

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



**SEPTEMBER DIARY  
BIKE 'n HIKE  
PET SERVICE and CRAFT CHURCH  
FLOWER FESTIVAL NEWS  
CTM SONGS OF PRAISE  
CHURCHYARD UPDATE  
ST ALBANS GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME  
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

## SEPTEMBER DIARY

Sunday	3	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday	5		(no service)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9.00am-5.00pm</b>	<b>Church open for Bike 'n Hike</b>
Sunday	10	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday	12	10.00am	Midweek Communion
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b> <b>11.30am</b>	<b>Craft Church, with</b> <b>Refreshments, then</b> <b>Pet Service</b>
Sunday	17	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday	19	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Sunday	24	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday	26	10.00am	Midweek Communion

## OCTOBER DIARY

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Harvest Festival service</b>
Tuesday	3	10.00am	Midweek Communion
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5.00pm</b> <b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Flower Festival preview, with</b> <b>Official opening and reception</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10.00am-5.00pm</b>	<b>Flower Festival open</b>
Sunday	8	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11.00am-5.00pm</b> <b>3.00pm</b> <b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Flower Festival open, with</b> <b>Village Voices sing-along</b> <b>Drinks, toasts, wedding cake</b> <b>and blessing</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

[www.sandridgechurch.org.uk](http://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**

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*Cover photograph - harvest time in House Lane*

## THE RETURN OF PET SERVICE

Dear Friends

Ever since I arrived at St Leonard's in July 2021, people have been asking me when we were going to have another pet service. I understand these have happened at various times in the past, including one outside during the pandemic. I have at last gathered up enough courage to put one in the calendar – whether this proves to be a good idea or not we will find out on Saturday 16 September! The service itself will take place at **11.30am**, hopefully outside, as part of our regular Craft Church.



Here is the running order for the morning:

**10.00am - Craft Church** opens and there will be pet-themed crafts and activities for all ages.

**11.00am - Refreshments** will be served.

**11.30am - A short service of thanksgiving for our pets** at which, of course, our pets are welcome.

You are welcome to join in with the whole morning or any part of it. There is no need to book and no cost involved.

I understand that last time we had a whole range of different animals, including a horse, and I hope we do so again. Indeed, all kinds of pets are welcome. If you have a pet who (like my rescue dog) is likely to find this event stressful, then why not leave them at home and bring a photo instead? And if you are still mourning the loss of a pet, then similarly you could bring a photo or other memento. Soft toys are also very welcome to attend – I already regularly bless these as part of our Sunday morning service!

Obviously, both animals and humans need to be kept safe so please bring them in a secure carrier, or on a short lead, or whatever is required. That's the pets, not the humans!!

Let's pray for good weather so that we can enjoy a joyful time outside. We hope to see you and lots of pets on Saturday 16 September.

Every blessing.

*Revd Wendy Sellers*

# Flower Festival at St Leonard's 2023

As autumn is almost upon us, it must be time for the ever-popular Flower Festival at St Leonard's. This year it will be open on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 October, with a preview and launch event on Friday evening, 6 October.

The theme this year is **Weddings**. St Leonard's is a place where marriages have been solemnised and celebrated for hundreds of years and many of our visitors tell us they or family members were married at the church. Today, we still offer joyful and meaningful marriages and the church looks at its best dressed with flowers for a wedding.

The Flower Festival will therefore celebrate all things wedding: from the bridal bouquet to the reception, and from the photographer to the golden wedding anniversary. As well as flower arrangements, there will be displays of wedding clothing and photographs too. If you can lend us a mannequin we'd love to hear from you.

## Contributors:

If you wish to contribute to the Flower Festival and have not already made contact with us, please do so as soon as possible, by emailing BOTH churchwardens Kathy and Christine. **Their contact details are on page 19 of this magazine.** Contributors with no experience will be made most welcome and we will guide you as to the theme of your arrangement. We don't want to end up with five brides and no bridesmaids!! This year's festival is a bit more complicated so please don't leave it until the last minute, and don't forget to get in touch with both Kathy and Christine.

## Visitors:

If you fancy a visit (and we're sure you will) then here are the details:

### Friday 6 October:

**5.00pm** Preview

**6.00pm** Social event to launch the Festival and thank those who have contributed: **everyone is warmly invited.**

**Saturday 7 October: 10am-5pm and**

**Sunday 8 October: 11am-4pm**

Flower festival with delicious home-

made refreshments, a raffle to win an amazing quilt and some live music.



## Flower Festival at St Leonard's (continued)

**Sunday 8 October:**

**3.00pm** Sing-a-long and performance by  
Village Voices

**4.00pm** Wedding breakfast-themed closing event  
with wedding cake, fizz and toasts.

Again, **everyone is warmly invited.**



This year's raffle prize is a beautiful quilt handmade by our churchwarden Kathy Tilney: a stunning winter design in muted shades with foxes, robins and wintry patterns. Raffle tickets will be available from Friday evening until the end of the Festival on Sunday.



*Overall design of the quilt and a snowflake panel in detail*

The Flower Festival is one of our busiest weekends, when many people come from far and wide to enjoy our wonderful Grade II\* Listed church, beautifully decorated by individuals and groups from within the community. If you are a regular visitor, we look forward to seeing you again. Do please tell everyone and invite people along. If you haven't been before, then you are in for a treat!

**Entrance is free.** As with all our church events, we do not charge for entrance and are extremely grateful for donations from those who come. All the money raised goes towards keeping St Leonard's watertight and open to all.

*Revd Wendy*



## St Albans Good Neighbour Scheme

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# Do you want to make a change in your local community?

St Albans Good Neighbour Scheme is in search of you!

Our charity, run entirely by adult volunteers, is devoted to providing 'organised kindness' to locals who require assistance with day-to-day tasks, by helping with lifts to medical or social engagements, shopping, home repairs, and companionship for those feeling lonely.

We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds and with whatever time commitment they are able to offer. Our volunteers are supported and trained every step of the way and their talents and desires are aligned with the needs of our clients.

Regular newsletters and social events make sure volunteers remain connected to the Good Neighbour family.

If you're ready to make a difference, then join us today by checking out our website [www.stalbansgoodneighbourscheme.co.uk](http://www.stalbansgoodneighbourscheme.co.uk)

or give us a call on **01727 830713**.

We look forward to hearing from you!

\*\*\*\*\*

## From the Parish Registers

**Baptisms:** 28 June Holly Amelia Sellers  
16 July Harper Olivia Power  
27 August Oscar Johan Davies

**Weddings:** 16 August Christopher Willoughby and Siouxsie Mary Anne Liddle  
18 August Nathan Graeme Towner and Samantha Ann Archer  
26 August Tom Fitzgerald and Lauren Dorothy Milton

**Burials:** 5 June Justine Gardner  
19 June Matthew Jason Miller  
14 August Douglas Martin Wallace

## BIKE 'N HIKE Saturday 9 September

Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust's main fundraising event is on **Saturday 9 September** and they are hoping that many people will join in, having a great day out exploring beautiful churches in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, whilst raising essential funds to help preserve these buildings. St Leonard's is one of the churches that has benefited from the Trust in the past.

Last year Bike 'n Hike raised over £91,000 and all the money you raise in sponsorship is divided equally between your own church and the Trust, who will use it to make grants to repair churches and chapels. Anyone can take part, you don't need to be a regular churchgoer, and you can choose your own route, distance and mode of transport, or even be sponsored to act as a Welcomer.

More than 600 churches will be open on the day between **9.00am and 5.00pm**.

For all the information you need, including how to download the sponsorship form, please visit: **[www.bedshtshct.org.uk](http://www.bedshtshct.org.uk)**



*Bishop Richard taking part*

### News from the Belfry

June and July were busy months in the belfry, as we entertained visitors from Kent and the ringers from the Abbey, who were prevented from practising because of the International Organ Festival. On 8 July members of the Cambridge University Guild rang a peal of 5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor in two hours and forty minutes to mark the golden wedding of Christine and Vivian Nutton. The ringers were 1 Vivian Nutton; 2 Alan Winter; 3 Christopher Rogers; 4 Catriona Agg; 5 Jonathan Agg (conductor); 6 Brian Meads. The ringers of 2 and 3 also rang at the Nuttons' wedding in 1973.

Equally praiseworthy was a quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles rung on 24 July by local students: 1 Lucy Pether; 2 Lucas Williams; 3 Hana Booth; 4 Thomas Groves; 5 Callum Hayes (conductor); 6 Louisa Haynes. The ringers of 2 and 5 learned to ring at Sandridge, while I helped to train the ringers of 1 and 4 at St Stephen's. It's been very many years since local young ringers managed to ring a quarter peal, so Sandridge has played its part in training for the future.

*Vivian Nutton*

## W.I. Reports

At our **July meeting** John McCombe gave us a very illuminating talk, illustrated with slides, on the work of SERV (Service by Emergency) Herts and Beds. This is a nationwide service which began in South London in the 1960s and now provides an out of hours service to the NHS, delivering blood, frozen breastmilk, patient samples, organs for transplant and drugs to six hospitals and three hospices across the two counties.

Altogether it has 140 male and female volunteers who largely use their own vehicles and supply their own fuel, and they mostly operate at night.

There are also night-time handovers to neighbouring counties, which enables vital items to reach as far as Bristol. John told us that things have improved greatly since the early days, with more efficient equipment and improved cool boxes. This helps them in their aim of delivering blood, platelets and other medical supplies from one establishment to another as quickly as possible without sacrifice of safety.

John got involved when his son was unable to join as, being too young, he said “They won’t take me Dad, but you could do it!” The group was very honoured to receive the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service in the Platinum Jubilee Honours List – this is the equivalent of a group MBE.

***For more details of the charity’s work, or to make a donation, visit:  
[servhertsbeds.org.uk](http://servhertsbeds.org.uk)***

At our **August meeting**, two of our members gave us a very interesting survey, illustrated by slides of their adventures, when making the Camino di Compostela pilgrimage some while ago.

On **Tuesday 12 September** at 7.30pm for 8 pm in the Village Hall, Tony Scott of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, who has already started to research our graves at St Leonard’s and in Hatfield Road cemetery, will be speaking about local war graves. This will be an open meeting at which everyone interested, men and women, will be warmly welcomed. There will be a charge of £4 for visitors. Please contact either: [jean.thomas111@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.thomas111@btinternet.com) or [jennysandwisec@gmail.com](mailto:jennysandwisec@gmail.com) if you would like to join us. We look forward to seeing you.

***Christine Nutton, Vice-President***

## CTM Songs of Praise

On Sunday 9 July St Leonard's hosted the annual Churches Together in Marshalswick 'Songs of Praise'. As the weather was kind, we started with afternoon tea outside and then went on to sing six hymns, each one chosen by one of the churches. A group of at least 40 people joined in, representing all the CTM churches, and a very good time was had by all.

*Revd Wendy*



### Magazine distribution

The magazine is available free of charge to anyone via email.

Please contact the Magazine Editor on:

[news.stleonards@gmail.com](mailto:news.stleonards@gmail.com) if you wish to receive a monthly copy.

Paper copies are available free in the church, at Carpenter's Nursery and in the Village Stores. For people unable to obtain copies in either way, contact Peter Hyde to arrange for a copy to be delivered.

## Churchyard News

It has been a busy summer in our churchyards, especially given the rapid growth of grass and other plants due to the warm, wet weather.

Five smart new noticeboards have been installed. They will be updated regularly with news of church events and services. Three also carry a shortened version of the Churchyard Regulations: the full version is available in the church porch or online: <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/directory/diocesan-registry/>



Our regular volunteer gardeners have kept the Garden of Rest looking beautiful, including the addition of some new plants, and our professional gardener has been looking after the beds outside the church, as well as working in the House Lane Churchyard. This has included the levelling off of some graves and clearing the weeds in the shady part of the churchyard. In addition, another gardener has been mowing a significant portion of the churchyard.

We have funding for a raised bed outside the Church and this should appear in the next couple of months. It will be planted with sensory plants, including herbs. We continue to observe wildlife and unusual plant species. Animals seen include badgers, foxes, bats, newts and a slowworm – as well as parakeets! Rarer plant species spotted include sorrel.



The hedges have been trimmed – one rather more enthusiastically than expected, but hopefully it will grow back. Clearance of the rough area has begun and we are hoping Community Payback will return to finish the job. We know this is a problem area but there are no burials in this part of the churchyard and generally resources are given to the areas where the graves are. If anyone can come up with a long-term practical solution, we'd love to hear from you.

## CRAFT CHURCH

The remaining dates for 2023 are:

**Saturday 16 September with Pet Service (details on page 3)**

**Saturday 21 October**

**Saturday 18 November**

**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](mailto:revwendy55@gmail.com)

## Churchyard News (continued)

The House Lane Churchyard is particularly difficult to maintain due to the uneven nature of the ground, the clay soil and the large number of loose items that are still appearing on some graves. We are very grateful that we have not had to remove many unauthorised items recently – thank you to families for understanding that plastic or breakable items (indeed, any loose items) are not permitted. If there are items on a grave that are precious to you, please take them home and keep them there in safety.

If you have a family member buried at House Lane, do please contact us for advice before putting anything permanent on a grave. For example, edging, bark and/or stones make mowing very difficult and so are not allowed under the Regulations (this does not apply to much older graves where stone edging used to be permitted).

We would welcome the chance to help any family who would like an older grave levelled and grassed – we are trying to do this with newer plots as the soil settles.

We are always happy to be offered help with maintaining our churchyards. And, as ever, if you have any questions or need any advice please do get in touch.

*Revd Wendy*

## PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT

**AT THE MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12 JULY 2023, THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE RAISED:**

There were apologies received and accepted from Councillor Julie Oakley.

### **Disclosures of Interest**

There was none.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 June 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**

There was none.

## **CLERK'S REPORTS**

### **Monthly Accounts**

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 15 June 2023 to 12 July 2023. It was unanimously resolved to approve the payment of this schedule on 14 July 2023.

### **Terms of Reference – committee amendments for ratification by Full Council**

The Council was asked to ratify the amendments below as agreed by the various committees;

- **Finance Committee:** Annual election of a Vice Chair.
- **Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee:** Increase membership from five to six Parish Councillors.

- **Planning Committee:** The Committee to consist of eight members drawn from across the parish. The Chair to seek agreement from the members of the committee to cancel a planned meeting. Where the planning authority's rules permit, and in accordance with those rules, the committee to initiate or support the call in of an application on behalf of Sandridge Parish Council.

It was resolved to formally adopt all the above amendments to the terms of reference.

### **Matters of Note**

- Cllr Twidell has received instruction in loading, unloading and operating the new Kubota tractor and has undertaken to carry out some of the footpath cuts on the Woodland Park in future.
- The Parish Council hosted the St Albans District Association of Local Councils (SADALC) meeting on 3 July.
- The Sports and Recreation Committee is looking to recruit 'Park Rangers', ready to commit to weekly, monthly or bi-annual tasks at a preferred location in support of the committee and to assist those interested in achieving their Duke of Edinburgh award. Cllr Twidell gave Members a verbal update on the initiative and it was well received. It is hoped by the committee that more involvement from local people will lead to a greater sense of stewardship in future.

## **COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Grant Applications**

Members considered an application from the Hornbeam Wood Hedgehog Sanctuary. Following discussion it was resolved to provide a grant of £500 to Hornbeam Wood Hedgehog Sanctuary as a contribution towards educational leaflets and cards.

### **Skate Ramp**

A verbal report was given by Cllr Twidell on an initiative to involve local young people in an exciting art project on the Jersey Farm Open Space with street artist Ant Steel. This is part of a wider

project by the Sports and Recreation Committee to engage with all residents using or living close to recreational spaces. Members were provided with examples of Ant's work elsewhere in the city. It was suggested at the meeting to post the event on Facebook to make local residents aware of the initiative.

### **Cycle Parking in the Parish**

Cllr Wells provided a report to the Council ahead of the meeting with a proposal to improve cycle parking and to encourage bike use in the parish. He presented his arguments for the benefits of providing cycle parking within the parish to Members. Following discussion, it was unanimously resolved to install a set of bike stands in the vicinity of the Community Garden to the value of £1,000. Councillors agreed to fund the installation from reserves.

### **Sale of Land Adjacent to Jersey Farm Woodland Park**

Councillors discussed the sale of land adjacent to Jersey Farm Woodland Park. Information was shared to Members ahead of the meeting by Cllr Ternouth, with information from HCC on access and rights of way. Due to the timing and urgency of action, it was proposed by Cllr Twidell and seconded by Cllr Roberts to seek to purchase the land and a sum of £80,000 was agreed for this purpose to include costs. It was resolved that an Officer of the Council should enter into discussion with Savills regarding the purchase of the land.

*Post meeting note: the Parish Council was unsuccessful in securing a purchase.*

### **SADALC and HAPTC**

A verbal report was given by Cllr Hale on recent meetings of the St Albans and District Association of Local Councils and the Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils.

### **Meetings of Committees:**

Updates were given by the Chairs of the following committees:

- Sports & Recreation Committee 21 June 2023
- Jersey Farm Woodland Park 3 July 2023
- Planning Committee 3 July 2023

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

Members were informed that St Albans District Council Draft Plan consultation started on 12 July.

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 3 July 2023.

A single planning application was commented on to the Planning Authority since the last Full Council meeting;

[Plot 107 Land Adjacent Bridge Cottages, Sandridgebury Lane, St Albans – Planning Application 5/2023/1059](#)

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**

- Parish Council's response to St Albans Draft Local Plan
- Bentsley Spinney
- Neighbourhood Plan

**Next meeting date – 13 September 2023 at 7.30pm –  
at 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 September at the latest please to:**

[news.stleonards@gmail.com](mailto:news.stleonards@gmail.com)

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## Church Directory

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**Wendy's days off are Wednesday to Friday**

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**Website:**    www.sandridgechurch.org.uk

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