



Sandon Parish Annual Reports



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Minutes of 2015 Vestry Meeting

held in St Andrew's Church on Sunday the 19th April 2015 after morning worship

- 1 **Opening prayers** were said by Revd Terry Brown.
- 2 **Appointment of Clerk.** Christine Mennie agreed to clerk the Annual meetings.
- 3 **Apologies** were given for Audrey and Colin Bryan, Chris Davis, David and Christine Farrar and Alison Read. There were 25 other church and parish members present.
- 4 **Approval of the minutes of the year 2014 Annual Vestry Meeting.** These were agreed unanimously. Proposed by Judy Cecil and seconded by Valerie Grimwood.
- 5 **Matters Arising.** There were none.
- 6 **Election of two Churchwardens**
Revd Terry Brown had received two nominations. Janet Terry was proposed by Christine Farrar and seconded by Nick Bobeldijk. David Farrar was proposed by Christine Mennie and seconded by Dennis Terry. Therefore as there were no other nominations Janet Terry and David Farrar were duly elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.
- 7 **Date of Next Meeting** – 10th April 2016 circa 11:30 am (although subsequently moved to 17th April).

The meeting then closed.

Minutes of 2015 Annual Parochial Meeting

held in St. Andrew's Church on Sunday the 19th April 2015 after morning worship

- 1 **Notice Convening the Meeting** Revd Terry Brown noted that the meeting had been convened.
- 2 **Apologies for absence** The apologies for the vestry meeting and attendees were applied to this meeting.
- 3 **Election of Tellers** Mr Dennis Terry and Mr Richard Cecil were appointed by the meeting to act as tellers.
- 4 **Approval of the minutes of the year 2014 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.** These were agreed unanimously, proposed by Pat Salmon and seconded by Dennis Terry.
- 5 **Matters Arising.** There were none.
- 6 **Reports.** All written reports were presented to the meeting and adopted.
 - 6.1 **Electoral Roll Report.** Mrs Liz Bobeldijk reported that there were 7 new members and no removals. The current membership stands at 31 residents and 32 non-residents bringing the total to 63. Liz was thanked for her work.
 - 6.2 **Annual Report** was noted and Janet Terry thanked for this.
 - 6.3 **Presentation of the Accounts to 31st December 2014.** The report was discussed and all the points raised will be brought to the new finance committee meeting in the near future.
 - 6.4 **Church Fabric Report** was noted and David Farrar was thanked for this.
 - 6.5 **Deanery Synod Report.** Dennis Terry and Judy Cecil were thanked for their reports.



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- 6.6 **Chelmer Crouch Group Report.** Christine Mennie gave a brief report saying that most of the year had been taken up with discussion of the new units proposed by the Deanery which is an ongoing agenda.
- 7 **Election of PCC Members**
Nominations were received for Colin Bryan, John Gruby, Chris Davis, Mike Harris, Simon Johnson, Christine Mennie and Michael Puffett. The results were as follows Michael Puffett 20 votes, Christine Mennie 20 votes, John Gruby 19 votes, Mike Harris 19 votes, Colin Bryan 16 votes, Simon Johnson 11 votes and Chris Davis 10 votes. Mike Harris offered to serve for one year so Christine Mennie, John Gruby and Michael Puffett will service for 3 years from 2015, Simon Johnson, Mike Harris and Colin Bryan and for 1 year. Chris Davis was not elected.
- 8 **Appointment of Child Protection Officer and Vulnerable Adult Officer.** Alison Read had expressed her willingness to continue as Child Protection Officer and was proposed by Anna Crosby and seconded by Gill Haddington. Christine Farrar, as Vulnerable Adult Officer, was proposed by Nick Bobeldijk and seconded by Mike Harris.
The meeting endorsed their appointments.
- 9 **Appointment of Independent Examiner.** Kenneth Carr our examiner of many years has decided to stand down, and it was decided that the PCC will look into appointing a new examiner.
- 10 **Appointment of Sidesmen and Sideswomen.** Eileen Bartrup, Joan Bridger, Colin Bryan, Judy Cecil, Christine Farrar, John Gruby, Gill Hodge, Christine Mennie and Pam Norrington were elected.
- 11 **Reports from other Organisations.** These reports were in written form and given out prior to the meeting. These included reports for St. Andrew's Choir, Magazine, Marsabit, St Andrew's Youth Fellowship, Scouts, Tea and Chat, Tiny Tots Toddler Group, Chelmsford Nursing Home, Bell Ringing and Bible Reading Notes.
Revd Terry Brown thanked everyone for their reports and all the hard work that had been put into all the organisations who contribute toward the successful running of the church.
- 12 **Priest in Charge Report** Attached.
Michael Puffett thanked Terry on behalf of St. Andrew's for all his hard work.
- 13 **Date of Next Meeting** – 10th April 2016 circa 11:30 am (although subsequently moved to 17th April).
- 14 **Closing Prayers** Lead by Richard Cecil.

Rector's report for APCM 2015

There is so much to give thanks for over the last year. I am so lucky to have such a lovely church and people working together to advance the Kingdom of God.

First I need to thank the churchwardens Janet and David. They are the best wardens that you could ask for. They know their job and they just get on with it to make this a delightful place to come and work and worship. Thank you.

Then there is the PCC with Christine our Secretary and Nick our Treasurer and all the PCC who have worked together this year on many things that we have learnt to work together and love each other.



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Then there is Ron our organist and our choir who have had a good year combining with other choirs to bring wonderful music in our church. There have been choral evensongs with 3 choirs and recently they joined with All Saints Springfield on Passion Sunday to sing The Cross of Christ. Such a wonderful evening but a disappointment with the small number of people who came to listen.

We need to thank Nick and all our bellringers for their work during the year. In March Sandon was chosen for the local bellringers to hold their AGM and service here. It was a delight to be asked to lead and preach at this service.

Richard particularly for all his work on our church magazine. It must be the best one for miles around. But that's not all, Richard and Judy are both enthusiastic in the nurturing of our congregation in helping me to run the Pilgrim courses during the year as well as preparing food for us to share. Through their enthusiasm we have held our first prayer breakfast as well as taking part in the 24/7 prayer event.

Then there is Tiny Tots with Alison, Gill, Anna Janet and Sheree every Wednesday. There has been a real growth here with sometimes 16/18 babies and toddlers and of course mums dads and grandparents. Such a demonstration of love to these families. I love the play doh. Then there are the excellent flower arrangers who beautify our church all the year but particularly at the festivals of Christmas and Easter.

Then there is Nick our sacristan who works hard to order supplies of candles etc for our services as well as changing altar frontals and preparing the altar for every Sunday.

Also thanks to Liz for all her work in maintaining the electoral roll and it is good to see this year the rise in people wanting to go onto the electoral roll as a sign of their commitment to our church.

Dennis for the pew sheet

Tea and chat for the speakers, quizzes, beetle drives.

All the helpers in the churchyard and this year the Best kept churchyard. For Christine and all her hard work in the churchyard and her enthusiasm in arranging churchyard mornings also for Christine in bringing together our cleaning volunteers once a month. We could do with others to join us.

The uniformed organisations and the way they are coming to Church Parades and wanting to come up to the church for various badge work etc.

For Evelyn and her helpers with the St. Andrew's Fellowship. We look forward to working closer together in the future.

Lots to give thanks for this year.

The setting up of the Friends last September and have raised over £6000 towards the work of repairing the church roof. The bid not being successful but other grants we will be bidding for.

Tea on the Green last August with 170 people and the Salvation Army Band to be repeated this year.

Our relationship with Sandon School Year 7 students visiting our church as part of their RS work and with me going into school to follow up this work. Also with the music department singing at our summer fete as well as the choir coming to join us at our 9 lessons and Carols.

Ladies and men's breakfasts have been established and we look forward to inviting both speakers and new people to these mornings held at Butts Green Garden centre.

Friends events this year



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July Concert with the Southend Boys and Girls choir, Bake off and BBQ

In December a Dickensian evening with the lighting of the Christmas tree, father Christmas stalls selling mulled wine chestnuts etc. to help bring the village together.

We are holding a wedding tea for our newlyweds as well as couples in our congregation coming together. Edward and Sarah Carter from the cathedral will join us where they will speak.

Rogation Sunday in May we will meet at Richard Speakman's barn with uniformed organisations. Let's bring your friends and neighbours.

Prayer is so important for our church and so we will be looking at the following during the year.

Setting up

Prayer Warriors

Praying for the roads in our parish with prayer box in church

Prayer walking around our parish

Prayer calendar for all members of our church

We need to look at the finance of our church. Setting up a group to look into our stewardship and to hold an event later this year to inform us of their findings.

Messy Church beginning in Sept for 3 months following on from the success of our previous workshops.

We are a growing Church: I recently heard a very inspiration man called Andrew Blacknell. He told us that he had been head of publicity and marketing at Woolworths. In the 1990s Woolworths commissioned a major piece of research on the high street, so they had a good understanding of trends, where the high street was heading and so on, but they failed to change and we know about their demise.

Woollies were a familiar presence on almost every high street and had been highly successful but in recent decades fewer of us went to shop there, except at Christmas and Easter.

Andrew realised there are obvious parallels with the church, so as a passionate Christian he's spoken to all the dioceses about change, because he doesn't want the church to go the same way as Woolworths.

Andrew told us that change is usually associated with loss but it doesn't have to be so.

Change also includes adding something new, learning from others and being open to new ideas.

He also suggested that change is most effective when its innovative and radical rather than tinkering around the edges, which is why Woolworths failed.

So why is this significant?

The church has just published a report called 'Church Growth Research' which shows that although there is a general decline in numbers many traditional churches are growing, although Fresh Expressions of church are growing much faster. It seems that people want to engage in a new and different, more informal way than previous generations. People are still searching for a spirituality, searching for God, but for many of them the traditional ways no longer speak to them.

So how can we face change and look positively to the future?

How can we make sure that there will be a church community here in the future to worship God and to witness to his love?



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Researchers concluded that, while there is no single recipe, there are common ingredients strongly associated with growth in churches of any size, place or context, regardless of style or churchmanship. These are;

Good leadership

A clear mission and purpose

Willingness to self-reflect, to change and adapt according to context

Involvement of lay members

Being intentional in prioritising growth

Being intentional in nurturing disciples.

All of the above are linked to growing churches

This is a quote from the report from a vicar who clearly had a job on his hands...

"The church was in decline and has not changed much. No willing adult to support the work with children, no Sunday school, no change allowed to the service. The choir refuse to attend all age worship and don't like contemporary stuff. PCC same people year after year. Apathetic, uninvolved, the congregation want to come and be fed go home and forget church until next week. Very few willing and even fewer able to work for growth."

I'm delighted to say that it doesn't in any way describe life at St. Andrew's.

We can come to God as we are, but we can't stay as we are.

God wants us to have a change of heart.

I believe as a church we are in good heart. We've had a good year, but I suspect we have an exciting year ahead of us.

May God guide us and bless us in all our endeavours in his name. amen.

Discipleship

Sometimes it helps to define something by looking at its opposite. So disciples are *not* those who nod in the direction of faith but don't let it get too serious. It isn't about doing your statutory hour a week in church and then living exactly how you like the rest of the time. It isn't about seeing church as a leisure activity where we can meet friends like us. And neither is it about living uncritically in the consumerist culture of 21st Century Britain without letting the deeply counter-cultural values of Jesus challenge us. Discipleship is a full-time job, which is about knowing Christ, making him known to others, and growing to be more and more like him. It's about becoming faithful, confident and joyful Christians.

Discipleship is an exciting journey, and wherever we are on it, whether newcomers or seasoned believers, we believe that God is calling us to go deeper, to know Jesus more clearly, to love him more dearly, and to follow him more nearly. The Discipleship Team, and the resources of the Year of Discipleship, are all designed to help us do that. Welcome to the journey!

Christ has no body but yours,

no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which he looks

in compassion on this world;

yours are the feet with which he walks to do good;

yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)



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Minutes of PCC Meeting 19th April 2015

Parochial Church Meeting (held immediately following the Annual Church Meeting)

- 1 **Apologies** Colin Bryan and Simon Johnson
Present Nick Bobeldijk, Revd Terry Brown(chair), Judy Cecil, David Farrar, Valerie Grimwood, John Gruby, Mike Harris, Christine Mennie, Janet and Dennis Terry, Michael Puffett and Ian Underwood.
- 2 **Appointment of Vice Chairman** David Farrar was proposed by Dennis Terry and seconded by Christine Mennie and appointed.
- 3 **Appointment of Treasurer** Nick Bobeldijk was proposed by Judy Cecil and seconded Ian Underwood and appointed.
- 4 **Appointment of Secretary** Christine Mennie was proposed by Nick Bobeldijk and seconded by Janet Terry and appointed.
- 5 **Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer** Liz Bobeldijk was proposed by Christine Mennie and seconded by Valerie Grimwood and appointed.
- 6 **Date of Next Meeting** Monday 15th June at 7.30pm in the SAR.

Administrative Information

St. Andrew's Church is situated by The Green, Sandon. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. Our correspondence address is:-
c/o The Vicarage, 1 Glebe Meadow, Great Waltham, Chelmsford CM3 1EX

PCC Members who have served from 1st January 2015 until the date of this report are:

Priest: R^{evd} Terry Brown

Wardens: Mr David Farrar
Mrs Janet Terry

Deanery Synod

Representatives: Mrs Judy Cecil *elected in 2014 for 3 years*
Mr Dennis Terry *elected in 2014 for 3 years*

Elected members: Mr Nicholas Bobeldijk *elected in 2014 for 3 years*
Treasurer

Mr Colin Bryan *elected in 2015 for 1 years*

Mrs Valerie Grimwood *elected in 2014 for 3 years*

Mr John Gruby *elected in 2015 for 3 years*

Mr Michael Harris *elected in 2015 for 1 years*

Mr Simon Johnson *elected in 2015 for 1 years*

Mrs Christine Mennie *elected in 2015 for 3 years,*

Secretary and Chelmer Crouch Group Rep.

Mr Michael Puffett *elected in 2015 for 3 years*

Mr Ian Underwood *elected in 2014 for 3 years*

Standing Committee: Incumbent or Chairman, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary

Bank: Lloyds TSB, Chelmsford Branch

Examiner: Richard Wheatley appointed by PCC as minute of 2015 annual meeting



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Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council of the church of St Andrew, Sandon is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St Andrew's PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with an incumbent, when appointed, promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church building and churchyard at The Green, Sandon. During the year, we continued with the following vision

"In the light of God's call, and our situation here, our vision is:-

1. "To glorify and worship God and to further his kingdom on earth.
2. "To declare and show the love of Christ for all people to the people of Sandon.
3. "To teach, encourage and help people to be disciples of Christ.
4. "To proclaim Christ's Gospel to the people of Sandon and the wider world.
5. "To encourage commitment and personal growth in Christian discipleship and spirituality.
6. "To channel God's love through service and care for all."

Annual Church Wardens Report for 2015

Preview

The electoral Roll as at April 2015 showed there were 56 on the Roll (29 Residents and 27 Non Resident). It now stands at 63 (31 residents and 32 non-residents). Our thanks to Elizabeth Bobeldijk for her role as electoral officer.

Sung Eucharist Services continue to be held 10:00 am on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday, along with Said Communion and Family Service on the 2nd Sunday of each month. A said communion is still held at 09:30 am every Tuesday and Celtic prayer on the 4th Wednesday at 09:30 am. Said Lay Communion is held every 2nd Wednesday at the Chelmsford Nursing Home.

Review of the Year

2015 was still a busy year for the Church. Our thanks go to everyone for their help with all the events that took place.

Easter services began on Palm Sunday where the congregation were led up to the Church by a donkey. Morning Services and Stations of the Cross were held through the weeks and included a very enjoyable children's Easter workshop and making of the Easter Garden montage. Terry held a Passover meal which was found very enlightening and enjoyed by all attending.

Our Church was beautifully decorated ready for our Easter Sunday service and for the Church to be open to visitors for tea and cake on Sunday and Monday afternoons.

Our first event of the year was an excellent concert by the Boreham Lades Choir and a group of youngsters from Colchester institute.

In May a group of dedicated walkers set off from Sandon to walk to the Cricketer's at Danbury for the Annual sponsored walk. Here they were joined by friends and family for



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lunch before continuing their walk back to Sandon. Well done all who took part. Thanks go to David Farrar for organising the walk.

Terry organized a wedding tea in June for all those couples that had been married in the Church over the preceding months. Our thanks to all who helped make this a really good afternoon.

Our Annual Fete was held in the Church Yard in July. This proved to be a great success and our thanks go to Christine Mennie and her team of helpers for organising this event.

A very high number of requests were made for another Tea on the Green. This was held in August and once again the sun shone for us. Approximately 180 people joined together to enjoy the Tea and Songs of Praise accompanied by the Salvation Army Band.

Our thanks must also go to those who cycled for the Stride and Ride event in September. Well done those who took part.

Harvest Festival was a very well attended Service with the uniformed organisations attending (Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) for a lovely Service. The flower arrangers beautifully decorated the church. Our thanks go to them and everybody that provided food for the enjoyable bring and share lunch that followed the Service.

The children's party in October was enjoyed by all, including the children. An excellent entertainer provided a small Bouncy Castle for the children. After a lot dancing and learning the art of plate spinning, a tea was provided, Again thank you to all who helped to make this a very happy event.

The annual Christmas Fayre in November was a very happy event. Thanks go to Liz Bobeldijk and her team for all the hard work in preparing for this, also to Revd. Terry and Christine Mennie for selling raffle tickets round the Parish. Father Christmas in a very pretty grotto was a great attraction for the children. Thank you all.

For St. Andrews Day celebrations we were joined by the choir of St. Nicholas Church, Great Wakering which was followed by our traditional Cheese and Wine. The whole event being enjoyed by all.

During the weeks leading up to Christmas we had a Christingle Service, at which it was good to be joined by the Uniformed Organisations and was very well attended. This was a very fun service with the meaning of the Christingle given to us all by Terry assisted by Miles Girdlestone dressed as an inflatable orange.

Carols in the Crown proved to be very good evening; the Crown was full! Members of the congregation joining with the locals to sing Carols accompanied by James Gilder on his squeeze box.

Unfortunately we were not able to be joined by Sandon School choir for the Nine Lessons and Carols, even so the singing was ably led by our own choir, along with Clare playing on her oboe accompanied on the piano by her husband, Martin, greatly adding to the occasion. Two more events held during the year, organised by the 'Friends of Sandon Church' were firstly a concert by Southend Boys and Girls choir. What wonderful singing was enjoyed by all. The sad side of this was the untimely death of John Willsmer one of our Friends Committee, who had been a leading light in the organisation of events. The second event was the lighting of the Christmas tree by the Mayor of Chelmsford, along with carol singing and Father Christmas on his tractor, as well as a bonfire on the Green along with Hotdogs, Mulled Wine and Mince pies. The whole evening being enjoyed by all even though there was a gale blowing. It was good to see so many from the village joining with us.



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Special thanks must be given for people who keep the Church running: - Nick Tovey (Tower Captain) and his band of bell ringers, Lesley Worboys and Janet Underwood and the flower arrangers, Ron Woods for not only leading the choir but playing the organ every week and on special occasions, Alison Read and all her helpers for organising and running the Tiny Tots. Mention must be made of Christine Mennie, who not only makes sure there is enough tea and coffee for tea and chat on Tuesdays, but also for ensuring the upkeep of the churchyard and gaining us third place in the Best kept Churchyard on the first time entry. Thanks to Richard Cecil the Editor of our Parish Magazine. I sure all would agree that our magazine is of a high standard and it is good to hear quotations from our magazine being read out on BBC Essex on Sunday mornings in their News from the Pews slot. We also would like to thank all those who regularly contribute to the magazine as well as to all those who distribute the magazine every month especially for the months when all the parish receive a free copy.

During the year the PCC met on several occasions and discussed the following, details of which can be seen in other reports and/or will have already been passed on to members of the congregation as and when they were agreed amongst the PCC and accepted on behalf of the congregation.

1. Serving with Accountability
2. Mission and Ministry Units and Chelmer Crouch Group.
3. The Deanery Vision
4. Funding Ministry.
5. Finance and Finance Group.
6. Sandon Friends.
7. Church Events
8. Car Park security. And surface of car park
9. Churchyard Trees and Fence and Best kept Churchyard.

Janet Terry Church Warden

Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2015

Planned giving increased in 2015 by £287, a mere 1.5% with several long-term, non-church attending contributors ceasing their donations during the year. Income from collections rose by £303 or 4.5% but giving from all other sources increased by £1,782, up by 35.5% on 2014. Difficulties in converting our HMRC Charity account to an online basis were overcome early in 2015 and Gift Aid was claimed for 2014 totalling £8,959 which resolved a difficult cash flow problem in the first quarter of 2015 which had obliged us to reduce our Parish Share payments by 50% for 3 months. Mainly as a result of the Gift Aid recovered, plus a 33% increase in funds raised by fundraising activities, our overall income for 2015 increased by £13,053 or 31.4% compared to 2014.

Donations and legacies both increased by £2,146 and £748 respectively and, as mentioned above, fundraising increased by £2,178 with the Summer Fete raising £2,384, the Sponsored Walk £600, the various Easter activities £195, a concert £680, Ride and Stride £905, a quiz night £542 and the Christmas Fayre £2,176. The much-appreciated grant from Sandon Parish Council for the upkeep of the churchyard was increased to £1300 and was again received in May.



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The Parish Magazine failed to break even last year with a deficit of £799; we continue to deliver bumper editions to the whole parish in special seasons. Parochial fees fell by £472 or 13.1%.

Overall, with a tiny 0.5% increase in total expenditure, our excess of income over payments for the year was £11,408 excluding a modest increase in restricted funds of £171.

The Building Maintenance Fund had a balance of £1,740 at the end of December.

Total payments were £43,273 with the main items being:- Insurance £1,832, Electricity £2,477, Water £84. Maintenance expenditure was £2,139 with an electrical inspection at £938 and organ repairs and maintenance of £883 making up the bulk of the expenditure. Churchyard expenses totalled £1,574 although much voluntary work was carried out over the year for which we should be very grateful.

In Mission, £1,920 was sent to Marsabit. Other smaller donations totalled £1,915 with total mission giving equating to 7.1% of our unrestricted income.

Fund Raising expenses were £903 including the cost of hiring Sandon Village Hall hire of £280.

We paid various affiliation fees and subscriptions totalling £227.

Miscellaneous expenses were £79.

Our Parish Share was £26,829, a decrease of £587 or 2.1%.

Nick Bobeldijk, Treasurer
20th March 2016

Fabric Report for 2015

- 1 Churchyard Trees** We received a Faculty from the Diocesan Advisory Council (11b23/14.234) to remove two trees (a cypress and holly) and crown the yew tree next to the church path. Further we received Chelmsford City Council 'planning permission' (ref. number 15/05564/ CAT) to deal correctly with other churchyard trees requiring pruning etc. This work will continue throughout 2016 and be mainly undertaken by congregation and PCC member, Mike Harris.
- 2 Memorial Garden** This requires work on the surrounding wooden forms carrying plaques and Mike Harris has kindly consented to do this during 2016.
- 3 Church Electrics** Our 5 year inspection has of course been done but further remedial work was necessary and this was completed by Danbury Electrical.
- 4 Church Roofs Repair** During the year of 2015 The Friends of Sandon Church made a bid for a grant from the Listed Places of Worship Repair Fund but were unsuccessful. Since the end of 2015 the PCC, supported by The Friends of Sandon Church, have launched another bid with a deadline submission of the 26th of February and results are expected by the end of April 2016. This time we are bidding to have all 4 church roofs (two over the Chancel/Knave) and two over the Lady Chapel) repaired. All 4 roofs are in need of replacement before the water starts leaking in—any time now! Our bid leader is Mrs Anna Cosby and we thank her for her considerable help.
During the past 12 months the church roofs and gutters have been cleared twice of leaves and other detritus.
- 5 Churchyard Front Fence** The Archdeacon finally gave us permission to go ahead and remove the front fence panelling so allowing the specifically planted yew hedge to grow



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through. This was completed in 2015. Special thanks go to Judy and Richard Cecil for their work covering all aspects of this!

- 6 **Churchyard RCCE** (Rural Council for Communities of Essex) Competition. Following a great deal of work organised by Christine Mennie with help from the Sandon's Uniformed Youth Groups, grass cutters, flower arrangers, helpers etc. we managed to secure third place in the Annual Essex Churches Best Kept Churchyard competition. This was our first attempt! We hope to do better this year!
- 7 **Tower Protective Lead** Following another attack on the lead protecting our tower Neil Arnold organised an excellent repair during the year!
- 8 **Car park Security** We have suffered several bouts of people leaving lorries and cars for long periods in our car park. We have yet to come up with a satisfying long term solution.
- 9 **Reservation of Grave Space** A specific grave space within the Churchyard has been reserved for one of our members. The requisite money has been paid to the Registrar and PCC following the granting of a Faculty by the Registrar.
- 10 **Church Organ Repair** Necessary work has been completed on the Church Organ which failed on two occasions. The total spent on this was £883.
- 11 **Fabric Costs** This year's fabric spend was **£2,560** as compared to the 2014 spend of **£2,161**. There is little doubt that we do need to 'put aside' funds on a yearly basis to cover other significant fabric expenses in the future (excluding the current hot topic of the 'roof repair fund ') to cover items such as the internal redecoration of the Church, an updated sound system, new electric cabling, and organ repairs etc.

David Farrar, Churchwarden

Deanery Synod Report

Synod met in June, September and November 2015 and February 2016 at Downham, Stock, Meadgate and Widford Church of the Holy Spirit, respectively, with an extra Saturday workshop at Sandon in September concerning the new Deanery Vision plan. There was also a Deanery Prayer day on March 5th with Bishop John Wraw and representatives attended Bishop Steven's Time to Talk 2 about Transforming Presence. Deanery business included the following:

Deanery Vision Plan: a new vision plan was proposed, discussed and consulted on and brought to synod in February 2016 where it was given approval. It proposes Mission and Ministry units consisting of South West Chelmsford churches - Galleywood, St Luke's and St John's Moulsham and Widford; Great Baddow together with some churches from the North Chelmsford deanery; the Chelmer Crouch Group with the addition of Stock and West Hanningfield and perhaps also Downham and South Hanningfield. The 6 or 7 allocated stipendiary ministers will be shared between the units.

Transforming Presence: Time to Talk 2 gave opportunity for discussion around four topics - Inhabiting the world distinctively, Evangelising effectively, Serving with accountability and Re-imagining ministry. These ideas were presented and discussed.

Church Growth: Philip Ritchie talked about the types of churches which tend to grow, based on some recent research.

Finance

The Deanery share formula for 2015 was presented and approved.

Judy Cecil



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Churches Together in Chelmsford

Sandon have for many years been members of Churches Together in Chelmsford. About 50 churches in Chelmsford are members and its main activity is the Procession of Witness from 5 points to the City centre High Street for a service to mark Good Friday. This year that was followed by a Passion Play in the High Street which although not organised by Churches Together in Chelmsford was supported by CTiC. Collectively the churches in Chelmsford support the work of CHESS, the Foodbank, Street Pastors, Renew Counselling, Work Place Chaplaincy, YMCA, Christian Aid and Interfaith Forum. Additionally Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer have recently become associates. All denominations are involved and it provides a vehicle where churches can share events across a wider forum. Its AGM is on Sunday 15th May at St Luke's Moulsham at 3:00 pm followed by Tea and Displays and all are welcome to attend.

Richard Cecil

Chelmsford Nursing home

These visits continue every month although we have had to change the day from Monday to Wednesday. We have on average 6 ladies and 3 other residents who take Communion in their rooms. Twice a year we gather a small group of people to sing, hymns in the summer and carols in December. Although most of the residents have Dementia they seem to remember the words and try to sing along, it is amazing and very moving.

Christine Mennie

Bell Ringing Report

We have continued to ring for most Sunday services and weddings this last year. We still to rely on the support of Ken and Jo Elliot. Their home tower is Great Baddow, so when Great Baddow require their support on the first Sunday of the month it is hard to find enough ringing at Sandon, but things are improving. Brian Pannifer can now ring the tenor and Mark Davis is ringing call changes.

Nicholas Champness rang in a ¼ peal which was laid on for the Sandon Open Gardens on 17th May and dedicated to his late mother. (This involves about ¾ of an hour ring.)

A peal was rung at our church on October 9th by others. (This involves about a three hour ring.) It was the 35th to be rung in the tower. It was dedicated to the licensing of two clergy in parishes in the Mersea, Abberton area to form a Ministry Unit.

Practice nights continues to be fairly well attended with support from other towers mainly Great Baddow, Downham and Galleywood.

Following a call by the Essex Association of Change Ringers to identify any minor works that might be funded by their repair fund, a detailed examination of the bells and frame was undertaken on 17 September 2015 by two local experts, Andrew Brewster and Roger Bailey, accompanied by Neil Arnold and Mike Worboys. This inspection identified a list of remedial work that would be beneficial to complete by way of general maintenance and good practice. These works included;

- * Checking and tightening the gudgeon bolts on all bells
- * Tightening the fixings on all stays
- * Tightening the wheel fixings on all headstocks
- * Replacing the sliders on the number 2 and 3 bells
- * Realigning of the number 3 clapper bolt to centralise it in the headstock
- * Replace the clapper bush on number 3 bell
- * Shim the clapper bolt in number 4 to centralize the clapper swing



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- * Degrease the slider surfaces on number 6
- * Replacing the clapper pin on number 6 to stop sideways movement

Neil and Mike have worked through the above list, with only the final item remaining to be completed. Costs have been kept to a minimum, notably through Neil being able to cut out and shape the two bespoke sliders, so that the only cost incurred was the purchase of the wood. We are also very fortunate that machining of replacement parts has been undertaken free of charge by BAE Systems in Great Baddow.

The bell chamber has been 'spring cleaned' twice during the year and is subject to a programme of regular planned preventative maintenance.

We are always looking to recruit and train more ringers. If anyone is interested please contact Nick Tovey.

Nick Tovey, Tower Captain

Prayer Letters

The PCC agreed to take up the challenge of praying for all the roads in Sandon over a year, a section of the village allocated to each month. PCC members took a month each and agreed to deliver the prayer letters, prepared by Terry, so that villagers would know we would be praying especially for them that month and inviting any special prayers to be sent to Terry or left in Church. So far, in 6 months, half of the village has received letters and we have prayed for them. There has been a small response in requesting prayer.

Judy Cecil

Bible Reading Notes

A limited number (12 copies - some to couples) have been taking New Daylight published by BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) which provides a short scripture reading for each day with a commentary about it. Recently the editor Naomi Starkey moved on after many years and since January the notes have been edited by Sally Walsh. These commentaries, written by a wide range of authors including, at times, Bishop Stephen Cottrell, can explain stories from the Old and New Testaments as well as use scripture to illuminate the lives of men and women of God from different ages both before Christ and since. To grow effectively as a Christian some form of Bible study (along with prayer, fellowship and witnessing) seems a must. These notes do not have a monopoly on this but do provide an outlet for a disciplined approach if that is what you aspire to.

Richard Cecil

St. Andrew's Choir

Firstly, I would like to thank the members of the choir for their commitment on Sundays and Fridays. During the year we have enjoyed combining forces with other choirs. On Passion Sunday we were joined by the choir of All Saints Springfield for The Cross of Christ which is a service of readings, anthems and hymns. For our Patronal Festival last November, James Gilder brought some members of his choir in Old Harlow and Terry arranged for members of St. Nicholas Church Great Wakering to join in singing Choral Evensong. It is a great encouragement for our small choir to sing with larger choirs. Finally, as I said in the Parish Magazine recently, if we do not recruit more singers, there will be no music at St. Andrew's in a few year's time.

Ron Woods



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Magazine Report

The magazine is indebted to the wide variety of those who contribute in so many ways: ideas, articles, reports, advertisements, distribution. Thank you to all. Last year I explicitly thanked Lesley Worboys who had been offering a gardening column each month. She has had to relinquish this but Narelle Arnold has offered to do a regular recipe. There are several new advertisers for which we are most grateful. The Speakman family have kindly continued to advise of their farming operation. Each month has included a letter from Terry and some light hearted items too. Pat Eden and David Farrar have contributed well on that front. We have a good team of distributors who circulate the magazine to all households in the parish 4 times in the year. It is my hope that the magazine can be a part of the ministry of Sandon Church and part of a ministry of reconciliation bringing different people together with ideas and events and thus articulating the Love of God in Jesus Christ in a practical way. Thank you again to all who have contributed and please continue to do so.

Richard Cecil, Editor

Marsabit Report

In 2012 the PCC decided to promise an annual sum of £1920 to the diocese of Marsabit in North Kenya to support a Minister and an Evangelist. We have continued to raise money for this and we also remember them in our prayers. The Revd Joshua ministers in Kargi and the evangelist, James, is in an even more inhospitable region of the country but with our support continues his work. Rob Martin, the Bishop of Marsabit, has now retired and his successor, Daniel Qampicha, whose wife is Sefia, has been appointed. In October Terry along with 5 other clergy went to Marsabit and he has been able to tell us something of life there from first hand experience. Lee Batson, who was also on the October trip, did the same for the men at the Men's breakfast in January.

Richard Cecil

Churchyard

The churchyard continues to be a real focal point of the church and village. This year we entered the Best Kept Churchyard for the first time and were so lucky to come 3rd. This is all down to the hard work of those who tend their family graves and the volunteers who come and help every month throughout the summer. This year we also had the help of the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, who spent a whole Saturday working in the Churchyard. The Beavers came one Thursday evening to make a bug hotel, this was enjoyed immensely. All the work is down to everyone who loves this churchyard and we thank them for making it so beautiful.

Christine Mennie

Report for The 'Friends Of Sandon Church' for Year 2015

The Friends had 6 committee meetings in 2015 and one Annual General Meeting.

Our first event in the year was on New Year's Day, 'Lambing Live' which the Speakman Family kindly arranged again at their farm. The day attracted 400 visitors and raised £1,000 (including 50 tiles at £5 each).

John Willsmer and Yvonne spearheaded our bid for a grant from the Government Lottery Fund for St. Andrew's Church Roof Repairs and they spent a great deal of time doing the relevant paperwork with other members of the committee. Early in 2015 we learnt the bad news that our bid was unsuccessful! However 10 Churches in Essex were successful! Their need was obviously more urgent than ours!



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A further 50 tiles at £5 each were sold at the Open Gardens Event in May.

The major event planned for 2015 was a VJ/VE Day celebration to be held in John Willsmer's garden in July, the day following a party to celebrate the 250th year of the Old Rectory- but of course following the sad loss of John this was cancelled and a 'Memorial' Concert featuring the Southend Girls and Boys Choir took place. This was very successful with over 100 visitors and raised over £500.

Our next event was a Dickensian Evening in December beginning with the Lighting of The Christmas Tree by the Deputy Mayor, plus a visit from Father Christmas and helper etc. We got an audience of about 120 but few stayed long afterwards for the hot dogs and mulled wine. We did manage to raise £150 in total but it was a great deal of effort for little reward! Overall the Friends Funds now stand at about £10,000 all of which is to be used on the Church Roof Repair Project as soon as one or more of our Grant Bids are successful. Our current committee comprises the Reverend Terry Brown, Darren Chaplin (Treasurer), Andy Hilton, Janet Terry, Anna Crosby, John Gruby, Brian Pannifer and David Farrar (Secretary).

We still need new members, help with fund raising and several more committee members! Please join us! You will be made welcome!

David Farrar, Secretary

St Andrew's Youth Fellowship Report

We had a good summer term with membership steady and plenty of activities and a brilliant talent show.

The main group of youngsters were all in year 6 primary and therefore moving schools in September. I had a feeling that we were not going to see many return once they had started secondary school and parents anxious for them to settle into a new routine. I was quite right and we only had 4 returners. Two of these left early October and we were down to 2.

Despite recruitment attempts and advertising we were unable to attract any more members even though we had organised to start auditions for another pantomime. I thought this might be the edge needed to recruit more members but the lure of grease paint, acting, singing and dancing could not tempt anyone. It costs SAYF around £2,000 to stage a full pantomime so we did not go ahead.

Following a meeting with Leaders, Julie Fisher, Eileen Bartrup, Bekki Tovey and James Tovey, we decided to officially close SAYF on its 42nd anniversary – 31st March 2016. SAYF was set up in 1974 by Peter Ellis as the social side of St Andrew's Sunday School. (Peter led the Sunday School for 25 years.)

It has been a most rewarding period in my life, working every Tuesday at club (school term time) and Sunday afternoons for 6 months of the year rehearsing pantomime. I must also mention hours and hours spent over 40 years designing and making pantomime costumes. Hundreds of young people must have been part of SAYF over 42 years. Some staying only 1 night, a large number for several years. Members have been known never to leave – going on to be leaders such as Bekki and James Tovey. Eileen Bartrup has helped for 40 years and Julie Fisher around 20 years. A massive commitment by these ladies and many other helpers during the life of SAYF. I thank them all most sincerely.

I know SAYF will be missed. No more stall at the fete or game at the bazaar to help church funds. Also the Village Hall has lost a massive amount of income that SAYF put into their accounts each year by hiring the hall on Tuesdays, Sundays and 9 days for pantomime.



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I have written to Sandon Parish Council who have, for many years, given SAYF financial assistance. They have always been most generous and supportive of the work we were doing with the young people of the community.

SAYF always gave young people a place of safety to meet their friends and 'hang out'. We offered a sympathetic ear if needed and tried to give members confidence to work as a team, to respect others, even if younger, to be proud of their group, gain self-assurance and to socialise with others.

I know that the work that Peter Ellis, all our many helpers over the years, and myself have done, has been useful in the youngsters' development to adulthood.

I must mention that City Councillor Ian Wright and his wife Carol have been stalwarts, always coming to our pantomimes, giving prizes at Presentation Evenings and sending great tins of sweets each year for the panto cast.

In January Ian nominated me to be a guest at the Mayor of Chelmsford's Community Evening with the theme 'Young People – Unleash the Potential'. This was held at Hylands House on Friday 1st April and it was for the Mayor to thank and congratulate anyone who contributes significantly to the aspirations of Chelmsford's Youth (outside of their everyday employment). I took my daughter Dawn as my guest which was appropriate as she was a founder member of SAYF. It was the 'icing on the cake' for me, a very splendid evening, delicious meal and a wonderful exit to a very sad procedure of closing SAYF.

So now this is Mrs Ellis saying 'goodbye' and hanging up her whistle and trainers!

Evelyn Ellis, Group Leader

Cub Report

Report on Cub Pack up to and including 24th March 2016

The pack stands at 26 young people. There are four warranted leaders Steve Eatly (who will become Akela on the 1st April,) Steve Townsend (Kaa) and Angela Higgs (Chil) and Jean Blake (who will become Group Scout Leader on the 1st April), 2 Young leaders and one Section Assistant.

The summer camp last August was held in Holland and it was a great adventure from start to finish everyone had a great time including the leaders; we had three trips out the last being to a theme park and water park. A trip down the canals and rivers in Amsterdam and also to a very hands on Museum where they could try all sorts of experiments.

They have had a varied programme over the past months with the Navigators and Scientist badges obtained so far this year. There will be a back to basics camp in September.

This year is a special year for cubs being the Centenary of cub scouting. There have been and still to be enjoyed various activities arranged by the District, The World Challenge badge, a trip to Kidzania in London and Centenary camp in June. The cubs will join forces with another pack to celebrate the centenary with a promise party on the 16th December where the cubs will remake their promise and have lots of fun.

Jean Blake, now Group Scout Leader

Beavers' Report

The Beavers have been beavering away during the year with enjoyment and fun. Many badges have been awarded during the year and it is thanks to the leaders for their dedication and hard work.

Some of the notable events during the year was our visit to the Church yard where we built a bug hotel. This was followed up by a day with the cubs and scouts cleaning up the



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churchyard in preparation for the best church yard competition. We were glad to hear that all our work enabled the church to come 3rd in the competition.

For our church parade in November for Remembrance Sunday the beavers along with the cubs and scouts made ceramic poppies which they brought to the service. Terry was surprised by how many had been made and how good they were.

For our final church parade in December we were invited to the Christingle service and Terry Brown and Richard and Judy Cecil came along to our meeting and taught us how to ring a Christmas carol on the hand bells. We were all delighted to have taken part.

We look forward to another action packed year.

Janet Bernardes

Tea and Chat

Tea and chat maintains a very loyal group of people on Tuesday mornings after Communion. A very happy band met this year and listened to two very interesting talks by Andy and Alison Barker, especially Alison as her talk was on a painting by Ford Maddox Brown. We had two dinners at the White Hart at Margaretting Tye, one in the summer and one at Christmas. We had 20 people to the Christmas lunch, for an excellent meal and very good company, and we were very noisy. We are hoping to have a Beetle Drive and a quiz in the near future.

Christine Mennie

Tiny Tots Toddler Group

It's a pleasure to be able to report that Tiny Tots has seen continued growth throughout the year and we continue to provide a great service for local parents/carers and their babies/toddlers/pre-schoolers. With Terry's ongoing support, we hope that we also provide a great link between the families and the church.

Our team of helpers has also grown as we have welcomed Dessi, Brian and Kim into the fold. Not only do we have more 'hands on deck' to support the group, it also means that should anyone be away (illness/holiday/work) then we have plenty of back up, which is a lovely position to be in.

We continue to have great fun with crafts each week, along with special occasion crafts at Christmas, Mother's Day and Easter, to name just a few. Decorative jam jars filled with scented bath salts, planting flowers (Erysiums) into plant pots with labels, Easter baskets, finishing the Easter Garden & the Lady Chapel Altar Triptych were some of our most recent.

We also enjoy fresh home made cakes occasionally, which is a treat for us all!! Do spread the word, should anyone want to bake and donate on a Wednesday we would love to hear from you ☺.

Thanks to everyone who supports us, including those behind the scenes. We couldn't do it without you.

Alison Read



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Agenda for Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meetings and First PCC Meeting

The meetings will be held in St. Andrew's Church on Sunday the 17th April 2016 at 11.30 am

Annual Vestry Meeting

- 1 Opening prayers
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Appointment of Clerk
- 4 Approval of the minutes of the year 2015 Annual Vestry Meeting
- 5 Matters Arising
- 6 Election of two Churchwardens
(Nominations must have been received by the chair *prior* to the meeting.)
- 7 Date of Next Meeting – 23rd April 2017 circa 11:30 am

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (immediately after the Annual Vestry Meeting)

- 1 Notice Convening the Meeting
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Election of Tellers
- 4 Approval of the minutes of the year 2015 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- 5 Matters Arising
- 6 Reports
 - 6.1 Electoral Roll Report
 - 6.2 Annual Report
 - 6.3 Presentation of the Accounts to 31st December 2015
 - 6.4 Report on the Church's Fabric
 - 6.5 Deanery Synod Report
 - 6.6 Chelmer Crouch Group Report
- 7 Election of PCC Members
- 8 Appointment of Child Protection Officer and Vulnerable Adult Officer
- 9 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 10 Appointment of Sidesmen and Sideswomen
- 11 Reports from other Organisations
 - 11.1 Beavers
 - 11.2 Bell Ringers
 - 11.3 Bible Reading Notes
 - 11.4 Brownies
 - 11.5 Choir
 - 11.6 Coffee and Chat
 - 11.7 Cubs
 - 11.8 Flower Arrangers
 - 11.9 Magazine
 - 11.10 St Andrew's Youth Fellowship
 - 11.11 Scouts
 - 11.12 Tiny Tots
- 12 Rector's Report
- 13 Concerns/Questions to be Expressed/Asked
- 14 Other Appropriate Business
- 15 Date of Next Meeting – 23rd April 2017 circa 11:30 am
- 16 Closing Prayers

Parochial Church Council Meeting (immediately after the Annual General Meeting)

- 1 Appointment of Vice Chairman
- 2 Appointment of PCC Treasurer
- 3 Appointment of PCC Secretary
- 4 Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
- 5 CCG Proposal for Funding
- 6 Next meeting dates 16th May, 18th July, 19th September, 21st November, 16th January, 20th March