

Sandon Annual Reports 2023

Contents

2022 Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings.....	2
Minutes for 2022 Annual Vestry Meeting.....	2
Minutes of 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.....	2
Electoral Roll Report.....	4
Annual Report	4
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2022	10
Safeguarding.....	15
Fabric Report.....	16
Deanery Synod Report	17
Christians Together in Chelmsford	17
Bell Ringing Report.....	17
Bible Reading Notes.....	18
St. Andrew's Choir & Music.....	18
Magazine Report	18
Churchyard	19
Church Cleaning.....	19
Soup and Sandwich Lunches.....	19
Friends of Sandon Church.....	19
Annual Sponsored Village Walk and Bike Ride	20
Howe Green Chapel	20
1 st Sandon Scout Group.....	21
Tiny Tots Toddler Group.....	22
Church Flowers: Festivals and Events	22
Church Flowers: Flower Rota	22
2023 Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings.....	23
Agenda for 2023 Annual Vestry Meeting	23
Agenda for 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.....	24

2022 Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings

The meetings were held in the barn at Cherries Farm on Sunday 8th May 2022 at 11:30 am

Minutes for 2022 Annual Vestry Meeting

- 1 Opening prayers were said by Revd Terry Brown.
- 2 Appointment of Clerk. Judy Cecil was appointed.
- 3 Apologies were received from John Gruby, Alison Read, Claire Jefferies, Christine Mennie.
Present were Eileen Bartrup, Nick Bobeldijk, Terry Brown, Judy Cecil, Richard Cecil, Peter Elwell, David Farrar, Gill Haddington, Mike Harris, Andy Horne, Cathie Horne, Brenda Moyse, Janet Terry, George Turner, Kay Tyler, Janet Underwood, Ian and Barbara Underwood, and 4 visitors.
- 4 Approval of the minutes of the year 2022 Annual Vestry Meeting Proposed by Andy Horne and seconded by David Farrar and agreed by all.
- 5 Election of two Churchwardens
Richard Cecil had been proposed by Janet Terry and seconded by Christine Mennie and Andy Horne had been proposed by Richard Cecil and seconded by Alison Read and were duly elected.
- 6 Date of Next Meeting –
provisionally Sunday 23rd April 2023 at around 11:30 am

Minutes of 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

(followed immediately after the Annual Vestry Meeting)

- 1 Apologies for absence and those present were as the Vestry Meeting.
- 2 Election of Tellers. None were required.
- 3 Approval of the minutes of the year 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting These were proposed by Andy Horne, seconded by David Farrar and agreed by all.
- 4 Reports
 - 4.1 Electoral Roll Report. 36 within Sandon and 30 outside. Liz Bobeldijk was thanked for her work with this.
 - 4.2 Annual Report. Terry commended this report whose adoption was proposed by David Farrar, seconded by Andy Horne and all agreed.

- 4.3 Financial Report. Nick answered a few questions. Terry thanked Nick for his work as treasurer.
- 4.4 Fabric Report was noted. Richard spoke about the major project of bell restoration and thanked Mike Worboys and his team of volunteers for their significant contribution. He also reported that many volunteers who have worked through the year to help to keep the church fabric in good order.
- 4.5 Deanery Synod Report was noted. David thanked Terry, Richard and Andy, our representatives.
- 4.6 Christians Together in Chelmsford. The report was noted.
- 5 Election of PCC Members
Colin Bryan was proposed by Judy Cecil and seconded by Christine Mennie.
David Farrar was proposed by Richard Cecil and seconded by Andy Horne.
Cathie Horne was proposed by Judy Cecil and seconded by Andy Horne.
John Gruby was proposed by Judy Cecil and seconded by Andy Horne.
Janet Terry was proposed by Richard Cecil and seconded by Christine Mennie.
David offered to serve for 1 year, Janet offered to serve for 2 years and therefore Colin, Cathie and John were appointed for 3 years.
- 6 Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer.
Liz Bobeldijk has agreed to continue and was confirmed in this post.
- 7 Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer.
Alison Read has agreed to continue and was confirmed in this post.
- 8 Appointment of Independent Examiner. Jeremy Watson has agreed to do this again and his appointment was confirmed.
- 9 Reports from organisations were noted. Judy added a few words of thanks from Pam Knott of Howe Green URC, whose report had not been included in the written reports.
- 10 Rector's Report
Date of Next Meeting –
provisionally Sunday 23rd April 2023 after the Annual Vestry Meeting
Closing Prayers were said by Terry Brown.

Electoral Roll Report

Here are the numbers for the electoral roll. In Parish 36, Outside Parish 30.

Liz Bobeldijk

Annual Report

Aims and Purposes

St Andrew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent Revd Terry Brown (Terry), in 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 near The Green, Sandon.

Objectives and Activities

During the year, we continued with the following vision: In the light of God's Call, and our situation here, our vision is:

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

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Andrew's. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing a knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, we feel it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Andrew's and regular maintenance is carried out, mainly by volunteers.

Achievements and Performance

Over the last year we have continued moving slowly forward as a church. Some initiatives have been successful some less so depending on the criteria used for measuring that success. In at least one case the audience we were aiming at did not attend in any numbers, on the other hand very interesting conversations took place with others for whom the event was not actually planned. The lesson to be learned of course is that we cannot tie God down to our feeble human expectations!

Worship and Prayer, Use of the Church building and the St Andrew's Room

Thankfully we have now left the restrictions imposed during the covid pandemic well in the past. Except for Night prayer and the Thursday morning Compass Churches Morning prayer all services and other events have now returned to being face to face occasions. They have also except for summer events and the Christmas Fair returned to being indoors, whether in the church, the Saint Andrew's room of the Village Hall. A regular pattern of services has resumed. That pattern being Eucharist at 10 am on the first and third Sundays of the month, family worship at 10 am and Eucharist at 8 am on the second Sunday of the month and Morning Worship on the fourth Sunday of the month. On months with a fifth Sunday there has been a third Eucharist at 10am. This pattern has been largely successful although there has had to be some adjustment from time to time to accommodate Remembrance, Mothering Sunday and other like events.

Christmas services were well attended, and all took place in the church; the need for a drive through service having passed. Easter services followed the pattern from last year with a sunrise service on Easter morning outside followed by Eucharist at 10 am.

Over the year we have run several courses for those wishing to deepen their understanding of Christianity. In Lent 2022 we ran 'Journey to the Empty Tomb' on Zoom and in 2023 'Rhythm of Life' in the St Andrew's room.

Richard Cecil and Andrew Horne are now both authorised as Local Preachers and are regularly taking on that role on a Sunday morning as well as leading other study sessions when needed in support of Terry. Nicholas Henshall preached wonderfully at ‘Tea on The Green’ as part of the Queen’s jubilee celebrations. Sadly, from our point of view he has now left the diocese to return to parish work near Chichester. Ivor Moody preached at a recent baptism service and John (Bishop of Bradwell) led our confirmation service this year. Andy Griffiths, Suzy Edmondson, Jacqui Jones and Sandy Southee have supported us by leading services and preached at Tuesday morning Eucharist when Terry has been unavailable.

Safeguarding

In summary: -

Display: A formal copy of our Safeguarding Policy and the adoption of the House of Bishops ‘Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement’ is on display in the SAR, signed and dated April 2022.

Review and Report: We continue to report on Safeguarding at each PCC meeting as well as an Annual Review in May.

Safer Recruitment: All new positions within the church have been safely recruited.

Safeguarding Training: We ensure that new Members of the PCC have completed both Basic Awareness and Foundation online training.

DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Checks: All those needing checks have been completed. We constantly monitor and make sure any new DBS checks required are obtained.

Activity Risk Assessments (or Parish Activity Plans, PAPs): These are recommended for all activities which are associated with either children or vulnerable adults and run in the name of the church. PAP’s are already in place for Tiny Tots, Flower Arrangers, Bell Ringers and Soup & Sandwich whilst cross referencing them with our annual Risk Assessments. Any new activity carried out will be subject to a PAP if required and a risk assessment as required.

Food hygiene training: Complete to date and will be renewed in 2023.

Deanery Synod and Compass Churches

Two lay members of the PCC, currently Richard Cecil and Andy Horne, and the incumbent can sit on the Deanery Synod for the whole Chelmsford area. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. The Parish continues working as part of the Compass Churches, composed of St Andrew's together with our 11 neighbouring churches, with Terry as clergy chair and Alison Read as a council member.

Pastoral Care

The monthly Soup and Sandwich lunchtime meal has continued throughout the year. At Baycroft, 'Tea with the Vicar' was held on Zoom through the year until face to face visits resumed in December with communion once each month and a carol service.

Christmas services followed much of their previous pattern with Festival of Carols and Readings, Beer and Carols in the Crown, Christingle service, Crib Service, Midnight Communion and Christmas Morning Communion. In January the Parish Prayer diary was updated, reprinted and circulated widely both within the parish and beyond.

Mission and Evangelism

In June this year there was yet another excellent Parish walk followed by lunch outside the Crown organised by and with thanks to David Farrar. Other events of note were the Tea on the Green followed by Songs of Praises lead by the Salvation Army at the start of August. Nicholas Henshall, then Dean of Chelmsford, preached at the event. Our Harvest Festival service celebration took place in the church in October, as did our Remembrance Sunday service.

The church has continued giving 10% of its regular income to Marsabit, a diocese in the north of Kenya, Christian Aid and local schoolwork by Made for More. From time to time we also contribute to other charities such as the Royal British Legion at remembrance time. Various members of our fellowship also give to many causes throughout the year as a private matter. Although we acknowledge this as a church and thank them for it. I am sure you would greed that it should remain private and between each individual and God.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church is a member of Christians Together in Chelmsford and The Compass Churches. The local United Reformed Church (URC) at Howe Green is now fully open. We have continued to convey a message from them in each magazine and advertise and support events when they notify us of them. One member of the URC congregation has consistently joined us both for bible studies and mid-week prayer on Zoom. Her granddaughter's marriage was recently blessed at Andrew's church.

Volunteers

We thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church a lively and vibrant community: those who clean the church and arrange flowers, work in the churchyard, ring the bells, sing in the choir, make the tea, manage our website, edit and deliver our magazine and all those others who share their talents and time in so many ways to make St Andrew's a loving community. At our last APCM Richard was re-elected as Church Warden and joined by Andy Horne as new church Warden.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. St Andrew's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), 2 Churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. There are up to 2 deanery synod representatives and there are 9 elected members allowed with 3 elected each year for 3 years. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC. The full PCC met six times during the year i.e., January to December 2022, with an average level of attendance of 80%. Thank you to our electoral roll officer and our Parish Safeguarding officer.

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, St Augustine's Way, North Springfield, Chelmsford, CM1 6GX

PCC Members who have served this year are:

Incumbent: Revd Terry Brown

Wardens: Mr Richard Cecil

Mr Andy Horne

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mr Richard Cecil elected in 2020 for 3 years

Mr Andy Horne elected in 2021 for 2 years

Elected members:

Mrs Liz Bobeldijk elected in 2021 for 3 years

Mr Colin Bryan elected in 2022 for 3 years

Mr David Farrar elected in 2022 for 1 year

Mrs Judy Cecil elected in 2021 for 3 years

Mr John Gruby elected in 2022 for 3 years

Mrs Christine Mennie elected in 2020 for 3 years

Mrs Alison Read elected in 2020 for 3 years

Mrs Janet Terry elected in 2022 for 2 years

Mrs Cathie Horne elected 2022 for 3 years

PCC Secretary: Mrs Judy Cecil

PCC Treasurer Mr Nick Bobeldijk

Standing Committee:

Rector, Churchwardens, and PCC member Alison Read

Bank: Lloyds TSB, Chelmsford Branch

Examiner: Jeremy Watson

Richard Cecil, Churchwarden

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Receipts and Payments Account				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year Total funds
Receipts				
Donations and legacies	34,720.69	—	34,720.69	59,879.78
Income from charitable activities	4,565.67	—	4,565.67	4,855.34
Other trading activities	5,708.04	—	5,708.04	4,277.10
Investments	130.37	—	130.37	26.68
Other income	10,100.00	—	10,100.00	1,915.00
Total receipts	55,224.77	—	55,224.77	70,953.90
Payments				
Raising funds	255.00	—	255.00	239.74
Expenditure on charitable activities	37,070.80	—	37,070.80	40,366.12
Other expenditure	29,958.56	—	29,958.56	11,652.40
Total payments	67,284.14	—	67,284.14	52,258.56
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	(12,059.37)	—	(12,059.37)	18,695.64
Transfers				
Gross transfers between funds - in	30,562.11	44,624.17	75,186.28	55,792.69
Gross transfers between funds – out	(44,624.17)	(30,562.11)	(75,186.28)	(55,792.69)
Excess receipts over payments before other gains/losses	(26,121.43)	14,062.06	(12,059.37)	18,695.64
Net movement in funds	(26,121.43)	14,062.06	(12,059.37)	18,695.64
All assets at 01 January 2022	63,330.21	(23,413.82)	39,916.39	21,220.75
All assets at 31 December 2022	37,208.78	(9,351.76)	27,857.02	39,916.39
Represented by				
Unrestricted	37,208.78		37,208.78	63,330.21
General fund				
Restricted				
Restricted Funds		9,351.76	9,351.76	(23,413.82)

Balance sheet			
Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Current assets			
6501	Current Account	1,906.31	1,787.21
6505	Deposit Account	15,000.00	38,000.00
6508	Lloyds Fixed Term Account	20,000.00	-
6510	Cash Account	660.42	331.65
6520	Deposits Paid Account	105.00	105.00
6530	Mary Pearson Bequest	-	743.65
	Total Current assets	37,671.73	40,967.41
Liabilities			
6610	Building Maintenance Fund		
6620	Diocesan Board of Finance		
6630	Cutting Garden Funds	327.50	
6640	Treasurer's Expenses		
6650	Friends of Sandon Church		
6655	John and Agnes Stevyns, John Perry	6211.94	
6657	Sandon Stevyns Charity		
6660	Rector's Fees & Expenses	2,038.89	700.60
6665	Soup & Sandwich Lunches	123.18	100.00
6670	Sponsored Flowers	991.68	129.00
6680	Tiny Tots	121.52	121.52
6690	Bell Restoration Fund	578.32	23,211.85
6695	Bell Fund Contra Account	(578.32)	(23,211.85)
	Total Liabilities	9,814.71	1,051.12
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	27,857.02	39,916.39
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(12,059.37)	18,695.64
	Starting balances	39,916.39	21,220.75
Z01	Total Reserves	27,857.02	39,916.39
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	37,208.78	63,330.21
	Designated		
	Restricted	(9,351.76)	(23,413.82)
	Endowment		
	Total	27,857.02	39,916.39

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Restricted	This year	Last year
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand				
Current Account -	1,906.31		1,906.31	1,787.21
Deposit Account -	15,000.00		15,000.00	38,000.00
Lloyds Fixed Term Account	20,000.00		20,000.00	
Cash Account -	660.42		660.42	331.65
Totals	37,566.73		37,566.73	40,118.46
Current assets - Debtors				
Deposits Paid Account -		105.00	105.00	105.00
Totals		105.00	105.00	105.00
Current assets - Investments				
Mary Pearson Bequest	(936.27)	936.27		743.65
Totals	(936.27)	936.27		743.65
Liabilities - Provision for liabilities and charges after one year				
John & Agnes Stevyns, J Perry		6211.94	6211.94	
Total		6211.94	6211.94	
Due within one year				
Cutting Garden Funds		327.50	327.50	
Rector's Fees & Expenses -		2038.89	2038.89	700.60
Soup & Sandwich Lunches -		123.18	123.18	100.00
Sponsored Flowers -		991.68	991.68	129.00
Tiny Tot's -		121.52	121.52	121.52
Bell Restoration Fund -		578.32	578.32	23,211.85
Bell Fund Contra Account -	(578.32)		(578.32)	(23,211.85)
Totals	(578.32)	4181.09	3,602.77	1,051.12
Grand total	37,208.78	(9351.76)	27,857.02	39,916.39

Analysis of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Donations and legacies				
Collections - Gift Aided	435.00		435.00	180.00
Direct Credits - Gift Aided	2,926.00		2,926.00	3,536.00
Donations - Gift Aided	1,480.00		1,480.00	14,276.48
Collections - Non-Gift Aided				
Direct Credits - Non-Gift Aided	1,670.00		1,670.00	1,710.00
Donations - Non-Gift Aided	885.45		885.45	12,666.65
Parish Giving Scheme	15,065.87		15,065.87	14,853.43
Small Donations Scheme	4,926.51		4,926.51	2,540.93
Gift Aid Recovered	7,331.86		7,331.86	8,616.29
Legacies				1,500.00
Total	34,720.69		34,720.69	59,879.78
Income from charitable activities				
Parochial Fees	4,565.67		4,565.67	4,855.34
Total	4,565.67		4,565.67	4,855.34

Other trading activities			
Fundraising - Gift Aided	665.00	655.00	80.00
Fundraising - Non-Gift Aided	4,047.31	4,047.31	2,588.58
Magazine – Advertising	995.73	995.73	1,578.52
Magazine – Sales	10.00	10.00	30.00
Total	5,708.04	5,708.04	4,277.10
Investments			
Investment Income	118.17	118.17	24.10
Interest Received	12.20	12.20	2.58
Total	130.37	130.37	26.68
Grants received	10,100.00	10,100.00	1,915.00
INCOME TOTAL	55,224.77	55,224.77	70,953.90
EXPENDITURE			
Event Expenses	255.00	255.00	239.74
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Bank Charges	1.79	1.79	0.51
Mission	5,174.75	5,174.75	6515.63
Parish Share	25,421.28	25,421.28	27,266.88
Fees	545.60	545.60	448.86
Cost of Services	20.00	20.00	29.10
Churchyard Expenses	(269.00)	(269.00)	(212.00)
Printing & Stationary	73.11	73.11	483.69
Clergy Expenses	796.89	796.89	853.44
Church Running Expenses – Electricity	825.63	825.63	809.37
Church Running Expenses – Insurance	1,992.71	1,992.71	1,925.83
Church Running Expenses - Water Rates	122.30	122.30	100.99
Church Running Expenses - Vestry Supplies	424.90	424.90	423.96
Miscellaneous	159.55	159.55	80.50
Magazine Costs	1,643.07	1,643.07	1,639.36
Extinguishers	138.00	138.00	
Total	37,070.58	37,070.58	40,366.12
Other expenditure			
Fabric Maintenance - Buildings	29,661.56	29,661.56	11,133.67
Fabric Maintenance - Other	297.00	297.00	518.73
Total	29,958.56	29,958.56	11,652.43
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	67,284.17	67,284.17	52,256.26
GRAND TOTAL	(12,059.37)	(12,059.37)	18,695.64

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Andrew's Church, Sandon

This report was not yet available at time of going to print.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding commitments: -

- To follow the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults
- To promote a safer environment and culture within our church
- To safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility to children and vulnerable adults
- To respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- To care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse
- To respond to those who may pose a present risk

We are now following the 'Parish Safeguarding Checklist' issued by the Diocese which guides the PCC through their key roles and responsibilities.

One of our key responsibilities is to ensure those who need a DBS check have completed one and any who have previously had one are up to date.

Another aspect is to ensure all those who work with children, young people and/or vulnerable people can access and complete the appropriate online 'Basic Awareness' and 'Foundations' training and Zoom Leadership training provided by the Diocese. The online training is available for anyone within the church who is interested so please contact me if you would like further details. You will simply need access to a computer along with an email address. There is also a Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse online training, which may be of interest to you.

We continue in our St Andrew's Safeguarding Policy to demonstrate our commitment to following the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy. A copy of our policy is on display in the St Andrew's room along with a poster named 'Promoting a Safer Church'. Safeguarding remains as a standing item on each PCC agenda, with an annual review of safeguarding in May.

We are committed to Safer Recruitment – ensuring that all new positions within the church are recruited according to the Church of England guidelines.

Safeguarding is a matter for all and we would ask anyone who has any concerns to share their concerns, in confidence, with either myself, Rev. Brown, one of the Church Wardens or with the Diocese directly.

Alison Read, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Fabric Report

During the year the PCC discussed the following in relation to fabric: bell restoration project and subsequent water ingress, a plaque to remember the project, the tower door, the organ and its blower, a yew hedge, water supply, a new architect, heating and a quinquennial inspection.

The bell restoration was completed safely and in budget. There was some ingress of rainwater around the pockets cut out from which to lift the bells. The repair to that now seems to be effective. A plaque recording the date of the project is attached to the bell frame as a record for future generations. Recently, we have kept the tower door open while someone is up there, to facilitate a rescue. This aspect will form part of conversations following the quinquennial inspection. The latter is due to be completed this calendar year. The church architect of recent years, David Ferguson, indicated that he did not want to continue and so both wardens have met with and appointed David Whymark as a new architect.

The organ was tuned by Andy Roberts in some of the hottest weather in the summer. He was concerned that some notes were out of tune and that the blower was running too hot. Some chords were readily exhausting the air supply, making notes flat. Advice sought from the Diocesan Organ Advisor, Jeremy Prentice, who indicated that the organ was worth investing effort in. Adjustments were made to the bellows control, and the blower opened up, following advice from the blower expert suggested by Mr Prentice. Coupled with advice from Gerald Matthews the organ is playing quite well now. It is played well too. There remains an issue with the pipes at the side which have a pneumatic control and can only be operated from the pedal keyboard. But hopefully we have narrowed the scope of any works that might still be needed.

There was some discussion around the church about how to reduce the costs of heating the church. Some progress has been made in this by trying to be prudent with its use. Ongoing care is needed particularly as the building is used more following the covid pandemic.

George Turner spends much time helping to keep our surroundings in good condition. The outside tap has been changed to assist him and others in watering the new yew hedge. George led the way with planting over 400 bushes in the autumn and spring, financed by the Friends of Sandon.

We thank all those who keep the building and churchyard in such good condition.

Richard Cecil, Churchwarden

Deanery Synod Report

During 2022 and early 2023 the Synod met 4 times, all in person.

The synod was pleased to have addresses from various organisations and individuals. All were received with varying amounts of interest by different members dependent upon the content.

Patrick Regan spoke about Kinsugi Hope at the February 2022 meeting.

St John's Moulsham shared their experiences of helping people from Ukraine in June 2022, Bishop Guli spoke in September and her address and question and answer session were particularly helpful.

Dan Pearce reported in December about the community of St Francis.

At each meeting there has been time for prayer for the different parishes generally in small groups. Parish share was a major issue for all as were various national issues not least the discussion at General Synod about same sex marriage.

Andrew Horne

Christians Together in Chelmsford

Sandon have for many years been members of Churches Together in Chelmsford. About 80 churches and Christian organisations in Chelmsford are members.

It provides a forum for members to share invitations and needs and manage a prayer rota. It is aiming to see each street in the city prayed for during the year. Its Procession of Witness from 5 points to the City centre High Street for a service to mark Good Friday continues but likely this year on a reduced budget. At the AGM in the autumn Pete Bardwell was elected as Chairman. Breakfasts on the last Wednesday of the month have moved to the Costa Coffee, Chelmer Village Retail Park are a valuable point of contact between different church members.

All main Christian denominations are involved, and it provides a vehicle where churches can share events across a wider forum.

Richard Cecil, CTiC Secretary

Bell Ringing Report

Bells are rung every Sunday morning as part of our worship and to advertise our presence to the parish. We are an enthusiastic and committed band of ringers of various degrees of competence. All our ringing is done for the glory of God. All that each of us can do is ring to the best of our ability on that basis.

Andrew Horne

Bible Reading Notes

‘New Daylight’, published by BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship), provides a short scripture reading for each day with a commentary about it. These commentaries, written by a wide range of authors, 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 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 & Music

A quote from The Royal School of Church Music, to which we are affiliated: “The role of musicians in the leading of worship is recognised as important” So, despite the fluctuations in our numbers, and increasing average age of our choristers, we carry on bringing music to St Andrews. We are very fortunate in having Cathie as our organist. She can get amazing sounds out of the organ, and as she admits, her sight reading has come on in leaps and bounds over the months.

Thank you to all those who smooth our path through the life of the church. To Terry, who plays a big part in music selection; to Judy and Andy, who happily step in to swell our numbers on special occasions; to Gillian Ward-Russell, Cathie's mentor and stay. We are eternally grateful to our regular choir members and Cathie, who come regularly to practices and lead the music in our services, whether it be Eucharists, weddings, funerals or general celebrations. *Gill Haddington, Choir Monitor*

Magazine Report

The magazine is indebted to the wide variety of those who contribute in so many ways: ideas, articles, reports, advertisements, distribution. David Farrar and Terry Brown of course also provide a regular supply of material. We are grateful for the regular columns provided by Narelle Arnold and the Speakman family. Valerie Grimwood has consistently contributed by proof-reading which has been greatly appreciated. Claire Jefferies has managed the advertising and Alison Read has been organising the distribution with a great team of distributors who circulate this magazine to all households in the parish four times in the year. Those outside the parish

are asked to pay 75p. Thank you again to all who have contributed and please continue to do so.

Richard Cecil, Editor

Churchyard

As usual the churchyard is looking at its best, mainly due to the hard work of George Turner. George has worked continually during the past year. Without him the church would not look so good. Once a month a small group of willing workers come to help especially in the Garden of Remembrance. Thank you to Keith, David and the Parish Council for keeping the grass in such good order. Come, and sit in the churchyard and enjoy the peace and quiet.

Christine Mennie

Church Cleaning

I am glad to say we have a very loyal team of about 6 people at the moment. Thank you to all the people who have given their time. It is much appreciated.

Christine Mennie

Soup and Sandwich Lunches

The once-a-month lunch continues. We have about 10 visitors who come each time. It is a chance for people to share a meal and enjoy each other's company. It is open to everyone no matter how old or young. Thank you for all those that help.

Christine Mennie

Friends of Sandon Church

This year we have had two major events to raise money. They were 'The Big Band Event' held in Cherries Barn locally on the 30th of April when the Sid Bolan Band played to just under 100 people for several hours. The afternoon raised over £1,000. Special thanks go to Richard and Sally Speakman for letting us use the barn gratis, Andy and Penny Hilton for running the bar, for Andy Hilton paying all the Bands' Expenses, Toni Speakman for backing up the whole system on the day, Nicky Brown for selling £200 of raffle tickets and Cedric Calmeyer's daughter for 'manning' the door. So overall this day was a great success!

Next, we had a Friends Quiz on the 3rd of December in the Village Hall. There were fewer people there compared to previous quizzes probably due to Covid still being 'around'! Even so there were 8 teams on display and

Claire and Ian did an excellent job asking the questions. A margin of about £500 was made.

At the end of 2021 a small group of 'Friends' generated a 2022 Sandon Calendar for sale starting in early December 2021. Amanda Parsons did the production work and Cedric Calmeyer, Darren Chaplin, David Farrar et al did the selling. Overall, the calendars all went but the profit level was somewhat low at £200. Lessons have been learnt!

This year The Friends have supported the fabric of Sandon Church by funding the planting of the churchyard's yew hedge. This was done in two stages amounting to approx. £1,275 in total. These trees were planted by a small band of people headed up by George. He is now continuously adding water as necessary! This completes the hedge which was started about 7 years ago!

The Friends continue to look for more members and to this end several promotional efforts have been made using the Church magazine and Parish Quarterly. This year's Committee consists of Rev Terry Brown, (Chairman) Darren Chaplin (Treasurer), David Farrar (Secretary), Andy Hilton, Amanda Parsons (Publicity and Website), Janet Terry, Cedric Calmeyer, Richard Cecil, Andy Horne, and John Gruby. *David Farrar*

Annual Sponsored Village Walk and Bike Ride

In 2022 we had an organised walk and bike ride which went well. The walk attracted 21 walkers leaving the church car park on the 18th of June on a lovely Saturday morning at 10.35a.m. We did about 4 miles, going down the River Chelmer pathway, and back via Brick Kiln Road. Lunch was in the Crown. Later 13 of us did a further walk of about 4 miles all in 90 minutes. A very social celebration was held in the Crown thereafter!

Our Bike Ride was on September the 10th when 9 of us cycled from Sandon to Galleywood and on to Highlands House and Writtle for lunch. Chris Mann left his bike accidentally at Writtle and sustained a broken foot needing hospital treatment, but the rest of the day passed off without incident - except the writer who also fell at one of the Chelmer bridges! We all managed to get to the Crown locally later! *David Farrar*

Howe Green Chapel

As the pandemic was ending during the past year Howe Green URC has been able to share several occasions with St. Andrews which are more

community related, such as the monthly soup lunches held at St. Andrew's Church, the Summer Tea on the Green and the Christmas Fete etc. Howe Green no longer has a URC Minister allocated to them and have very few members in the congregation. So we only have a monthly service and join with Christ Church in Chelmsford (with whom we shared our previous Minister) on other Sundays. We welcome members of St. Andrews who can be present at our services and thank them for their support. The Howe Green congregation has attended various services at St. Andrew's - including being part of the Easter (Maundy Thursday) and Christmas services, and we very much appreciate being included in your traditional events. They have also shared in various Bible studies. Howe Green organizes and a very popular Christmas Carol Service at the Chapel which includes some village organisations. So it is good that the Rev Terry Brown was able to take an important role in that service and was joined by several others from St Andrews. We very much look forward to continuing with our connection to St. Andrews' church and events that we can share.

Pam Knott

1st Sandon Scout Group

A great year with badges being gained. Well done to all the young people who have attained them. All sections have had fun packed programmes from making ice cream to internet safety and model building at a Games workshop. We had our AGM in July at Riffhams and the following awards were made:

Beaver of the Year -	William Yates
Cub of the Year -	Sebastian Spinks
Richard Martin Award -	Danilo Odoardo Lillo
Dennis Terry Memorial Award	William Gillard – Cub/Scout Assistant

At the end of the term, we said goodbye to Ben Eatly Section Assistant for the Cub section as he and his partner are moving to Cambridge and we wish them happiness in their new home.

We have been back to Church parades this year.

We finished the year with a group Christmas party at TagActive and was enjoyed by all. We attended the Christingle service which was lovely and enjoyed seeing the candles lighting up the church. We need more leaders and if you feel that you could help on Thursday evenings in either the Beavers, Cubs or Scouts please contact me by email 1stsandongsl@gmail.com

Jean Blake Group Scout Leader

Tiny Tots Toddler Group

Tiny Tots continues on Wednesday afternoons with a great team of helpers and as always, a room full of toys and activities including both crafts, role play toys, playdough, bricks to build and slides to slide on, along with lots more, finishing with rhyme time where we join together to sing. The kettle is always on and Dessi brings home made cakes for us to try. We have 2 lovely families that join us with their little tots, however we have space for many more. Thank you to all those who support us both at Tots and behind the scenes keeping the Church a beautiful place to bring children and families to.

Alison Read

Church Flowers: Festivals and Events

In the past year, the Flower Arranging Team arranged flowers for Remembrance Sunday, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The funds raised through four Christmas Door Wreath Making workshops, including one for the staff of Sandon School and plant sales. Donations covering the cost of the Easter flowers have been gratefully received from the community. Two weddings and two funerals required flowers. We have a small surplus to carry forward into the next year, which is held in general church funds.

Experimentation continues with creating arrangements without floral foam, a single use plastic that takes decades to decompose, using more sustainable mechanics. Most of the flowers we use are seasonal British grown and supplied in recyclable materials including paper, cardboard and real rubber bands. This supports our sustainable practices, reducing our carbon footprint.

We have received many positive comments about the flowers in St Andrew's and are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and skilful team of arrangers who are supportive of each other.

Lesley Worboys, Flowers for Events and Festivals Co-ordinator

Church Flowers: Flower Rota

Our rota of twelve talented flower arrangers have decorated the Altar and the Paschal Candle (when required) beautifully each week They have

successfully embraced the eco-friendlier approach to flower arranging that was introduced last year. This has been challenging at times, however their perseverance and willingness to adapt to new ideas has shone through. The arrangements that have beautified our Church and celebrate God's creation look as good without oasis underpinning them as they did with it. Well done, Ladies. Thank you for generously supplying, arranging and maintaining the flowers each week.

Janet Underwood Flower Rota Organiser

2023 Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings

The meetings will be held in Church on Sunday 23rd April 2023 after the 10am service at 11.15am

Agenda for 2023 Annual Vestry Meeting

- 1 Opening prayers
- 2 Appointment of Clerk
- 3 Apologies
- 4 Approval of the minutes of the year 2022 Annual Vestry Meeting
- 5 Election of two Churchwardens
(Nominations must have been received by the chair prior to the meeting.)
- 6 Date of Next Meeting –
provisionally a Sunday in April 2024 at 11:30 am

Agenda for 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

(to follow immediately after the Annual Vestry Meeting)

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Election of Tellers
- 3 Approval of the minutes of the year 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- 4 Reports
 - 4.1 Electoral Roll Report
 - 4.2 Annual Report
 - 4.3 Financial Report
 - 4.4 Fabric Report
 - 4.5 Deanery Synod Report
 - 4.6 Christians Together in Chelmsford
- 5 Election of 2 Deanery Synod Members
- 6 Election of 3 PCC Members
- 7 Appointment of Compass Churches representative
- 8 Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
- 9 Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer
- 10 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 11 Reports from other Organisations
- 12 Rector's Report and closing prayers.
Date of Next Meeting -
provisionally a Sunday in April 2024 at 11.30am