

REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Tuesday	10.30am - Noon	Coffee & Chat. (St. Andrew's Room)
	3.45pm - 5.15pm	SALT for children (4 - 7 yrs) and their families (in term time)
	6.30pm - 9.15pm	Youth Fellowship (Village Hall).
	7.45pm	Bell ringers.
Wednesday	2.00pm - 3.30pm	Tiny Tots. (St. Andrew's Room)
Friday	7.30pm - 8:30pm	Choir Practice. (St. Andrew's Room)

CONTACTS

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Advertising:	Please contact the Editor or Treasurer.	
Members of P.C.C.:	Brian Amey, Nick Bobeldijk, Liz Bobeldijk, Joan Bridger, Richard Cecil, Judy Cecil, David Farrar, Christine Mennie, Michael Puffett, Dennis Terry, Janet Terry, Jack Whinney, Ian Underwood.	

Arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and visiting of the sick may be made with Revd. Ashley.

Our Mission Statement

*In the light of God's call, and our situation here, our vision is:
To glorify and worship God and to further his kingdom on earth; To declare
and show the love of Christ for all people to the people of Sandon; To teach,
encourage and help people to be disciples of Christ; To proclaim Christ's
Gospel to the people of Sandon and the wider world;
To encourage commitment and personal growth in Christian discipleship and
spirituality; To channel God's love through service and care for all.*

PARISH MAGAZINE



ST ANDREW'S SANDON



December 2011 20p

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

Services during December

at St. Andrew's Church, Sandon [S]
and St. Mary's Church, Little Baddow [LB]

Thursday 1st

10.00 Healing Service and Holy Communion [St Andrew's Chapel, North Hill Little Baddow]

Sunday 4th

2nd Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Communion [LB]
10.00 Jubilate Eucharist [S]
10.00 Morning Prayer [LB]
16.00 Messy Church [St Andrew's Chapel, North Hill Little Baddow]

Monday 5th

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer [St Andrew's Chapel, North Hill Little Baddow]

Wednesday 7th

09.15 Holy Communion [S]

Thursday 8th

10.00 House Communion at Spring Cottage, Colam Lane Hilary Bardsley

Sunday 11th

3rd Sunday of Advent

10.00 Parish Eucharist [LB]
18.30 Evening Eucharist [S]

Monday 12th

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer [St Andrew's Chapel, North Hill Little Baddow]

Wednesday 14th

09.15 Holy Communion [S]

Thursday 15th

10.00 House Communion at Hayfield, Spring Elms Lane Kay Miller

Sunday 18th

4th Sunday of Advent

10.00 Parish Eucharist [S]
10.00 Family Service followed by Mayoral Tree Planting [LB]
18.00 Carols and Christingles by Candlelight [LB]
19.30 Carols and Christingles by Candlelight [S]

Monday 19th

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer [St Andrew's Chapel, North Hill Little Baddow]

Tuesday 20th

20.00 Beer and Carols at 'The Crown' in Sandon

Wednesday 21st

09.15 Holy Communion [S]
20.00 Beer and Carols at 'The Rodney Arms' in Little Baddow

Thursday 22nd

10.00 House Communion at Longwood Chase, The Ridge Margaret Martin

Saturday 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

16.00 Christingle and Crib Service [S]
16.00 Christmas Eve Meditation [LB-URC]
23.30 'Midnight Mass' [LB]
23.30 'Midnight Mass' [S]

Sunday 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

08.00 Holy Communion [S]
10.00 Carols around the Crib [S]
10.00 Carols around the Crib [LB] followed by a said Holy Communion

There are no mid-week Services in the week following Christmas Day

Organisations & Activities in Sandon & Howe Green

United Reformed Church Howe Green

Minister: Revd. J. Sermon 01245 601662
Sunday Service: 11.00am Morning Service (Communion 2nd Sunday)

Sandon Parish Council

Meetings are usually on the 2nd Monday of the month and are held alternately in Sandon Village Hall and at Howe Green.

Chair: Mr. I. Wright
Parish Clerk: Mrs. S. Dobson. 01245 227734
Parish Office: Crack Willows, Mayes Lane, Sandon, Essex CM2 7RP

Sandon Village Hall

Chair: Mr. P. J. Ellis 01245 222682
Secretary: Mrs. J. Cecil 01245 224747
Caretaker/Bookings: Mr. S. Turner 01245 471575
Hall Telephone (message facility) 01245 471970
Treasurer: Mr. N. Bobeldijk 01245 471756

Other Organisations

Beaver Cub Leader: Mrs. J. Bernardes 01245 476830
Brownie Guider: Mrs. S. Little 01621 840525
Cub Scout Leader: Mrs. J. Blake 01245 603155
Garden & Allotment Assn.: Mrs. E Tappin 01245 476951
Girl Guides: Ms. J. Ronaldson 07939 047987
Over Sixties: Mrs. S. Whinney 01245 222239
Sandon W.I.: Mrs. A. Harvey 01245 474294
Group Scout Leader: Mr. N. Paul 01245 474891
Sports Club: Mr. G. Lucas (Secretary) 01245 283730
Youth Fellowship: Mr. P. J. Ellis 01245 222682

Regular Activities

Wednesdays 6.00 - 7.15pm 1st Sandon Brownies in the Village Hall
Last Wednesday Monthly 2.00 - 4.15pm Over Sixties Club.
Thursdays 5.00 - 6.15pm Beaver Cubs in the Village Hall.
6.15 - 7.45pm 1st Sandon Cubs & Scouts in Village Hall.
8.00 - 9.30pm Sandon Scouts in the Village Hall
2nd Thursday Monthly 2.00 - 4.00pm Women's Institute in the Village Hall.

Please inform the editor of any alterations to the above details.

The editor is pleased to accept notices, reports, reviews and articles from any local organisation or individual, the inclusion of any such items being at the editor's discretion.

Preferred font for script is Arial 10 point with any graphics being sent in jpeg format. Deadline for copy is 10th of month preceding month of publication.

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From The Rectory

1 December 2010



Dear Parish Friends

We are now in the season of Advent which leads up to December 25th. Christmas Day is of course the date on which we remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and it has become for many people, one of the most important dates in the calendar. So what is the reason for the Season of Advent and Christmas? According to some sources the celebration of Christmas (or the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord) is not known before the end of the fourth century when, according to Duchesne it was celebrated throughout the whole Church - by some on 25 December, by others on 6 January. There are hints of a period of preparation prior to the celebration of Jesus' birth - in a ruling in AD 380 that no one should be allowed to absent themselves from church from the 17th December until the feast of Epiphany - but it is not until the end of the sixth century that a prescribed period of time was set aside as preparation for Christmas. This was from 11th November, being the feast day of St. Martin of Tours, (the fast became known as "St. Martin's Fast," "St. Martin's Lent" or "the forty days of St. Martin") until Christmas Day. This observance of a period of fasting was later relaxed in Anglican, Lutheran and later the Roman Catholic Church - although still kept as a season of penitence by some. As with many Christian festivals, the dates may not accurately reflect the event, but were chosen possibly as an alternative to pagan festivals which they eventually replaced. For example, it's widely accepted that the date of Christmas Day may have been chosen to coincide with ancient Roman solar festivals that were held on December 25. Because the Roman emperor Aurelian fixed December 25th for the winter solstice holiday in AD 274, it is thought that the early Christians adopted this day for their Christ-mass so that they would be less conspicuous in the observance of their holiday. Will you come and join the celebration in Church this year? You'll be very welcome.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The Revd Clive A. Ashley

Priest in Charge of St Andrew's, Sandon and St Mary the Virgin, Little Baddow

The Rectory, 25 The Lintons, Sandon, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7UA

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WITH
CHRIST



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CALLING ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS

In celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee we are planning to hold a 'mini' Flower Festival in church over the bank holiday weekend of the 2nd to 5th June 2012.

All flower arrangers are invited to an initial planning meeting on Saturday 10th December 2011 at 10.30 am in the St Andrews Room.

For further information please call

Barbara Underwood on Ch 225756.

Barbara Underwood

From the Church Warden's Cottage

It has been a very busy year for St Andrews event wise. We started with a Valentine Quiz, which was very well attended. This is always very popular and this year was hosted by a new quiz master (who was heard to give the answer before the question on one occasion) so at least my team got one right. March brought us a Jumble sale, which for the uninitiated was an eye opener, all good fun and no fights.

We had a new outreach venture in May at the Crown public house, this was for our overseas project and was in the form of a curry evening. This was a sell out of people not only from our church, but Little Baddow and the village. June brought us the intervillage walk between Little Baddow and Sandon where at the halfway stage lunch was taken at the Crown. June also brought us the Village Fete and we were blessed with very good weather.

In July we had a Celtic Concert, which showed off the many talents from Little Baddow and Sandon washed down with some nice wine and nibbles. August we rested! September came with our annual BBQ, despite some rain this was thoroughly enjoyed and we retired to the church for some singing. Our usual Harvest supper was held in October the highlight of this is always the homemade food. What good cooks we have in the church.

Much work has gone into our November event The Autumn Fayre, this has been taken on by a new committee and I am sure will be a great success.

We are often thought of as rather stuffy in the church, but having attended all the events in the past year I have found the generosity of spirit has really shown itself and warmth and love has come through. We hope to have another full programme next year so please join us if you can.

Christine Mennie- Church Warden

come and enjoy



beer 'n' carols

at
'The Crown'
Sandon
Tuesday 20th December
8pm onwards

AND

at
'The Rodney Arms'
Little Baddow
Wednesday 21st December
8pm onwards





Parish People Christine Mennie - Churchwarden

- 1. **Full Name...** Christine Mennie
- 2. **Known as...** Christine. My fathers name was Christopher, and it is a family name, so we had to use full names or confusion would reign.
- 3. **When did you arrive in Sandon...** 9th July 1979
- 4. **What was the reason you came...** Both my sons were getting near to attending senior school and we heard they were good in this area, and we thought we would rather they were brought up in the country.
- 5. **Did you have any ambitions as a child...** I planned to go into the Wrens, as we are a naval family. My grandfather was in the navy for 35 years and served in both world wars.

- 6. **Do they remotely resemble anything you do now...** No, as I went into Banking and Accountancy. I did have the offer of a job in a bank in New York, but my mother was afraid she would die before she saw me again (she lived for another 30 years). After my children left school I went and studied at Anglia College and then went into the NHS. I see nothing in my life remotely like the Wrens although I am sure many would say I am often all at sea.
- 7. **What one life lesson do you feel you have learned...** Never judge people from a first meeting, keep an open mind as people often surprise you.
- 8. **How did you become a Christian...** This is a difficult question as I feel I have always been a Christian, but my faith has become deeper as I have got older.
- 9. **What do you like about Sandon Church...** For myself I have always been made to feel welcome and part of a larger family?
- 10. **Do you believe in miracles...** Yes, I think miracles happen every day, but then life is one big miracle?
- 11. **What gives you hope for the future...** The youth of today. We do see the bad side of the young, but they are a minority. I think the young care far more about our world and how we can save it.
- 12. **Outgoing or shy...** I know everyone will say outgoing and yes I am, but underneath I am a private person and like my own company.
- 13. **Coffee or tea...** I like both, but my solicitor told me the correct thing is coffee in the morning and tea in the afternoon and as you know I am always correct (I did not say always right)...
- 14. **What life experiences have been most special for you...** Being a mother and grandmother, there is nothing like it.
- 15. **A film or book that has moved you.** I like English made films especially directed by Ken Loach. His 'My Name is Joe' made me realise that for some people however hard they try to better themselves, there is often something that holds them back. Of course if it is a cold winters day the Lord of the Rings trilogy can not be beaten.
- 16. **What is your favourite part of the Bible...** In the Old Testament Psalms and Proverbs and in the New Paul's Letters.
- 17. **Words that especially inspire you.** 'Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest'. This I totally believe in and gives me great comfort and it is through friends and family and the support of others that God gives me strength.
- 18. **What quality do you most value in another person...** Loyalty because with loyalty comes trust...

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ST ANDREW'S YOUTH FELLOWSHIP – DECEMBER UPDATE

This term we have restarted the 77 Club for young teenagers. The membership is regular and strong. The Junior Club also has a good, regular group of members. We still need weekly help in the clubs and more male influence in our leadership. Generally, we must say our overall membership numbers are the best for years. However, we are sad that this has NOT included interest in the pantomime which has been poor.

CAROL SINGING FOR HELEN HOUSE (HOSPICE FOR CHILDREN)

TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER 6,45pm at the CHRISTMAS TREE on the Green

Come and join us as we go around the village centre. Refreshments will be served at the Village Hall afterwards. We hope the weather will be kinder to us this year!

PANTOMIME 2012 (FEBRUARY HALF-TERM) CINDERELLA by Richard Hills

Finding a script and Cast has been a nightmare this year. There has been a distinct reluctance to commit to performing in the Youth Fellowship's major yearly fundraiser. We started with Goldilocks, then went to Red Riding Hood and have ended up with Cinderella. This will be performed by a small, but confident cast. Needless to say we have space for anyone who would like to sing and dance in our chorus.

We are happy to accept any matt emulsion paints, wood, costume materials. In fact, anything FREE!

We are now settled and in serious rehearsals. Tickets will be available around Christmas time. Come and support these young people's pantomime. As said before, this is our major fund raiser. Contact Peter 01245 222682. Panto Bookings – Tina 01245 604732

Peter & Evelyn Ellis

HOWE GREEN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

CAROL SERVICE

by candle light

Thursday 15th December

at 7-30 p.m.

followed by mince pies and coffee

Do come and join us for this friendly annual event at Howe Green

You are all welcome

19. **What kind of behaviour do you find difficult to tolerate.** I think as I get older I get more tolerant with some things and less with others. I do not like it when people find fault with others all the time (we all do it) Perhaps we should look at the faults in our selves first. Praise is so much more productive.

20. **Night or morning person...** Definitely morning. All the men in my family are not and so you can imagine living with someone who gets up early and sings.

21. **What season do you prefer?** As I was a June baby I like the summer best.

22. **A moment when you felt the presence of God.** During my divorce when sitting quietly in the church I realized I was not on my own.

23. **Favourite hymn.** This is very difficult for me as every Sunday I come out of church deciding the one I had heard was my favourite. Much loved hymns for me are connected to different times in my life. Jesus wants me for a sunbeam-Sunday School. He who would valiant be-Romford County High. The County High also reminds me that we were given a radiogram (a very large piece of furniture in those days) and one record, which was played in assembly every day I can honestly say the song Nymphs and Shepherds I still hate with a passion.

24. **Do you believe religion and politics should be kept separate?** I think it would be too difficult to keep them apart in certain situations.

25. **Do you have friends from other faiths...?** Working in the Health Service you naturally work with all faiths and I have over the years discussed different aspects of these faiths. Although you are not always aware of any differences as you are all working together for the benefit of others and that takes priority.

26. **Something you are looking forward to.** After three beautiful granddaughters, I now have a grandson Benjamin born on June 6th this year. The only downside is that they live in Amsterdam, so I am looking forward to going over to see him soon.

27. **If you could donate a large sum to a charity which would you chose...** 'Help for Heroes' this is because I have a niece who is an Army Medic and has already done a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

28. **If you could save one thing you own from a fire, what it would be.** A locket given to me by my mother containing a picture of herself her mother and her Father. It meant so much to her and when I wear it I feel very close to her,

29. **What advice would you give to an 18 year old...** Enjoy life but in moderation and always be thankful for what you have. When you think your cup is half full, as I do, it usually is. Value friendships.

30. **What moment would you most like to relive.** Not exactly the moment my sons were born but seeing them for the first time and that marvelous rush of love.

31. **What age would you most like to be...** In my Forties. I had a great time!

32. **Any special interests.** I suppose this would be gardening. Born in June I am a Cancerian-a home lover - that's my interest - home and Family. C.M.

The Children's Society

Could all box-holders kindly let me have your boxes back,
either by leaving them in the church
or by handing them to me personally.

Thank you, Eileen Bartrup



The first Messy Church began in 2004 when a group at St Wilfrid's Church in Cowplain near Portsmouth were frustrated because, as a church, they were hardly reaching any children with God's story.

They had lovely buildings and facilities but weren't using them enough. They had wonderful creative people in the church, and the area needed as much community-building as possible.

There was a lot of sympathy towards church in general but the church wasn't offering anything that really gripped the imagination of local families.

The Church in Cowplain decided very early on to try to do something for all ages together, partly out of a belief that we grow best as a church when we walk the journey with as many different people as possible, and partly from a desire to help families grow together in their walk of faith, not see Christianity as something you grow out of when you're eleven or that the old and young cannot enjoy time together.

We have a future ahead of us which may be unknown to us but not to God and you may well be part of it too! We here in St Andrew's Church Sandon wish to take the *SALT* project which has been led by Jean Elliott for the past two years and in Jean's last year we all want to help it to grow even more as a once a month event on Sundays next year. We will be working and planning from now, so look and listen for more news as the plans become a reality in 2012.

Remember, Messy Church is this church's attempt to be a church for families who might want to meet Jesus, belong to their local church and bring up their children as Christians but can't cope with 'traditional' Sunday morning church services.

It will be a once-a-month time of creativity, worship and eating together as a Church family.

Find out more about Messy Church by logging on to www.messychurch.org.uk



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11th January – What is pastoral care?

18th January – Visiting and Listening

25th January – Making Contact

1st February – Dealing with Loss

15th February – Confidentiality and getting organised

Attendance at all the evenings is ideal and preferable as each session is filled with valuable material, group work and discussion. The first and last sessions are really essential. However, a session can be missed if you cannot come to all.

Course Contributors:

The Revd Clive Ashley – Priest-in-Charge

Mr Brian Gilders - Reader

Miss Alison Buchanan – Pastoral Assistant

The Revd Chris Poulard – Honorary Assistant Priest

To reserve a place, please contact:

Clive (243863), Brian (224524) or Alison (223181)

New Years Day

1st January 2012
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SALT update

'Those seeds want to grow. They don't give up easily. They really want to grow'. ~ Anthony aged 6

As you can see, this term's theme of 'Little stories to make you think' really has been making us think. Anthony's words after hearing Jesus' parable of the sower have been making me think ever since! Isn't it great that the seeds of God's word don't give up easily; that they want to take root and grow God's good fruit in our lives so much!

SALT is about nurturing the soil, sowing the seed **and** seeing it grow. It's very special to welcome our core SALT families Tuesday by Tuesday; to see friendship and faith growing and to have lots of fun together ~ and we would love to welcome more! We sent invitations around the parish at the beginning of September, (thanks to those of you who helped to deliver them) but we haven't seen any new families this term yet. Personal invitation is by far the most effective way of encouraging someone to try something, so please do think about whether there is anyone you could ask.

We finished our 'little stories' series with a 'pyjama party' and a 'wedding' and have since begun our series on 'Christmas characters'. It's good to have time to reflect on each character and their part in the wonderful story of Jesus' birth. Many thanks to everyone who has recently taken part in an exciting knitting project by knitting a 'Christmas character'. These characters will form part of a nativity scene which will travel around the SALT families and other members of the St Andrew's congregation during Advent, staying a night or two with each household. This is based on the 'posada' tradition from South America. If you would like to take part in the posada and welcome the crib to your home, Richard Cecil would love to hear from you.

So, carry on letting those seeds grow ~ they really want to! And don't miss the fruit that is already there!

Every blessing this Advent season.

Jean

Sandon WI Annual Meeting held on November 10th

The President Eileen Bartrup welcomed members and Tricia Evans, the Women's Institute Advisor, who had come to help us with the meeting, and thanked Barbara Hodges for plant on the top table, which was later presented to Tricia. Jerusalem was then sung. Sue Simons, Rose Jewett, Thelma Stokes and Marion Middleton who had provided the lunch before the meeting were also thanked.

The Minutes of the October meeting were on the table and Eileen asked that someone should read them so they could be signed. Arising from the minutes the question of which charity to support at Christmas was discussed, and Little Havens hospice was chosen. There were baskets available for members to take and fill for the stall. We were also asked if we preferred sitting around small tables at meetings rather than in rows, and on the whole it was popular

The shopping trip to Norwich next Thursday, November 17th will leave the Vineyards at 8.30 and then pick up Sandon Village Hall. Barbara Hodges has the schedule for the Summer Show in 2012 and there will be a meeting on November 21st to discuss our entry. The Mildmay group carol service will be on December 6th at Hatfield Peveril and Hazel Oderboltz has details of a trip to the theatre to see "Legally Blonde" on January 28th.

The meeting was then handed over to Tricia Evans, and the accounts were presented by the Treasurer and agreed. Angela Harvey then read the Committee's report detailing the various speakers we had during the past year, also three outings to Norwich, the goat farm at Mundon and Beth Chatto's garden. We supported the Js Hospice at Christmas while Celia Kerlake won the Rose Bowl for the most points in the monthly flower competition. There had been another gardener's Question time, and while it was not as well supported as last year, it had still been a pleasant afternoon and we had also had a good and amusing August Open Evening with a speaker on Suffolk. Keep Fit and the Craft and Chat clubs are still successful and Pat Eden has maintained our link with Milsom in New Zealand. We had an enjoyable social evening in August with an amusing speaker talking about Suffolk. Sandon's quiz team had done well coming second and only being beaten by four marks by Hutton and Shenfield.

Eileen then gave the President's report. We had 50 full members and 4 dual during the last year. She thanked Angela Harvey for her hard work and support while Dorothy Gray had been a splendid Treasurer and Joan Southey had organised some interesting Speakers. Julie Fisher had welcomed us all and kept the register and Monica Richardson bought some nice raffle prizes (and also had the inspiration of having laminated and reusable raffle tickets!). Hazel Oderbolz had run the trading stall and our different trips, Lilian Scard had sent birthday cards, Pat Eden managed the notice board, Rose Jewett the teas,



How will you be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee?

To celebrate the Queen's sixty year reign on the throne, a number churches, cathedrals and chapels will be lighting beacons throughout the country. In 2002 approximately 1,800 beacons were lit to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

The plan for 2012 is to light 2,012 beacons to mark this equally special occasion.

Premier Christian Radio has been announced as the official church partner for the Diamond Jubilee Beacons Project, inviting churches from all over the UK with adequate buildings or land to take part. The aim is to place churches at the heart of this historical event and gather their communities together; and reach out to people that may not necessarily go to church.

If you are interested in lighting a beacon to celebrate this nationwide event complete the [online registration form](#). Those who are interested are encouraged to take a look at the [Risk Management Guidance Sheet](#).

Messiah Concert at Chelmsford Cathedral

Saturday 10th December, 6pm

Chelmsford Cathedral



The Chelmsford Cathedral Choral Foundation will be hosting its Messiah concert on the 10th December.

Handel's Messiah will be performed by Chelmsford Cathedral Choir and Consort, alongside a quartet of outstanding young British soloists. The Chelmer Baroque Orchestra, directed by Peter Nardone, Director of Music at Chelmsford Cathedral, make up the team of performers.

Ticket prices range from £20, £15 & £10 and will be available from The Civic Box Office. For more information or to purchase tickets call 01245 606505 or visit www.chelmsford.gov.uk/theatres.

ROBERT FISHWICK

Robert, known to the family as Bob, was born 23rd November 1936 in Liverpool. He has one sister Shelagh and one brother Reg. He went to Finch Hall School and gained his school certificates with flying colours.

Robert was a member of St Luke's Sunday School where he was later confirmed. Bob was in the scouts. One of his favourite hobbies was making model aeroplanes but his pride and joy was a transistor radio which he made. He was very practical and his Mother was delighted when he re-wired the whole house .

During his lifetime Bob worked in shipping. His first job in Liverpool was as a shipping clerk in the Cunard Building, one of the three Graces on the Liverpool waterfront.

Aged 18 he completed National Service which consisted of a year in Aldershot and a year in Germany in the Dental Corp, returning to Liverpool and shipping. He remained in the Reservists and joined the Civil Defence in the Intelligence and Operations Head Quarters.

When he was about 22 he bought a Lambretta scooter and joined the Liverpool (Lambretta) Scooter Club. It was a usual sight in those days to see groups of scooters on a day out all over the country. Several years later he bought his first car, an Austin A40.

When Ellerman Shipping Company closed down in 1973 he faced redundancy or a transfer to London. He chose London and eventually settled in Springfield and qualified as an accountant in Credit Management, which included sorting out Container Administration in Portugal and Israel, on one trip to Jerusalem the road was blocked by snow and he had to turn back!

Robert joined 'Probis', a retired professional and business friendship group in 1987. Eileen became part of the group in 1989 and they became close friends in about 1995. Robert's life was to become a roller coaster ride from that point on. Eileen had taken to intrepid travelling since retirement and Rob was to soon join her, visiting far flung places across continents, embarking on wild coach and train journeys and even a trip to the Norwegian Fjords.

Robert was a participant of many a family event – smoked out at birthday BBQs, resuscitated when the tractor tube with 8 aboard overturned in Pete's swimming pool and forced to sing Karaoke at Christmas parties.

Robert joined the underground movement at the Sandon allotment association, soon to become treasurer. He and Eileen acted out pivotal roles in the Sandon Church Passion Plays, remarkable Easter evangelism in which Rob was often cast as bad boy – Roman Centurion, Pontius Pilate, even Lazarus resurrected! Powerful stuff – Handel's Messiah at full volume, hammers striking steel plate as nails are driven home.

Robert's membership of the Rambling Club and keen walking spirit led on to his involvement with 'Heart and Soul' walks for those returning to health and fitness.

Robert's approach to being diagnosed with aggressive cancer was as vigorous as he lived his life. Surgeons removed a golf ball size mass from his brain and within days he was up on his feet with nurses enquiring as to whether he had had military training!

Robert faced his final challenge in this life as he had faced all his duties – steadfast and resolute – he set his feet on the right path and got on with it!

From Robert's family and edited by Ian Underwood.

**Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace and rise to eternal glory. Amen**

Genda Wright the Flower of the Month competition, Barbara Hodges, helped by Sue Simons, Thelma Stokes, Frances Freemont and Rosemary Waldren had arranged the food for the August Open Evening, while Anne Nickol and Norma Monck had written the monthly press report. Eileen then moved the adoption of the Committee's report and this was accepted.

Tricia thanked Eileen for her work as President, and Dorothy presented her with a lovely floral arrangement. The names of the new Committee were then announced and Mesdames Pat Eden, Julie Fisher, Frances Freemont, Dorothy Gray, Angela Harvey, Marjorie Kent, Celia Kerlake, Hazel Oderbolz Monica Richardson, Joan Southey, Sue Wells and Pat Williams were elected. Joan Southey was elected as the new President.

Tea was then served and there were demonstrations of card making, parchment craft, gift wrapping and cracker making. After tea Angela said that Resolutions for the 2012 AGM would be printed in the new issue of WI Life and she asked members to read them, vote and then bring their voting slips to the next meeting.

The Flower of the month was won by Eileen Bartrup and the raffle was drawn. The next meeting will be the Christmas meeting on December 8th when Anita Sacket will speak on Christmas around the World.

There will be a competition for a Christmas table arrangement. Eileen then wished members a safe journey home.
Anne Nickol

The Advent Wreath

Most churches have at the heart of their worship an Advent wreath. The origins of the evergreen wreath are ancient and probably pagan, but there is a symbolism with the wreath and its five candles that is useful in retelling the Christmas story.

The circle of greenery reminds us that God is eternal, the Alpha and Omega without beginning or end, and also of the hope we have in God, of newness, renewal and eternal life.

The candles symbolise the light of God entering the world through the birth of Jesus, and the four outer candles represent many things, including a period of waiting, perhaps the four centuries between the prophet Malachi (the last book in the Old Testament) and the birth of Jesus. The themes most often used for the four weeks of Advent are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love; or Abraham, the Old Testament Prophets, John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Whilst the light from the candles reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our world. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's love and grace to others.

The centre candle is white and is called the Christ Candle. It is traditionally lit on Christmas Eve or Day where there is a service on these days.

Dorothy Burras 23rd September 1919 to 6th November 2011

A number of you will remember Dorothy as the little lady who was always at the front of church. But she was so much more.

She came to Sandon church in the early 1980s when the nuns who used to have a community at Bicknacre, left and went to Effingham south west of London. Rev Hugh Beavan, the minister at Sandon at the time, also ministered to the Community of the Sacred Passion, CSP, with which Dorothy was linked. Originally she had aspired to become a nun with CSP. She was in training with them after the war.

However her older brother, we think called Tom, had been wounded in the war. He had shell shock and was to die of his wounds in due course. By then their parents had died and so Tom had no relative except his sister, Dorothy. Now, to become a sister with CSP, a woman had to serve in Tanzania where the order did a lot of work (and still do). When it came to Dorothy's time to serve in Tanzania she realised that she would have to leave Tom without support in this country. She reluctantly concluded that she would have to withdraw from becoming a sister. Her brother died not long after but her opportunity had passed. I have been so impressed by her generosity in this way. However she remained connected with the order becoming what is called an oblate and maintained a rule of life as a result for the rest of her life.

She moved to live with a couple in Bicknacre called Eric and Gladys Page. We think Eric was something of a clown or entertainer by profession. On one occasion she showed us a unicycle he used to ride. In her living room she had a picture of Glad, as she used to call her, a good looking woman. When first Eric and then Gladys died Dorothy was left their house and lived in it for the rest of her life. I believe they left it to her but it was a bit complicated. She had to buy a part from one of Eric's or Glad's relatives.

Over the last 6 months or so Dorothy deteriorated and suffered from something like cellulitis which eventually overtook her. She had found wonderful new neighbours, David and Mary Atwell, who were able to give her great support and allowed her to stay in her home to within 4 days of the end of her life. Mary spent Dorothy's last night at home with her and every hour of each day with her in, what was for Dorothy, the alien environment of hospital. How God has answered her trust in him.

This is a trust that she demonstrated in hospital. As Judy and I were about to leave her, frankly unsure what to say, I said, "God bless you." Unable to lift her head or speak in other than a whisper she responded with a firm, "He will." What words of faith and hope. 'And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.' Romans 5:5.

Dorothy worshipped at Sandon from the mid eighties till 2005 and during that time served Reverends Hugh Beavan, Steven Foster, Tony Matty and Keith Plaister as well as numerous others who covered in the gaps between their appointments. She knew many ministers who served for brief periods at Sandon including Reverends Robert Corbin and Gordon Law. Dorothy was always ready to ensure that the linens were well presented and washed and if necessary starched. At times this extended to the minister's vestments. Dorothy was most skilful with needle work and had a sideline making Bishops' mitres - She made several.

She once showed Judy and me the technicalities of how she needed to match different parts of the material's pattern for it to look right. She was able to apply gold leaf and enjoyed painting. Dorothy was always clear about how she perceived the church and how it should be prepared for a service at the different seasons of the year.

Sadly in 2005, just after I became church warden, some differences arose and following the service on Trinity Sunday that year when Bishop Laurie Green attended with Dorothy sitting next to him she did not attend Sandon again. My attempts to resolve these differences were not fruitless, in that Judy and I remained friends with each party. It was a very difficult time for many but keenly so for Dorothy. However she began to go to West Hanningfield and was welcomed there for the last 6 years. We had the privilege of seeing her serve there on two occasions, the first with Rev Mike Aston of whom she became very fond and who was a great friend to her. She also served with Rev Dr Stephen Need but just for a few months since his appointment. She spoke well of him too.

Over the last few years Dorothy was taken back to her roots in Southport by the kindness of Reverends Steven Foster and Martin Hume. She was so pleased to see the church there again where she had been brought up. She happily described so much of the detail to us and showed us a video of it too. Dorothy maintained friendships with a large number of people. She remained in contact with Rev June Robson, now living in Consett. She regularly spoke to Carol Matty, wife of Rev Tony Matty. She would send Christmas presents and birthday cards to a number of people in Sandon and I am sure in West Hanningfield as well. She kept in touch with the sisters in the community of the CSP too.

It would not do justice to Dorothy – she called herself, Dotty – to ignore her loud firm, dare I say cantankerous, manner. And her laugh too. How many times did she dismiss some issue with, "I can't be bothered."? Not so much 'she could not be bothered' as 'this was an issue that her love and other priorities meant she could not deal with.'

Dorothy delighted in nature. She loved the different plants in her garden. I recall trimming her hedge at the back of the garden and found the vine, which she held very dear, had decent bunches of grapes, which I picked for her. Dorothy's delight with these as she planned to make grape jelly, which she did, was so wonderful and humbling too.

I miss Dorothy already but I look forward to meeting her again. She is well cared for now too.

Richard Cecil

May Christ support us all the day long,
till the shadows lengthen,
and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed
and the fever of life is over and our work is done.
Then in his mercy may he give us a safe lodging,
and holy rest and peace at the last. Amen.