

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SANDRIDGE
PARISH MAGAZINE
MARCH 2024



MARCH DIARY
LETTER FROM OUR VICAR
REFLECTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH DIARY

Sunday 3 10.00am Holy Communion
Tuesday 5 10.00am Midweek Communion
Sunday 10 Mothering Sunday
10.00am Holy Communion with gifts of flowers
11.00am Refreshments served, all welcome

Tuesday 12 10.00am Midweek Communion

Sunday 17 10.00am Holy Communion

Tuesday 19 10.00am Midweek Communion

Sunday 24 Palm Sunday
10.00am Holy Communion

Tuesday 26 10.00am Midweek Communion

Thursday 28 Maundy Thursday
8.00pm Holy Communion

Friday 29 Good Friday
10.00-12.00 Craft Church with Easter egg hunt
2.00pm Final Hour service

Sunday 31 Easter Day
10.00am Holy Communion with Easter bonfire;
refreshments and Easter eggs after service



APRIL DIARY

Tuesday 2 **NO** midweek communion

Sunday 7 10.00am Holy Communion



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

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends in Christ

We are now part way through Lent and looking forward to Easter. I hope you can join us for one of our Easter services, or for Craft Church on Good Friday. We'd love to see you, whether it's for the Easter egg hunt or the Easter bonfire. You can even just drop in for a cuppa at 11.00am any Sunday if you'd prefer.

But let's get back to Lent. I wonder if you've given anything up, as is traditional? If you haven't, that's okay. And if you meant to but didn't get started, there's still time. Why not start today? The important thing is that giving something up for Lent should be special - it shouldn't just be stopping something because it suits you. It definitely shouldn't result in any smugness. Ideally it should help someone else too.

Giving up something 'for Lent' means you are trying to do something to bring about God's kingdom on earth. God's kingdom is based on justice, mercy and peace. It's about helping others and loving your neighbour (whoever that might be).

Let's say you decide to give up biscuits. That helps you increase your willpower and perhaps decrease your waistline, but it doesn't really help anyone else. So here are some biscuit-related suggestions to show God's love to others:

- Each time you say 'No' to a biscuit, send a quick prayer to God. Thank him for the fact you have plenty of food and remember all those who are hungry.
- Buy some nice boxes of biscuits and drop them round to one of our care homes, or to a school to put in the staff room.
- Put a packet of biscuits in the food bank collection box in church or in the supermarket each week.

Other ideas of things to give up are available! The important thing is to make sure it's not just about you.

Wishing you a thoughtful Lent and a joyful Easter.

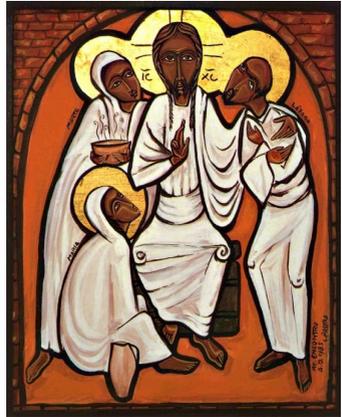
Every blessing.



Revd Wendy

Reflections for Holy Week

What follows is a set of thoughts – one for each day of Holy Week. There is a Bible reading and on some days a prayer, a reflection or a poem. The thoughts are centred around a family who were all friends of Jesus. Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha welcomed Jesus into their home, with Mary listening to his words and Martha offering hospitality.



Monday 25 March

The story of Lazarus is one we are all familiar with. It can be read in **John Chapter 11** and you might like to read that whole chapter through today. Lazarus is the man who died and was raised from the dead on the command of Jesus, foretelling a time in the near future when Jesus too would die and be raised at God's command.

On 2 February 2021 Pope Francis added a memorial to the siblings Lazarus, Mary and Martha to the General Roman Calendar. This means their day, 29 July, must be observed throughout the Catholic Church. There are a number of reasons for this elevation, but the chief reason is surely because Jesus loved them. They were bound to him by the mutual love which close friends have for one another.

Today, why not reflect on your own loving friendships? It may be that you spend some time recalling a friend from long ago. Perhaps it's a good day to contact a dear friend. It may be that you spend some time with Jesus, our Saviour and our Friend.

Dear Jesus

We thank you for the gift of friendship. We ask you to bless our friends. Help us to offer the hand of friendship to those friends we have not yet met, and to deepen the bonds of friendship with those we already know and love. Amen

Tuesday 26 March

Now, as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked,

“Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10: vv38-42

Mary of Bethany, the sister of Lazarus, is known for the fact that she prioritised listening to Jesus above her household duties. Hospitality was a sacred duty, especially when your visitor was a Rabbi and dear friend. Yet Mary goes against what is expected of the women of the house, to listen instead to Jesus’ words. As you read the poem, reflect on what that felt like: to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to his words and his voice.

Mary, sister of Martha, at your feet for the first time

You came in search of rest away from the road,
that bright, shadeless road where so many came,
and you gave so much.

You came and sat down in the cool room,
the shutters pulled against the heat,
and Mary sat, too, and it was enough.

Just sat, quietly, at your feet,
her face turned up to yours as she listened.
And you saw how the light fell across her,
as if for the first time.

And this is what you want, what you long for.
Not the elaborate preparations we would make,
not ourselves swept and scrubbed to perfection,
our acts and our thoughts impeccable in lifeless rows,
but to be, here in this light, to be, here at your feet,

Andrea Skevington

Wednesday 27 March

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

John 11: vv17-23

Martha, it seems was the practical sister, who in Luke Chapter 10 serves Jesus and his disciples when they visit. While Mary listens to the words of Jesus, Martha acts as hostess, and we get the impression she is quite fed up about it. Yet, it is Martha who, before Lazarus is raised, recognises Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. It seems Martha was listening all along.

Martha of Bethany

I admit I complained
Not just that one day but often
About the washing, the cooking
The clearing up after the men.
Lazarus the Lazy, I'd chide him.
Today I would give anything to go back.
To make him bread once more.
To break bread with him.
To place his clothes in a neat pile on his bed,
clean and sunlight scented.
An act of love.
Instead, I have dressed his body in clean cloth.
Herbs, oils and spices used not for cooking
but to prepare his dear dead self.
My heart cries out
"Lord, if you had been here,
My brother would not have died."

Maundy Thursday: 28 March

When Jesus saw Mary weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept.

John 11: vv33-35

Jesus wept

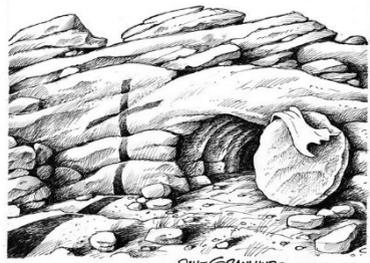
It is, I believe the shortest verse in the Bible: *Jesus wept.*

He wept for his dead friend Lazarus. He wept for the suffering borne by his friends Mary and Martha. He wept because it seems he came too late and that this was even deliberate on his part. He wept because he loved, and because he had hurt them. He knew that he could, with a word, have taken the suffering away.

We do not know why suffering is part of our lives, yet it is. To be human is to suffer and Jesus, like us, endured pain and grief. Jesus, like us, had to watch his friends suffer and even die. Know that when we suffer, God weeps. Know, deep in your heart, that there will come a time when God will call our name. “Unbind them”, he will say. “Let them see my glory”. Know that everything He does, He does for love.

Good Friday: 29 March

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.



Mark 15: vv37, 40-41

Mary, sister of Lazarus, at your feet a second time

She sits in the shuttered room,
the room where her brother had laid,
dying, dead, the messengers sent out
returning empty, with no reply,
like prayers that bounce off ceilings
or stick to the roof of the mouth,
choking with sorrow.

When you stay by the Jordan
that shuttered room is where Mary stays.
This is her shadowed valley, the dark forest of her path,
foreshadowing yours, it is all foreshadowing you.
The room where her brother had laid,
how can she ever leave it now?
But leave she did, at last, when you called for her,
she came quickly, running, trailing darkness behind her weeping.
Mary, once more at your feet,
and when you saw her weeping, you wept too.
You know us in our grief. You come to us, call to us.
In our darkest, most shuttered places,
your spirit moves, breaks with ours.
Death lay heavy upon you, too, and all the sooner for this,
what you do now, standing before that tomb.

For now, you who are life,
Word made warm and beating flesh,
and weeping, call Lazarus out,
You, who are life, and will rise,
call out one who is dead from the cold tomb.
You watch as they run to free him from the grave clothes,
pull darkness from him, calling in strange bewildered delight,
and you see Mary's face as she sees now,
her brother, who was dead, once more in light,
astonished, seeing your glory, part of your glory,
as she weeps again, is weeping again
breathless with joy.

Andrea Skevington

Holy Saturday: 30 March

This man (Joseph of Arimathea) went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Luke 23: vv52-56

Lazarus in the tomb

Nothing
There is nothing
No dark nor light
Nor sound nor silence
Even no stench of death.
I lie, bound.
No heartbeat,
no flutter of breath in my chest.
It seems this is death
I had hoped for more.
A sense of moving on perhaps.
A glimpse of radiance.
It seems I am to wait
Here in the nothingness
Until a dear voice calls:
"Lazarus, come out".
I am to wait, until he unbinds me and sets me free.

Easter Sunday: 31 March

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12: vv1-3



Mary, of Bethany, at your feet a third time

And so you come once more to Bethany,
and share a meal with Lazarus,
a resurrection feast,
foreshadowing, foreshining
all those kingdom feasts you told of:
wedding banquets with long tables
set wide with good things,
with room enough for all,
welcome at your table.
Now, in Bethany, the house is ablaze with light,
shutters and doors thrown open,
all wide open with joy unspeakable,
music, laughter, dancing, wild thanksgiving
for one who was dead is alive again,
And all night, while crowds pour in from Jerusalem,
the feast goes on, and on,
as Mary enters now, cheeks glistening with joy,
past her brother at your side, back from the grave.
She kneels at your feet again, pours out extravagant nard,
scandalous anointing of your warm, living feet,
unbinds her hair and lets it flow like water
over them, wiping them in such reckless
and tender thanksgiving.
Fragrance fills the room, the house, the night,
as more people pour from Jerusalem to you,
to you, who comes to us in our weeping,
who shares our bread with us,
and brings us to such joy as this.

*Happy Easter! Jesus Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

P A R I S H C O U N C I L S U P P L E M E N T (ABRIDGED DRAFT MINUTES)

AT THE MEETING OF SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2024, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

There were apologies received and accepted from Councillors Julie Oakley and James Lambert.

Disclosures of Interest

There was none.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 January 2024 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 no participation but some later in the agenda on the subject of Oaklands College access.

CLERK'S REPORTS

Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 11 January 2024 to 14 February 2024. It was unanimously resolved to approve the schedule for payment on 16 February 2024.

Annual Risk Assessment

It was noted that the Deputy Clerk had worked through the Parish Council's Local Council Risk System (LCRS) for the coming year in liaison with the Clerk. A summary was circulated with the agenda. No uncontrolled risks were identified during this year's assessment. Members were invited to view the full report at the Parish Office. It was unanimously resolved to formally note completion of the assessment.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

A draft policy document created by the Clerk was circulated with the agenda. It was noted that this was created to underpin the Council's approach to working with young people and so improving our sports and play areas as currently being discussed by the Sports and Recreation Committee in relation to the Duke of Edinburgh Award. It will also inform future initiatives where there is some involvement with young or vulnerable people. It was noted that Cllrs Ternouth and Chachulski have workplace experience in drafting similar documents. It was unanimously resolved that Cllrs Ternouth and Chachulski review the draft and report back to next Full Council with any amendments.

Income from clothing banks

Members noted that at a meeting held on 23 January 2024 the Committee for Sustainability was asked to consider recommendations it could make in using the clothing bank income towards a sustainability project.

It was agreed the preferred option would be to create a reserve with unspent income earmarked and carried forward into 2024/25. It was unanimously resolved to create an earmarked reserve of all income received through clothing banks in 2023/24 and on into 2024/25.

Christmas lights

Following a report from the Project and Amenities Officer it was unanimously resolved to supply and install new bright white LED lights with random twinkle in the tree to the front of Marshalswick Community Centre with a net cost of £1,830. It was further resolved to install an additional four lights in the tree on the grassed area to the front of the Queens Head PH with a net cost of £1,236.

Parish van

It was noted that the Committee for Sustainability reviewed the use of the Parish Council's diesel van at a meeting last month. Committee Members discussed the merits of replacing the van with an electric vehicle; however, due to the low annual mileage, it was agreed the preferred environmental option is to retain the existing vehicle for review in at least two years. After discussion it was unanimously resolved to set aside £2,500 annually toward the cost of a replacement vehicle in the future.

Jersey Farm Open Space

Members discussed a short report detailing the history of this site and previous debates regarding the Parish Council making application to take ownership. It was noted that the District Council has some long term plans to further rewild and enhance the area and decided that the Parish Council could not add sufficient further value to justify the additional maintenance costs of nearly £10,000 annually. It was resolved not to make an application for transfer of the asset at this time.

Matters of Note

- Sandridge Parish Council hosted the January meeting of the St Albans District Association of Local Councils (SADALC).
- The Parish Conference will be held on Monday 11 March 2024 at Redbourn Parish Centre. Further details to follow.
- The Parish Office will be hosting a work experience pupil for two days over Easter as part of the schools' Employer Contact Programme.
- The sink hole resulting from drainage works in the centre of the Parish Office car park has been repaired.
- A tree which fell across the alleyway to the William Bell open space during storms has been removed.
- The damaged lamp column to the entrance of the Parish Council's Ridgeway car park has been replaced by Ringway on behalf of HCC.
- Cllr Chalkley has recently completed the removal of basal growth on verge trees in Marshalswick and also secured with ties as needed. With support from the PACE Officer the removed growth has been collected and distributed within the Woodland Park.
- Budgetary Control – at a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 12 February, it was reported by the Clerk that projected out-turn for 2023/24 is £303,356 against a budget of £343,095, representing a projected saving on budget of £39,739.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grant Applications

Sandridge Primary School (Sandridge 10k). The Clerk was asked to write to the event organisers to ask for further detail on why funding is being sought.

Community Bus Shelter Initiative

Cllr Roberts briefed Members on a meeting held on 30 January. It was noted that there is potential for a new shelter on the opposite side of the road to the Library. Ideas discussed included a green living roof, replacement benches and timber planters. The Highways Officer in attendance took some of the ideas away and undertook to speak to other local stakeholders before coming back to the Council.

Oaklands College Rights of Way

County Councillor John Hale updated the meeting on discussions held with the College. He confirmed that discussions around the closure of the two drives were being held at the very highest level. It was noted that ongoing construction works were due to continue until October 2024, requiring an extension to the closure order. The College has been asked to publish a timetable of works going forward.

Sandridge Youth and Sports Community Association

A report was circulated from Councillor Hale on recent discussions with Trustees of the Association. It was explained that a recovery plan is in place to address an ongoing issue with excessively high overheads at the Sports Hall and that a meeting with the Parish Office has taken place to see where assistance could be given. It was resolved to set aside a conditional grant of up to £10,000 to be retained by the Clerk and released as appropriate and in accordance with the agreed recovery plan.

Parish Summer Event June 2024

Cllr Roberts provided a verbal update on plans for the Parish Summer Event on Saturday 1 June 2024. It was noted that the event was coinciding with an event at Oaklands College and, whilst concern was expressed by some Members, it was agreed through a vote to proceed with the original date.

D-Day 80 Commemoration

This national event was discussed further to a report produced by Cllr Twidell in December when it was agreed in principle to participate in the D-Day 80 event on 6 June 2024 and to allocate a budget of up to £300. The short ceremony will be held by the war memorial on the Jersey Farm Woodland Park with participation from the Scouts. An assurance was given that the small beacon would not damage the grass. Cllr Twidell undertook to produce a short report on what is proposed.

Redevelopment of the Marshalswick Parish Office and Community Hall Site

Members discussed a proposal by Cllr Twidell for some Members to form a working party to discuss the viability of a rebuilt, fully sustainable Community Centre and office at the Marshalswick site. Interested councillors were asked to contact the Clerk.

Meetings of Committees:

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

- 15 January 2024 Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee
- 17 January 2024 Sports and Recreation Committee
- 23 January 2024 Committee for Sustainability
- 5 February 2024 Human Resources Committee
- 12 February 2024 Finance Committee
- Planning Committee – please see below

MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

There was none.

PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 8 January and 29 January 2024. No comments were raised on planning applications reviewed since the last Full Council meeting.

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 Clerk was asked to invite either one of the Sandridge PCSOs or the Community Sergeant to a future meeting.

**Next meeting date – 13 March 2024 at 7.30pm:
Marshalswick Community Centre**



Daffodils at Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire

Easter services at St Leonard's Church

Thursday 28 March at 8pm

Maundy Thursday: Holy Communion

Friday 29 March at 2pm

Good Friday: a service to reflect on Jesus' final hour on the cross

Sunday 31 March at 10am

Easter Sunday: Holy Communion, starting with the Easter bonfire. Refreshments and more eggs after the service!



**Do join us at any or all of the above services:
all are most welcome.**

W.I. Golden Jubilee celebration

Twenty-three members gathered via Zoom to celebrate our 50th birthday on 9 February, when we were particularly delighted to welcome one of our longest-standing members who is temporarily in a care home.

Our president, Jean Thomas, began by summarising the events of the planning meeting held in January 1971 and read out the minutes of the first meeting held exactly 50 years ago on 9 February 1971. The competition that March was to make as many words of three or more letters from 'Sandridge Evening.' According to the minutes, Mrs C Canton won, with 345 words!

Sandra Carpenter (an original member), Pat Hicks and Avril Herbert shared their memories of the early days and how WI has influenced their lives. Apparently, at that time, members' children thoroughly enjoyed the tea parties and other outdoor events that were a regular feature of WI life.

Next, Jenny Roberts, Shirley Bolton, Anne Quigley and Carol McCarthy, all more recent members, told us about their reasons for joining, how everyone is very welcoming and what they've enjoyed during their membership. It seemed appropriate at this stage to raise a glass to the future of Sandridge Evening WI and eat the cake we had all received in advance, thanks to Carol Wiltshire who baked the cake and her daughter who had iced it. Attempts to sing 'Happy Birthday' resulted in lots of laughter.

We then played a few rounds of Linkee, before splitting up into groups for a chat in our break-out rooms. We then reconvened for the answers to our quiz, focusing on 1971 and questions with a golden element. This resulted in a lively debate on decimalisation and the value of coins before and after!

At our next meeting on Tuesday 9 March we look forward to Michael Radley speaking to us about the care of orchids. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings, so please contact me if you would like to join us.

Christine Nutton, Secretary

From the Parish Registers

Burial of ashes

- 9 December 2023 - Christine Bisset Mitchell
- 17 December 2023 - Colin Charles Watts
- 7 January 2024 - Charles Cedric Adolph and Edna Margaret Adolph
- 7 February 2024 - Patricia Ann Duncan
- 13 February 2024 - Frederick Munt

Magazine distribution

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

Please contact the Magazine Editor on:

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.

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,
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ST MATTHEW PASSION

JS BACH

St Matthew Passion, first performed under Bach's direction on Good Friday 1727, is one of five passions (according to his son CPE Bach) that JS Bach wrote: two are lost, the St Mark exists in libretto (word) form only and we still have the St John Passion.

Arguably, the St Matthew Passion is the greatest of them all with a full complement of soloists, two orchestras and two choirs. As a result, it must have been a highly ambitious work for St Albans Bach Choir to perform in its first concert on 08 April 1924 in St Albans Cathedral.

The work follows the biblical story of Christ's arrest, trial and death focussed on the account in St Matthew's Gospel. This narrative is interspersed with reflective episodes provided by the arias, and meditative, communal elements represented by the chorales.

It is an intensely dramatic piece. The greatness of Bach's music is such that while his inspiration was religiously based the emotion that Bach conveys through this work is essentially human. Indeed, it is regarded by many as one of the most profound creations of Western art.

The choir is delighted to be able to welcome an impressive array of internationally renowned soloists to our Centenary Concert.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY. . .

Andrew Lucas' Farewell Concert

St Albans Bach Choir with St Albans
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Saturday 6th July 2024

St Albans Cathedral

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W A Mozart

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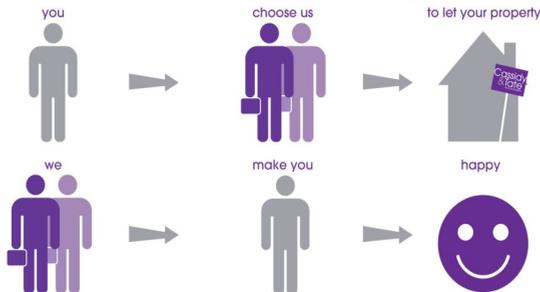


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