

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE

PARISH MAGAZINE

JULY/AUGUST 2025



DIARY FOR JULY and AUGUST
LETTER FROM OUR VICAR
FLOWER FESTIVAL & SUMMER FAIR ROUND-UP
PRIORY WOMEN'S CLUB
HERITAGE DAY in SEPTEMBER
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

JULY DIARY

Tuesday 1 July	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 6 July	10am 3pm	Holy Communion with hymns CTM Songs of Praise with afternoon tea
Tuesday 8 July	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Saturday 12 July	10am-12pm	Craft Church session for children and families
Sunday 13 July	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 15 July	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 20 July	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 22 July	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 27 July	10am	Holy Communion with hymns
Tuesday 29 July	10am	Traditional Holy Communion

AUGUST DIARY

Sunday 3 August	10am 3-5pm	Holy Communion with hymns Afternoon teas served in church
Tuesday 5 August	10am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 10 August	10am 3-5pm	Holy Communion with hymns Afternoon teas served in church
Tuesday 12 August	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 17 August	10am 3-5pm	Holy Communion with hymns Afternoon teas served in church
Tuesday 19 August	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 24 August	10am 3-5pm	Holy Communion with hymns Afternoon teas served in church
Tuesday 26 August	10am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 31 August	10am 3-5pm	Holy Communion with hymns Afternoon teas served in church

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Brothers and Sisters

As I write this, St Leonard's is just recovering from a busy weekend where we held both our Summer Fair and Flower Festival. Over the weekend we had lots of visitors. Some came to bag a bargain on the Bric a Brac stall. Some came to admire the beautiful floral arrangements. Some came for the refreshments, which are always top quality. Some came to hear the fabulous Rock Choir, who entertained us for half an hour and gave many of us an urge to join up. And some of course came because they are a part of the St Leonard's family. They came to set up, serve, clear up, count money, join in the worship and, of course, arrange flowers.



I know the whole of the parish (and we had quite a few visitors from further afield too) enjoys our community events. We have more coming up: Songs of Praise with afternoon tea on Sunday 6 July, Sunday afternoon teas in August and our Heritage Day on Saturday 20 September. We love to use the building for the wider community. However, we are a relatively small group of people and some of us are not as young as we'd wish. Might it be that you could help?

We would love to see more people getting involved. We need:

- Flower arrangers – no experience necessary, as proven by myself! The team is happy to give training and support if necessary. We have flowers in church most of the year, so you can start at any time.
- Cleaners – we have a rota to keep the church ready for visitors. The more people on the rota, the less often everyone has to do this.
- Heavy lifters – not just for the Summer Fair but other occasions too. For example, we have an unwanted sideboard in the church to go to the tip but have been unable to dispose of it ourselves.
- Bakers – almost everything we do involves cake!

If you'd like to join our happy team please get in touch. All churches say they are welcoming. Happily, St Leonard's actually is!

Every blessing.

Revd Wendy Sellers

2025 St Leonard's Church Stewardship Campaign



Regular readers of this magazine cannot fail to have noticed that St Leonard's has been running at an operating deficit and so we have been taking steps to try to put this right. One of these was the installation of a giving machine and indications so far are that this was a really good idea. Folk these days do not carry cash and we were missing out, with many people happy to make a donation but without actual money on them.

We have had lots of new literature printed, including a giving postcard, a leaflet about leaving money to the church in your will and a leaflet on regular giving. These are all available in church, or we can send them to anyone who contacts us, using the contact form on the website.

We have also had a focused campaign to try to get more people to sign up to regular giving, or to increase their existing giving. The campaign ran for six weeks and I have the preliminary results, based on the return slips.

Drum roll, please.....

- With Gift Aid, an additional £2,250 was pledged.
- Several people signed up for the Parish Giving Scheme, for an unspecified amount per month, so they aren't in the total above.
- Two people pledged a one off donation.
- Two people said they would be leaving money to the church in their wills.

2025 Stewardship campaign (cont)

We are thrilled with these results and would like to thank everyone who will have helped us to virtually halve our deficit. But there's still another half to go!

If you've been following this story, and really meant to do something about it, then please **please** do consider either donating on a regular basis or making a one-off donation. We know how much people value our beautiful building and all that happens in it and through it. We just need them to commit to helping that continue into the future.

Every blessing

Revd Wendy

Heritage Open Day - 20 September

On **Saturday 20 September** we will be holding our first Heritage Day as part of the national Heritage Open Days week:

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

Our plans are still being finalised, but it will include crafts for all ages, refreshments (of course), guided tours, a chance to ring a bell, a talk by a proper historian, an organ recital on our gorgeous Victorian organ and a flower arranging masterclass.

The day will run from 10.00am and details of the programme will appear in the September parish magazine, as well as through posters, our website and so on. Please put the date in your diary as it promises to be a really enjoyable event.

From the Registers

Burial of ashes: 1 June 2025 - Peter Thomas Judd





SUMMER FAIR

SATURDAY 5TH JULY 12 - 6PM

**Games, Live music,
Bouncy Castle, Demonstrations,
Raffle, Stalls, BBQ, Cakes**

AND

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Afternoon Teas at St Leonard's

Nothing says summer like a traditional British afternoon tea. We are pleased to invite anyone who appreciates a delicious piece of cake to come along to our afternoon teas in July and August. There's no need to pre-book and no fixed cost, but donations are always welcome.

On **Sunday 6 July** we will be hosting the **CTM (Churches Together in Marshalswick) Songs of Praise**. This starts with afternoon tea, including scones, jam and cream, at **3.00pm**. When we've all eaten our fill, we join together to sing some well-known and well-loved hymns. All are very welcome – just turn up at 3.00pm, and preferably turn up hungry!

Every **Sunday in August** we have, for several years, offered afternoon teas in the church. These are available between 3.00 and 5.00pm: the dates are listed below and on page 2 of this magazine, just inside the cover.

It's a chance to sit down, chat with people if you wish and enjoy what I refer to as our 'medieval air conditioning'. Whatever the summer weather outside, in the church it's always pleasantly cool!

Please spread the word – who wouldn't enjoy a visit to our wonderful church and some homemade cake. As ever, donations are welcome but there is no charge.

Teas are served in church on the following Sundays:

**3 August
10 August
17 August
24 August
31 August**

Rev'd Wendy Sellers



What happens when I die?

That's a question that most of us are reluctant to think about. But our reluctance can lead to all sorts of problems after our death, so we need to be brave and take a few actions in advance.

Write a will and keep it up to date. Appoint executors, asking them first, and allocate a sum to pay for their work. Anyone who has been an executor will know it's a lot of work!

If you intend to leave money to a charity (or for any other specific purpose) make this clear and ensure your family/friends know, so there are no nasty surprises. Do not assume your family will hand over part of your estate voluntarily. This needs to go in your will. If the legacy is substantial, it is best to leave a percentage to a charity, church or other cause as this is fairer to all.

Write down some basic wishes for your funeral and what you would like to happen when you die. As someone who deals with many grieving families, please don't say you don't want anything at all – funerals are for those who are left behind and are part of the grieving process. If your family/friends would like one, then let them do this.

If you have specific wishes, do not presume your nearest and dearest will know this. Nor do they have to adhere to your spoken wishes. These days people frequently choose not to have a Christian funeral, even though the deceased was a person of faith and perhaps had been a member of a church for many years. If you would like a church funeral, or a Christian minister, or to be buried in consecrated ground, write your wishes down.

One way to ensure you get the funeral you'd prefer is to buy a pre-payment plan. A good funeral director can advise. Make sure you've thought of everything – money for an organist, or flowers, or a wake perhaps. I recently took a funeral where the plan specified a full burial but had omitted the cost of the gravedigger! Don't worry, it was sorted out.

Remember that you are entitled to a church funeral, a burial in church ground (if there is space), or burial of your ashes in the churchyard if you are a resident of a parish or on the electoral role of that church.

What happens when I die? (cont)

You can also ask your vicar to lead a service at a crematorium, cemetery or other venue, and they will do what they can to help. If you want your own vicar to be involved, the funeral director needs to check dates with them beforehand – vicars tend to be very busy people with full diaries. But we are there to help and, if we can't help ourselves, will help find a suitable colleague. You do not have to attend a church regularly for any of this to happen.

Church funerals and burials tend to be cheaper than other options. Is that a surprise? And we can often help those for whom money is tight or where there is no close family able to plan a funeral.

In Sandridge parish, which retains much of its community feel, many people appreciate the chance to attend the funeral of someone they have known for many years, and this means they hope and expect the funeral will be held at the church. Those of you who attended the funerals of either Eric Darby or Roger Miller will know exactly what I mean: the church was packed to capacity on both occasions.

Funeral services or memorial services led by the vicar can almost always include all requests from the family. This includes music choices, readings and even jokes. Obviously, there is also a Christian element when I say words of comfort, which are often familiar to people. My services all mention God quite a lot. But it is perfectly possible to put together a service which doesn't make anyone feel uncomfortable, whatever their beliefs.

Finally, in my opinion, a funeral which includes thankfulness and hope at its core is the best kind for everyone. For me personally, that will mean a church funeral service. I just need to get the hymn list down to a final two, or three, or four.....

If you have any questions at all about funerals, please get in touch with me, using the contact form on our website.

Every blessing

Revd Wendy

2025 Flower Festival 7 & 8 June

The theme of this year's Flower Festival was 'Summer Events' and, as ever, our dedicated band of flower arrangers rose to the challenge and produced some very imaginative displays. Here is a selection.



*Clockwise from top
left: Morris dancing,
Scottish country
Dancing,
hamper raffle prizes,
Cowes week,
Ascot week*

2025 Flower Festival (cont)



*From top, clockwise:
English country
gardens,
Fathers' Day,
Wimbledon,
Music festivals,
Eisteddfod,
The Ashes,
Garden parties*



2025 Summer Fair Saturday 7 June

This year we combined our annual Summer Fair and Flower Festival and celebrated both in early June. This gave our flower arrangers more choice of flowers to work with. The weather forecast leading up to the day of the Fair was dire, with thunderstorms and high winds threatened, but the day dawned dry and bright and the rain held off until the last gazebo had been dismantled and packed away.

The weekend was a huge success: we had two raffles, one for hampers and one for a beautiful quilt, made and kindly donated by Kathy Tilney. Huge thanks also go to Cassidy & Tate for a raffle prize and help with publicity; also Notcutts, and Carpenters Nursery (as last year) for their very generous donations of beautiful plants for the plant stall: every plant was sold!

Thank you also to Councillor Allison Wren who opened the Fair by cutting a ribbon, and a special thank you to the excellent Rock Choir, who gave a fabulous performance which had everyone there tapping their toes or singing along. The total sum raised over the weekend was more than £2,200.

A huge thank you to our organisers, Sarah and Lee; all their hard-working helpers and stall holders; the refreshment ladies; and to everyone involved in any way. You know who you are: we couldn't do this without you all.



2025 Summer Fair (cont)



*Above:
Lee and
Hannah on
the Bottle
Tombola.*



*Below:
Tony and
Ros on the
plant stall.*

*Below:
Krystyna running
the children's
crafts*



PRIORY WOMEN'S CLUB



The Priory Women's Club, founded about 65 years ago, was so called because the group originally met near Sopwell Priory in Sopwell Lane. It is affiliated to the NAWC (National Association of Women's Clubs), which was first formed in the 1930s to help combat the financial and social problems of unemployment after WWI. The groups met once a week in working men's clubs and provided an opportunity for women to meet together for 'make do and mend' sessions, also an opportunity for social interaction and informal education.

The club is open to all women, whatever their age and interests, and enjoys a wide range of activities from talks and demonstrations, to trips, lunches and days out. Recent talks have been on Bletchley Park, the artist James Gilroy, and the WVS and its war work. Future talks on glass-making, and St Albans during the war years are planned. The members have also enjoyed a hanging basket demonstration by Carpenters Nursery, and recently had a day out on the River Thames from Windsor, with lunch on the boat - see below. Another trip was to visit a newly planted vineyard near Old Welwyn called Lokkelebery: their first wines will be ready later this year.

Ladies, why not give the group a try? It meets every Tuesday afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00pm in Sandridge Village Hall. There is no meeting in August and usually a few weeks off at Christmas. The cost is a modest £4 per week, paid monthly. It is a women's group, but men are occasionally invited to participate, such as attending the Bletchley Park talk and joining the boat trip down the Thames.

Contact Kathy Tilney at: kathleentilney@hotmail.com if you'd like to go to a July meeting or to find out more



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
11 JUNE 2025, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:**

TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Carol Chalkley, Raihaanah Ahmed, Debbie Chachulski.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Roberts declared herself a member of the St Leonard's Parochial Church Council (see grants).

TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 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 15 May to 11 June 2025, having been previously circulated.

Questions were asked and responded to before it was unanimously resolved to approve payment of this schedule on 13 June 2025.

Co-option

Members considered an application for co-option to the Parish Council, having first noted that all necessary legal procedures had first been followed and the Council's policy on co-option followed. A vote was taken before it was unanimously resolved to elect Anne Thomas as Member for Beech Bottom ward.

Asset Register

It was noted that the Finance Committee reviewed the Parish Council's Asset Register on 2 June as an audit requirement, including a review of acquisitions/disposals in the 2024/25 year. The Clerk undertook to carry out an audit of the Register in the coming 12 months, following which it was unanimously resolved to approve the Asset Register as circulated.

Internal audit – Year end 2024/2025

The Council reviewed details of the internal audits carried out last Autumn and at 2024/25 year end. The following reports were discussed and questions were asked of the Clerk (as RFO).

- The Internal Audit Analysis
- The Auditor's observations and the Clerk's responses
- The Auditor's covering letter

It was noted that, whilst there were observations made, the auditor, Kevin Rose of Internal Audit Services Ltd, found all relevant internal control objectives to have been met. Also attached was the signed Internal Audit report (part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return) in which no items were raised as requiring the Council's attention. These were also reviewed by the Finance Committee on 2 June. It was unanimously resolved to formally note the audit reports as circulated.

2024/25 Budgetary Control (outturn)

Councillors reviewed a budgetary control report showing outturn for 2024/25. It was noted that net expenditure was £342,747 against an approved budget of £360,305. This gave a reduction on budgeted net expenditure of £17,559. Material variations were summarised as:

- Approved additional expenditure through the Sports and Recreation Committee
- No new assets transferred from the District Council
- Increased Community Centre Income/understated budget

The report was formally noted.

Reserves

A table of earmarked and general reserves at year-end was reviewed and formally noted.

2024/25 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

A set of Supporting Statements compiled by George Street Accountants, together with a copy of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31 March 2025 was reviewed. Also reviewed was a table of variations on outturn between 2023/24 and 2024/25 as required by the external auditor. These were also reviewed by the Finance Committee on 2 June 2025. It was unanimously resolved that Full Council acknowledges responsibility for ensuring there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the Supporting Statements. Also that it confirms that to the best of its knowledge and belief, with regards to the Supporting Statements for year ended 31 March 2025, the 2024/25 Annual Governance Statement should be approved and that the Chair of the Council and the Parish Clerk should sign Section 1 of the AGAR.

It was further unanimously resolved that Full Council confirms that, to the best of its knowledge, the 2024/25 Accounting Statements contained in the Annual Return, plus the explanation of variances represent the financial position of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2025 and that the Parish Council Chair should sign Section 2 of the AGAR, the Parish Clerk (as RFO) having done so prior to this meeting in accordance with regulations.

The Exercise of Public Rights 2024/25

The Exercise of Public Rights, during which members of the parish are able to inspect the Annual Return and supporting statements and raise any issues of concern with the external auditor, was agreed to run from 13 June to 24 July 2025. It was unanimously resolved to formally note and approve these dates and note also that all regulations in this regard have been complied with.

Matters of Note

- Resurfacing of the Sherwood Avenue Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) is complete.
- The Astro turf pitch at Spencer Meadow has been fully washed and treated by a specialist company.
- Hanging baskets have been hung throughout the parish through the Grounds Maintenance contract.

- The street artist's design workshop in respect of decorating the skate ramp was successful, with around 20 attendees bringing their ideas. A feedback session was held on 5 June at Jersey Farm Community Centre.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

St Leonard's Church – Graveyard Extension maintenance.

Members discussed this grant application, following which a proposal was made by Cllr Reid and seconded by Cllr Hale to award the sum of £2,500. It was resolved to award the sum of £2,500 towards the maintenance of the graveyard extension (House Lane). It was asked that particular attention be given to the maintenance of military graves in both the graveyard and the graveyard extension, in accordance with the Parish Council's resolution to support and be party to the Armed Forces Covenant.

Bus Service

Cllrs Hale, Ternouth, White and Chalkley confirmed meeting with Mr Robert Handbury of Herts County Council on 30 May regarding the S6 bus service, particularly in relation to the Oaklands development. It was proposed by Cllr Ternouth, seconded by Cllr Lambert and unanimously resolved that the relevant Councillors are authorised to continue dialogue with HCC Network Planning to try to improve the S6 service and ensure that the provision of other local bus services is not adversely affected. Full Council to be kept informed of any material developments as appropriate.

Taylor Wimpey/Oaklands

On 24 May 2025 Cllrs Ternouth, Hale and Leonard met with representatives of Taylor Wimpey/Oaklands. A variety of issues were discussed including new community buildings, the provision of parking, rights of way and when an outline planning application can be expected. A report compiled by Cllr Ternouth was noted and thanks given.

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

- The Clerk informed Members that a large tent pitched on the Jersey Farm Woodland Park has been removed, following notice by the Council's Grounds Maintenance contractor.
- The Clerk asked for attendees at a developer pre-application meeting and a list was compiled.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 19 May and 9 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 5/2025/0596
- 45 St Albans Road 5/2025/0589
- The Stables 5/2024/1462

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

- Sandridge allotments
- The SYSCA (sports club) – to the July or September meeting
- Woodland Park 2026 Summer Event
- Housing developments in the parish

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

**Next meeting date – 9 July 2025 at 7.30pm
Marshalswick Community Centre**

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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@stalbens.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 August at the latest
please
to:**

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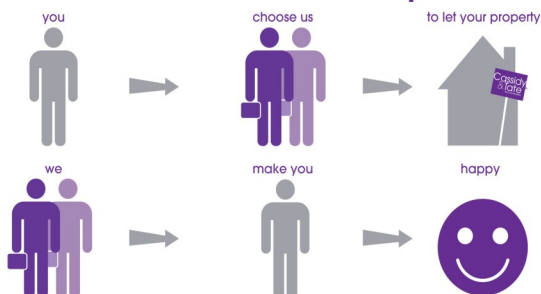


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