

Vision Statement of Chelmsford Diocese

**Our passion**

is Jesus. We are passionate about proclaiming and living out God's love for all people.

**Our aspiration**

is to *be a transforming presence* in every community, open and welcoming to everyone, and serving all people.

**Our resources**

are faithful people, prayer and worship, visionary leadership and liberating gifts

**6th May 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

09.15 Parish Eucharist [LB]

11.00 Parish Eucharist [S]

16.00 Messy Church [St Andrew's, Little Baddow]

**Bank Holiday Monday 7th**

No Services

**Tuesday 8th**

09.15 Holy Communion [S]

**Wednesday 9th**

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer

[St Andrew's, Sandon]

11.30 Funeral: Freda Williams [S]

**Thursday 10th**

08.30 Chelmer Crouch Group Morning Prayer

[St Andrew's, Boreham]

10.00 House Communion [Joyces Corner, Spring Elms Lane]

**13th May 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

08.00 Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer 1662*) [S]

09.15 Parish Eucharist [S]

11.00 Parish Eucharist [LB]

18.30 United Evening Worship [LB-URC]

**PINTS OF VIEW**  
**Monday 28th May 8pm**  
**at The Crown, Sandon**



**Inter-village Sponsored Walk**

**Saturday 26th May.**

**10.15 start**

St Mary's Little Baddow to St Andrew's Sandon and back via 'The Crown'

**For more info and sponsor forms please contact:**

David Farrar (471484) or Malcolm Breeze (225089)

Supporting your local Church and

THE ROYAL NATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL  
(STANMORE)

**Christian Studies Group**

**An introduction to the New Testament**

**Wednesday**

**7.30pm - 9.00pm**

**St Andrew's Room, Sandon**

*This is an open group, intended to be a fairly lightweight introduction to the NT for 'the man/woman in the street'*

**9th May - The Gospels**

**16th May - The Acts of the Apostles**

**23rd May - The Letters**

**30th May - Revelation**



**27th May - Walk for Water** - the walk starts at 9.00 a.m. from the URC, bring your own container + 11am United Service in the URC Chapel



**St Mary the Virgin,  
Little Baddow**

[www.littlebaddowchurches.org.uk](http://www.littlebaddowchurches.org.uk)

**St. Andrew, Sandon**

[www.sandon-church.info](http://www.sandon-church.info)

**part of the  
Chelmer-Crouch Group Ministry**

**5th SUNDAY of EASTER**

**6th May 2012**

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)*

**A warm welcome is extended to all visitors.**

*Coffee, tea and squash are normally served after the 10am Service [in Church at St Mary's Church and in The St Andrew's Room at St Andrew's Church].*

**Please stay and meet people**

All communicant members of Christian Churches are invited to receive communion. Those who do not wish to receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, at the Altar rail.

Those communicants requiring **gluten-free wafers** are asked to identify themselves to a Sides person.

**For 5 minutes**

*before the Service begins PLEASE allow others to keep a time of prayerful quiet in preparation to worship our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you.*

**Call to worship**

We come into the presence of God, the source of all our light and life. Like branches of the vine, may we draw our strength and nourishment from him, and worship him with glad and thankful hearts.

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us

you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;

through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**First Reading**

Acts 8:26-40

**Philip is directed to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza, and there he meets an Ethiopian eunuch, who is reading the prophet Isaiah.**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.)

<sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship

<sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.'

<sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' <sup>31</sup>He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.'

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.'

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

**The distinguishing characteristic of those born of God will be the love they have for one another. To love God alone is not enough: believers must also love their brothers and sisters.**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen

God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

## Gospel

John 15:1-8

**Jesus describes himself to his disciples as the true vine, and urges them to remain in him as the branches remain in the vine. Just as the branches need to remain in the vine if they are to be fruitful, so the disciples need to remain - abide - in Jesus' love.**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

## Prayer after Communion

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:

grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**