ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE PARISH MAGAZINE JULY - AUGUST 2024



DIARY FOR JULY - AUGUST
LETTER FROM OUR VICAR
LYCHGATE RESTORED
CTM SONGS OF PRAISE
AFTERNOON TEAS IN AUGUST
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

JULY DIARY

Tuesday 2	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 7	10.00am 3pm-4pm	Holy Communion Songs of Praise and cream tea for Churches Together in Marshalswick (see page 5)
Tuesday 9	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 14	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 16	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Saturday 20	10.00-12.00	Craft Church
Saturday 20 Sunday 21	10.00-12.00 10.00am	Craft Church Holy Communion
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Sunday 21	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 Tuesday 23	10.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Midweek Communion

AUGUST DIARY

Sunday 4		Holy Communion Afternoon tea
Sunday 11		Holy Communion Afternoon tea
Sunday 18	10.00am 3.00-5.00pm	Holy Communion Afternoon tea
Sunday 25		Holy Communion Afternoon tea
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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 (NB no Tuesday services in August)

Next Craft Church will be on 21 September

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

As I write this, I am at the Diocesan Clergy Conference, which happens every two years. Many of the Diocesan ministers and staff go away for four days to a conference centre in Derbyshire - there are several hundred of us so it needs to be a big place. We have shared meals and chatted over coffee. We have worshipped together in lots of different ways. We have



listened to inspirational speakers and laughed out loud at the brilliant Harry Baker, a poet who was the entertainment one evening. I have caught up with friends I've not seen for a while and had quiet and useful meetings with people I needed to catch up with.

All this sounds delightful, I'm sure. But sometimes it's quite challenging. There are a lot of people (I think I mentioned that already) and, as I don't see very well, that is quite daunting. Some of the worship is not quite in the style of St Leonard's. Some of the talks and discussions have led us to question our preconceptions. But overall it has been a good time.

Firstly, it is good to get ourselves out of our comfort zone occasionally. And they do say 'a change is as good as a rest'. So it's helpful to step out of parish life and remember the wider world. Secondly, the theme of the conference is God's grace. I've been reminded that in God's heart there is a Wendy-shaped hole that only I can fill. I've been reminded that I come to God just as I am and he is overjoyed with that. I've been reminded that God is there through the joy, the laughter, the awkward moments and the scary bits. And all that is good.

I hope that over this summer you too get a break of some kind. That you perhaps see some old friends - even if you don't get to share breakfast with nearly 300 of them! That you have your horizons broadened. That somehow, somewhere, you feel the grace and love of God. That there are moments when you realise that you are perfect as you are and that God has a you-shaped hole in His heart, waiting just for you.

Yours in Christ

Revd Wendy Sellers

Voluntary Position of PCC Secretary

The Parochial Church Council of St Leonard's is looking for someone to act as the PCC Secretary. This is a voluntary position and the person we are looking for must:

- Be able to word process
- Be willing to undertake a DBS check and any required safeguarding training
- Be able to preserve confidentiality
- Respect the Christian values of St Leonard's
- Attend up to six PCC meetings each year as well as the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The role involves:

- Assisting the Vicar with preparing and sending out the agenda and papers for each meeting
- Taking the minutes at meetings and submitting to the Vicar for editing
- Answering and filing correspondence this is only a very small number of letters per year

If you feel you might be the person we are looking for, please contact the Vicar: her contact details are on page 23.

St Leonard's Flower Festival 2024

This year's Flower Festival will be held on Friday 11 to Sunday 13 October

This year's theme is: Remembering with Thanks all those who helped with the war effort

Thursday 10 and Friday 11 October: set up time

Friday 11 October at 6.30pm: Grand Opening by Annie Brewster JP, the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, with singing and refreshments

Sunday 13 October at 4.00pm: Closing Event

Monday 14 October at 9.30am: Sandridge School service with the Bishop of Hertford and rededication of the Lychgate

Churches Together in Marshalswick Songs of Praise Sunday 7 July at 3.00pm

Our theme this year is Christian Unity

Afternoon tea will be served from 3.00pm, with scones, jam and cream and homemade cakes. Hopefully the weather will be fine and we will be outside in the churchyard.

After tea, we will sing the following well-known hymns:

636 The Church's One Foundation

662 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

88 Brother, Sister let me serve you

181 For I'm Building a People of Power

72 Bind Us Together Lord

689 Thy Hand O Lord Has Guided



The event will end around 4.00pm. All are very welcome to join us – no need to book and no need to pay for anything!



Afternoon Teas in August

Each year, St Leonard's offers afternoon teas on Sundays in August. This year, the dates are: Sundays 4, 11, 18 and 25 August from 3.00pm to 5.00pm.

Afternoon teas are served inside the church, but can also be enjoyed outside, weather permitting.

The teas feature homemade goodies and, as with almost all our events for the community, there is no charge for any of this deliciousness. Please do put these dates in your diary and perhaps invite someone along who would enjoy a visit to our beautiful church.

PCC

WI Report for June

At our meeting on 11 June, erstwhile English teacher and solicitor Jane Dismore gave us a very interesting talk on her route to becoming a full-time writer of historical and biographical books and an illustrated rundown of some of them, under the title: 'Royals, Rebels and Aristocrats'.

There are now only 21 non-royal duchesses living in Britain and only 24 non-royal dukes. The recently married Duke and Duchess of Westminster declined to be interviewed as they feared that Jane would concentrate on their fashion sense! However, she arranged interviews with several other duchesses for her book 'Duchesses: Living in 21st Century Britain'.

Unlike the royal family, the aristocracy still practises primogeniture, so girls are passed over for succession to the title. One interviewee was the Duchess of Abercorn who lives in Northern Ireland and is a direct descendant of the Romanovs, from Tsar Alexander . She is the sister of the mother of the current Duke of Westminster. Also included was the Duchess of Northumberland, creator of the marvellous gardens at Alnwick Castle. Her husband was not yet the Duke when they married, but his older brother died soon afterwards, which meant a huge change to their lifestyle when they moved into the Castle.

'Princess: The Early Life of Queen Elizabeth II' covers the early life of the late Queen and how the abdication suddenly catapulted an ordinary country girl aged 10 into the line of succession, and the sadness caused by the death of her Nanny. A royal tour when she was a baby left her in the care of both sets of grandparents at St Paul's Walden Bury where the Queen Mother grew up. Jane's researches uncovered previously unseen letters which revealed the late Queen's sadness as a young wife when Philip returned to his ship and the sensitivities of her father. She was the first member of the Royal Family to join the armed forces fulltime and drew on her solid background and the people who shaped her life during the rapidly changing times of her long reign.

Our next meeting on **9 July** will be a summer *Bring and Share Tea* in a member's garden: Janet Churchard has kindly agreed to host this from 3.00pm to 5.00pm at 58 Pondfield Crescent AL4 9PF.

Christine Nutton, Vice-President





Crossing the Waters Saturday 13 July 2024, 7.30pm

A concert of spoken word and live music performed by The Revd Canon Mpho Tutu van Furth and jazz musician Pete Letanka.

Book your tickets now in person or online using the QR code or website address below:



www.stalbanscathedral.org/crossing-the-waters



Crossing the Waters, hosted jointly by the St Albans
Cathedral Music and Education Trusts as part of the
75th Anniversary of The Commonwealth celebrations, is
performed by The Reverend Canon Mpho Tutu van Furth
and Pete Letanka.

Mpho is a South African Anglican priest, author and daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Pete is a jazz pianist, composer and educator. Together they share their stories and experiences of their South African heritage, discussing ideas of identity, responding to the past and ways towards reconciliation.

These conversations are punctuated by music performed by Pete Letanka's jazz trio. Through stories and music Mpho and Pete explore the challenges and rewards of crossing the waters of perceived differences to find common ground.

www.stalbanscathedral.org/crossing-the-waters

Unveiling the new refurbished Lychgate at St Leonard's Church

(first published in Neighbourhood News and reproduced here with kind permission of the Parish Council and Councillor Jenny Roberts)

At last the rain stopped and the sun came out to enable the final work to be completed on the repair and refurbishment of the Grade II lychgate at St Leonard's Church, Sandridge, in early May.





In April it was possible for the beautifully restored plaques with the list of names of those from Sandridge who died in WWI and WWII to be put back onto the front of the lychgate. The plaque explaining about the lychgate being built as a war memorial to remember the sacrifice of those who died was also returned. Then the honour boards naming those who served in WWI and returned home were rehung in the underside of the lychgate roof.

Finally, the further coats of preservatives could be applied to the timbers and roof and the rest of the work on the brickwork could be carried out. As well as achieving an improvement to the structure to enable it to be there for many more years, the restoration of the honour boards has been particularly successful.

In recent years, it had become increasingly difficult to be able to read the names of those listed on the boards. Today, the names and any with medal awards received are clear to see. This has been much appreciated by those families who, through social media groups, have become aware of the restoration work carried out on the boards where their grandfather or great grandfathers have been listed. We are hoping that more descendants of the men listed



will become aware of this and we will be able to learn more about what happened to those men on their return home from active service.



The inscription above the lychgate reads:

Through the Grave and
Gate of Death
[we] pass to our
Joyful
Resurrection

In October, as part of this year's Flower Festival at St Leonard's Church, there will be a rededication service and celebration of the repaired lychgate which everyone interested can attend. Further details will be published in the September parish magazine.

We are grateful to all those who contributed to the funding of this project, and that includes St Leonard's Church, The War Memorials Trust, Sandridge Parish Council, Councillor Annie Brewster and residents of Sandridge Parish.

It is now important that people visit to see and appreciate the historic memorial and that we continue to look after the lychgate to ensure that the memory of those who died and those who served is never forgotten.

Councillor Jenny Roberts

ST LEONARD'S SUMMER FAIR 2024



Above: Christine and Vivian running the book stall

Right: Amelie, Anne and Jenny on the bric a brac stall





Left: the bottle and sweets Tombola stalls always do a good trade!

The delicious refreshments, inside the church and provided by Ruth, did especially well this year.



Our grateful thanks to Carpenter's Nursery for their generous donation of assorted plants for our plant stall, run by Kathy

Below: Marion and Carolynn on the cakes and preserves stall



Face painting and children's crafts, organised by Krystyna, are both always popular!

This year's Summer Fair made more than £1100: HUGE thanks to all who contributed and/or helped on the day.





PARISH COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT

(ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES)

AT THE MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12 JUNE 2024, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Ahmed, White, Twidell and Sieger.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There was none.

TO APPROVE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 MAY 2024

The minutes were duly approved.

Questions to Officers

There was none.

Public Participation

There was none.

CLERK'S REPORTS

Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 9 May to 12 June 2024. It was unanimously resolved to approve the schedule of creditors for this month.

Luke Shenton – Site Manager (Central England) The Woodland TrustMembers welcomed Mr Luke Shenton of The Woodland Trust. Luke kindly informed the meeting of what's currently planned for Heartwood Forest, of which he is site manager. Questions were asked and responded to.

Asset Register

Councillors reviewed the Parish Council's Asset Register. It was unanimously resolved that Full Council approves the Asset Register as circulated (note: the Parish Office will carry out an audit of all items over the next year in liaison with committees).

Internal audit - Year end 2023/2024

Members reviewed the 2023/24 year-end internal audit report and accompanying papers completed by IAC Ltd. Also reviewed were the Clerk's responses to the matters raised. These had already been considered by the Finance Committee at a meeting held on 5 June.

Members noted the signed Internal Audit return (part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return) in which no items were raised as requiring the Council's or the External Auditor's attention. The Chair of the Finance Committee thanked the office team for their efforts. It was unanimously resolved to formally note the Internal Audit report.

2023/24 Budgetary Control (out-turn)

A budgetary control report showing out-turn for 2023/24 was circulated with the agenda. Final net expenditure of £292,437 against an approved budget of £343,095 was noted, giving a reduction on budgeted net expenditure of £50,658. Material variations were detailed in the report which was then formally noted.

Reserves

Members reviewed and noted a table of earmarked and general reserves at year-end.

2023/24 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 2024, was circulated to Members with the agenda. Also circulated was a table of variations on out-turn between 2022/23 and 2023/24 as required by the external auditor. These were reviewed by the Finance Committee on 5 June 2024.

After consideration 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, and confirms that to the best of its knowledge and belief, with regards to the Supporting Statements for year ended 31 March 2024, the 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement is approved and 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 2023/24 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 2024 and that the Parish Council Chair should sign Section 2 of the AGAR.

The Exercise of Public Rights 2023/24

It was reported that the Exercise of Public Rights, during which members of the parish are able to inspect the Annual Return and raise any issues of concern with the external auditor, has been scheduled to run from 14 June to 26 July 2024 in accordance with regulations. It was unanimously resolved that Members approve the above dates for the Exercise of Public Rights and note that all regulations in this regard have been complied with.

Matters of Note

Fifteen hanging baskets have been installed in the parish through the grounds maintenance contract.

A fourth clothing bank has been installed in Sherwood Park car park.

A very substantial bough from a willow alongside the Harness Way pond has been successfully removed as a matter of urgency. It was suspended not only over the pond but also over a popular cut through. Much of the timber has been left on site to provide further habitat.

A provisional date of 15 February 2025 has been set for a Repair Shop event at the Jersey Farm Community Centre. Details to follow. Cllr Wells is also involved with the St Albans Fixers, potentially at other locations. It was noted there will be a repair event at the Baptist Church on 15 June between 2pm and 5pm.

Resurfacing of the Sherwood Avenue tennis courts has been completed.

The Parish Council held a Summer Festival, including musical entertainment, on 1 June on Jersey Farm Woodland Park. The event was well attended and feedback has been very positive. Cllr Roberts was thanked for her input.

Sandridge Parish Council had a table at the Sustainable St Albans Expo over the weekend on 8-9 June. Several Councillors attended the event.

An event was held on the Jersey Farm Woodland Park on 6 June to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The Chair thanked Cllr Twidell for his input.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

There have been no grant applications this month.

Highways Together

Cllr Oakley took Members through a report tabled at the meeting. Members noted the complexity of asking volunteers to assist in cleaning street signs and furniture. Also noted was that there may not be an appetite for this type of volunteer work. The Clerk undertook to have the Sandridge Welcome signs cleaned.

Redevelopment of Parish Council Buildings

Cllr Wells talked members through a report circulated with the agenda, it having been reviewed by the Finance Committee on 5 June. Following discussion it was agreed to defer the matter of setting aside funds for future

development of the halls until the budget process begins in the autumn. Cllr Leonard informed the meeting that he was waiting for a quote from a structural surveyor before requesting approval to commission a survey of Marshalswick Community Centre. Cllr Wells was thanked for his work to date.

Herts Armed Forces Covenant Board

It was unanimously resolved to nominate Cllr Twidell to be the HAPTC representative for the Herts Armed Forces Covenant Board.

Meetings of Committees:

Members received a brief summary from the Chair of each of the following committees;

- Finance Committee 5 June 2024
- Planning Committee see below

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

- Cllr Hale confirmed he is again on the HAPTC Executive Board.
- Cllr Hale confirmed that, while the period of closure of the B651 in the summer has reduced from six to three weeks, he would be meeting involved parties this week to see what further can be done.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 20 May and 10 June 2024. Planning applications commented on at those meetings to the Planning Authority were as follows:

178 The Ridgeway AL4 9XJ - 5/2024/0724 40 Ardens Way AL4 9UJ - 5/2024/0833

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

The Sandridge bromide plume.

Next meeting date – 10 July 2024 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre

HERTS COUNTY SHOW 2024





Our resident photographer, Peter Hyde, enjoyed a day out at the Herts County Show on the May Bank Holiday weekend. He was fortunate to be there

on the day the sun shone!





The magazine is available free of charge to anyone via email. To be added to the circulation list, please contact the Magazine Editor on the email address on page 23.

Paper copies are available free in the church, at Carpenter's Nursery, at JTB Butchers and in the Village Stores.

For anyone unable to obtain a copy in either way, please contact Peter Hyde (see page 23) for a copy to be delivered.

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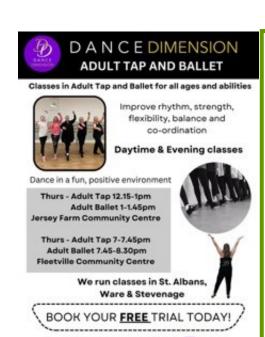
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Publication notes

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 August at the latest please to:

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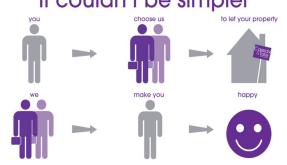
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