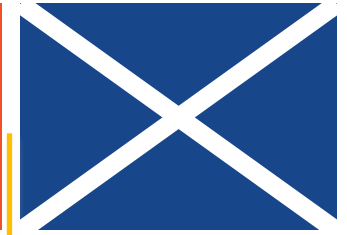


Sandon Voice



Quarterly from St Andrew's 60p for non residents

December 2022



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Collections on 6, 7 & 8 January 2023

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Rector's Letter

The Christmas season will soon be upon us but not before we get to Advent (which begins this year on Advent Sunday, 27 November). The word Advent comes from the Latin word 'advenio' meaning to come, and so in this season we anticipate the coming of Christ as a baby at Bethlehem, as well as His second coming at the end of time. The four weeks of Advent give us time to reflect upon these great comings, and of what we can do to prepare ourselves to receive Christ afresh at Christmas, as well as when He comes again. And yet often we rush through Advent to Christmas in a whirl of busyness – shopping, wrapping, cooking, and yes, even church services! So why not put aside some time this year to make your Advent different – to make time to pray, to read a Christian book, to perform acts of kindness towards others? It could make your celebrations at Christmas even more meaningful and joyful as a result.

Some people love Christmas and have never really lost the wonderful child-like innocence of it all – they cannot wait for the decorations to go up, the music to start playing and the anticipation of the big day itself, spent with loved ones.

For others, it is one of the toughest times of the year. Cold weather, memories of past Christmases where everything went very wrong, broken relationships and loneliness, all take their toll. And Christmas is the hardest time to be alone.

Of course, Christmas is about Jesus being born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. And it is a great story to teach children – there are all kinds of useful lessons about it being important to treat refugees and poor people well. But so often we leave the Christmas story for the children, and we do not stop to realise how earth-shattering huge it is.

Christmas is when the infinite, eternal God, who made everything that exists became part of his own creation. He became an illegitimate baby born to a poor couple from a conquered race, born in a grotty cave-stable in an insignificant backwater of a town in the unfashionable end of the Roman Empire. And that is the same God who spoke and the universe was created.

And God did this not just to blow our minds, but to enter into our experience.

Last year many of us experienced a Christmas without many of the traditional ways we mark the season. Carol services and nativity plays either did not happen, or were very different as we tried to keep each other safe. Christmas is a time for meeting up with relatives and friends and lots of those get-togethers were not possible in the way we would have wished. Last year we held our Carol service and Crib services in the churchyard.

This year we hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences that help Christmas come alive return to our homes, our church and our community. Whatever else December brings, it will offer us an opportunity to enter more deeply into the joyful mystery that lies at its heart: God becoming human in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Sandon church is preparing for many of the events that traditionally happen. All are invited to come along to the Christingle service on Sunday 11th at 4:00 pm. Our Candlelit Carol Service at 4:00 pm on Sunday 18th our Crib service on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm, The candlelit Midnight Service on Christmas Eve at 11:30 pm and then our Christmas morning service at 10:00 am when we can

sing and share the message of joy that Jesus brings to the world.

And then of course, we move from Christmas to the New Year. I wonder what 2023 will hold for each one of us, for the life of St. Andrew's church, and indeed, the life of the world? There always feels something slightly strange to me about stepping over the threshold into a New Year. For none of us can know for sure what it will hold – what joys, sadnesses, challenges and delights. One thing is for sure though, whilst we do not know what the future holds, we can know the One who holds the future, right there in His hands. As the words of the poet Minnie Louise Haskins put it:

'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

'And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

Terry

A Reflection about the Queen and Christina Rossetti

Over this last week, like millions of others in the UK and around the world, we have been moved by the life and death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Encouraged by our son David's sermon last Sunday, and with the help of two booklets we have about the Queen's life and faith, we have been reflecting on her many qualities and on the way she attributed them to her faith in Christ.

Below is a small sample of things she has said publicly, in Christmas broadcasts, which have encouraged and comforted us in these days:

"It is true that the world has had to confront moments of darkness this year, but the Gospel of John contains a verse of great hope, often read at Christmas carol services: 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'... Despite being displaced and persecuted throughout his short life, Christ's unchanging message was not one of revenge or violence but simply that we should love one another." (Christmas message, 2015)

"For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth

we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people, of whatever faith or none." (Christmas message, 2014)

"This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only son 'to serve, not to be served'. He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer this Christmas Day that his example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others. The carol, In The Bleak Midwinter, ends by asking a question of all of us who know the Christmas story, of how God gave himself to us in humble service: 'What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part'. The carol gives the answer: 'Yet what I can I give him – give my heart'. (Christmas message, 2012)

In the last of these speeches, Queen Elizabeth quotes from a

In the last of these speeches, Queen Elizabeth quotes from a poem of Christina Rossetti's, which has become a popular Christmas carol in the UK.

Christina Rossetti was the daughter of Italian political refugees who grew up in Victorian England. Suffering ill health from her teenage years, she lived a quiet, single and somewhat reclusive life. From an early age she began to write poetry. Within the confines of her narrow life, marred by illness and unhappiness in love, Christina wrote prolifically, creating sonnets, ballads, children's rhymes, hymns, devotional verse and love lyrics of extraordinary beauty and intensity. Christina had a deep relationship with Jesus and her devotional writing is infused with Scripture and powerfully points to Christ as our only true source of hope, love and joy.

Christina wrote much of her poetry at a tiny desk in an attic room of her parent's house, and it strikes us as remarkable that Christina's relationship with Jesus, overflowing into her writing would touch the heart and put words into the mouth of the Queen, a hundred and fifty years later. To us it is a powerful

reminder that when we abide in Christ, we will bear fruit, as Jesus promised in John 15:5. Whether we reflect on the Queen's very public life of service or the more hidden life of Christina Rossetti, may the Lord help each one of us to abide deeply in Christ, whatever our personal circumstances, and may fruit keep growing and reproducing to His glory.

Mike and Chris Treneer

Did you go to London to see the Queen lying in state?

I didn't go because I was here in Thailand when she passed on but we did go to Bangkok to see the King lying in State a few years ago.

We flew from Samui and stayed at a hotel overnight before joining the queue early the next day. The thermometer reading was a constant 95 degrees and we queued for 7 hours.

How did you get refreshments during the 7 hours?

There wasn't any really and it wasn't encouraged. The room inside the King's Palace where he laid in state was very ornate and silence was observed throughout. The Thais were looking at me with curiosity because I was soaked in perspiration. *John Gruby*

Sandon Neighbourhood Development Plan update

The Sandon Neighbourhood Plan is moving forward again!

There will be an opportunity to view the draft plan and add your comments during a consultation period in January/February 2023. A paper copy will be available to view at the Parish Office (Portakabin in the Village Hall car park) on Monday and Wednesday mornings and online at ndp4sandon.co.uk

A copy of the policies in the draft plan and a questionnaire will be delivered to residents early in January 2023. Please take a few minutes to read the draft plan and complete the questionnaire. Hopefully the consultation will begin early in January 2023

The Neighbourhood Plan group will then consider the comments and amend the draft plan accordingly before proceeding to the next steps including a further Chelmsford City Council consultation, appointment of an

If Jesus were born one thousand times in Bethlehem and not in me, then I would still be lost.

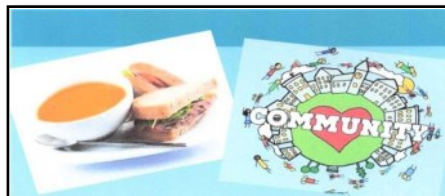
Corrie ten Boom

God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man.

C S Lewis

examiner to review and report on the plan, and then a local referendum after which the Sandon Neighbourhood Plan is 'made', published and used in making local planning decisions.

And all this must be done before the government change planning policy!
Judy Cecil



Monthly Soup & Sandwich Lunch at St Andrews Church

1st Tuesday of the month

Next Lunch is 6th December
Future dates 3rd January,
7th February, 7th March

Join us for lunch once a month, for companionship & fellowship (and food of course!!)
We would love to see you.

No cost but
Donations gratefully received

Time: 12:00 noon – 1:30pm
Contact: Revd Terry Brown for more details on 01245 698988

2023 Calendars of Sandon



The Friends of Sandon Church was founded to raise funds to help maintain the fabric of St Andrews Church, Sandon and its churchyard. We have put together a calendar for 2023 featuring a few of the wonderful scenes in and around Sandon. All profits from this calendar will be used to support the maintenance and repair of our village church. The cost of the A3 calendar is £10 and can be purchased by contacting any of those listed here.

Emailing: info@friendsofsandonchurch.co.uk
or David Farrar at 18 Gablefields, Sandon on 01245-471484
or Janet Terry at 84 Hall Lane, Sandon on 01245-472997
or Andy Hilton at 'Stocks', Mayes Lane, Sandon and 07885330511
or Richard Cecil, Cottage, Butts Green, Sandon on 01245-224747
or Rev Terry Brown on 01245-698988 and tgabrown@hotmail.com
or John Gruby on john_leegruby@hotmail.com.
or Cedric Callmeyer on ccelmeyer8@gmail.com.
or Darren Chaplin on drnchpln@aol.com

Calendars will be available to purchase at our Christmas Quiz on Saturday, 3rd December. For further details please check our website: www.friendsofsandonchurch.co.uk/events/

This Year's Bike Ride

On Saturday the 10th of September nine of us cycled from Sandon to Writtle via Galleywood and Highlands Park.

On the way, after climbing the heights of Galleywood and racing down the road to the Chelmsford Bypass we stopped for special pictures outside Highlands House.

The ride was not without incident! Chris Mann scrunched down on the road twice, and sustained, as it turned out two days later, a double fracture of his left foot! This was treated at the time with an ice pack during lunch at The Rose and Crown, Writtle. After a good lunch Chris got a taxi back home and Guy collected the bike



I did get there too!

later. It has now been generously

given for use by our Ukrainian friends!

The rest of us had an excellent

lunch and then set off to get to cycle route number 1 through Writtle's St. John's Green down to the River Chelmer, and then through Chelmer Park and on to Sandford Lock.



Waiting to go!



A healthy lunch

However, I had a fall at the sharp humpback bridge over the river when my pedal hit my shin which had been injured two weeks previously in the same place!! Plenty of blood! However with the aid of a 2-handkerchief bandage I managed to get back to the Crown for a couple of pints of sustenance. We had completed about 15 miles and were lucky



Chris' leg 2 days later

with the weather, which was dry and 22degrees.

Just for the record the cyclists were: Charlotte, Simon and Oliver Fletcher, Guy, Dessi and Anthony Speakman, Chris Mann plus Amanda and David Farrar.

David Farrar



Arrived at Hylmand House, by a haha



Sunday 11th December

4:00 pm Christingle Service followed by the lighting of the Christmas tree. Hot chocolate and mince pies to warm up.

Sunday 18th December

4:00 pm Candlelit Festival of Carols and Readings
Come again and hear the story of the first Christmas and see the church in all its glory. Arrive early to obtain a seat.

Tuesday 20th December

7:00 pm Beer and Carols in the Crown

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

10am Christmas Morning service with Communion
Come and celebrate Jesus' birthday with us. You are invited to bring a favourite present to show.

All are welcome

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Crib Service
A service for all ages to gather round the manger and see the Christmas story unfold. Children please come dressed as one of the characters of the Christmas Story or as an animal.

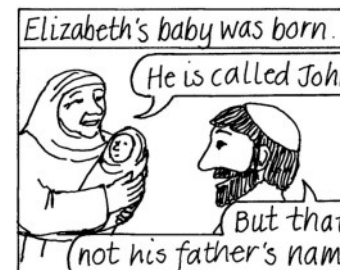
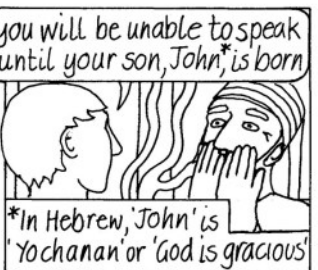
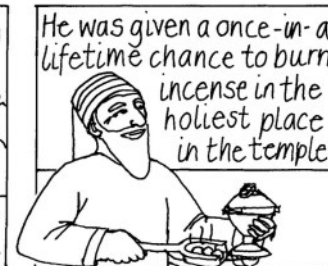
11:30 pm Candlelit Midnight Communion
This candlelit service is the perfect way to start your Christmas Day. Carols by Candlelight

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke ch. 1 verses 1-25 & 57-80

The Romans had invaded Israel and still ruled it. Zechariah and Elizabeth were an old childless couple living in the hill country.



Farming Today

All 500 ewes have been mated and the rams taken out. The ewes have been moved to outlying grass to allow home pastures to recover from summer grazing. This enables regeneration of the grass ready for the lambing season. The rams have been treated for worms. Preparation is underway for the lambing season in February, with winter housing being prepared.

Winter drilling is now finished with the last of the winter beans being drilled over half term, with only the Spring barley left to drill in the Spring. New permanent leys of 5 years have been drilled; these include bumble bee mixes in accordance with government schemes. Spraying is now completed for the year.

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for reservations

Hedge-cutting is ongoing where permitted. Tractors are now parked up in sheds and only travelling on grass where possible.

Wheat is now being sold at a firmer price owing to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The last of the bean crops harvested this year are due to leave the farm in the middle of November.

With the UK well and truly in the grips of bird flu, all farm turkeys and chickens have been housed according to government guidelines.

With the wet weather now among us, farm machinery is being serviced and maintained.

Gillian

Good home

After the christening of his baby brother in church, young Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That minister said he wanted us to be brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

A Cloudless Sky

This October morn, a cloudless sky
As curtains wide all could I see
An azure blue, an endless view
Broken only by a stand of trees.

As day progressed the sky had
changed
To shades of cornflower blue
To think, with sadness, this very sky
May float o'er Ukraine too.

Pottering

To some, the garden
A never ending chore
Where we poor souls are
Engaged in a never ending war.

We face insects big and small
We battle weather fair and squall
Through all these wars we sally
forth
Hoping the wind will not go north.

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Email. theclaydonclinic@btinternet.com
Old Southend Rd,
Howe Green CM2 7TB

The Beach

*'The distinction between past,
present and future is only an
illusion, however persistent' -
Albert Einstein.*

The flecks of gold and silver sand
Laid before my eye that bright
morn;
The space where land now meets
the sea
A land oh so dear to me.

I remember where my footsteps
trod
That chilling air had caught my
breath;
The day before, on that beach
So close yet now so out of reach.

Standing there, salty air in my
mouth
My mind could not but help think
thus;
That years hence my mind will
look back,
And remember that sandy track.

Years have passed and hair
turned grey
And minds pictures fail with time
yet,
Sensations of places I recall;
Tide rows out - lost shimmering
pools
And sun to the west shrinking
small.

*Richard Symmonds
October 2022*

Church Services

St. Andrew's, Sandon

Services currently planned online via Zoom are shown in italics.

December

Thursday 1st	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 4th	Advent 2	
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday 6th	9:30 am	Communion
Wednesday 7th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 8th	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 11th	Advent 3	
	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Family Service
	4:00 pm	Christingle Service
Tuesday 13th	9:30 am	Communion
Wednesday 14th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 15th	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 18th	Advent 4	
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
	4:00 pm	Festival of Carols and Readings
Tuesday 20th	9:30 am	Communion
	7:00 pm	Crown Beer and Carols
Wednesday 21st	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 22nd	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Saturday 24th	Christmas Eve	
	4:00 pm	Crib Service
	11:30 pm	Midnight Mass
Sunday 25th	Christmas Day	
	10:00 am	Christmas Communion
Tuesday 27th	9:30 am	Communion
Wednesday 28th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
January		
Sunday 1st	Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday 3rd	9:30 am	Communion
Wednesday 4th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 5th	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 8th	Epiphany	
	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Family Service

Tuesday 10th	9:30 am	Communion
Wednesday 11th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 12th	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 15th	Epiphany 2	
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday 17th	9:30 am	Communion
Wednesday 18th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 19th	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 22nd	Epiphany 3	
	10:00 am	Morning Worship
	9:30 am	Communion
Tuesday 24th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Wednesday 25th	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Thursday 26th	Epiphany 4	
Sunday 29th	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
	9:30 am	Communion
Tuesday 31st		
February		
Wednesday 1st	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 2nd	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 5th	Third before Lent	
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday 7th	9:30 am	Communion
Wednesday 8th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 9th	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 12th	Second before Lent	
	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Family Service
Tuesday 14th	9:30 am	Communion
Wednesday 15th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 16th	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 19th	Last before Lent	
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
	9:30 am	Communion
Tuesday 21st	Ash Wednesday	
Wednesday 22nd	7:30 pm	Sung Eucharist and Ashing
	8:30 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Thursday 23rd	Lent 1	
Sunday 26th	10:00 am	Morning Worship
	9:30 am	Communion
Tuesday 28th		

Saint Andrew's Parish Church Contacts

Rector	Revd. Terry Brown* tgabrown@hotmail.com 01245 698988	
Church Wardens	Richard Cecil**	224747
	Andy Horne*	475279
PCC Secretary	Judy Cecil**	224747
PCC Treasurer	Nick Bobeldijk ⁺	471756
Safeguarding Officer	Alison Read*	474858
Electoral Roll	Liz Bobeldijk*	471756
Bell Ringing	Andy Horne*	475279
Tiny Tots	Alison Read*	474858
Flower Arranging	Lesley Worboys	224612
Organ	Cathie Horne*	475279
Choir	Gill Haddington	476598
Magazine Editor	Richard Cecil**	224747
Parochial Church Council Members	as * above and Colin Bryan ⁺ , David Farrar ⁺ , John Gruby, Christine Mennie ⁺ , and Janet Terry ⁺	

Authorised to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion

As ⁺ above and Valerie Grimwood, Gill Hodge and Michael Puffett

Regular Events see centre pages for full details of worship.

2 nd Sunday of the month	8:00 am	Holy Communion in Church
Sundays	10:00 am	Morning Worship/Communion
Tuesdays	9:30 am	Holy Communion
	7:45 pm	Ringing Practice
Wednesday (Zoom) sandon-church.info	8:30 pm	Night Prayer
Thursday (Zoom) compasschurches.org.uk	8:30 am	Compass Churches Morning Prayer
Thursday	7:00 pm	Choir Practice

Zoom services links can be found at the websites just prior to the service.



St Andrew's, Sandon

www.sandon-church.info

Editor Richard Cecil
Advertising Claire Jefferies
Proof Reader Valerie Grimwood
Distribution Manager Alison Read
Copy for December's magazine
by 10th February 2023 please.
magazine@sandon-church.info

Cover picture by Lisa Wiseman

Howe Green URC

After our lovely Harvest Thanksgiving service we said goodbye to our Minister Rev. Paul Stein. He is moving on to Hemel Hempstead and we wish him and his family all the best in their new venture.

We will continue to have our monthly services (third Sunday of the month) at 3.00 pm mostly led by lay preachers and followed by tea and cake. (The next dates are

We commended into God's care
Vera Holdsworth 2nd September
Gladys Hammett 5th September
Rita June Wallis 6th September
Elia Fuad Sayegh 18th October
Suzanne Margaret Martin
2nd November

We welcomed at their Baptism
Charlotte Daphne Ann Castle
18th September
Nicola Miller, George Turner,
James Valentine 9th October
Oliver Maclennan,
Alfie William Mower 23rd October

We delighted at their Confirmation
Frances Fourgeaud, Nicola Miller,
George Turner, James Valentine,
Lisa Wiseman 9th October

We celebrate as these couples
are joined in matrimony
Alex Williams and Jocelyn
Blampied 27th August

18th December, 15th January and
19th February). We are also
looking forward to Christmas
events, and in particular our usual
Carols by Candlelight when we
come together as a community for
a joyful celebration. This year it is
on Thursday 22nd December at
7.30 pm, and followed of course
by mince pies etc. You are all
invited to join us for this special
time.

Pam Knott

WI Report

On Thursday 8th September, our most engaging speaker was David Webb Actor, one of the twins from the very popular show HI-DE-HI yes yes I know HO-DE-HO. He looked the same, but like us all, just a little older.

David had all his equipment ready. He then started by showing us all the famous yellow jacket from the production and he started to inform us how he came to have a part in the TV show. Just pure luck, the right place at the right time, David said.

But before being in the show he had several other parts he played in the theatre. As he switched on the projector the poster of Oklahoma was shown. David caught us by surprise when he started singing. He has a lovely voice and I think we were all taken aback.

Next was West Side Story and again he was singing along to the music, next up was South Pacific and another song to accompany the slide show.

I feel this speaker was the best we have had in a long time. I didn't see any nodding heads. So back to the story HI-DE-HI-----HO-DE-HO was filmed at a holiday camp in Dovercourt Essex and as

David was from Mistley he didn't have far to travel.

In David's slide show he even had interviews with some old cast members Paul Shane and Su Pollard to name a few. David has contact with some of the old cast members and they meet up each year. David has funny stories about all the cast members.

He told jokes and sang and filled the time. It was over so quickly, it was a shame we couldn't have had just an extra hour or so. A very entertaining afternoon.

In October, it was Christmas pudding-mix afternoon. Before the meeting started properly, a delicious lunch of soup and a roll was cooked and served by Sue Wells. It was made and cooked by Karen West with help from Julie Fisher.

Members were asked to stand to observe 1 minute silence in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth. Then the pudding mixing began – with delicious smells which filled the Village Hall. With a cup of tea and cake to follow, to say nothing of the raffle and a birthday card for Pat Farrell, a good time was had by all!

Monica Richardson

Christmas Quiz

Saturday 3rd December 2022

- Teams of 6 max Tickets £8
- Bring your own Nibbles and Drinks
- Venue Sandon Village Hall
- Please get there by 7:15 pm for 7:30 pm start
- Proceeds to 'Friends of Sandon Church'

Tickets from David on 471484 or davidchris1812@yahoo.co.uk or Janet Terry on 472997 or Cedric Callmeyer on 07884 367787 or Darren Chaplin on 478325 or Andy Hilton on 07885 330511



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Open times:
Monday – Saturday from 9am til 6pm

01245 476460
salon19roma@gmail.com
19 Church Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 7HX

Flower Arrangers

The St Andrew's Flower Arrangers have continued to improve their sustainable practices. As Floral foam is no longer used, alternative mechanics including wire mesh cages, chicken wire, tape grids and 'Floraguppy' are used to support plant materials. Flowers have been sourced from a wholesaler specialising in seasonal British grown flowers



For Michael & Lauren's Wedding



from Norfolk and Lincolnshire. These are delivered in cardboard boxes, and the bunches of flowers are wrapped in paper secured with compostable tape. Green waste created during arranging is composted.

As well as arranging the weekly altar flowers, flowers were arranged for the wedding of Lauren and Michael in August, the

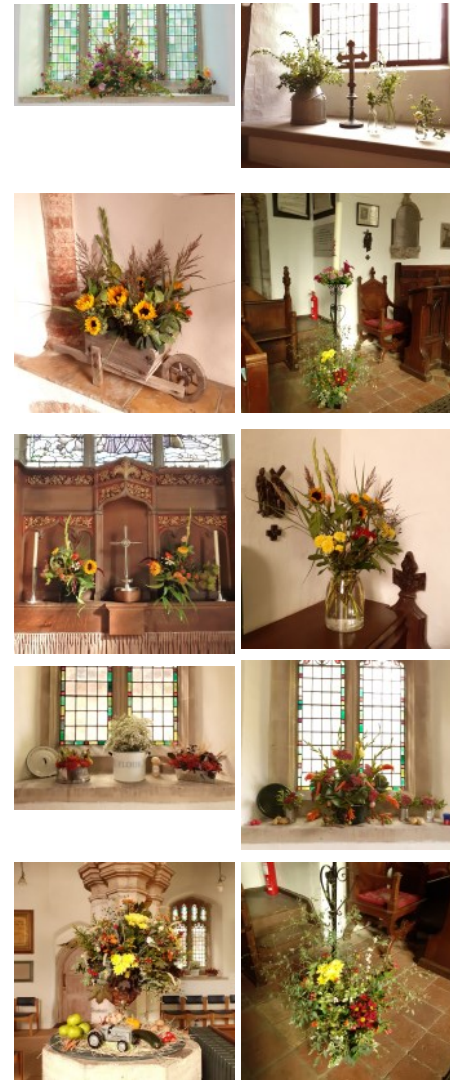


Remembering Robert Fishwick



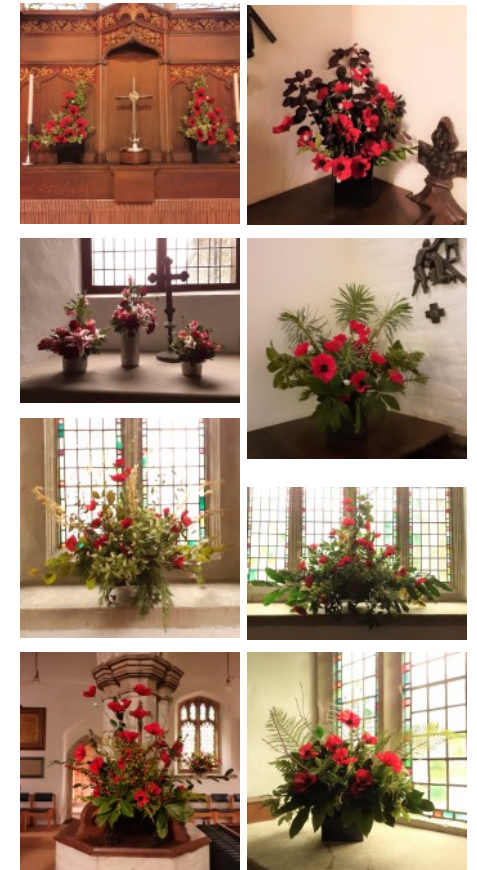
Remembering Sally Bobeldijk

Harvest Service in September and Remembrance Service in November. Arrangements were sponsored in Remembrance of Robert Fishwick and Sally Bobeldijk. If you are interested in finding out



more, why not pop along to our next festival arranging session for Christmas on the morning of Saturday 17th December. You can also follow us on Facebook via 'St Andrew's, Sandon Flower Arrangers'. *Lesley Worboys*

Arrangements for Harvest Festival are on the left and Remembrance on the right. Thank you to all.



Bells Update

As a final step to complete the bell refurbishment project, a small plaque has been attached to the bell frame as you enter the bell chamber. It is alongside one that marks work done on the bells in 1908. There were 5 bells then with a sixth being added in 1951. As part of the project new muffles were also purchased. Then the Queen died. Several of us scabbled to figure how best to respond. One piece of guidance suggested that the bells be double-muffled with the exception of the tenor which was only singly muffled. In my experience this had not been done before. I think it was on the Saturday that we rang with the bells like this to mark the Proclamation of the new Monarch. We did 'call changes'

where you start by ringing the highest pitched bell first and go round to the lowest pitched bell. They are numbered in that order 1 to 6. The caller can then instruct any pair of bells to swap over. For example if the caller says 4 to 5 the bells are then rung in the order 1, 2, 3, 5, 4, 6. Different orders are given different names. There is an order called Queens. For six bells it is 1, 3, 5, 2, 4, 6 and another one called Kings which is a variation of that namely, 5, 3, 1, 2, 4, 6. So we rang 70 rounds of Queens to mark 70 years of the Queen's reign followed by a number of rounds of Kings. I made an estimate of the number of years that the King might reign. The new muffles worked well and proved easier to put on and take off than the old ones.



A little later, we rang again for the funeral itself but this time with the bells half muffled, which is a much more familiar configuration. It produces 6 well defined rings followed by 6 muffled rings which has the feel of being a shadow of the first unmuffled 6. Quite a haunting effect. Then there was a moment when some potential visitors asked if they could ring a quarter peal. These typically take about 45 minutes to ring and involve 1260 changes. Except that, unlike the changes I described earlier, you need to know what you are doing to make a change each time the bells are rung. But could we really let a visiting group ring the first quarter peal on the refurbished bells? We could not quite get a band together from the

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Sandon ringers who were able to do that but with a little outside help we did manage a quarter peal on 28th September which was a first on an inside bell (that is the more difficult ones) for Mandy Lawford. *Richard Cecil*



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Christine Mennie is 80

As my youngest son Stuart said, 80 is only a large number. I did not expect my birthday to last from mid-June (my birthday 26th) till the end of August. My celebrations started on the 18th, when some family, son Nick, wife Helen and their daughter Jessamy took me to Maldon to a Turkish restaurant. I'm new to Turkish food but loved it. They gave me my first presents: a fully packed hamper and beautifully inscribed locket for four family photographs.

Months before, my neighbours, Alison and Andy, had told me to keep the 19th free, so early on the Sunday morning we set out to our first place, which was the British Wildlife Centre in Surrey. We stopped for lunch and then toured the centre, seeing owls, pine martens, deer, red squirrels, otters and so much more. Then I was told then we were going to the seaside (good job I had my bucket and spade). What a surprise! One of my favourite places, Brighton. We had hoped to visit the Royal Pavillion but because of the London to Brighton cycle race it was closed. After walking through the lovely lanes we stopped for lunch at my favourite watering hole: The

Pump House circa 1766. I thought that the very enjoyable lunch was the surprise, but no. After more walking we arrived at the Theatre Royal. When we sat down I found it was a tribute evening to Tina Turner. Fantastic; you would not have known it was not her. When the music started for Simply the Best everyone was on their feet singing and dancing. What a day!

After a quiet week I went out for a birthday dinner with a friend to my favourite Chelmsford restaurant 'Song'.

My Birthday Arrived! I was presented with a lovely peace lily and card at church. Thank you. At 1.00 pm, my guests started to arrive to celebrate my big day. I could not believe that they all had come to share my afternoon tea. There were friends and neighbours, old work colleagues and people from Hertfordshire and Norfolk. In the evening, a few close friends joined me for a BBQ. What a lovely day. I left the clearing up and spent the next day at the County Cricket.

Now for my next adventure, suitcase in hand I departed for Wales and the celebrations continued. A dinner with a large family in Wales who all talk a lot like me. As you can imagine we

are all loud. Party day arrived. It was supposed to start at 1:00 pm, but it was about 10:00 am when guests started coming. Everywhere was decorated. There were big balloons in the shape of 80, bunting, fairy lights, even the tablecloth had 80 on it. A gazebo was erected in the garden and games for the children, but the adults played with them more especially after a great deal of alcohol had been consumed. Caterers arrived with plenty of food and then the cake was brought out, made by 2 of my great nieces. It was another magical day with wonderful presents. If you thought the party was over, *wrong*. They all arrived again on Sunday for a takeaway. Some had taken the day off on Monday, so it was all out to lunch in Mumbles in a lovely restaurant overlooking Swansea Bay. A rest during the next day till family arrived in the evening to say goodbye. Tears were shed.

I had some time at home then before my next lot of celebrations, which was doing what I love. I spent a lot of time watching County Cricket.

My next adventure was to go and stay with my great niece in Cheddar. She is 2 minutes from the entrance of the gorge. My

niece and her husband, who is a GP have four children aged 8, 9, 10 and 11 and a cat, so a busy household. They have just bought a large house and it took me a fortnight to find my way around! I do not know how many times I went the wrong way and into the wrong room. First night was another one of balloons and banners and excited children, especially blowing out the candles of the cake, followed by champagne. The days that followed were filled with lovely outings and lunches. One day to Wells and we went into the Bishop's Palace gardens. I saw the actual well, whence came the name. Another day we went to Longleat Safari park. I had never been before and thoroughly enjoyed it although it was tiring. On Monday I had my last present, a spa morning with a body massage. I was hoping for a handsome Swede, but I did not get one. Well an old lady can hope. Friday came and I set off for home! It was a very tearful goodbye. My niece said they cried all the way home

Well what a birthday! It was wonderful. Thank you to everyone that made me feel so special and loved. I could not have asked for more.

Christine Mennie

Danbury and Villages Rotary

We will have planted more crocuses on the Green near The Crown by the time you read this. Planting also took place at Sandon School, where some of the special needs children came to help. Their teacher is preparing a lesson about polio and Rotary's contribution to eliminate this dreadful disease from the world.

We hope to be able to donate to the Ukraine appeals again and are holding another dinner at Chillies in South Woodham Ferrers where 20% of the meal cost will go to this cause. We will probably hold a raffle to boost the donation. This will be on 5th December and we would welcome any Rotarians, friends or visitors who would like to support us at this or any other event. Contact Linda at lcbrowning@hotmail.com for details and booking for this or any other meeting.

Our Treasure Hunt caused much head scratching and raised £320 for Trachoma research. Paul Clark, a friend of Danbury and Villages Rotary donated a further £300 to make it £620. Our appeals for bicycles for Afghan and Ukrainian refugees was very successful and we have met all

the requests received from them. We would like to thank all for their fantastic response to our request. It was a great success with about 50 bikes being donated. Each had been thoroughly checked and repaired where necessary before being passed on. Every refugee who has requested a bike has been supplied with a suitable bicycle. We are holding a small number to meet further requests so at this stage no more bikes are needed. Once again thank you for supporting this initiative by Danbury and Villages Rotary.

Another project we are working on is to plant a tree to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II's reign and sad passing. We have donated used bras to the Lady McAdden Cancer appeal and are collecting coats for the Wrap Up initiative, a Rotary appeal for winter coats for those who need them.

We continue to try out local pubs and restaurants to find the best location for our regular meetings. We will be at The Crown in Sandon on 30th. We welcome visitors interested in Rotary and wanting to know more. Why not join us? Book with Linda as above. *Eric Cater*

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The nature of Christ's existence is mysterious, I admit; but ... reject it and the world is an inexplicable riddle; believe it, and the history of our race is satisfactorily explained. – *Napoleon Bonaparte*

Christ is the great central fact in the world's history. To Him everything looks forward or backward. All the lines of history converge upon Him.

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Recipe Frittata with Pea and Ricotta

Ingredients

Basic Frittata:

4 eggs,
2 extra egg whites,
310ml milk,
salt and pepper

Topping:

180g frozen peas,
100g baby spinach leaves,
150g ricotta cheese

Cook peas and spinach leaves in a pan for 3 minutes or until warmed through. Whisk together the frittata ingredients in a bowl.

Heat a 18 cm non-stick ovenproof frying pan over a medium heat and pour the batter into the pan and cook for about 3 minutes until the bottom begins to set.

Pour the peas and spinach over the top of the basic frittata mixture.

Top with 150g ricotta cheese and cook over the medium heat for another 3 minutes until the base starts to set.

Place the pan under a preheated hot grill and cook for another 5 minutes or until golden and set.

Once the frittata is cooked top with some chopped fresh mint and parsley.

Enjoy with a fresh green salad.

Narelle Arnold



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