good Neighbour Scheme



## Remembrance Sunday - 9 November

Remembrance Sunday this year dawned dry, mild and sunny, which encouraged a large crowd to gather for our service at the Lychgate, including the two minute silence at 11.00am. There was a large contingent of Scouts and Beavers, alongside our parishioners and villagers.

The morning began with a short reflective service of Holy Communion inside the church at 10.00am, followed by coffee, before the congregation moved outside to join those waiting by the Garden of Rest.

During the service, Revd Wendy, our vicar, read out the names of all those who are remembered on the Lychgate honour boards. Wreaths were laid under the Lychgate.

Afterwards, those attending were invited to go into church to light a candle in memory of their loved ones if they so wished. There was also a display of cards inside the church about some of those whose names are included on the honour boards.



## Remembrance Sunday (cont)





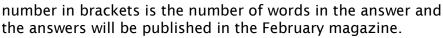
Photography by Peter Hyde and Ros Adlard





## **Christmas Quiz!**

To get you into the Christmas mood, or to play with friends and family on Christmas Day, try this quiz: each anagram is the title of a well-known Christmas carol. The



NB The cartoons are not clues!

- 1. THIS WARM ETHICS (2)
- 2. FLASHY ASTRONOMER FROM LEG GEL (6)
- 3. SONIC GAS KNOWLEDGE (3)
- 4. THY LION HOG (3)
- 5. WILD RENOWNED RANT (2)
- 6. RACY ADDITIVE ONLY SONIC (5)
- 7. HID HEALTHY NOVELTY (5)
- 8. TINSEL TWO (3)
- 9. THE CHALK SLED (3)
- 10. MANAGE RAIN WAY (4)
- 11. TROUBLEDLY TRIM ME (3)
- 12. GREEN MOTEL DYSENTRY GERM (5)
- 13. KNEEL DOTTILY (2)
- 14. EARTH SHAKING DANGER SHELL (5)
- 15. SWEET GHERKIN (3)
- 16. HANDWRITTEN BIKE MILE (4)
- 17. HARDY SYMBOLIC (3)
- 18. LIFT SHELTER NOW (3)
- 19. JILL BEGS LEN (2)
- 20. DUG MAINTAIN PETROCHEMICAL (6)
- 21. WORTHY JOLT ODE (4)
- 22. BOOM TWENTIETH HOTEL FELL (5)
- 23. WHERE STEPCHILD WED SHAH (3)
- 24. DEPLORED HE IS THE ODDER RUNNER (5)
- 25. TO WISHY WASHY RARE CRUMMIES (6)







Good luck!

Ros Adlard, Magazine Editor

# PARISHCOUNCILSUPPLEMENT (ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES)

AT A MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2025, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

## TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Reid, Terrouth and Twidell

## **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 8 OCTOBER 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 9 October to 12 November 2025. It was unanimously resolved to approve payment of the online transfers on this schedule on 14 November 2025 and to ratify the payment of standing charges and debit card payments already made.

## **Standing Orders**

Members discussed Sandridge Parish Council's Standing Orders (an amendment was approved in May this year following several updates to Financial Regulations). A copy of the Standing Orders was sent electronically to Members on 22 October 2025. It was unanimously resolved to approve the Standing Orders for the coming year.

## Swift Evening

The Clerk updated Members on the second public information evening, held on 5 November, in support of providing habitat for the visiting swift population.

#### **Public Toilets**

Councillors who had attended a meeting with an officer from the District Council regarding the provision of public toilets in the parish updated other Members. After extensive discussions Cllr Leonard undertook to write to the District Council's CEO seeking further information and Cllr Oakley undertook to write to the Woodland Trust seeking support, should the cost of maintaining the toilets in Sandridge fall to the Parish Council in future.

#### **Matters of Note**

- The four Salvation Army clothing banks in the parish will unfortunately be removed over the coming months. A global downturn in the value of used materials linked to increased overheads has meant the service is no longer financially viable. The banks had been collecting around three tonnes of clothing monthly as well as raising funds for the Parish Council's environmental projects. The Salvation Army's service provision has been outstanding.
- The draft 2026/27 Budget and recommended precept increase were presented to the Finance Committee on 3 November. These will appear on the December agenda of Full Council.
- The Sandridge Youth & Sports Community Association and the St Albans Pantry have agreed Heads of Terms for part use by the St Albans Pantry of Spencer Hall. It is expected that the St Albans Pantry will commence business there from February 2026.
- It is hoped that two draft designs for the rebranding of the Parish Council will be brought to the December meeting of Full Council for discussion.
- A steel container for housing the grass mower has now been installed on the Jersey Farm Woodland Park by volunteers led by Cllrs Wells and Twidell.
- St Albans Fixers will be holding another Repair Fair at Jersey Farm Community Centre on 28 March 2026 in collaboration with the Parish Council.

#### COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

## **Grant Applications**

Jersey Farm Day Care Centre - assistance with hire charges
 It was proposed by Cllr Leonard, seconded by Cllr Lambert
 and unanimously resolved to award the sum of £2,500
 towards hall hire.

This award to be made under the LGA 1972 s.145

 Jersey Farm Residents Association – funding for public noticeboard.

It was proposed by Cllr Wells, seconded by Cllr Chalkley and unanimously resolved to award the sum of £342 toward a new public noticeboard.

This award to be made under the LGA 1972 s.137

 The Parent Teacher Association of Sandridge JMI School – playground equipment.

Members asked the Clerk to write to the applicant for further details of the proposed works.

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

Committee Chairs spoke briefly on committee meetings as below.

- Finance Committee 3 November 2025
- Planning Committee see below

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

- Cllr Hale reminded Members there will be a Highways meeting at Marshalswick Community Centre (Committee Room) on 25 November at 2pm.
- Cllr Chachulski confirmed she'd had a meeting with residents and District Councillors regarding the public consultation on permit parking locally (ends 13 November).
- Cllr Leonard informed the meeting he'd laid a wreath on behalf of The Council at last week's remembrance service at St Leonard's Church.

#### PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 13 October and 3 November 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 to rear of Shottfield Close 5/2025/1556 A substantial objection has been raised and submitted in respect of this proposed development.
- 3 Westfield Court 5/2025/1293 An objection has been submitted regarding the proposed overdevelopment at this site.

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.

Cllr Hale spoke briefly on proposed quarrying at the Hatfield Aerodrome site.

## SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

There was none.

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 December 2025 at 7.30pm Marshalswick Community Centre

\*

# Wishing all our readers a very Happy New Year



# The Sandridge Christmas Market

Supporting local small businesses and the community!

# Saturday 6th December 11am - 4pm

## Sandridge Scout Hut, Sandridgebury Lane, AL3 6JB

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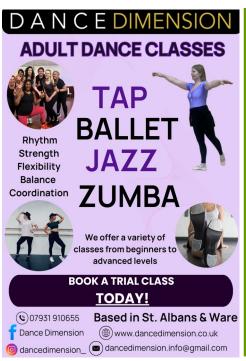
Contact Mr Gray for details mentioning Parish Magazine Telephone 01727 833076 Mobile 07973 397858 Email: stalbanstrees@btconnect.com



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Paper copies are available free in and outside the church, at Carpenter's Nursery, at JTB Butchers and Marshalswick Library.

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



**2**: 01727 833664

Email: carolynn.boucher@virginmedia.com



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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 of local interest are welcomed. If you have such an article, or photographs, please do send them to the Editor by 14 January 2026 at the latest

news.stleonards@gmail.com





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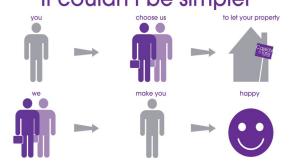
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