

Sandon Parish Annual Reports



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ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



Minutes of 2013 Vestry Meeting

Minutes – Annual Vestry Meeting after 9:15 am Service 14th April 2013 in Church following a short break for refreshments

- 1 **Opening prayers** were said by Canon Martin Wood at 11:00 am asking for guidance in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- 2 **Appointment of Chairman.** Michael Puffett proposed that Martin Wood should chair the meeting, to which the meeting agreed unanimously.
- 3 **Apologies for absence** were received from Gill Haddington, Peter & Evelyn Ellis and Beryl Puffett.
- 4 **Appointment of Clerk.** Christine Mennie proposed and Barbara Underwood seconded that Richard Cecil clerk the meetings.
- 5 The year **2012 minutes** were approved unanimously and signed by Martin.
- 6 There were no **Matters Arising**.
- 7 **Election of two Churchwardens**
There were 2 nominations as follows:
Michael Puffett was nominated by Eileen Bartrup and seconded by Richard Cecil.
Janet Terry was nominated by Christine Mennie and seconded by Ian Underwood.
Both were elected unanimously.
Martin, on behalf of all present expressed thanks to the wardens for their work which was endorsed by the meeting with applause.
The meeting then closed.

Minutes of 2013 Annual Parochial Meeting

Minutes – Annual Parochial Church Meeting after 9:15 am Service 14th April 2013 in Church

- 1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Gill Haddington, Peter & Evelyn Ellis and Beryl Puffett.
- 2 **Appointment of Chairman.** Michael Puffett proposed that Martin Wood should chair the meeting, to which the meeting agreed unanimously.
- 3 **Minutes of the 2012 Annual Parochial Church Meeting** were approved unchanged unanimously and signed by Martin.
- 4 **Matters Arising**
Martin drew the meeting's attention to Clive's resignation in the autumn and appointment to Danbury and Little Baddow leaving Sandon in vacancy.
Richard Cecil asked that the position of last year's elections of PCC members be clarified.
The meeting agreed that the position as set out in the Annual Report be adopted.
- 5 **The Reports**
(Copies of all reports other than the Electoral Roll and Chelmer Crouch Reports were given out prior to the meeting.)
 - 5.1 **Electoral Roll Report**
David Farrar, Electoral Roll Officer, proposed and read through his report as follows,
"Every six years a new electoral roll is constructed. The previous new roll was taken in 2007 by Pat Eden and the total that completed their enrolment forms was then 66. The roll total then rose to 75 during the next six years.



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“I need to say that Pat Eden has been Electoral Roll Officer since about 1997 and has kept the Roll perfectly up to date. Our many thanks go to her!

“This year I was pleasantly surprised to get 51 people signed up. I was expecting a lot fewer- so thanks to all those who are here plus the absent others for taking the trouble to enlist!”

Richard seconded the report and it was adopted unanimously.

5.2 **Annual Report**

This had been circulated both by e-mail and at the meeting. Dennis Terry proposed it be adopted, David Farrar seconded and the meeting agreed unanimously. Martin thanked all who had contributed to the work of the parish. He also explained that the 1993 Charities Act required that Annual Reports had a common format.

5.3 **Financial Report and Presentation of the Accounts to 31st December 2012**

In proposing the report, Ian Underwood read through it as in the Annual Report. Following a question from David, Ian clarified that although income tax from Gift Aid had not been recovered by the year end it would have largely avoided a deficit. But Judy pointed out that there was also a one off £5000 legacy in last year's accounts. Michael also queried the magazine receipts as they did not appear to agree with the circulation he understood. Ian indicated that some payment for adverts had been delayed. David seconded the report and the meeting adopted unanimously. Ian was thanked for his efforts as treasurer.

5.4 **Report on the Church's Fabric**

Michael Puffett's report was adopted by the meeting after he had given a brief summary expressing concern about some woodworm. Martin indicated that the DAC may be able to advise about this. In that the inventory is now a computer record it is easier to keep up to date and is up to date. A thurible had been purchased and is due to be used at the Chelmer Crouch Ascension day service. Christine emphasised that Genda Wright has supplied and planted a new tree in the churchyard. Liz Bobeldijk seconded Michael's proposal and the meeting adopted the report unanimously.

5.5 **Deanery Synod Report**

Dennis Terry's report seconded by Christine Farrar was adopted unanimously by the meeting. Dennis highlighted the 'How to Pray' aspects recently covered. Martin recommended reading the Re-imagining Ministry paper adopted by Diocesan Synod at their March meeting which addresses the development of ministry in the diocese. It is available on the Diocesan website <http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/policies/reimagining-ministry>. This will be considered in due course by the Deanery.

5.6 **Chelmer Crouch Group Report**

Richard reviewed the meetings of the Group and those in ordained ministry within the Group. Christine added detail of some forthcoming group events, the School of Prayer and Ascension Day service. Michael emphasised that the ministers of the group had been particularly helpful during the vacancy, particularly Lee Batson and Carol Ball. Christine said she thought the group important. Thanks were expressed to all who helped to maintain this contact.

5.7 Martin considered that the meeting should note the **SALT Report** which it did.

6 **Election of PCC Members**

One nomination emerged during the meeting, namely Barbara Underwood proposed by Judy Cecil and seconded by Christine Mennie. She was elected unanimously for 1 year. In answer to questions, Martin stated that a PCC meeting is quorate if one third of its current membership is present.



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- 7 **Appointment of Child Protection Officer and Vulnerable Adult Officer**
Alison Read was proposed by Janet Terry as Child Protection Officer and seconded by Eileen Bartrup. After some clarification toward the end of the meeting Christine Farrar was proposed by David Farrar as Vulnerable Adult Officer and seconded by Roy Smith. Both appointment endorsed unanimously by the meeting.
- 8 **Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2013**
Ian said that Ken Carr would be available to stand again. David Farrar seconded this proposal. He was elected unanimously and thanked for his efforts.
- 9 **Appointment of Sidesmen and Sideswomen**
Michael proposed that the current sides folk be re-appointed, seconded by Christine Farrar as follows: Eileen Bartrup, Joan Bridger, Colin Bryan, Judy Cecil, Christine Farrar, David Farrar, Gill Hodge and Christine Mennie. These were welcomed wholehearted by the meeting.
- 10 **Motion:** That Elected PCC members be eligible despite immediate prior service on the PCC
Richard spoke in favour of the motion explaining that there are not enough of us to have a break between periods of service and that there were loop holes by becoming a Deanery Synod member or Church Warden. Christine stated that she thought it good to have a break and that there should be no change during a vacancy. Judy thought it the right time to effect this change to avoid problems next year. Pat Eden said that it was best as it is since there could be long term members. David had not met the PCC members ready to fill the vacancies created by the current position. Michael argued that the change proposed made sense for the number of people we have. Janet indicated she thought it should remain as it is. The motion fell with 7 in favour, 8 against and 2 abstentions.
- 11 **Concerns/Questions to be Expressed/Asked**
Michael stated that there is to be no Christian Aid collection this year.
- 12 **Other Appropriate Business**
There was none.
- 13 **Closing Prayers**
Martin closed the meeting with the Grace and thanked those who had participated. David thanked Martin for chairing these meetings, a sentiment endorsed by the meeting.

Minutes of PCC Meeting 14 April 2013

Minutes – Parochial Church Council Meeting 14th April 2013 in Church

- 1 **Appointment of Vice-Chair** Michael Puffett was proposed by Dennis and seconded by Judy and appointed.
- 2 **Co-option of Ian Underwood.** Janet's proposal was seconded by Christine Mennie and the meeting was unanimous welcoming Ian.
- 3 **Appointment of PCC Secretary** Richard Cecil was proposed by Dennis and seconded by David. He expressed some concern that an Elected Member may be more appropriate but agreed to undertake the task in the immediate future.
- 4 **Appointment of PCC Treasurer** Ian Underwood was proposed by David and seconded by Dennis. Ian stated that he wanted assistance in particular with computer work. He agreed to undertake the role till the next PCC meeting.
- 5 **Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer** David Farrar was proposed by Richard, seconded by Christine and appointed.
- 6 **Date of Next Meetings:** 13th May, 10th June, 8th July, 9th September, 14th October, 11th November, 9th December at 7:30 pm in SAR.



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



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 2013 until the date of this report are:

<i>Priest:</i>	R ^{evd} Terry Brown <i>since his licensing on 12th July 2013</i>
<i>Wardens:</i>	Mr Michael Puffett Mrs Janet Terry
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	
<i>Representatives:</i>	Mrs Judy Cecil <i>Elected in 2011 for 3 years</i> Mr Dennis Terry <i>from 1st April 2012 till end of triennium, May 2014</i>
<i>Co-opted</i>	Mr Richard Cecil <i>a co-opted member of Deanery Synod till May 2014.</i> <i>Secretary, Chelmer Crouch Group Rep.</i>
<i>Elected members:</i>	Mrs Elizabeth Bobeldijk <i>elected in 2011 for 3 years</i> Mr Nicholas Bobeldijk <i>elected in 2010 for 3 years</i> Mr David Farrar <i>elected in 2011 for 3 years</i> Mrs Christine Mennie <i>elected in 2012 for 3 years, Chelmer Crouch Group Rep.</i> Mrs Barbara Underwood <i>elected in 2013 for 1 year</i> Mr Ian Underwood <i>Treasurer, elected in 2010 for 3 years</i>
<i>Co-opted members</i>	Mr Nicholas Bobeldijk <i>co-opted by the PCC from and on 13th May 2013</i> Mr Ian Underwood <i>Treasurer, co-opted by the PCC from and on 14th April 2013</i>

There remain vacancies on the PCC with 9 elected members allowed with 3 elected each year for 3 years.

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

Bank: Lloyds TSB, Chelmsford Branch

Examiner: Kenneth Carr

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 and the Annual Meeting, in 2011, has voted that members are ineligible to serve on the PCC for a year after a 3 year period of service. The Annual Meeting voted to retain that arrangement in 2103. 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."



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Annual Church Wardens Report 2014

Church Attendance

The Electoral Roll at April 2013 showed that there were 50 on the Roll 27 Resident and 23 non-residents. Due to the very sad death of Peter Ellis, a very dear member of our congregation, it now stands at 27 resident and 22 non-residents. Our thanks go to David Farrar as electoral Roll Officer.

During the Vacancy 'Said Holy Communion' services were held on the second Sunday of the month and Parish Eucharist on the first, second and fourth Sunday, with Messy Church on the third Sunday. A 'Said Communion' continued to be held at 09:15 am on Tuesday Mornings and Celtic Prayer on second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Our thanks are given to all the visiting Clergy. Communion continued to be taken to the Nursing Home each month by Lay members and numbers here have been slowly increasing to an average of between 10-12 persons for each visit.

Review of the year

During the Vacancy as a Congregation we were struggling to hold onto numbers, even though we managed to hold all our services. In May we were pleased to announce that the Revd Terry Brown had accepted the post of (Non Stipendiary) Priest in Charge of St Andrew's and his installation took place on the 12th July; this was a very happy occasion.

Messy Church met monthly, but it was felt that a Family Service was needed to encourage families into the Church. This has been very successfully introduced and numbers have been increasing steadily. Messy Church is being reviewed and may restart in the future but probably on a week day after school.

A change of time for our Sunday Service to 10:00 am was agreed and numbers here are also increasing with many new people attending more regularly.

Our thanks again this year go to David for arranging the Village Walk , stopping at the 'Cricketers' Pub for lunch, with walkers being joined by friends before continue on Sandon.

The Church Fete was held in July; John Willsmer kindly agreed to us using his paddock and also opened his Garden for the afternoon. It was a successful afternoon enjoyed by everyone. Our thanks go to Christine and her team for making this such a success.

This year's BBQ was a very happy occasion, even though numbers were down. Thanks must go to all whom helped with the day and with the catering.

Harvest Festival was a very happy occasion, with the uniformed organisations joining with us. A harvest lunch was held after the service, this was enjoyed by everyone that stayed.

In November we held our Christmas Fayre this was a very busy but enjoyable day; thanks go to Liz Bobeldijk and her team of helpers. Terry ran a Quiz evening which was also a successful fund raising event.

For St Andrew's day service we were joined by the choir from the Church of the Ascension for a lovely service followed by cheese and wine, to enable us to say thank you to all who had helped at St Andrew's during the past year.

Christmas time was very busy. It began with the lighting of the Christmas tree and Carol singing, followed by hot chocolate and mince pies. The Christingle service was another well attended service and enjoyed by all. The choir from Sandon School joined with our choir for the 'Nine Lessons and Carols'. It is hoped that they join with us again during this year (2014). Carols were also sung in the 'Crown' pub and a small group also went to the Nursing Home and sang after their Lay led communion service.

Our thanks go to Barbara Underwood and her team of flower arrangers, especially at Easter, Christmas and Harvest, also to the bell ringers who come to help us every Sunday. A special thanks to the Revd Geoff Griggs for leading our Bible study evenings.



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Tiny Tots continues to be held on Wednesday afternoon. Our thanks to Alison Read and her team of helpers. This gives Mum's Dad's and Grandparents and Carers a time to enjoy a relaxed cup of tea and chat while the children play in safety.

Bell ringers, under the auspices of Nick Tovey (Tower Captain), continue their art and even with a shortage of numbers have managed to ring for all services, this is more often than not with ringers from other churches, who ring at Sandon and then go onto Services elsewhere.

Ron Woods not only continues to play the organ most weeks for us but also keeps the choir going with Choir practice every Friday evening. We are still struggling to get more members and still seek a Choir Master to lead us and reduce the load on Ron. Our thanks go out to Ron and all choir members for their support and hard work in supporting the services over the last year.

When we welcomed Terry our hopes for the future were high. Needless to say we have not been disappointed. With a few small changes and new ideas we look forward to our future together. Men's breakfast with guest speakers, Tea and Chat with quizzes and talks, and a variety of style and types of service and activities.

Baptism Families welcomed to Family Services. The hours that Terry puts in must far exceed those asked of him when he joined us. Our heartfelt Thanks are given to him.

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. They have been making some sort of video presentation which we may be able to see when Rob Martin, the Bishop of Marsabit visits us in June.

Janet Terry
Church Warden



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



Financial Report

Receipts

Our planned giving was virtually unaltered down £75 but other giving rose by £1,262 mainly from Baptisms and weddings.

Donations (up £2,073) were very welcome from many sources. They include £100 from Richard Speakman's Lambing Live, Friends of Danbury Scouts £400 and Sandon Scouts £200.

We thank the Sandon Parish Council for the grant of £1,000.

There were donations totalling £780 given for the Building Maintenance Fund.

The revamped Parish Magazine is also doing well both as a source of church information and as a good informative read. The loss of £286 was occasioned by the bumper Christmas edition being delivered to the whole parish in place of the Christmas card (which cost £240).

We had various Fund Raising events but unfortunately attendances were lower than usual and in spite of our efforts proceeds were down £2,108. The rise in Parochial Fees (£1,561) was very welcome as the main sources were Baptisms and weddings, and sadly funerals.

The St Andrew's Room donations met our expenses with a small surplus.

SALT ended last year but an overpayment had been made resulting in a refund of £344 from Jean Elliott.

The reduction of income (£809) is reasonable in an interregnum year of change.

Payments

Payments were down £3,222 to £45,983 from £49,205.

Donations were made to Marsabit (Kenya) £1,980, Children's Society Christingle £249, Friends of Essex Churches for Cycle Ride £285, Essex Clergy Charity £400 (Installation), Royal British Legion £162. The other £235 has been paid to our intermediary and was sent to Marsabit in Feb 2014 as part of the regular £480 per quarter.

Parish Share was £29,633 down by £840.

Church Running Expenses totalled £3,894, Insurance £1,874, Electricity £1,954 and Water £66. Clergy expenses to July totalled £277.

Cost of Services - the actual cost of services was £153 but we purchased a new water cruet £26 and the thurible for £507, the cost of both items being donated.

Building Costs totalled £1,114 and included SAR Heaters repair £152, Notice Board Repair £212, Fire Extinguisher check/service £100, Roof repair £477, Organ Tune £122, PAT Test on electrics £52.

Magazine printing £1137

Printing and Stationery £97 (£926 last year) a massive saving!

Churchyard Expenses of £1,242 were grass mowing £675, tree survey £375, mower £150 and £42 plaque.

We paid out fees to the Royal College of Music £93, Deanery fees £16, CTIC £19, Diocesan fees (Weddings/Funerals) £757, Bellringers £130. Total £1,015.

Fund Raising Expenses were £436, of which £247 was Village Hall hire.

Miscellaneous Expenses totalled £2991 which included the Electronic Piano £2,141. Clive's farewell collection £310, Sandon Village Hall Hire (PCC) £30, Installation expenses £182, Rectory Heating (Interregnum) £58, Wine & Cheese £99 and Miscellaneous Expenses £171.



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



St Andrews Church, Sandon					
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2013.					
General Fund (all unrestricted) Receipts and Payments Account					
RECEIPTS		2012		2013	
		£	£	£	£
Regular Giving					
	Planned giving	16289		16214	
	Collections and other giving	3723		4985	
	Sandon Parish Council Grant			1000	
	Income tax recovered	-	20012	5640	27839
Other voluntary receipts					
	Donations	3567		5140	
	Legacies	5000	8567		5140
Receipts from activities for generating funds					
	Parish Magazines	396		851	
	Fund raising	5549	5945	3441	4292
Receipts from Church activities					
	Parochial fees	2211		3772	
	St Andrews Room Donations	283		307	
	Shared Clergy Exp.50% Little Baddow	1298			
	SALT Grant/Refund	4895		344	
	Building Maintenance Fund Receipts			780	
	Misc Income	316	9003	235	5438
Receipts from investments					
	CCLA shares	21	21	25	25
			43543		42734
PAYMENTS		£			
	Mission and relief agencies	1843		3311	
	Diocesan Parish Share	30503		29663	
	Church running expenses	5025		4014	
	Clergy expenses	2437		277	
	Cost of services	256		686	
	Building maintenance	1231		1114	
	Building maintenance Fund costs			0	
	Magazine printing	739		1137	
	Printing and stationery	926		97	
	SALT	5344			
	Churchyard	781		1242	
	Fees	120		1015	
	Miscellaneous			2991	
	Fund raising			436	
			49205		45983
Excess of Payments over receipts			£5,657		£3,249



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2013.

<u>Monetary Assets</u>	<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>
	£		£
Bank current account	3577		2334
Bank Deposit account	5862		3864
Petty Cash	39		31
	9478	3249	6229
Gift Aid claim for £4934 to 31st December 2013 submitted			
All funds and monetary assets are on a unrestricted basis but the PCC have agreed to specifically identify funds so given for major maintenance of the building, in the first anticipated instance for the major roof repair planned for 2016.			
There remains a potential liability for clergy expenses covering this period which are as yet unclaimed.			
<u>Other Assets</u>			
Mrs C.P.Pearson bequest:-			
45.59 Charities Investment Fund shares			
	£		£
	499.85		529.99
No payments were made to PCC members falling within the Charities Act for Goods or services during the period.			
This Financial Statement has been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments Basis and approved by the PCC, subject to a satisfactory examination report being obtained, on the 22 nd March 2014 and signed on their behalf by:-			
Revd T Brown			I A Underwood
PCC Chairman			PCC Treasurer
			IU 08.3.14



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



Fabric Report

It has been an eventful year regarding the church fabric. In April the shed was violently broken into overnight one Saturday/Sunday and two mowers and a strimmer were stolen together with a mower belonging to the groundsman contractor. The shed damage was easily repaired by ourselves but the insurance claim for the contents is still ongoing.

A Faculty was obtained for the purchase of a thurible using funds donated by Christine Wass and some members of the congregation and this has only been used on one occasion – for a Chelmer-Crouch group Ascension Day joint service.

In January 2013 the kitchen tap broke spectacularly. It was repaired promptly and without charge by Horizon Kitchens and we are very grateful for this.

In April a full tree survey was carried out – the first for five years. We have 47 trees and a good deal of routine work was recommended, such as the many hours to be spent stripping ivy. No dangerous trees were identified but two large branches fell in the autumn gales. We were ourselves able to deal with these. The large yellow notice board was damaged too in the autumn gales. It has been skilfully repaired and brought back to its original condition. We are very grateful to Mike Harris for doing the bulk of this repair.

The quinquennial inspection was carried out. A downpipe was identified as needing repair, gutters needed to be cleaned and some loose tiles needed to be fixed. The shed and boiler house roofs needed painting and all this has been done. The vestry floor needs repair as does the floor of one of the pews and these matters have yet to be addressed.

More significantly the two inner slopes of the roof will need to be retiled. This will be a major job and is estimated to cost over £31,000. The PCC have decided to aim for 2016 for this work and fund-raising is to start shortly. It is hoped that sources of grant funding may be found. If this work is delayed we run the risk of water ingress and damage to the roof timbers.

The electrical inspection is due in 2014.

In August we sustained the theft of lead from the porch roof. We wish to replace this with a rubber felt system and have, after some delicate negotiation, been granted a Faculty. The work, which includes some brickwork repairs, is expected to be done shortly. The perpetrator of the theft has been arrested.

A Faculty has been obtained for the purchase of a new electronic piano. This is in memory of Reg. & Peggy Bush and replaces the old one which has been sold.

Each year the fire extinguishers are checked professionally and we ourselves carry out a health and safety risk assessment audit and these things have been done. In early summer a woodworm check was carried out. Again some infestations were found, especially in the pews, and treated. This seems to be a recurring problem.

As you may know, in some parishes, properties in the area have a chancel repair liability. The PCC have looked into this and have had professional searches done. In our case no such liability has been found and this means that we must fund all our own repairs.

All in all the church is in a good state of repair but it is a medieval building and there is a need for constant vigilance. In the next five years some re-pointing may be necessary, especially to the south wall of the chancel and the west wall of the north aisle. This work should not be unduly expensive.

We would again like to express our thanks to all those in the congregation and outside who help with routine tasks in the building and churchyard. This not only leads to cost savings for the PCC but also helps to preserve and enhance our beautiful ancient building.

Churchwardens



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod met on several occasions this year, the main theme being Bishop Stephen Cottrell's evangelism effort, and the diocese joining with this effort. Other reports will show that we not only intend to participate in the effort but also how we intend to participate.

Five years ago we were asked to look into where we hope/expect to be by the year 2015, That is part of a group or team ministry or alone, we are now being asked to extend this and look forward to 2019 and beyond, it is sorry to say but that much as we like it to be, Terry will not be with us always!

Several people have asked how the General Synod discussions have been going regarding the Ordination of Women into Higher priest hood, the next paragraph is an extract from the minutes of the general synod and will hopefully keep everyone up to date.

The General Synod met from Monday 10th to Wednesday 12th February 2014 at Church House, Westminster. Once again the largest amount of time was given to the legislation and associated matters to allow women to be ordained as bishops while making provision for those who, for theological reasons, are not able to receive their ministry.

The legislation now goes to the dioceses for approval. Provided a majority approve it by the 22nd May deadline the General Synod will be able to hold final approval debate in July. If passed the legislation will then go to Parliament for approval and could be in force before the end of the year.

Dennis Terry

The Deanery synod met in February, May, September and November 2013. In February we were introduced to different experiences of prayer. Churches gave examples of prayer used in their churches, for example: home groups, use of painting and sculpture and Celtic prayer. We were then given an opportunity to try out various practical ways of praying.

Throughout the year, as Dennis has said, we heard more about 'Transforming Presence'. Various aspects of implementing the Bishop's plans were considered.

In May we learned more about serving the community including a talk by Christine Hogben from Farleigh Hospice.

In September the main business was entitled 'Re-imaging ministry'. We had discussions acknowledging the need to move to a model of ministry based not around single parishes each with one ordained minister but rather around larger units with teams of ordained and lay leaders

In November we focussed on the 2014 Year of Evangelism in the diocese and Bishop Stephen's challenge to parishes to arrange an event or weekend specially set up to share the gospel in a new way with neighbours.

Parishes reported on their progress so far.

Judy Cecil

Chelmer Crouch Group Report

The Chelmer Crouch Group meets twice a year to discuss how we can work more closely together and to plan events. We had a School of Prayer which, although much enjoyed, was not very well attended. A joint Evensong at Sandon was a great success and it is hoped we can do more of these. Last year's Ascension Day service was a High Mass at Boreham and a Taizé service is planned for this Ascension Day at South Woodham Ferrers, with a Quiet day at Pleshey on 7th June. Thanks go to Brian Gilders for the CCG newsletter which is published quarterly.

Christine Mennie.

Bell Ringing Report

We have rung for most Sunday services this last year and for weddings when required. This has only been possible with 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 there is no ringing at Sandon. Although we have six ringers on our books only four are capable when they can attend.

Our ropes have eventually been replaced. The order was outstanding for over a year.

The other day the clapper fell out of the 3rd bell. Neil Arnold together with Mike Worboys repaired the damage and also replaced the bushes for the clapper on the 5th bell.

Practice nights have been fairly well supported, mainly from other towers; Great Baddow, Downham and Galleywood. There was a District Practice arranged for our tower the other day, where good training and ringing was had by all. We hope to have another next year.



ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDON



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

Nick Tovey
Tower Captain

Bible Reading Notes

A limited number (8 copies - some to couples) have been taking New Daylight which provides a short scripture reading for each day with a commentary about it. These commentaries 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. I am convinced that to grow effectively as a Christian some form of Bible study (along with prayer, fellowship and witnessing) is 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. I began to distribute these notes at Malcolm Eden's behest when in one of the last times I saw him he handed me the task.

Richard Cecil

St. Andrew's Choir

We have continued to maintain a choir, with difficulty, but I am grateful for their continued support. We rehearse in St. Andrew's Room every Friday evening. During the year we have enjoyed joining with the choir from the Ascension church Chelmsford on St. Andrew's Day for Choral Evensong and with the choir of St. Mary's Maldon recently.

We hope to have a return visit to the Church of the Ascension sometime. The introduction of the communion hymn sung by the choir and the congregation during the Sung Eucharist has proved popular.

To maintain a meaningful choir we urgently need new members.

Ron Woods

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 with particular mention to Lesley Worboys who has been offering a gardening column each month. During the autumn I began to edit the magazine taking over from Nick Bobeldijk who had given many years of service with this. 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.

Richard Cecil
Editor

St Andrew's Youth Fellowship Report

As everyone is aware, our Group Leader Peter Ellis died on Tuesday 7th May 2013, our club meeting day. This meant a very difficult time for the leaders and members. During the following club meetings there were tears and lots of visits to Peter's grave. I feel all this helped us to grieve and come to terms with the fact that Peter (Mr Ellis) was no longer around. Several young members, present and past, even attended his funeral. I decided to carry on SAYF and with the support of everyone we had a wonderful summer term and good membership. The term ended with a Family BBQ and Presentation Evening paid for by an award from Jack Petchey Foundation. At the same event we had 2 bouncy castles, also paid for by a Jack Petchey award. We presented members with their Jack Petchey Medallions, NODA Drama Awards and Club Membership Cards. The Ellis Trophy for Best Performance in Red Riding Hood was won by Charlotte Dack for her excellent performance as Horrid Hilda, the Witch of the Woods.

The autumn term brought a dip in membership because several boys had their football training night changed to Tuesdays! We formed a new section – SAYF Drama, with Bekki and James Tovey as Leaders. They started pantomime rehearsals for Jack and the Beanstalk on 6th October. We had a wonderful cast who worked really hard and performed brilliantly during February half-term week 2014 to full houses. This event is the main fund raiser for SAYF and brought in a profit of approx £1,100. This really makes a difference to the club finances as it now costs almost £27 an evening to run the club. Quite a lot to find for a voluntary, self-financing organisation.

Our leadership has stayed firm with Julie Fisher and Alex Dack continuing to do games sessions and Debbi Flack and Eileen Bartrup running the Tuck Shop. In September we had James Smith come to help every



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week with games and football coaching.

After the pantomime we have employed a singing coach (paid for by a Jack Petchey award) for several weeks and we will also have a dance coach during the summer term. This professional help will enable the Drama section leaders to rehearse for other productions the members will be able to take part in.

We are also excitedly awaiting the results of our nomination by NODA for Best Pantomime of 2013, Red Riding Hood. We are in the final 3 and will know if we have won at the end of April 2014. This is a very prestigious, national award. A real tribute for Peter's hard work for 39 years.

On 31st March 2014 SAYF will have run for 40 years. We will be having a birthday party at our club evening on Tuesday 1st April with some friends and family invited to join us for games and cake.

We have updated our website, www.sayfsandon.webs.com, thanks to James Tovey and made it more 'user friendly' and we can also be found on Facebook.

I think this report is a good round up of the year. What I would like to point out is that although we may not get the young people to church regularly, they all know that Peter and I attended and were involved in church activities. We always encouraged the youngsters to join in church events such as the fete, bazaar, Christmas Eve crib service and carol singing for Helen Hospice for children. I will continue to encourage their involvement.

SAYF gives young people a place of safety to meet their friends and 'hang out'. They love just to relax and not be fixed to a timetable as at school. We offer a sympathetic ear if needed and feel we 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. This means that our work is useful and we help in their development to adulthood.

Evelyn Ellis
Group Leader

Scout Report



Introduction

I hope this brief report gives some idea of what the Group does – my thanks to Terry for inviting me to put a few words together.

Brownsea Island has an important place in scouting history – it was the site of the experimental camp organized in August 1907 by Major-General Robert Baden-Powell, as he then was. Our trip took place in September and this time round, we were lucky with the weather. (We had made a



visit two years earlier and the rainfall was so bad that the National Trust, who owns the island, had to cut short our visit.) We had four groups: Cubs Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and leaders. All took part in the Baden-Powell Survival Challenge. Naturally, the leaders exceeded all expectations!!!! Seriously, it was a very good week-end and will always be a special event for those in Scouting. There was an international flavour to the visit, as we met up with a group from Portugal and paid an all too brief visit to their campsite on Brownsea.

Membership

We have 84 members at present, including adults. The Beaver Colony has a full programme and we look forward to Beaver Scouts 'swimming up' to the Cub Pack. Because of the numbers of Cub Scouts moving up to the Scout Troop, the Pack had been low in number, but new youngsters have joined in the past few months. The Scout Troop is at its largest ever with 31 members. We have a Senior Patrol Leader and five Patrols, each having six members. The Cub Pack are intending to have a mid-week Summer Camp at Gilwell Park, the home of Scouting in England. Beaver Leaders are also working on a proposed overnight visit to Gilwell.

Group Executive Committee

We still need a Chairman and Secretary and two Executive Committee members. If anyone feels that they could offer their services, I would be delighted to meet them and let them know what is involved. In essence, could you manage to attend a meeting four times a year?

Group membership/fundraising

We have just paid out our capitation of £22.35 per head for each of our 84 members, so our funds have taken a dip at present. However, we do need some fund-raising – any ideas?

Dads, Lads & Lasses Camp

This is one of the Group's key events of the year. This year, it takes place from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd June, at Belchamps. It will be a Harry Potter theme and Aimee Agombar (Scouts) and Steve Eatly (Cubs) are



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organizing this. This is invariably well supported and we invite Mums along Saturday evening to join us for dinner.

Overseas adventure

One of our Scouts is attending an exchange visit this year to the USA, and a second Scout is attending the World Jamboree in 2015. The Group is able to make a modest donation to each of the Scouts concerned. We are selling unused equipment to help with our funds.

Leaders and Section Assistants

We still need more support from parents. A particular need is for another Leader for our Cub Pack. If anyone thinks they might be interested, do please contact me. Anyone who may be hesitant about what is be involved would be welcome to come along for a few weeks and observe – just come and see what we do. There would be no obligation – you might just enjoy yourselves!!

Neville J A Paul
Group Scout Leader

Tea and Chat

After a quiet time during the vacancy Tea and Chat has really picked up. We have benefited greatly from having a speaker every month. Our first speaker, Alan Summers, was from the Chelmsford Food bank giving us an insight into the needs of many people in Chelmsford. Clive from the RSPCA brought his rescue dog Rosie who was a great hit with everyone. David Farrar gave an interesting talk on genealogy, and how he has traced his ancestors. Our last talk of the year was a wonderful talk by Alma Smith on the cruise she undertook with Roy which I think made us all rather envious. Terry kindly organised some quizzes, (these were not taken very seriously). Tea and Chat is open to everyone and is usually a time of fun and laughter.

Christine Mennie

A Day in the life of Tiny Tots

The ping of a text message. Alison Read who runs the weekly Tiny Tots session had laryngitis; if I was not busy could I possibly come along and help her out? Gill, her partner in crime, was away and a lost voice was no good for operations. She was actually looking for a replacement 'her' but as we all know that is impossibility. Nevertheless I was happy to go along and lend a hand.

Alison was busy directing operations, albeit silently. Sheree and I dashed about putting out the toys and setting up the activities. We waited for the first arrivals. Suddenly we were in the midst of buggies and toddlers. Lots of excited chatter and that was just the Mum's! Cups of tea and biscuits appeared from the magic of the kitchen hatch, thanks to Janet and Sheree.

Terry arrived to join in the fun. Toy cars zoomed around the Lady Chapel and prams were pushed enthusiastically up the aisle by Annie, Annabel and their cohorts. The dolls house proved a big hit and the noisy flashing telephone kept Olivia amused.

I retreated to the playdough table – lovely all freshly made by Alison & Gill in bright colours and with the aroma of Vanilla essence. Even a hint of glitter was to be found I do believe. Very therapeutic, rolling out the dough and cutting the shapes. The children seemed to enjoy it as well. I noticed that the person beside me had changed from a small shape to a large – Terry was moulding with gusto! Shapes started to appear, figures in a range of colours and sizes laid out in neat rows on the tables. A hidden talent had been revealed.

Home time was fast approaching. We all gathered in the St Andrew's room for some favourite nursery rhymes/songs, led by Terry. The Wheels on the Bus, Incy Wincy Spider, Wind the Bobbin Up and many more were sung.

It was time to say goodbye until next time, although In Alison's case it was more a vigorous nod and a wave! We are pleased to say that Tots has seen increased numbers during 2013 and into 2014 with some weeks having up to 12 babies/toddlers and up to 16 adults, including helpers. We are pleased to say that have several families who have been coming along to us for many years. We also have some of our newly baptised babies joining us, along with some of those who are planning their baptisms. It's lovely to see one or two grandparents, who are looking after their grandchildren during the week, come along as well as mums from Sandon and Gt. Baddow, who have heard about us from friends.

Long may it continue...

Lesley Murphy



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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 6th April 2014 at 11.30 am

Annual Vestry Meeting

- 1 Opening prayers
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Appointment of Clerk
- 4 Approval of the minutes of the year 2013 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 – 19th April 2015 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 2013 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 2013
 - 6.4 Report on the Church's Fabric
 - 6.5 Deanery Synod Report
 - 6.6 Chelmer Crouch Group Report
- 7 Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
- 8 Election of PCC Members
- 9 Appointment of Child Protection Officer and Vulnerable Adult Officer
- 10 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 11 Appointment of Sidesmen and Sideswomen
- 12 Motion: That Elected PCC members be eligible despite immediate prior service on the PCC
- 13 Reports from other Organisations
 - 13.1 Beavers
 - 13.2 Bell Ringers
 - 13.3 Bible Reading Notes
 - 13.4 Brownies
 - 13.5 Choir
 - 13.6 Coffee and Chat
 - 13.7 Cubs
 - 13.8 Flower Arrangers
 - 13.9 Magazine
 - 13.10 St Andrew's Youth Fellowship
 - 13.11 Scouts
 - 13.12 Tiny Tots
- 14 Concerns/Questions to be Expressed/Asked
- 15 Other Appropriate Business
- 16 Date of Next Meeting – 19th April 2015 circa 11:30 am
- 17 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 Next meeting dates
2014 – 16th June, 18th August, 13th October, 15th December
2015 – 16th February, 19th April*
at 7:30 pm in SAR except* when immediately after Annual meeting