

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE  
PARISH MAGAZINE  
MARCH 2026



DIARY FOR MARCH  
LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER  
HEATING PROJECT UPDATE  
FLOWERS IN CHURCH & FLOWER FESTIVAL  
ST ALBANS COMMUNITY PANTRY  
CARE HOME MINISTRY  
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

## MARCH DIARY

Sunday 1	10am 4pm	Holy Communion Compline with reflection on prayer, refreshments at 3.30pm
Tuesday 3	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
Sunday 8	10am 4pm	Holy Communion Compline with reflection on prayer, refreshments at 3.30pm
Tuesday 10	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 15</b>		<b>Mothering Sunday</b>
	10am	Holy Communion with gifts of plants
Tuesday 17	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
<b>Saturday 21</b>		<b>10.00-12.00 Craft Church for children and families</b>
Sunday 22	10am 4pm	Holy Communion Compline with reflection on prayer, refreshments at 3.30pm
Tuesday 24	10am	Traditional Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 29</b>		<b>Palm Sunday</b>
	10am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 31	10am	Traditional Holy Communion



## APRIL DIARY

<b>Thursday 2</b>		<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
	8pm	Holy Communion
<b>Friday 3</b>		<b>Good Friday</b>
		<b>10.00-12.00 Easter Craft Church with egg hunt</b> 2.00-3.00 Final hour service
<b>Sunday 5</b>		<b>Easter Day</b>
	10am	Easter Sunday service with bonfire and Easter eggs
<b>Sunday 19</b> <b>April</b>	10am	<b>Holy Communion and celebratory farewell to Revd Ritah Namakula</b>



## Services and events in Lent, Holy Week and Easter

**Sunday 15 March is Mothering Sunday** We always celebrate with a joy filled service at **10am**. Mothering Sunday in church tends to focus on the role of God and the church in nurturing us, as well as the way we all mother others, but also offers the chance (for those who wish to) to thank or think about our mums. We always offer refreshments and a gift of a plant is available to all. Any spare plants are left outside to be collected and enjoyed, or gifted to another. Sometimes people kindly bring us a plant to go in the Garden of Rest or our flower beds; these are always most welcome and much longer lasting than cut flowers.

**Saturday 21 March and Friday 3 April: Craft Church from 10am to 12 noon.** As usual, families will gather for an informal session of craft, activities, a story, refreshments and chat. The session on 3 April, which is Good Friday, will include our ever-popular egg hunt in the churchyard.

On **Thursday 2 April** we mark **Maundy Thursday** with a service of **Holy Communion at 8pm**. As is traditional, at the end we strip the front part of the church before departing in silence, preparing ourselves for the events of Good Friday

**Good Friday is 3 April.** As well as Craft Church in the morning (see above), we have a service marking the **Final Hour** of Jesus' life as he hung on the cross and died. This takes place **from 2pm to 3 pm**. It is a solemn and reverent service to mark the sadness of the occasion we are remembering.

After this, the Flower Guild will decorate the church, including Easter gardens on the window sills. If you pop in on Saturday you should be able to enjoy these decorations in a peaceful church.

**Easter Sunday is 5 April.** Our service at **10am** starts inside but then we go outside to light the Easter candle from the Easter bonfire, which will be set up under the west window by the Garden of Rest. The joyful service will include our favourite Easter hymns, a reminder of our baptism vows and excellent refreshments afterwards. There will be chocolate eggs for all.

I know that some folk can find church services a bit intimidating, but please do come along and try us out. You are assured of a warm welcome.

*Revd Wendy*

## Letter from our Vicar

Dear Brothers and Sisters

In all likelihood, you have little idea of what a Vicar actually spends their day doing. Why should you? If I had a £ for every time someone made the joke about vicars only working on Sunday mornings, I'd be a wealthy woman indeed! My job is actually very varied.



I have on my study noticeboard a postcard of a cartoon which never fails to make me smile. On one side is a pie-chart of 'How TV drama vicars allocate their time' – one third is given up to solving or being implicated in a murder, one third is spent collecting in the hymn books from the pew ledges, and one third is spent returning the hymn books to the pew ledges for no discernible reason! This is contrasted with a second pie chart which attempts to show how a vicar's time might actually be allocated – services, sermon and service preparation, dealing with emails, administration, meetings, training, mentoring, pastoral visiting and so on. I do all that, but there's also a whole load of random stuff, which definitely isn't in the job description.

One thing which **is** in the job description is prayer and reflection. Everything I do as a minister is done in the name of God, and the only chance I have of any success is if I spend time in His presence. So this strangely counts as 'work'.

One thing that **isn't** in the job description is worrying about it all. Yet I still seem to spend far too much time worrying, about people, the building, situations, my ability to fit everything in, and sadly about complaints too. We do seem to live in a world where we like to complain.

Jesus is quite firm on the issue of worrying. Don't do it, he tells us. It's a waste of time. It shortens your life. And we know he is right. But still we worry.

I preached on this recently and got lots of comments afterwards. People were surprised that I worried so much, as if my position made me immune. People were reassured that it was normal, because everyone was nodding as I spoke. It's a universal human condition.

The problem is that worrying solves nothing. It makes the problem seem bigger and it stops us finding solutions because our brain is too busy worrying to actually do anything. We need, if we can, to tackle that worry. Write it down, talk to someone, offer it to God in prayer. Make it fruitful, not fruitless. Instead of worrying we can analyse or reflect, draw a picture or a chart: whatever helps us break the cycle of worry. We need to decide: is it worry, or a genuine concern? Is it us being responsible or too hard-working? Rename it and then see what can be done about it.

And if it's something that we have no control over, we need to try to let it go.

I pray that whatever you are worrying about, you can learn to either turn that worry into something positive or release it. I pray that you can remember that God knows worry is not good for us and is waiting patiently to help us carry that burden. We have a faithful, caring, loving God and he really doesn't want us to worry unnecessarily.

Every blessing.

*Revd Wendy*

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## **A Time to Pray: Compline during Lent**

This year we will be offering something new on Sunday afternoons throughout Lent. It will include:

Refreshments (of course) and a time to gather from 3.30pm.

Then at **4pm Compline** – a short, traditional and beautiful evening service, with a reflection on the nature of prayer.

Each session is stand-alone, so come to them all or just one. They take place as detailed in the front of the magazine. NB There is no session on Mothering Sunday.

We hope to see you there to enjoy a time of peace in our busy lives.

*Revd Wendy*

## **An update on the Church Heating and Lighting Project**

If you had a chance to read through the pre-Christmas parish magazine, there was an article by Revd Wendy on the proposed church heating project. I just wanted to provide a brief update on the project, now that we are into the New Year.

Having submitted the church's proposal to install an electric infrared heating system to the Diocese prior to Christmas, I am happy to say that we have received their initial comments on the proposal.

The Building Committee has worked its way through the initial feedback with the support and expertise of the church architect. We have used the comments to amend some of the proposed plans and these have been resubmitted to the Diocese to consider.

As part of the decision-making process, the Diocese has arranged to visit St Leonard's church in mid-March to see first-hand and we can then also discuss the proposal on site.

This will enable us to seek the relevant permissions and I am hopeful that we will have the new heating system ready and operational for next winter.

I want to add that, as part of an overall bigger project, we have also submitted plans to improve some of the LED lighting within the church at the same time. This proposal has been designed to improve the overall experience and to allow for some flexibility for worship, services and the various community events which are held throughout the year within St Leonard's church.

To finish, when I have any further information, I will be happy to report back over the coming months.

***Lee Myers, Churchwarden***



## Beautiful St Leonard's Church with flowers

Visiting St Leonard's Church, on entering the building you are greeted with the beauty and peace of this very ancient place of worship! And just maybe the hint of perfume from flowers....



Would you, we wonder, like to place flowers, or contribute to the cost of flowers, to celebrate an anniversary or a birthday perhaps, for someone special or for someone you miss who is no longer with us?

We have a loyal group of flower ladies, the Church Flower Guild, who are always happy to arrange either a pedestal or a vase of flowers on your behalf, or you may like to arrange the flowers yourself. A small donation would be required towards the cost: a pedestal costs £20-£50, vases are £20-£30, depending on how many flowers are used. During those seasons when there are flowers in the garden, we do try to use what's freely available.

There is a flower rota on the noticeboard on the right inside the church; if you are passing by, or going into church, you may like to add your name against a date that is special to you, to help decorate our beautiful church.

Many thanks.

*The Flower Ladies*

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## St Leonard's Flower Festival Friday 3 - Sunday 5 July 2026

**The theme of this year's Flower Festival is Books**

Perhaps your favourite book?



We welcome people either to sponsor an arrangement or to do their own

Members of the Church Flower Guild are very happy to give help and advice if needed

If you are interested in taking part in any way, please do contact Marian Fooks via the church email address: [sandridgechurch1@gmail.com](mailto:sandridgechurch1@gmail.com)

Please put **Flower Festival** in the subject line

## ST ALBANS COMMUNITY PANTRY MAKES SANDRIDGE ITS NEW HOME

As of 2 February 2026, St Albans Community Pantry has moved to the top room in Spencer Sports Centre and what a welcome from Sandridge! We have worked very hard to bring the space to life with the hum of fridges, the glisten of new flooring and the sparkle from the squeaky clean windows. None of this would have been possible without the incredible generosity of local tradespeople, the hard work of our volunteers and the unwavering support of Sandridge Parish Council.

For those who are unfamiliar with our initiative, our community fridge sessions are open to all; we invite everyone to drop in to grab what they want from our fridges, freezers and our endless supply of baked goods. We don't ask for proof of ID or income or issue vouchers; the foods have been rescued from local food outlets and we need the whole community's help to redistribute all the perfectly edible foods. We also share pet food and pet care equipment that is donated by local pet stores. Please bring your own bags and visit us as often as you wish.

We continue to prepare and deliver emergency food aid boxes to the most vulnerable in the city: at present this number stands at 400 recipients. The boxes contain fresh fruit and vegetables, cupboard essentials, culturally appropriate foods, prepped meals, toiletries and, where needed, pet food. If there are any local residents who could benefit from this assistance, please do email us with the details.

On Fridays during term time you'll find us at Jersey Farm Community Centre, serving a cooked breakfast and hosting with games, activities and crafts for babies, preschoolers and adults. The wonderful pupils of Watling View School, who volunteer every week, bring warm conversation and put a smile on everyone's face. Come along with friends, or make new ones - there is a seat at the table for everyone.

All of our services are free of charge, this is only possible with thanks to donations and our fundraising efforts. If you'd like to get involved we'd love to hear from you, in particular from those who have an enthusiasm for events and community engagement.

When you're next out for a walk in the nearby beautiful meadows and woodlands, do pop in to take a pastry with you and to meet our team. Our door is open to the public Monday to Thursday from 9am to 11am and Sunday to Wednesday from 9.30pm to 10.30pm.

**Tel: 0808 175 3917**

**Email: [stalbanscommunitypantry@gmail.com](mailto:stalbanscommunitypantry@gmail.com)**

## Care home ministry in Sandridge



*Lyndon House*

When I arrived in Sandridge in July 2021 we were still under pandemic restrictions. Church services at Tara's Retreat and Lyndon had been suspended for some time, but quickly I was able to start making some individual visits. Two key people to meet were the Anna Chaplain for the Elderly for St Albans and the Salvation Army Chaplain at Lyndon House, and it wasn't long before we had restarted services at both homes.

At Tara's Retreat there are more rooms for residents, so we started with one service which rapidly became two. One is aimed at those with memory loss and one is a more complete service of holy communion. All are welcome, of any faith or none. These still take place twice a month on a Monday morning, run jointly with the Anna Chaplaincy. If you have a friend or relative in Tara's Retreat who would like to come along, do let the staff know and they can ensure that happens.

At Lyndon House, they have their own chaplain and prayers are said daily for those of the community who wish to attend. We therefore visit once a month to offer a short service which includes communion or a blessing for those who wish for it. The uncertainty around the future of Lyndon as a care home means that it's likely these services will cease very soon. This will be very sad, especially when our August afternoon teas come around, as the residents of Lyndon House (and their carers) have always enjoyed their visits for tea and cake.

It is always a joy to go into our care homes to lead services. It gives us a chance to get to know the residents who come along and it's a delight to see them singing familiar hymns and carols or joining in with the Lord's Prayer. I am also happy to go in and visit residents – whether that is for a chat, or is more sadly at end of life.

Frequently we are asked to lead funeral services when residents pass away or to bury their ashes in our Garden of Rest. If you need me, I can be contacted via the church website contact form or the church email address, and the care homes also have my details.

*Revd Wendy*

## Sandridge Evening WI

For our 55th (Emerald) birthday we were entertained by Katie's Jumping Fleas, a local ukelele band who were excellent entertainment. There was much audience participation as we clapped and tapped our feet in time to the music. Many of us were decked out in green and there were green decorations around the hall.



There was also a quiz including questions about emeralds and birthdays.

The party continued with hot pizzas delivered from Pizza Hut and delicious desserts provided by the WI members.

It was a great celebration and most of our members were able to attend which was really good.

Look out for our publicity about other WI meetings coming up.

Tricia Campbell

[tricia.campbell3@btinternet.com](mailto:tricia.campbell3@btinternet.com)

### **Craft Church 2026**

**10.00am to 12.00 noon  
on Saturdays  
for children and families**

**21 March**

**3 April (Good Friday)**

**16 May**

**20 June**

**18 July**

**19 September - as part of Heritage Day**

**17 October**

**19 December**



**NB there is no Craft Church in August**

We hope to see you there – all are most welcome.

*Krystyna, Kathy and Jenny*

**ORGAN RECITAL**  
**by William Fox**  
**Director of Music of St Albans Cathedral**  
**Sunday 17 May at 3pm**



We are delighted to announce that William Fox, Director of Music at the Cathedral, has kindly agreed to come and play a recital of popular organ music at St Leonard's church.

**The recital is at 3pm, with tea and cake served afterwards at 4pm**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**Donations to our church are welcomed**

St Leonard's has donated a digital piano, which was left to the church by community choir Village Voices, to the Cathedral for the Hurford rehearsal rooms, where it will be put to very good use for choir practice. By way of a thank you, Will has kindly agreed to play for us in Sandridge. Don't miss this chance to hear a top class organist put our Victorian organ through its paces!

*Ros Adlard*

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## **St Leonard's Organ and its Organists**

Many of you will remember our former organist, Trevor Hawkins. Dear Trevor still lives in the village, at Tara's Retreat. He has memory loss but has not lost his love of cake nor the mischievous twinkle in his eye.

When Trevor retired, Dr Vivian Nutton kindly agreed to take over as our organist and we are hugely grateful for all he has done since then. Unfortunately, Vivian and his wife Christine will be relocating soon and that leaves us without a permanent organist.

The organ is an important part of St Leonard's. It is Victorian and has a personality all of its own. Whatever its quirks, we all cherish its input into our services and hymn singing. Played well, it makes a glorious sound for such a small instrument. We know this, as it is used as a practice instrument for the biennial St Albans International Organ Festival, the world's leading organ competition.

We are still working out how we will cover the services. Chances are we won't manage that every Sunday once Vivian leaves. We have a few people who are available to play occasionally and are in discussion about other options too. If you happen to know an organist who is free some Sundays, or a talented pianist with good sight-reading skills who would like to give it a try, do get in touch. And if you attend a service and we have to use backing tracks, we know you will understand.

ST ALBANS  
**BACH  
CHOIR**

ESTABLISHED 1924

J S Bach  
**Mass**  
in B minor



Saturday 28 March 2026

St Albans Cathedral • 7.30pm

With Sinfonia Verdi. Conducted by William Fox.

Ailish Tynan (Soprano) Lucy Cox (Soprano) Kathryn Rudge (Alto) Toby Spence (Tenor) Ashley Riches (Bass)



[www.stalbanscathedral.org/whatson/music](http://www.stalbanscathedral.org/whatson/music)

*St Albans Bach Choir is a Registered Charity: No. 285602*

**making  
music**

# ST ALBANS BACH CHOIR

ESTABLISHED 1924

# J S Bach Mass in B minor

## Conducted by:

William Fox

## Soloists:

Ailish Tynan - *Soprano*

Lucy Cox - *Soprano*

Kathryn Rudge - *Alto*

Toby Spence - *Tenor*

Ashley Riches - *Bass*

## TICKETS

£36, £32, £28, £20 and £15

## BOOK ONLINE

[www.stalbanscathedral.org/  
whatson/music](http://www.stalbanscathedral.org/whatson/music)

or by scanning  
this QR code with  
your smart device



## IN PERSON

The Cathedral gift shop box office

## Opening times:

10am - 5pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun.

## TELEPHONE

(01727) 890290



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Bach's Mass in B minor stands at the very pinnacle of achievement in the composition of sacred choral music. It is a work of monumental scale, a reflection of the depth of Bach's spiritual devotion, but quite impractical in a liturgical context.

To the mere mortal listener or performer, which is clearly most of us, it is one of the most wonderful pieces of music in which to immerse oneself and forget about this earthly world.

However, size is not just its length, but its musical complexity and depth which tends to thrill all students of music. Despite its immense complexity, it remains accessible and deeply moving to all, and has been resonating with audiences across the centuries.

Bach completed this work in 1749, a year before his death. Much of it was based on earlier work, which was usual for all composers at the time, to which Bach added newly composed sections. The forces required include a double choir, which is often split into five sections, and five soloists plus orchestra and continuo section. Bach uses all of this to produce huge choral sounds; lyrical moments of beauty; the warmth and nobility of the sacrificial lamb; and a prayer for peace; all of which ultimately creates a profound sense of musical and theological unity refreshing us to go back into the real world.

## Upcoming Concerts AT THE CATHEDRAL

**SATURDAY 27 JUNE 2026 7.30 PM**

**The Dream of Gerontius by Edward Elgar**

Conducted by William Fox

**SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2026 7.30 PM**

**There Was A Child by Jonathan Dove  
and Requiem by Gabriel Faure'**

Conducted by William Fox

**SATURDAY 05 DECEMBER 2026**

**Carol Concerts**

3.00 PM - Suitable for children

7.00 PM - For all the family

Conducted by William Fox

[www.stalbansbachchoir.org.uk](http://www.stalbansbachchoir.org.uk)

St Albans Bach Choir is a Registered Charity: No. 285602



**ST. ALBANS  
CATHEDRAL**

# **CTSA: Churches Together in St. Albans**

## **Marlborough Street Methodist Church Thinking lunches**

From 12.30pm to 1.30pm. Please bring your own lunch and drinks.

Half an hour talk and then discussion.

Donations will be gratefully received to cover expenses, any profits will be given to the speaker for a charity of their choice.

### **Thursday 5th March**

Reverend Emmanuel Onabanjo - Nigeria past and present:

Hoping for a better tomorrow

### **Thursday 7th May**

Reverend Hendry Ponniah - Tribal Mission in Borneo

### **Thursday 4th June**

Neil Kieran, SADC Principal Emergency Planning and Community Safety Officer - How do we respond to a local emergency?

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## **St Albans Salvation Army is running a series of Bible Studies throughout 2026**

3rd March @ 8am: Why Waste? Our shared excess

7th April @ 8pm: Shalom - Our shared opportunity

5th May @ 8am: Interdependence - Our shared need

2nd June @ 8pm: Sustainability and resilience - Our shared hope

Please contact [environment@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:environment@salvationarmy.org.uk) for a Teams invitation

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## **Eco Café at The Salvation Army, Victoria Street, St Albans 2nd Wednesday of every month 10am to 12 noon**

St Albans is such a progressively green city, with so much going on to help us understand how we can better care for this precious home we live in.

Take some time out from your market shopping to have a cuppa and some tasty home-made treats (including vegan and gluten-free options), at our Eco Café.

Each month will focus on a different theme, including eco crafts, water and food waste, with quizzes, information, practical activities, etc. You can join in or, if you would prefer, just have a quiet drink.

# **SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**



## **PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT (ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES)**

**AT A MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2026, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:**

### **TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Debbie Chachulski.

### **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr Ahmed declared herself a member of the St Albans Community Pantry and Cllrs Ternouth and White declared themselves members of the Marshalswick North Residents Association (please see grants).

### **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2026**

The minutes of the meeting were duly approved.

### **QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS**

There was none.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair brought forward the grant application from St Albans Community Pantry because members of the Board were in attendance. Please see Grants later in these minutes.

## **CLERK'S REPORTS**

### **Monthly Accounts**

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 15 January to 11 February 2026. It was unanimously resolved to approve payment of the online transfers on this schedule on 13 February 2026 and to ratify the payment of standing charges and debit card payments already made.

### **2025/26 Budgetary Control**

Members considered a summary of the budgetary Control Report reviewed by the Finance Committee on 9 February. The projected outturn was noted to be £333,773 against the budget of £377,832, giving a projected underspend on budget of £44,059. Key contributors being:

- Admin expenditure up £5,533
- Sports and recreation expenditure down £17,584
- Community Centres expenditure up £18,915
- Facilities Management expenditure down £18,334
- Community Activities expenditure down £5,720
- Jersey Farm Woodland Park expenditure up £12,200
- General Income up £34,752

It was resolved to formally note this projection.

### **Marshalswick Community Centre Car Park**

The PACE Officer took members through a report concerning the poor state of surfacing at this car park. It was explained that the annual repair of potholes was not achieving good value for money and that a quote had been received to resurface two thirds of the damaged area. The expected lifespan of the proposed work had a significantly higher lifespan than when holes were independently filled.

It was unanimously resolved to approve funding of up to £15,000 for resurfacing the entire central area of the car park, excluding bays.

### **Annual Parish Council Risk Assessment**

On 3 February 2026 the Deputy Clerk and the Clerk worked through the Parish Council's Local Council Risk System (LCRS) for the coming year. A summary was attached to the agenda. Two items requiring action were identified during the assessment with remedial plans in place. It was unanimously resolved to formally note the Risk Assessment and to approve its signing by the Chair.

## **Public Toilets in Marshalswick and Sandridge Village**

Members discussed at length a report by the Clerk circulated with the agenda regarding the threatened closure of public toilets in the parish. This debate followed several weeks of discussion with the District Council. It was explained that, if the Parish Council resolves to accept transfer of the two assets, a single unisex accessible toilet would be refurbished by the District Council in each block prior to transfer. It was resolved that, subject to a number of undertakings already agreed with the District Council, Sandridge Parish Council would take transfer of the two assets in order to prevent future closure. A working party was duly formed to comprise Cllrs Thomas, Wells, Ahmed, Ternouth, Chalkley and Reid.

## **Matters of Note**

- Cllr Julie Oakley has resigned from the Council with effect from 29 January 2026. The District Council will now invite residents to request an election prior to 20 February 2026. Failing this, the seat will be filled by the Parish Council through co-option. Vacancies have arisen on the Finance Committee and the Planning Committee as a result.
- The Parish Council will host a Repair Fair at Jersey Farm Community Centre with St Albans Fixers on Saturday 28 March, 1pm to 6pm. This will be subject to pre-booked slots (via Eventbrite). Volunteers are sought to help with teas and coffees.
- The Centres Manager and PACE Officer are working on a project to propose enhancements to the Marshalswick Community Centre car park. They'll be looking at surfacing, litter management, signage, CCTV and lighting before bringing a prioritised schedule of costed work to Full Council for consideration.
- Members of the Committee for Sustainability, led by Cllr Chalkley and the PACE Officer are planning a small market for the Community Garden in early summer. The theme of the market will be sustainability and the environment.
- Transfer of the assets known as the Jersey Farm Woodland Park and the Sandringham Crescent play area and Open Space has been put back to June or July 2026 by the District Council.

## **COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Grant Applications**

Marshalswick North Residents Association (MNRA):

Opening channels of communication to residents.

Following discussion it was resolved to award £600 for this purpose.

St Albans Pantry: Various works to the kitchen at Spencer Hall.

Following discussion it was resolved to award £3,360 for this purpose.

*Both the above awarded under S.137 of the LGA 1972*

### **Jersey Farm Woodland Park Pond**

Members received a verbal update on this project from Cllr Thomas.

Some key points:

- 3 - 4 dry days will be required before work recommences in order to preserve the grassed areas.
- Wildflower seeds will be sown in the spring.
- Cllr Thomas recently hosted visitors to the pond from the Highfield Park Trust.

### **Reducing Parish Council Energy Consumption**

Cllr Wells put forward a report regarding energy usage at the office and community centres. This included cutting off all gas from Marshalswick Community Centre, sourcing air source pumps for Jersey Farm Community Centre, reviewing the solar panels at Jersey Farm Community Centre and exploring cavity wall insulation there too. It was agreed that these were all helpful and Cllr Wells was asked to report back to Full Council in due course.

## **MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES**

Committee Chairs spoke briefly on committee meetings as below:

- Committee for Sustainability - 20 January 2026
- Woodland Park Committee - 26 January 2026
- HR Committee - 2 February 2026
- Finance Committee - 9 February 2026
- Planning Committee – see below

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

- Cllr Hale informed the meeting that a new telecoms mast will be installed at the Quadrant but that the existing one will be removed. The number of grey steel boxes will reduce.
- Cllr Ahmed informed members there will be a QuadFest day at The Quadrant on 2 May, and a summer event evening, also at The Quadrant, on 4 June 2026.

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

The Planning Committee met on 26 January 2026.

Sandridge Parish Council's Planning Committee meets every three weeks to review and respond to planning applications received from the Planning Authority, St. Albans District Council.

Planning applications commented on since the last Full Council meeting are:

- Land north of Sandridgebury - 5/2025/2318
- 142E St. Albans Road Sandridge - 5/2025/2325  
(this application called in by District Councillor Mostyn)
- 27 Highfield Road - 5/2025/2361

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**

Cllr Roberts asked for the Parish Council's rebranding to be brought back to the next meeting and for the Council to work towards raising its profile in the community, ahead of the Government's Community Governance Review.

**Next meeting date  
11 March 2026 at 7.30pm  
Marshalswick Community Centre**

## JTB Butchers

Sandridgebury Lane  
(next to Sandridgebury Stables)

Tel: 01727 852152

Tues to Fri: 8.00am - 5.00pm

Sat: 8.00am - 4.00pm

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## St Albans Tree and Garden Services Ltd.



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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, do send them to the

Editor by  
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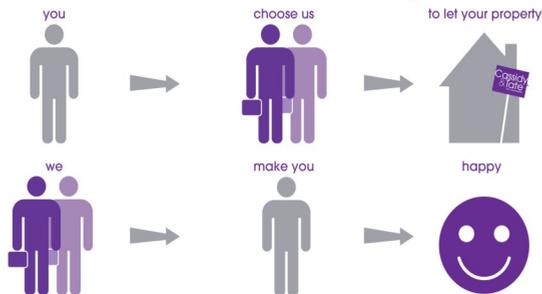


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