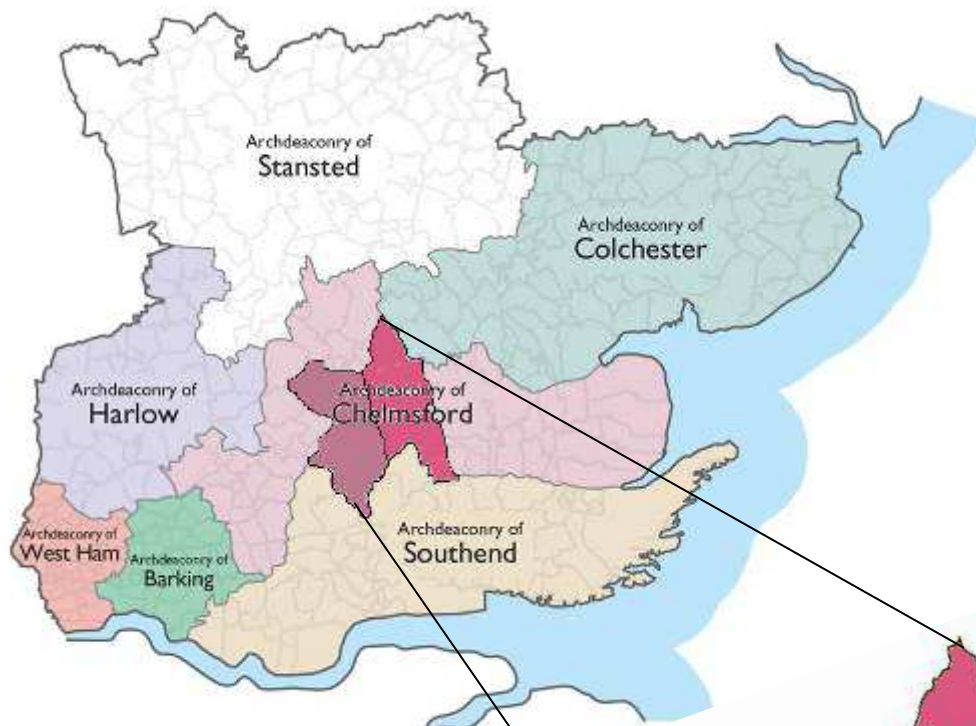
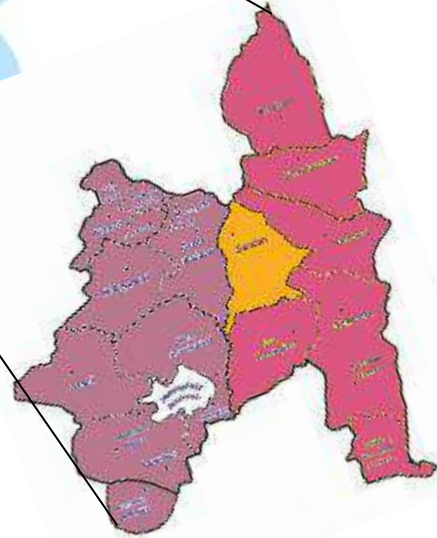


Diocese of Chelmsford



Sandon
is a part of the
Chelmer Crouch Group
in the
Chelmsford South Deanery,
a part of the
Archdeaconry of Chelmsford
in the
Diocese of Chelmsford



Sandon Parish Profile



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



Chelmer Crouch Group

St. Andrew's Parish is part of the Chelmsford South Deanery of the Chelmsford Diocese in the County of Essex. This deanery is a group of 21 churches with about 1100 people attending these churches on an average Sunday. [Our Deanery vision](#) is that, 'We look to God for power to equip every member to serve South Chelmsford and to tell of God's love.'

Within our Deanery there are four pastoral community groups as can be seen on the map on page 1. We are a member of the [Chelmer Crouch Group](#). The Group has seven parishes from Boreham in the north to South Woodham Ferrers in the south. These parishes work together in a number of ways. There is a Deanery plan referred to in the 'Wider Context paragraph below' and it may well be that in the future there may be even more collaboration so that we can share the gifts that each individual church has more widely.

Introduction

We are seeking to appoint a priest to the position of 'House for Duty' for the above Benefice. The position would require a time commitment of two days per week plus Sunday (or the equivalent spread across the week) in exchange for accommodation in the Rectory which is a modern four-bed-roomed house in a pleasant cul-de-sac in the village, within a short walk of St Andrew's Church (see appendix 3). We shared our previous full time incumbent with a neighbouring parish.

This post needs an energetic priest with the ability to build on the traditions of the past and to guide our development into the future and to work with neighbouring parishes to determine the medium and long-term future ministry for Sandon; as it is expected that this will be a one-off appointment.



The Rectory at Sandon

The person should have the following qualities:

- The skill to pull our congregation together.
- Capacity to be able to lead us constructively along the paths of faith and worship.
- The ability to respond sympathetically to the pastoral needs of our community; the old, the sick, the bereaved and the housebound.

The tasks that we see as in need of attention are:

- To direct and develop our faltering steps to encourage the youth of the area to join us in our faith and to give us leadership.
- To draw together the congregation and to grow our numbers for worship.
- To develop the gifts of the laity here and to allow them to grow in faith.

Our vision is to have a church filled with people of all ages, joyously and harmoniously worshipping together. We see our mission as being to proclaim Christ's Gospel to the



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people of Sandon and the wider world and to channel God's love through service and care for all.

We need a priest to help us to achieve these goals.

The Wider Context

This vacancy has arisen because the priest-in-charge has moved to another part of the Chelmer Crouch Group. While he was here he was in charge of two parishes, Sandon and the adjoining parish of Little Baddow. The service pattern (shown in Appendix 2) is arranged in the way that it is so that he could cover services in each parish on a Sunday morning. This, of course will not be a problem for the new incumbent and the congregation will be open to changes in its pattern of Sunday worship...

The Bishop of Chelmsford's paper of 2011, [Transforming Presence](#), sets out the four strategic priorities for the Diocese for the next ten – fifteen years. One of these priorities is 'Re-imagining Ministry' so that by 2025 a place of sustainability can be reached.

Accordingly there is a [Deanery Plan for Chelmsford South](#) in which the Chelmer Crouch Group (mentioned in an earlier paragraph) is expected to evolve and all the potential pastoral communities are in conversation with each other.

Our new priest will be able to play a part in exploring the future and although they will have somewhat less time than the previous incumbent they will be able to develop the talents within the parish, serving the community and telling of God's love.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- Friendly and very welcoming congregation.
- A regular, small group of committed worshippers.
- Financially solvent and well organized.
- Beautiful Church building and Church Yard.
- Good small music and bell ringing groups.
- Many outreach events with the village.
- Lay led Messy Church monthly.
- Lay led Tiny Tots Group.
- Open to beneficial change.

Weaknesses:

- Little contact with local secondary school.
- Lack of families, children and young children.
- Failure to attract younger adults to the congregation and PCC.
- Active members are older and with less energy.
- Little PCC/Congregation consultation.
- Lack of weekly prayer/bible study groups.
- Need to re-engage with local youth organisations.

These lists were drawn up on the basis of a PCC away day and a congregation questionnaire.



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



The Church Community

The Website

A lay team has developed a website at www.sandon-church.info

We have tried to ensure that it is interesting and fresh and up to date. We have combined technology with heart to impress the enthusiasm we have for the Lord and His work.

We are clear that we are a church that is trying to witness to our Lord, living in the light of the incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection and hopeful of His return.

We show a large number of little "people pictures" to illustrate church moments when the people of God have been able to come together and share aspects of our faith and each other and fun.

The site also aims to be a way in which enquirers can make an initial contact with the church. The 'enquiries' e-mail address received 43 messages during 2012 all of which are an opportunity to bless those in the community around us.

The site upkeep is done by several people who place documents on it regularly, in particular the weekly pew sheet, the monthly magazine and the quarterly Chelmer Crouch newsletter. Services are automatically updated as they happen as is the page of events.

We have put other pages on the site readily as they become relevant. Equally they are removed when they are no longer significant.

Services

Over the years a service pattern has developed (see appendix 2) and although there have been experiments with timing it has become clear that the congregation look for a formal service every Sunday morning, apart from Messy Church week. Our standard service is Common Worship Sung Eucharist with the priest wearing vestments and a small choir singing a communion hymn. During the Eucharist authorised Lay Ministers administer the chalice and the epistle is read and intercessions led by members of the congregation. On one Sunday in the month there is an additional 8.00am said Holy Communion (1662) which has a small but loyal congregation and on the third Sunday each month there is Messy Church instead of the more formal worship.





ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



Our mid-week service is a said Eucharist held on a Tuesday morning and it is followed by a social event – 'Coffee and Chat'.

Evening services have been tried but have not generally been popular – apart from special days such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, St Andrew's Day, and Carol Service etc.

Sandon seems to have acquired a reputation for being somewhat 'High' and indeed the Sacrament is reserved in an

aumbry, a thurible has just been purchased, liturgical colours are observed and a bell is tolled for communion. We have experimented with Morning Prayer but this has not proved popular. We would like our reputation to be one of being tolerant and accommodating, more middle of the road and willing to experience different ways of knowing God.



The Lady Chapel

Bible Studies

In common with other churches, St Andrew's is in the habit of offering a Lent Course. That is a study of a particular topic spread over the weeks of Lent, usually on a Wednesday evening for an hour or so. In 2012 the chosen topic was the Nicene Creed and for 2013 the Lent Course will be 'Aspects of John's Gospel'.

However the Bishop's paper – 'Transforming Presence' - published last year, raised questions about what churches were doing individually, and on an ongoing basis, to teach people about their faith, to pray and other related topics.

In response to this, St Andrew's considered setting up a regular Bible study group, under a leader, for say six to eight studies of four weeks' duration each year. The objective would be to study and discuss a chosen topic in a fairly informal but guided way.

Initial 'pilot' groups were conducted during 2012 with topics ranging from a review of 'Transforming Presence' to the composition of the New Testament and then latterly 'A Study of Prayer in the Bible'. Over the course of the sessions attendance varied according to people's other commitments but generally was maintained in low double figures.

Since then the church has acquired 30 NRSV Bibles which, hopefully, will facilitate further studies of this nature, which on the whole, seem to have been reasonably well received.

Music in the Church

Music has always played an important part in the life of St Andrew's. It has an excellent organ and regular organist. The instrument is used at all sung services and there is also an electric piano which is used mainly for the children's services. There is also a baby



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grand piano which has had little use in services.

The congregation loves singing and enjoys the Sung Eucharist which is sung in full every Sunday. It would be fair to say that it favours the traditional hymns, but is not averse to also enjoying some of the newer music. As in most parishes, the choir is struggling, but we have a very small group of loyal choir members. We are always on the lookout for new members.

From time to time concerts are held in the church, usually in aid of church funds

PCC



Our church has a small but very active and hard working PCC, each member standing for a period of 3 years. As a group we have a wide range of opinions but after discussions we work together as a team. We usually meet every other month, but during our vacancy we are meeting monthly! Rotas are arranged for a reader, sideman, intercessor and Chalice for each service by the Churchwardens, who also agree a duty warden for each service. As a team we

work on the day to day running and upkeep of the Church. With the great help of members of the congregation, working parties are arranged to keep the church and churchyard well maintained.

Pastoral Involvement

Visiting the Sick

We have a small but dedicated lay team who along with the priest have made a monthly visit to the local nursing home to offer Holy Communion. This is much appreciated by residents and staff. The priest and lay team also have offered Holy Communion to the sick within the parish and the lay team continue to do so.

Parish Outreach

At Christmas, the choir assisted by several enthusiastic members of the congregation and the priest have performed carols in the local pub. This has been well supported by the local community and is a good opportunity for the church to interact with the village.

The priest ran an informal discussion group once a month called 'Pints of View' in one of the local pubs. Owing to popular demand this is continuing.

On occasion we have held services at one of the local farmer's barns, complete with hay bales and even tractors. This is always well attended and especially popular with young families as there is sometimes the opportunity to see farm animals.

The priest has also made regular visits to local junior schools.



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We have a once yearly pet service which always proves popular with people bringing a wide range of pets with them.

When we celebrate our Patronal Festival we have wine and cheese afterwards to thank everyone either in the church or community for all the work they do in the year for the church.

Lay Ministry

Lay members of St Andrew's enhance our worship by production of a weekly news sheet, bell ringing before most services, preparing the church (and, when appropriate, the sacristan prepares for communion), reading appointed Old or New Testament passages, leading intercessions, and helping with the chalice for communion as well as provision of refreshments after services.

There are members willing to visit families interested in Baptism to discuss and prepare, two members have completed the course in Christian studies and the Inspire course in leading children's work. A group used to lead family services when we were last in vacancy and are willing to do so again if this is appropriate and with some guidance. They run Messy Church each third Sunday in the month leading an activity, some teaching, prayer and music, and have run fun days which attracted up to 20 local children and young people. We would hope that the new priest would give leadership and encouragement to the group as appropriate.

A small group take friendship and communion to the residents of the local nursing home about once per month and also to members who are housebound. A church magazine is produced monthly and delivered to about 250 households.

There are talented flower arrangers, a team of church cleaners, and a group who keep the churchyard tidy as well as carrying out maintenance to the church. Others arrange social/fundraising events such as Harvest supper, St Andrew's party, BBQs and Fetes, supported by many members on the occasions.

A website has been developed by members of the church, which is kept up to date, showing forthcoming events and services.

St Andrew's Youth Ministry



St. Andrew's Youth Ministry has taken a variety of forms in recent years and we have focused on trying to provide what might be attractive to the modern village dweller.

Our All Age Family Worship was, until recent years, quite buoyant and attracted a variety of people from a number of directions including; families who had recently had their children baptised or who would be interested in having a

baptism, families from the church toddler group or those who used to attend, Church



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Parade from the local Scout troop and friends from the surrounding area who maybe didn't attend another church regularly but were happy to visit St Andrew's. With just a few from each of these groups a good attendance could be achieved.

(This was replaced with a Jubilate service which involved a Eucharist. However this hasn't the same level of appeal and some of our connections were lost.)

Our weekly toddler group – Tiny Tots – is held in the church and is proud to provide a variety of activities for the children and also a relaxing environment for the parents/carers to escape for an hour or so and enjoy being looked after by us. The helpers at Tots are a committed team from the church, however new members on the team would be most welcome!

We are also proud to have achieved funding from the Mission Opportunities Project to provide an after school worship group, named SALT (Sharing And Learning Together) along the style of Messy Church. This gave us the opportunity to provide 3 years of ministry with children and families alike.

As the funding for SALT came to an end we decided the way forward was to develop our own Messy Church to be held monthly on Sunday mornings, with which we are currently continuing.

Messy Church is run by the 'youth lay ministry team', meeting together regularly to plan and lead the services. We have a small but loyal group of families attending and we endeavour to involve many of the wider congregation too, aiming at worship for all. We continue in the hope that it will see growth as word spreads.

Occasional services can be well attended, examples of this would be Mothering Sunday, Good Friday and Christingle, although the lay team might feel they are running dry on ideas and a little spiritual inspiration would go a long way.

Our true strength in terms of ministry for younger people comes from the role St Andrew's has in the local community and our appeal to those who find we offer a place to find God in the busy world we are surrounded by. St. Andrew's may simply provide a place where people feel they belong, however frequent or infrequently they attend, and can feel comfortable sharing with what we can offer.

Charitable Giving

Throughout the year we have our regular giving to The Children's Society at Christingle and The British Legion Poppy Appeal at the Remembrance Service. Each year the PCC choose a given charity which this year, and for the next four years, is to Marsabit, Kenya.

Non perishable goods are collected for CHES (our local homeless support scheme) and the yearly shoebox appeal. We also had special charitable giving to the Police Benevolent fund, Friends of Essex Churches (this is split between Essex Churches and a chosen charity) and The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



Finance

Our bank accounts for the year ending December 2012 show a balance of £9,750 with an agreed sum of £5,640 awaited from HMRC in respect of Gift Aid recovered giving a total balance of £15,345. It is our policy that all giving to the church is on an unrestricted basis. A series of fund raising events enables us to support local, church and national charities and appeals. Emergency collections are made for disaster hit areas. Our skilled team of volunteers does much to reduce our running costs and a grant is made towards churchyard expenses by Sandon Parish Council. Our Parish Share is paid in full by direct debit and all expenses are paid promptly by direct debit where possible.

Fund Raising Events

During the year we endeavour to hold around five or six fund raising events. We try to start the year with a quiz. As we have a very good flower arranging team we open the church for refreshments Easter Sunday and Monday. For many years we have organised an inter-village walk (the money from this is shared between the church and a charity) culminating with a pub lunch. Our main fund raising events are our Church Fete and Christmas Fayre. Our Harvest Supper and Church BBQ complete our year.



Jubilee Fête

During the Jubilee we celebrated with a successful Flower Festival.

Magazine

Sandon has published a Parish Magazine for many years now; there are rumours of the existence of copies dating back to the dark ages of the 1960s and beyond. The magazine is published on a monthly basis in A5 booklet format and, as well as providing regular information regarding services for the month and church and village points of contact and activities, also carries articles from village and church organisations, both on a regular and ad-hoc basis. A Letter from the Rectory has always been a staple and valued inclusion.

Usually, editions are printed in a little under 300 copies, many of which are delivered to regular subscribers in the parish with each edition running to 20 pages in total, including our regular advertisers, although occasionally an edition may be reduced to 16 pages if the news has run a bit dry!

We currently have a joint editorial team of two who, although they are resident in the neighbouring parish of Great Baddow, or in Sandon O'er the Border as it is colloquially known, have worshipped at St Andrew's, Sandon for many years.



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



Organisations and Activities

Within the local community there are wide ranging activities covered by many organisations

Some are linked with the Church, some from time to time will come in contact with the church but many do not have any association with the church, and some are loosely associated by the fact that church members are part of them

So there are many good people within the parish who do many good deeds not only within the parish but also in the wider area of the city and world.

Through our linking in the near past with Little Baddow, there are still many activities available to Sandon and parishioners, and we still continue to nurture our links, not only with Little Baddow but are building links with other churches within the Chelmer Crouch Group of churches. It will be seen when reading through that some of these will not appear to be organisations, but they have been included as a number of them are one off activities, but often organised by the same group of people.

Church

Parish/Church Fete
 Bell Ringing and Hand Bells
 Parent and Toddler Group
 Concerts
 Bicycle Ride
 Inter-village Walk
 Beer and Carols in the Local Pub (Christmas)
 Harvest Supper Dinner
 Easter Garden
 Nine lessons and Carols
 Coffee Morning
 Easter Egg Hunt
 Christingle
 Samaritans Purse (Shoe Box)

Local

Speed Watch of Local Traffic
 Sports Club
 Film Club (New)
 WI
 Sandon School
 Village hall
 Tuesday Youth Club
 77 Club (Older Youth)
 Parish Council
 Police Dog Training Centre
 Brownies
 Cubs
 Scouts
 Ladies Keep fit
 Neighbourhood watch
 Village hall management
 Live Lambing
 Open Gardens

Chelmsford and beyond

Street Pastors (2 members serve in Chelmsford)
 Tools with a mission (collecting tools for developing countries)
 History Society
 Concerts
 Samaritans – supported by some church members



Barbecue in the churchyard



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



The Locality, the Church and the Village

Sandon is a rural parish with the village centred round the Church and the Pub some 3-5 miles from Chelmsford City centre, depending on where in the parish you are. It has had two significant residential developments grafted on to it. One is attached to the village core – Gablefields and The Lintons (the latter containing the current rectory) - the other at Howe Green includes Chalklands and the URC chapel. In addition, there are two fairly spread out neighbourhoods based on Woodhill Road and Butts Green and Mayes Lane. These locations contain most of the rest of the properties in the parish area, but there are odd houses elsewhere. Although most of the parish is pleasant farmland, there are some 600 residences. The vast majority of the population work in Chelmsford, its offshoot Great Baddow or elsewhere in Essex or they commute to London.

Also of significance to the parish is the A12, which cuts through it and Sandon Brook, mostly a gentle stream flowing through attractive countryside, but a torrent at times of heavy rain. Another important, but quite self-contained feature, is Sandon Comprehensive School with approximately 1,100 students with ages ranging from 11-18. Then there are four light industrial areas, three based on the re-use of old farm buildings, with the fourth and biggest based on the former gravel pits.

St Andrew's is a traditional village church, standing in a delightful churchyard of some 2 acres. It was part built in the eleventh century and has been harmoniously developed and enlarged over the years, with the latest addition being the St Andrew's Room opened in 1994. This provides a meeting room, tea and coffee making facilities and a disabled toilet. The interior of the Church is relatively simple, but has a number of interesting architectural features. There is a medieval wooden pax, a 16th century font and a wineglass pulpit that has been described as the finest of its type in Essex. The Tudor tower has a ring of six bells which are rung every Sunday. The whole has a warm welcoming feel and a picture post card exterior. The building is in a good state of repair and although the quinquennial inspection is due in 2013 we do not anticipate any severe problems. The nave is furnished with pews and the Lady Chapel has chairs which can be moved to provide a flexible space for various, especially youth-based activities. The Church is one side of the village green, with the village pub The Crown on another side. For over a century until 2000 there was a special Spanish oak in the centre of the Green the branches of which shaded much of the area. This is still on the



parish badge. In addition to this there are two smaller greens in the village and Butts Green at the heart of the hamlet of that name.

The Church is supported and run by people living within the parish and by a significant number from outside. We do not have a 'Friends of St Andrew's' and there have been no plans to form such a group. The St Andrew's Room is used not only by the church, but by the Tiny Tots, the WI and a number of other

organisations. Those involved in the church see St Andrew's very much as the village church, at the heart of and serving the local community, with many of the congregation



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



playing a major part in village activities.

In Conclusion

The above paragraphs give an indication of the kind of church that we are, the kind of congregation that we are, the values that we hold and our hopes and aspirations for the future. St Andrew's is steeped in over 900 years of prayer and worship. This is our legacy and we want to move forward, not fearful of change, to meet the changing demands of our time. We must be brave, perhaps radical to interact with the world around us. We are very much a work in progress and we need a priest to help us and to guide us.

So why not join us on our journey?



Appendices

Appendix 1 – 2011 Accounts

Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2011.				
General Fund (all unrestricted) Receipts and Payments Account				
RECEIPTS	2011		2010	
	£	£	£	£
Regular Giving				
Planned giving	17367		18556	
Collections and other giving	3757		5054	
Income tax recovered	7164	28288	6982	30592
Other voluntary receipts				
Donations	3307		5049	
Legacies	1410	4717	4600	9649
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Parish Magazines	723		765	
Fund raising	5927		2942	
Project 452	2133	8783	1642	5349
Receipts from Church activities				
Parochial fees	5061		4242	
St Andrews Room Donations	274		441	
Shared Clergy Expenses	1001		1117	
50% Little Baddow				
SALT	-	6336	3800	9600
Receipts from investments				
CCLA shares	31	31	30	30
		<u>48155</u>		<u>55,220</u>
PAYMENTS	£		£	
Mission and relief agencies	3298		4618	
Diocesan Parish Share	30600		30388	
Church running expenses	5011		3766	
Clergy expenses	2129		2492	
Cost of services	415		1019	
Building maintenance	773		2385	
Magazine printing	863		719	
Printing and stationery	864		802	
SALT	5546		5464	
Churchyard	1322		1692	
Fees	130		1424	
		<u>50951</u>		<u>54,769</u>
Excess of Payments over receipts		2,796		
<i>Excess of Receipts over payments 2010</i>				451

The pattern of the 2012 accounts is expected to be similar.



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



Appendix 2 – Table of Services

Week in the month	8:00 am	9:15 am	10:00 am	10:30 am	11:00 am
1					Sung Eucharist
2	Holy Communion	Sung Eucharist			
3				Messy Church	
4		Sung Eucharist			
5			Sung Eucharist		

Every week Tuesday 9:15 am Said Eucharist

2nd & 4th Wednesday 9:30 am Celtic Morning Prayer



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



Appendix 3 – Inside the Rectory

Clockwise from top left

A view from the front door

The living room

The kitchen

The breakfast room

The living room

