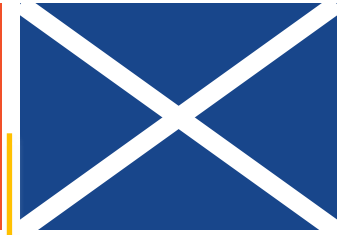


# Sandon Voice



Quarterly from St Andrew's 75p for non residents

September 2023





## Southend Boys' and Girls' Choir Concert

Cheese & Wine Evening

on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Start time: 5 pm

St. Andrew's Church, Hall Lane

Sandon, Chelmsford, CM2 7RQ

Pre-booked tickets @ £10 each

or £12 per ticket if purchased at the door.

**PRICE INCLUDES CHEESE AND WINE**

Tickets available by contacting:

David 01245 471 484

Janet: 01245 472 997

Terry: 01245 698 988

Or email: [info@friendsofsandonchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsofsandonchurch.co.uk)

Organised by The Friends of Sandon Church

The programme will be a mixed one with music to suit all tastes, Vivaldi, Rutter, Bob Chilcott, folk songs, spirituals, songs from shows. Conductor: Roger Humphrey  
Accompanist: Rosemary Pennington

## Rector's Letter

'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.' (Genesis 1.31) Over the past few years, we have all been made aware of extreme weather events like the wildfires in California, Australia and even Siberia. In our own

country we see increasing incidents of flooding and coastal erosion, and there has been very destructive flooding in countries such as China and India. Other events of concern have been the recent earthquake in Haiti, and many parts of the world are suffering the effects of drought. Food shortages due to crop failures, like wheat in Canada and Ukraine, threaten all of us.

So what is happening to that beautiful world, celebrated so powerfully in the opening chapters of the Book of Genesis? Many of us will have watched Sir David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg, Al Gore and many

others who do remarkable things to draw our attention to this reality. But, without individual and local action alongside international cooperation and government policy, we are destined for a major global catastrophe in the next hundred

years. The climate crisis is wreaking havoc in our world, putting millions of lives at risk. It's intensifying global threats such as extreme weather events, sea-level rise and melting glaciers.

As Christians and churches we have a crucial role in calling for, and working towards, a world that allows everyone to flourish – one that enables us to live in harmony with

the rest of creation. To turn this into reality, and to prevent further harm to our global neighbours, we must urgently tackle the climate crisis together.

Climate change is a justice issue for those who are already vulnerable, this is a life-

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threatening emergency that is pushing them further into poverty. We are seeing the outworking of a global system built on greed and overconsumption – one that is fundamentally at odds with God’s original intention for the world. We’re reaping what we’ve sown.

As followers of Jesus, we should be at the forefront of protecting and restoring his creation. The climate crisis is a huge and urgent challenge that requires all of us to play our part. We are called as Christians to stand up for justice, calling on those in positions of power to make decisions that protect the most vulnerable people and the Earth we all rely on.

Small things really can make a big difference.

As we have so far failed to control emission of global warming gases like CO<sub>2</sub> and methane, the earth

is continuing to heat up at an alarming rate. It is already 1.2 degrees hotter than in pre-industrial times, and present data suggests we are heading for an average rise of 3.5 to 4 degrees.

As deserts expand there will be more famine and as parts of the world become less and less habitable, there will be mass migration of people across the globe, seeking out the ever-shrinking environments that will support life.

Global warming means that ice is melting rapidly in Polar Regions and sea levels are rising. Our most vulnerable sisters and brothers are already suffering, in Bangladesh for

example, with increased flooding of coastal areas and river basins. And then there are the rainforests – sometimes described as the lungs of planet earth. We continue to chop them down, mostly to graze cattle, or to grow crops to

#### TO LET

Family home in Southern Spain, with air conditioning. Mijas Green (between Malaga & Marbella). Overlooking Golf Course, 10 minutes to the sea. Safe maintained communal garden & swimming pool. Restaurants and village shop within walking distance. 3 en-suite bedrooms, sleeps 7. Well equipped. 01245 471242/07831 350103



feed to intensively reared animals, or to grow palm oil. And as we chop those precious trees down, we displace indigenous people, we release more global warming gases into the air, and we destroy the biodiversity on which we depend.

It’s a big job. It’s a massive job. Let’s be honest, it may feel like a totally overwhelming and possibly impossible job. We should never underestimate the power of small things to make a big difference. Those small and apparently insignificant changes that we can all make to our personal life styles will collectively have an impact. Find out about eco-friendly cleaning products and toiletries; explore recycled or bamboo toilet paper; know what you can recycle; if you have a garden, grow some vegetables and do what you can to make it wildlife friendly; avoid using the car when you can; fly less; use a green energy supplier; check out the green credentials of your bank (many still invest in fossil fuels). You will know this list as well as I do. One more for you to think about – and I know some people find this hard – but one of the biggest contributors both to global warming gases and deforestation is animal agriculture, especially cows. So have a serious think about how you might reduce the

amount of red meat and dairy products in your diet. There are so many good products and recipes out there now. So there it is: a list of small changes that could make a big difference. But knowing the list is not enough. We have to actually plant those tiny seeds, each one of us. Plant them and they will grow. And we will be doing what we can to work with God in restoring the creation that God entrusted to our care. Christians believe that humans have been given the responsibility to protect and preserve our planet. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding our Harvest Festival at our 10 am service. I invite you to come along so that we can give thanks for our world and to pray for its future and how we can do our part in caring for it. I do hope you can make it. Terry

#### Observations on our Christian faith

They stand best who kneel most. – Anon

You are a Child of God. Please phone home! – Anon

Prayer moves the hand which moves the world. – Anon



## Monthly Soup & Sandwich Lunch at St Andrews Church

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month

Next Lunch is 5<sup>th</sup> September  
Future dates 3<sup>rd</sup> October,  
7<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> December.

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: Judy Cecil for more details on 01245 224747

## Frosty Christmas Fayre



Sandon Village Hall  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November  
12:30 – 3 pm

Come along and indulge in a bit of Christmas shopping

Father Christmas in his Grotto  
Cakes, Teddy Tombola, Bottle Tombola  
Grand Raffle, Gift Stall, Avon, Neals Yard  
Candles And Wax Melts, Jewellery  
Refreshments and much more



We meet in the St Andrew's Room on second Wednesday of the month 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm so come along.  
Further information  
Contact: Alison 01245 474858 or e-mail: [tots@sandon-church.info](mailto:tots@sandon-church.info)

## From the Court

Barrister: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your barrister?

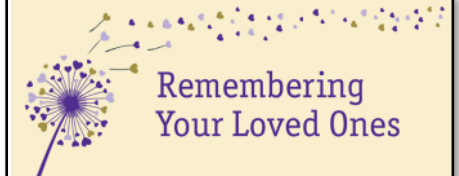
Witness: No, this is how I always dress when I go to work.



## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 10am

This is the date of this year's Harvest Festival when we shall be giving thanks, not only for the gift of food, but for all that God gives us. We will be praying for our world with its climate emergency.

All gifts will be given to the Chelmsford Foodbank. These gifts are needed:- Small jars coffee, Long life fruit juice, Instant mash potato sachets, Meat meals eg chicken/beef in sauce, Sponge puddings not chilled, Instant custard sachets, Tinned rice Pudding, Tinned fruit, Chocolate biscuit bars and crisps, Fruit squash, UHT milk, Toiletries: Ladies' deodorant, Women's Shampoo, Hand wash, Toothpaste, Laundry tabs/pods (only), Washing up liquid. They have sufficient pasta and baked beans, thank you. Let's come together and sing all those favourite harvest hymns.



## Time to Remember Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 3 pm at St Andrew's church

You, and your family and friends, are invited to a service of thanksgiving and remembrance for loved ones who have died. It is equally appropriate for people who lost a loved one a long time ago or very recently. The service will last less than an hour and it will be simple, quiet and peaceful. We will read out the names of those to be remembered and you will be invited to light a candle to their memory if you wish. It is a time for quiet reflection and peace. Please write names on the list at the back of the church or email names to Revd. Terry [tgabrown@hotmail.com](mailto:tgabrown@hotmail.com)

## Our Church is open!

The church is open for quiet contemplation and prayer every day from about 9.30am to 5.00pm (exact times will vary).

## Annual Walk

We gathered on 17<sup>th</sup> June to do our annual walk, starting just outside the Sandon church car park.

Our route went next to the A12, crossing over it at the 'sand pit' bridge and then past Sandon Hall to Mayes Lane and then past Browns Cottage to Sporhams Lane and then through the ford and up to the Cricketers for lunch. Some 22 of us had lunch and drinks there for 2 hours.



Images at the outset



Next we walked up to Danbury Church crossing the A414 to go through Bellhill Wood and then past Riffams through Danbury Country Park and down to Hulls Lane and then the Crown.

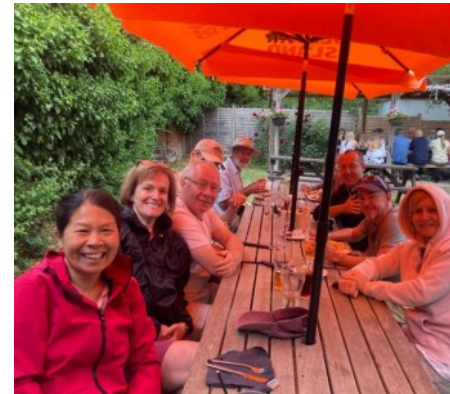
The total distance walked was about 8 miles and we were very lucky with the weather.

Do join us later this year for a local cycle ride which this year will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

*David Farrar*



Eating, drinking and enjoying company later on



## Why car tyres are not good for you

Here is a sobering thought: it is not just your car's exhaust fumes that damage the environment. It is also your car's tyres. It seems that as rubber tyres wear down, they shed tiny particles that together with other car tyres, form vast clouds of toxic particles along the roads. These pollutants may be invisible, but they are washed into gutters and soil and rivers, and they are getting into everything. And, unlike exhaust fumes, tyre particles are produced by all types of vehicles – petrol, diesel, electric, hybrid or hydrogen. Some scientists even warn that the heavier, electric cars, will produce even more of this hazardous stuff, because of the extra wear on the tyres. These microplastics are now present in all ecosystems throughout the world. They have been found in the sea, in the placenta of unborn babies, and even in our lungs. How hazardous are they? It seems that no one has yet quite decided.



## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 10 am Remembrance Day service

Remembrance Sunday falls on 12<sup>th</sup> November this year and is an opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

We will remember the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those that have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.

All are welcome as we remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

WE WILL RE MEMBER THEM

## Sponsored Cycle Ride

9<sup>th</sup> September

More detail from David Farrar  
01245 471484



## Patronal Festival Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm

There will be a service of music and readings.  
There will be a special preacher. This will be followed by Cheese and wine.  
Everyone is invited to this event. If you have not been before we look forward to seeing you. All are most welcome to join us.

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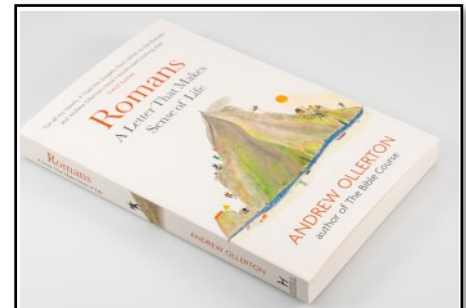
## Sandon WI

In July, we had a very interesting talk from Alan Bourne. It was a lovely talk as he had come along with slides showing us the history with pictures of the first site map to the present day.

Perry Wood is next to the site and lent its name to the business back in the 50's when parents, Mary and Les, bought the land and called it Perrywood Nurseries.

They started out growing potatoes and pick-your-own strawberries. After working for Colchester parks department, and seeing the supermarkets begin to take over the strawberry market, son Alan Bourne started to grow plants to sell from the front of the property and took over the business with his wife Karin in 1984. Over the next 30 years they gradually grew the site into an award-winning garden centre.

After a vote of thanks was given, we had tea and cakes, in this time slot raffle tickets were sold and the trading table was opened which had a large selection for members to purchase. We did have a few items left over from our stall at the village fête which were snapped up at half price. Our WI stall at St Andrews Church Sandon was a great success and we even met a few WI members from other groups who had popped by to say hello. We had three tables full of homemade



## Advent Course

Romans, a letter that makes sense of life.

St Andrews Room at 10:45 am on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December.

The course will have video teaching set against the stunning backdrop of Rome, Andrew Ollerton presents this inspiring course that explores Paul's letter to the Romans. There will be a Participants' guide and the Romans Course will take you on a deeper journey, helping you discover your place in God's story. Do hope you are able to come. There will be coffee/tea and biscuits at 10:30 am ready for a 10:45 am start.

items with jams, chutneys and craft items.

For all our hard work we manage to raise a grand total of £275.20, this money is a great start for our fund raising with which we hope to buy a memorial bench in honour of our passed members.

Vera Heard



## Church Services

## St. Andrew's, Sandon

Services currently planned online via Zoom are shown in italics.

### September

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Trinity 13

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am Holy Communion

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>

#### Trinity 14

8:00 am 1662 Holy Communion

10:00 am Morning Worship

9:30 am Holy Communion

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Trinity 15

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

3:00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving

at URC Chapel followed by tea

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am Holy Communion

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>

#### Trinity 16

10:00 am Harvest Festival

9:30 am Holy Communion

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

### October

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>

#### Trinity 17

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

9:30 am Holy Communion

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>

#### Trinity 18

8:00 am 1662 Holy Communion

10:00 am Family Service

9:30 am Holy Communion

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Trinity 19

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

3:00 pm Church at Howe Green Chapel

followed by tea

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am Holy Communion

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### Trinity 20

10:00 am Morning Worship

9:30 am Holy Communion

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Last after Trinity Bible Sunday

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

9:30 am Holy Communion

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>

### November

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

#### All Saints' Day

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

3:00 pm Time to Remember

9:30 am Holy Communion

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Third before Advent

8:00 am 1662 Holy Communion

10:00 am Remembrance Sunday Service

9:30 am Holy Communion

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Second before Advent

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

3:00 pm Church at Howe Green Chapel

followed by tea

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>

9:30 am Holy Communion

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Christ the King

10:00 am Morning Worship

9:30 am Holy Communion

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>

8:30 pm *Night Prayer*

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am *Morning Prayer*

7:30 pm Evening Service for St Andrew's Day



## 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	Mike Worboys	224612
Tiny Tots	Alison Read*	474858
Flower Arranging	Lesley Worboys	224612
Organist	Cathie Horne*	475279
Choir	Gill Haddington	476598
Magazine Editor	Richard Cecil**	224747

Parochial Church Council Members as \* above and Colin Bryan<sup>+</sup>, David Farrar<sup>+</sup>, John Gruby, Christine Mennie<sup>+</sup>, and Janet Terry<sup>+</sup>

Authorised to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion

As <sup>+</sup> above and Valerie Grimwood, Gill Hodge and Michael Puffett

**Regular Events** see centre pages for full details of worship.

2 <sup>nd</sup> 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)	8:30 pm	Night Prayer
sandon-church.info		
Thursday (Zoom)	8:30 am	Compass Churches
compasschurches.org.uk		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](http://www.sandon-church.info)

Editor Richard Cecil  
 Advertising Claire Jefferies  
 Distribution Manager Alison Read  
 Copy for September's magazine by 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 please.  
[magazine@sandon-church.info](mailto:magazine@sandon-church.info)



We celebrate as these couples are joined in matrimony

Matthew Newton and Donna Lovegrove 27<sup>th</sup> May  
 Matthew Watson and Bethany Wilde 2<sup>nd</sup> June

We remembered Bernard Richmond to God at his memorial service on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

We commended the following to God at their burial

June Abraham 19<sup>th</sup> June  
 Andrew Clarke 21<sup>st</sup> July  
 We commended Raymond Gooday to God at his funeral on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

We commended Kenneth Carr to God at the interment of his ashes on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

## Howe Green URC

We have had some lovely services and chances to get together at the chapel during the last three months.

There were interesting and challenging preachers and times for fellowship.

The Coffee Morning and Strawberry Tea were enjoyed by many friends, and we thank you all for your continued support.

We will be carrying on with our usual events for you to come to.

The services are on **17<sup>th</sup> September** (Harvest Thanksgiving with gifts for the Chelmsford Food Bank), **15<sup>th</sup> October** and **19<sup>th</sup> November** all at 3:00 pm and tea and cake afterwards.

We are also planning to have our Harvest Lunch (soup and ploughman's etc.) on **23<sup>rd</sup> September** from 12:30 pm.

So do put the date in your diary. Best wishes to you all, I hope you are enjoying your holidays.

*Pam Knott*

## Sitting

Sitting under apple tree shade  
The dappled light, a mellowed  
glow  
One's mind wanders to and fro  
Through life's comedy, through its  
parade;  
Life's lines, I hesitate, I do not  
know.

Actors, actresses appear then go  
Their parts not written, words  
ad-libbed  
Lines not learned, no prompts, no  
script;  
But life's no play, no musical  
show.

The dappled light as footlights  
staged  
My part a humble supporting one  
I enter thus, from wings among

From where people stand - for  
calling - paged.

Words oft lost in times of stress  
This time, my part, no words to  
speak

Yet fluent parts hold their  
mystique  
This time, this light, I do now  
caress;

As life's play moves on - no  
stages set  
The words from lines unwrit, as  
yet.

Under apple tree with sinking sun  
Now bathed in evening's amber  
glow

As days light fades, is almost run  
Still life's lines, I hesitate, I do not  
know.

*Richard Simmonds*  
3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023

## Brass Below Our Feet

The brass that lies below our feet,  
Laid down in love, hundreds  
years past;  
Incomplete, time has wrought its  
hands,  
But a beauty still, that long may  
last.

The prayer scroll of such beauty, yes  
Those words writ after death, but  
still;  
There for all eternity hoped,  
Two souls linked, their lives  
distilled.

The tiled floor, it's own aged  
beauty, now  
Lies where the full brass would  
have lied;  
With goldsmiths shields at their feet,  
Two full length figures, stood,  
side by side.

Cent'ries gone, we know not  
their ways  
Their lives, their hopes, their  
dreams unknown  
But there beneath our feet and  
tread

A tiny window to us is shown.  
*Richard Simmonds*  
27<sup>th</sup> July 2023



## Indefatigable Permanence

The stones wrought by man's  
rough hands  
Stand testament to a loving band  
Of men who toiled, machines not  
there  
Who fashioned stones with  
hands, yes bare;  
Who built their church facing east  
To catch the rising sun  
Of Godly light,  
The source of all life, released.

Long, long after those men's  
travails  
Generations, from time back  
when  
Their life stories rest – time lost  
and veiled  
But by their works we remember  
them;  
They each, have left behind  
A lasting mem'ry  
In stones hand laid  
Signed lovingly.

The rock, God's love, on which  
that building stands  
Is unchanged over years and  
time;  
The same then as it is today,  
And unlike the work of man's fair  
hand  
Though time and wars may  
combine  
It will never, not ever decay.

*Richard Simmonds*  
7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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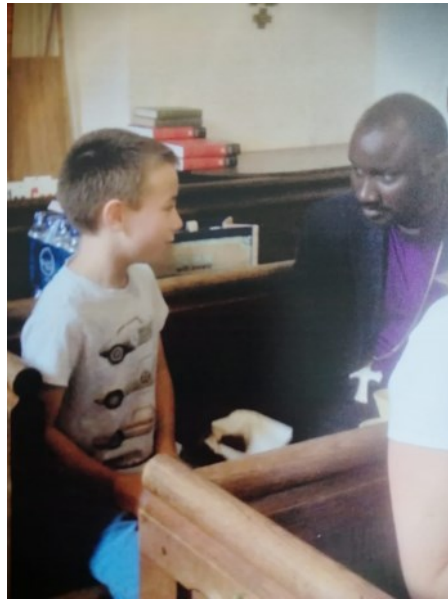
W: www.cph.uk.net



## Max and Qampicha

Recently, Richard kindly gave me the opportunity again to meet the Bishop of Marsabit in northern Kenya (Bishop Qampicha). I had previously met him in 2017 a week or so before my ninth birthday and a photo was taken at the time of me talking to him on a pew in the church. At that point we discussed things such as his son, who is a year older than me, as well as the church services in his diocese in Kenya often being held outside, which for us is unusual, particularly before the pandemic, amongst other things relating to each of our lives. I had always remembered that meeting, even though it was quite some time ago.

Around two months ago, I was invited by Richard to meet him once again. Upon arriving, I was greeted by Richard and Judy Cecil at their residence in Butts Green and met the bishop and his wife while we sat around the table in their garden. We discussed several aspects of our current life and the conversation certainly made me more aware of certain aspects of life in Kenya that I was unaware of beforehand. While I was aware of the very rich linguistic diversity Kenya contains, I was very unaware of the sparseness of that population



Max and Qampicha  
in Sandon church in 2017

(barely a million people inside his diocese which covers an area comparable to that of the entire country of England!) and the limitations of their education system, as he was the only one of his siblings educated. He said that recently enormous amounts of crops and cattle have been lost to bad harvests (from 4 years of drought), leading to starvation for many people. He would buy enough rice for his family for a month but half of that would often be given away to other members of the community who couldn't afford their own. They themselves are not particularly wealthy but others think they are so due to the

bishop's occupation. It certainly allowed me to reflect on the immense privileges most in this country have and the triviality of some of the things we complain about. The Bishop's wife talked about her occupation as a nurse and the enormous amount of people that she has direct responsibility for if they fall ill, and the lack of ability to be able to treat them often, due to the difficulty of acquiring adequate treatments, once again allowing me to realise the privileges we have with the NHS in our own country.

After that, I then showed the photo taken six years ago of myself and Bishop Qampicha to him, and he was very glad I had kept it. He said he was glad the photo had forever immortalised that meeting and we decided to take another photo to allow me to compare that to the one in 2017 and surely again, if and when he returns to Sandon to see what has changed by then. At the end of the visit, he gave a prayer for me and my family's safety as well as his family's. In addition, he also wished me luck with the remainder of my education and then the same for his son around my age (within that prayer). It was a touching finish to our meeting.

*Written by Max Clubb.*



Qampicha and Max in 2023



Qampicha in front of a bishop of 100 years ago, the Bishop of Exeter 1916—1936, the Lord Rt Reverend William Cecil aka the Fish.

## Farming Today

Last year's harvest was finished by 1st August. This year (11th August) it has hardly started. The Winter Barley has been completed and yields were good, the drier was not used. But all grain needs drying now. Spring Barley is disappointing due to extremely hot weather in May and June. There is ample grass thanks to the heavy rain during the last 2-3 weeks but the Barley grass is a big problem. Barley grass is a weed which is



Barley grass looks like barley

extremely dominant, especially up here. It is a grass that looks exactly like barley but cattle and sheep will not eat it, particularly sheep so it has to be treated as a weed. The spray which did control it has been withdrawn from the market. Seed and fertilisers are now being delivered ready for next season's cropping. The last 6 lambs are yet to be sold and are being fed to get them to the weight of 40-45 kg.



Lamb shearing earlier in the year

The rams are now resting having been put through the foot bath preparing for next season. The 2 Australian boys are hard-working, intelligent and very successful. They plan on heading to France for the Rugby World Cup after harvest. We will miss them. The New Zealand student has proved to be disappointing and is moving on before the end of harvest. 50 acres has been contracted out to grow Maize for a local farmer to try and control the Rye grass. Each tractor, combine and shed has a fire extinguisher which are regularly maintained and serviced. *Speakman family*

## News from Farleigh

Farleigh Hospice provides local award-winning care, free of charge, to people affected by life-limiting illnesses and bereavement in Sandon and across mid Essex. The charity has something for everyone to enjoy over the next few months!

The Farleigh Hospice Garden Fete - Saturday 16 September  
Browse a variety of exciting stalls with food and refreshments in the grounds of Farleigh's hospice building in Broomfield, Chelmsford. Entry is free.

Cycle for Life – Sunday 17 September  
Enjoy a fun bike ride of 20, 50 or 100 kilometres through the beautiful Essex countryside, starting and finishing at Farleigh's hospice building. Not a cyclist, be part of the day by helping as an event volunteer.

Autumn Quiz - Friday 6 October  
Get together a team for this popular annual quiz night at the Chelmer Valley High School in Broomfield.

Shopping Extravaganza – Wednesday 1 November  
Browse a range of pop-up stalls, relax with a mini pampering session and enjoy a tasty snack or lunch at the Channels Estate in Chelmsford.

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Santa Fun Run – Sunday 3 December  
Join hundreds of Santas in this festive, family-friendly 5km fun run in Chelmsford's Central Park.

For more information on all of Farleigh's events, please visit [www.farleighhospice.org/events](http://www.farleighhospice.org/events)



## The Violinist

For the first year after marrying in 1961 we, my wife Penelope (usually known as Pen) and I, lived in a modest house in Brentwood while the usual tenants were on an extended visit to Canada. Number 4 Sefton Villas was situated on Shenfield Road about 200 yards from the crossroads, known locally as Wilson's Corner, where the busy road leads into the town centre. Long tailbacks past No.4 were the norm when traffic was at its heaviest. Recently, when viewing on Google Earth, I noted that at some point, the house had been re-addressed to become 32, Shenfield Road. I was also interested to see that the front downstairs window sported half-length net curtains - just as when we were the occupants all those years ago. Hopefully the net curtains I spotted on Google Earth were similar, but not the same!

The elderly No.4 was originally built as a 'two up and two down plus kitchen' without a bathroom or indoor flush lavatory. I'm pleased to report that long before we took on temporary tenancy, a small downstairs modification had been made to bring these 'essential offices' indoors. As newly-weds we were quite

comfortable during our year in No.4 and with the resident neutered tom cat – to whom we accorded the name Bentley - to keep us company, we soon established a living routine. One of Bentley's favourite resting places was on top of the back of the sofa where, above the net curtains, he could watch the world go by.

Life was never boring but as Pen had brought to the marriage a violin, I got it into my head that I would like to play the instrument. Although Pen had lessons during her schooldays, she had not, noticeably, made a great success of it. I, arguably, being the more musically inclined, decided that in the few moments when not otherwise engaged, I would teach myself to become a competent violinist. Of course I failed but I did try.

Part of our daily routine came towards the end of the day - bath time. It was always a race to be first in the bath: Pen always won of course. However on one notable evening I was stripped ready to go first when I was 'muscled' out of the way as Pen took first place. So be it – lost again. I decided to return to the living room, switch on the lights and do a spot of violin practice.

Remember, dear reader, I told you that No 4 faced the busy main road with half-length net curtains hung at the window, also that Bentley liked to stretch out on top of the sofa. Add to that information that I was about to practise the violin sitting on the sofa, unclothed, ready for my bath with Bentley in close attendance behind me.

So what happened next? Engage your imagination. After a short and tuneless session while I scraped the bow across protesting strings, Bentley could no longer bear the screaming noise from the violin and intent on stopping it launched, with claws primed for action, from his resting place on the sofa backrest, onto my head. Predictably, with 12lbs of very cross feline landing on my head I leaped to my feet, violin and bow still in hand.

By unfortunate coincidence a double-decker bus had stopped in a traffic queue outside No.4 thus giving the nosy passengers on the top deck the chance to look into our living room to see - albeit fleetingly – a confused nude with violin with a large cat on his head.

That was well over 60 years ago but when I remember the incident

## The Fool

Discarded bottle plastic lies  
An eyesore on the ground  
No poetic words I find to use  
No words I can resound;  
Left by some uncaring fool  
Who leaves their rubbish as a  
rule.

That plastic left will outlast the fool  
It will live in ditch or gutter  
Through decades it will not decay  
For someone to discover.  
To pass their judgment in their  
dearth  
And say how we, abused the  
earth.

*Richard Simmonds*  
15<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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I wonder if any of the audience  
still remember what they saw that  
evening.

Apparently, an example of  
'modern' art by Turkish painter,  
Yusuf Ozdamar entitled 'Nude  
with Violin', is currently up for sale  
for £2126.00. It's nothing to do  
with me and I shall not be bidding  
for it.

*Bernard White*  
1<sup>st</sup> August 2023  
*Gibcracks*

## Corn and Cauliflower Chowder Serves 4

### Ingredients

2 table spoons oil  
1 sliced leek  
4 cloves garlic chopped  
½ cauliflower chopped and leaves too  
400g tin of corn kernels  
400ml coconut milk  
1 veg stock cube  
juice of ½ lemon.

### Topping

1 finely sliced chilli  
4 sliced spring onions  
basil leaves  
handful of roasted unsalted  
peanuts

### Method

Heat oil and cook leek for 5 mins and then add garlic and cook for another 2 minutes. Don't let it brown. Add cauliflower but keep chopped leaves for later. Add corn, a pinch of salt, coconut milk, stock cube and 800ml hot water.

Bring to the boil and simmer for 20 mins.

Blend until half is smooth and half still textured.

Add lemon juice and a good grind of pepper. Taste and add more salt if needed.

Heat a little more oil in a frying pan and fry spring onions, chilli and shredded cauliflower leaves until wilted.

Serve on top of the soup with torn basil leaves and chopped peanuts.

*Narelle Arnold*



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