

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE
PARISH MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 2023**



**OCTOBER DIARY
LETTER FROM THE VICAR
HARVEST AND FLOWER FESTIVALS
CRAFT CHURCH & PET SERVICE
CHANCEL REDECORATION
LIVESTOCK UPDATE
COUNTRY CRAFTS
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

OCTOBER DIARY

Sunday	1	10.00am	Harvest Festival service, followed by refreshments
Tuesday	3	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Friday	6	5.00pm 6.00pm	Flower Festival preview, with Official opening and reception
Saturday	7	10.00-5.00	Flower Festival open
Sunday	8	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday	8	11.00-5.00 3.00pm 4.00pm	Flower Festival open, with Village Voices sing-along Drinks, toasts, wedding cake and blessing
Tuesday	10	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Sunday	15	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday	15	6.30pm	Deanery evensong, Flamstead
Tuesday	17	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Saturday	21	10.00-12.00	Craft Church
Sunday	22	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday	24	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Sunday	29	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday	31	10.00am	Midweek Communion

NOVEMBER DIARY

Sunday	5	10.00am	Holy Communion
	5	3.00pm	All Souls service, followed by afternoon tea
Tuesday	7	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Sunday	12		Remembrance Sunday

www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

The church is open daily from 10.00am until at least 3.00pm
Services: Sunday 10.00-11.15am and Tuesday 10.00-10.30am

Cover photograph - harvest display in the church

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ
Autumn is upon us and winter will follow shortly afterwards. Many of us will regret the passing of the warmth of summer and its long, light days. The church, however, actually springs into life in the Autumn, after a fairly quiet period in the summer.



Traditionally Harvest is celebrated at this time of year, although on no particular date. Harvest is of course important to everyone – but especially to rural and semi-rural communities. Although St Leonard's might lie a short bus ride from St Albans City Centre, and although most people in the parish live in St Albans, it remains at heart a rural church and so for many years (probably centuries actually) we have celebrated Harvest 'properly'. For us in 2023 this means two weekends of fun.

Firstly, our **Harvest Service is at 10.00am on Sunday 1 October**. Do come along – we will be singing those wonderful traditional harvest hymns. You can admire the church decked out in produce and then join us afterwards for refreshments. Hopefully the local primary school will be visiting us the next day. The past two years' visits didn't happen due to the impact of Covid, so fingers crossed all goes well this time. It is always a delight to welcome the children and their grown-ups into our beautiful church.

Then the next weekend is our **Flower Festival**, which has been running at Harvest time for decades. We kick off the Festival on Friday 6 October with a preview at 5.00pm and a reception at 6.00pm to which everyone is invited. We are then open all day Saturday 7 October from 10am to 5pm and on Sunday 8 October from 11am to 4pm. The Festival will close with another reception (again all welcome) and as our theme this year is weddings we shall have fizz and cake and toasts! Throughout the weekend there will be refreshments, the chance to buy a raffle ticket to win a gorgeous handmade quilt, and of course lots of flower arrangements to marvel at. To reflect the theme there will also be wedding outfits, photographs and more. If you or a family member got married at St Leonard's, do let us have a copy of a photo, or bring one along to add to the display. And if you know anyone who has recently got engaged, please encourage them to come and see what a special place St Leonard's is to get married in.

Every blessing.

Revd Wendy Sellers

W.I. Report

At our September meeting, speaker Tony Scott gave a very interesting talk on his own transition from police officer to Battlefield Tour Guide, based on organising informal trips for friends and colleagues, and his more recent involvement as a voluntary speaker for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). Our open meeting attracted a goodly number of visitors to hear him speak.

The CWGC is an intergovernmental organisation of six independent member states, whose principal function is to mark, record and maintain the graves and places of commemoration of Commonwealth of Nations military service members who died in the two world wars. Originally founded in 1917 as the Imperial War Graves Commission, it was renamed in the 1960s. The CWGC is a global organisation, caring for war graves at 23,000 locations in more than 150 countries and territories. It commemorates almost 1.7 million individuals, ensuring that all the Commonwealth men and women who died during both world wars are commemorated in a manner befitting their sacrifice.

Tony showed us slides of the various cemeteries and memorials under the Commission's care and explained that not all are easy to care for. At a very early stage, bodies were sometimes dug up to loot valuables. All the graves are of uniform design, with a regimental badge, rank and name, and a religious symbol. We have two such graves in the main churchyard, both are graves of members of the Labour Corps who succumbed to illness while living nearby; and there is a grave in the House Lane churchyard, of a man who was killed in an air raid on North Weald during the Battle of Britain, but whose wife and parents lived locally.

For more information on the work of the CWGC, visit: www.cwgc.org

At our October meeting on 10 October, Nick Hazell, of Radio Verulam, will be coming to tell us about the history and remit of the station.

Visitors are always welcome so do think about joining us at 7.30pm for 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Your first visit is free and we look forward to seeing you.

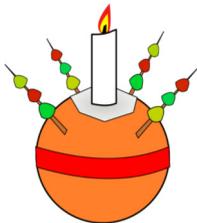
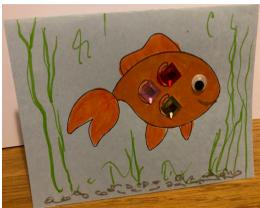
Christine Nutton, Vice president

Craft Church and Pet Service

We were very lucky to have a beautiful day, and everybody was very happy to be outside in the sunshine. We made many different animal-based crafts - the parents seemed to enjoy being involved as much as the children!



Having completed our activities we all went into the church for drinks and chocolate brownies, then back outside for the Pet Service. Wendy reminded us to give thanks for the animals on our planet; those that give us the food and materials we need, and the pets that give us companionship and help us understand about our caring responsibilities.



The remaining dates for Craft Church in 2023 are:

**Saturday 21 October, Saturday 18 November
and**

Saturday 16 December with Christingle service

Please do pass this information on to any families who might be interested in joining us.

Any questions? Please contact Revd Wendy at: revwendy55@gmail.com

Chancel Redecoration

The oldest part of the church is the chancel – the area you reach through the arch of the rood screen. Its foundations are over 900 years old.

Unfortunately, when you are that old you can need a bit of extra looking after. In our case, the chancel has peeling paint, poor lighting, no electrical sockets and signs of damp.

We have now received permission to update the electrics and to redecorate. This is generously being paid for with legacy money that was left to the church, and also from a donation made in memory of two former members of our congregation. As the church is a listed building, everything has to be done by specialists after seeking advice from an architect, so it's been a long process and is going to cost an eye-watering amount of money!

The electrical work has been done already and, probably for the first time ever, when the lights are on, you can now see the wonderful wooden roof. Your visually impaired vicar can also now see well enough to do her job properly, which is an added bonus!

The week after the Flower Festival that end of the church will be screened off for the old paint to be removed. Hopefully there will be no surprises.... Once the walls are stripped back, they can be repainted using a suitable paint for a wall that needs to breathe and we are hoping that most of the stone-work can remain unpainted.

The work will take some weeks and we apologise for any inconvenience this might cause to our visitors. It's going to be an interesting few weeks for us all! Fingers crossed, all will be back to normal in time for the run up to Christmas.

Revd Wendy

From the Parish Registers

Baptism

17 September 2023 Lily Elizabeth Grace Corrigan

Burial

5 September 2023 Doreen Caroline

Burial of Ashes

10 September 2023 Roger Frederick Payne

Livestock update

In late May, Dad's three remaining Blonde D'Aquitaine cows moved down to Kent to join a young farmer, a very experienced and dedicated stockman, who was desperate to strengthen his herd of continental cattle. I had been quite nervous about moving them but I knew it would be their best opportunity to receive the care and attention that Dad had always strived to maintain.

Over the last few months I have kept in regular contact with Andrew, the farmer, and he has kindly sent me updates on how the Blondes were settling in, and also sent me some photos. After a rather eventful journey around the M25, all three went straight out into grass paddocks and began grazing as if nothing had happened. Andrew's aim is to put the cows to a bull and try and get them in calf as soon as possible.

Recently, my wife Linda and I were able to visit the farm in Kent and were overjoyed to see how relaxed Dad's cows were. They looked extremely well and were mixing in with the other animals. Dad would have been so pleased. I have attached a picture which I hope you will like.

All three Blondes have been running with the bull and Andrew is due to scan them soon. Hopefully I will be able to provide more news soon.

Mike King



HEDGELAYING AND COPPICING



Hedgelaying and coppicing are two ancient country crafts that have been practised for hundreds of years. We have some excellent examples of both on our doorstep, which can be seen beside the path on the north side of Jersey Farm Woodland Park, along the boundary with the field sandwiched between Jersey Lane and House Lane.

Good management of our hedgerows is vitally important for wildlife, not just for food but also for refuge. If a hedge is trimmed to the same height every year, it will eventually become hollow at the base with no shelter for wildlife. If left to its own devices, it will become tall and overgrown and may even collapse. Every hedge needs to be rejuvenated from the ground upwards and hedgelaying is one of the best ways of doing this. The branches are partially cut through and bent over almost at ground level, then the branches regenerate from the base and the vertical growth fills in the gaps to provide a dense, living and natural-looking hedge, impervious to farm animals. If done well, the cut and laid branches can last for 10 to 12 years, and if the laid hedge is trimmed regularly, it can last for up to 50 years, at which time it may have to be renewed.



Coppicing, which involves cutting off stems at ground level is another way of encouraging a hedge to regenerate and is an ancient woodland management technique that dates back to the Stone Age.



If you continue south along the same path, walking parallel to the backs of the houses on the east side of Sandridge Road and crossing the junction with St Helier Road, you will come to the hazel coppice, which is on the left hand side of the path. Hazel is one of the woods traditionally used for coppicing and you will see that when the trees here regenerate after cutting, the branches grow tall and straight. Hazel makes good firewood but Stephen (in photo above) told me there is no market for it. He sells 9ft poles as beanpoles to gardeners, the ‘twiggy’ sticks as pea sticks, and he uses the withies, or hazel ‘whips’, as the binders for the hedgelaying: these are the long thin pieces woven in and out of the uprights to hold the structure together (see photo opposite).



Mark and Stephen are the two chaps responsible for the impressive hedgelaying skills on show, and are much in demand locally, as it is not a common skill. They not only work in the Woodland Park but also in the park at Hatfield House, where there are many such hedges. If you walk past and see either of them at work, do stop and say hello.



Ros Adlard

PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT

AT THE MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2023, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

There were apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Oakley, White and Chalkley.

Disclosures of Interest

Cllr Ternouth declared herself a member of the Friends of Jersey Lane (see grant applications later in these minutes).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2023 were reviewed. They were agreed to be a correct record and it was unanimously resolved that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the Chair.

Questions to Officers

There was none.

Public Participation – an opportunity for residents to raise issues or ask questions of Members

A member of the public indicated he would be happy to speak at the item concerning the continuation of the Community Centres Committee and this was approved.

CLERK'S REPORTS

Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 13 July to 9 August 2023. These accounts were paid on Friday 11 August following circulation of the schedule to Members. It was unanimously resolved to ratify the payment schedule as circulated.

Members also reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 10 August to 13 September 2023. It was unanimously resolved to approve the schedule for payment.

Projects Update

Members heard a report by the Projects, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer with updates on various projects throughout the parish.

Sandridge Parish Council's Risk Management Policy

The Parish Council's Risk Management Policy was created in July 2016 for annual review. An electronic version of the scheme was circulated to members on 22 August and 12 September 2023. It was unanimously resolved that Sandridge Parish Council re-adopts the policy as circulated for review in September 2024.

St Albans District Association of Local Councils (SADALC)

Cllr Hale volunteered to be the representative for Sandridge Parish Council on this association.

Combined Community Centres Committee

Members considered a report by the Clerk recommending the discontinuation of the Combined Community Centres Committee.

Mr Watson, a public member on the Committee, spoke in argument for retaining it.

Following discussion it was resolved to discontinue the Committee in favour of the Centres Manager reporting biannually to Full Council and carrying out a biennial user survey.

Matters of Note

- It is expected that a first draft version of the Parish Council's new website will be presented to Members at the October meeting of Full Council.
- The Parish Council was unsuccessful in securing the purchase of woodland adjacent to the Jersey Farm Woodland Park in July, bidding having exceeded the sum approved at a meeting held on 12 July 2023.
- Officers at the District Council are assessing quotes to refurbish the toilet block in the car park adjacent to Sandridge Village Hall. The Clerk has asked whether the existing toilets may be made available in the meantime and the various options are now being explored by District Council officers.
- The clothing banks in the Parish Office car park have been replaced by new banks supporting the Salvation Army's community support initiatives. The Parish Council will receive some income for hosting the banks. The previous provider was unreliable in regularly emptying the banks, resulting in fly-tipping.
- Members of London Colney Parish Council visited the community garden on 29 August and are discussing the feasibility of having something similar in their parish.

- The event planned to create street art on the skate ramp was twice delayed due to the weather. Some artwork has now been completed, with more to be rescheduled at the first opportunity.
- There will be an internal audit carried out on 20 November. The external audit report from PKF is expected w/e 15 September for report to the Finance Committee on 25 September.

Post meeting note: This report has now been received.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

Friends of Jersey Lane Members reviewed a grant application for various purposes including a website and professional fees. Following debate it was proposed by Cllr Hale, seconded by Cllr Reid and unanimously resolved to award the sum of £1,500 under the Highways Act 1980 s.43.

Note: Cllr Ternouth did not participate in the vote, having declared an Interest.

New Bike Rack for the Community Garden and Library

Members considered a report and proposal by Cllr Wells for a combined planter/bike rack at Marshalswick Community Centre. Cllr Wells explained that he had not yet received permission from the Library Manager to site the rack in the vicinity of the building. It was resolved to defer approval of the design until a suitable location has been found.

PEAP Committee

Councillors reviewed a report and joint recommendation by the Parish Clerk and Cllr Jenny Roberts in respect of expanding and renaming the PEAP Committee to the Committee for Sustainability. The new committee remit to encompass 'Protecting & Supporting Nature', 'Recycling, Reusing, Repurposing & Repairing', 'Improving the Natural Environment for Residents' and 'Carbon Reduction & Capture'. The matter was discussed at length before it was proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Lambert and unanimously resolved to adopt the new expanded remit for the committee and name change to the Committee for Sustainability.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group presented an update and proposed timetable on the Sandridge Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan review. It was proposed by Cllr Ternouth, seconded by Cllr Hale and unanimously resolved to endorse the approach taken so far and agree the updated review timetable.

Climate Fresk Training Opportunity

Cllr Lambert informed Members of an organisation called Climate Fresk, from which he had received training to facilitate sustainability workshops. Questions were asked and responded to, before it was proposed by Cllr Twidell, seconded by Cllr Wells and unanimously resolved to run training sessions for interested councillors, staff and public committee members in the first instance (up to eight participants in each), potentially then expanding the audience to include members of the public.

Parish Council Response to the draft Local Plan for St Albans District

Members considered a draft response to the District Council's draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Hale, seconded by Cllr Lambert and unanimously resolved to submit the response as circulated with the agenda.

Bentsley Spinney

Members considered a report and proposal from Cllr Chachulski recommending that members of the Parish Council meet with District Council officers to explore ways in which Bentsley Spinney could be managed more effectively for the community.

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Chachulski, seconded by Cllr Sieger and unanimously resolved to ask the Clerk to contact officers at the District Council to arrange a meeting in this regard.

St Leonard's Flower Festival

Cllr Jenny Roberts requested funding towards the creation of a flower arrangement for this festival on behalf of the Parish Council. The theme this year is weddings. It was proposed by Cllr Reid, seconded by Cllr Chachulski and unanimously resolved that the Parish Council contributes £100 towards the cost of this year's display.

Meetings of Committees:

Members noted this month's committee meetings:

- Community Centres Committee – rescheduled to 2 October
- Planning Committee – see below

*Post meeting note: After the resolution made as above, the Community Centres Committee meeting **will not now be held.***

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

Members discussed the current closure of footpaths across the Oaklands campus.

PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 24 July, 14 August and 4 September.

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

- 8 Westfield Court AL4 9JN Application 5/2023/1522
- Menage to North of Sandridgebury Farm, Sandridgebury Lane Application 5/2023/1113
- 13 Briar Road AL4 9TH 5/2023/1682
- 13 Briar Road AL4 9TH 5/2023/1683
- Sandringham School and Wheatfields School 5/2023/1485
- 1 Runcie Close AL4 9AX 5/2023/1656
- 7 Downes Road AL4 9NS 5/2023/1623

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

There was none.

Next meeting: 11 October at 7.30pm Marshalswick Community Centre

Publication notes

The magazine is edited by Rosamund Adlard,
with thanks to all our contributors.

Please send contributions for the next issue, including any photographs,
as soon as available or **by 14 October at the latest please to:**

news.stleonards@gmail.com

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