

St Andrew's Church, Sandon
PCC Meeting Minutes
15th May 2023 at 7.30pm
in the St Andrew's Room



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

1. Opening prayers were led by Christine Mennie.
2. Apologies for Absence: Colin Bryan, Andy Horne, Cathie Horne, John Gruby, Richard Cecil.
Present: Terry Brown, Christine Mennie, Judy Cecil, Alison Read, Janet Terry, Liz Bobeldijk, David Farrar, with Nick Bobeldijk, Treasurer and Cedric Calmeyer, Sandon Parish Council (PC) representative.
3. Minutes of PCC Meeting of 6th March 2023 were proposed by David Farrar, seconded by Janet Terry and agreed by all. Looking at the APCM minutes revealed a small error which has been corrected ready for APCM 2024.
4. Matters arising from 6th March: The churchwardens successfully engaged a local builder to clear the gutters before the Quinquennial Inspection. There was some discussion about sharing the peace at services. Terry will encourage shaking hands again if people wish to. Two chalices will be used for wine, from Sunday 20th May.
5. Notification of any other business: None
6. Parish Council matters. Cedric reported that the PC had approved car park funding, but a subsequent Friends meeting agreed, and churchwardens too, to make two more disabled spaces within the present car park rather than spend so much money. The only cost will be for two signs. **ACTION Richard and Andy**
Cedric reported that there is a proposal for a warehousing and distribution centre around the A12/A130 junction at Howe Green. There was to be a Public Meeting on Tuesday 16th May at Howe Green Chapel at 7 pm, to encourage objections to be made on the Chelmsford City Council Planning portal. Cedric also reported that the PC now have problems with giving grants to churches. The PCC can only receive money via the Friends. Agreed this will not be a problem.
The path to the side door to church has been flooding. Churchwardens will investigate whether this is from the tap (which was leaking) or from rainwater.

ACTION Richard and Andy

PC will purchase two motion sensor floodlights for the corners of SAR building to provide light on the Woodhill Road path. Thanks was expressed to PC for their help.

ACTION Judy write to PC

7. Appointment of PCC officers:

Vice Chairman: Christine proposed **Richard Cecil**, David seconded and all agreed,

Secretary: Christine proposed **Judy Cecil**, David seconded and all agreed.,

Treasurer: Judy proposed **Nick Bobeldijk**, Janet seconded and all agreed.

Appointment of sidespersons: Colin Bryan, Gill Hodge, Valerie Grimwood

David Farrar, Christine Mennie, Eileen Bartrup, Judy Cecil, Pam Norrington, John

Gruby, Kate Williamson, Lisa Wiseman if she is willing. Christine proposed, Liz

seconded and all agreed.

Appointment of Standing Committee: Liz proposed Terry Brown, Andy Horne,

Richard Cecil, Alison Read and Judy Cecil, David Farrar seconded, and all agreed.

8. Finance Report. Nick reported that income is meeting expenses, there have been no huge expenses recently and giving is steady, so he is content. The card machine is unreliable, so agreed to publicise better the QR code for giving. Alison agreed to make some laminated copies for the pews.

ACTION Alison

Our contract for electricity supply ends in February 2024. Octopus suggested as an alternative. Agreed we bring ideas to next PCC meeting in July.

ACTION All

9. **Fabric Report and Quinquennial Inspection. Comments and thoughts for July meeting when Richard and Andy will lead discussions.**

10. Terry Brown's extension of licensed ministry in Sandon until 5th June 2024.

Discussion and agreement. Judy will email the Archdeacon and ask Richard and

Andy to do so too.

ACTION Judy send email

11. Safeguarding Report. Alison reported that food hygiene training was due for updating. Training cost online around £12.50 each. Claire Jefferies has offered to arrange the training. Agreed those to train: Judy, Gill Haddington, Christine, Janet, David and Terry. Alison and Dessi train elsewhere for their work. Christine proposed, David seconded, and all agreed to fund this. **ACTION Alison to speak to Claire**
Alison advised everyone to check their safeguarding training is up to date.

12. Appointment of Tower Captain. Andy Horne has stood down and Mike Worboys has offered. David proposed, Christine seconded, and all agreed to appoint Mike Worboys as Tower Captain. **ACTION Judy to write to congratulate Mike**

13. Renewal of copyright licence / use of hymn books. After researching and finding this is needed for weddings and funerals, David proposed, Christine seconded, and all agreed to continue paying for a licence. Suggested churchwardens keep the record.
14. Plans for St Andrew's during Terry's final year.
All agreed that Terry will keep PCC and other willing people more involved in planning during the year to June 2024.
Tea on Green on 30th July. Salvation Army band is booked, and Richard is arranging a speaker. Tony Cant invites and we await his response. 'Tea with the Vicar' may become 'Tea with St Andrew's'. We will plan well ahead, looking at August, September, October and November at the next meeting.
15. Future PCC Meeting Dates (7:30 pm) in church
Monday 3rd July 2023
Monday 18th September 2023 (Terry has holiday 1st 2 weeks September)
16. Any Other Business
Terry distributed 'Thy Kingdom Come' Novenas with readings, reflections and prayers for Ascension to Pentecost.
Bishop Daniel from Marsabit will be with us on Tuesday 13th June for service and lunch, and also for the concert on 10th June. Agreed move Soup & S/W to 13th June.
Offers to lead prayers to begin and end next PCC meeting. Alison will open and David will close.
17. Closing prayers were led by Terry.

Treasurer's Report

10 May 2023

The bank current account has been reconciled up to the end of April. To date we have received a total of £8,872.57 in giving compared to £9,251.43. Our total income from all sources stands at £14,989.19 compared to £21,343.62 for the first 4 months of 2022 although the latter figure is distorted by a grant of £8,500 received that year.

Our total expenses for this year so far stand at £11,528.35 while last year's figure for the same period includes large payments for the bell restoration project.

Our payment of the Parish Share continues to be up to date and is slightly less than at this time last year.

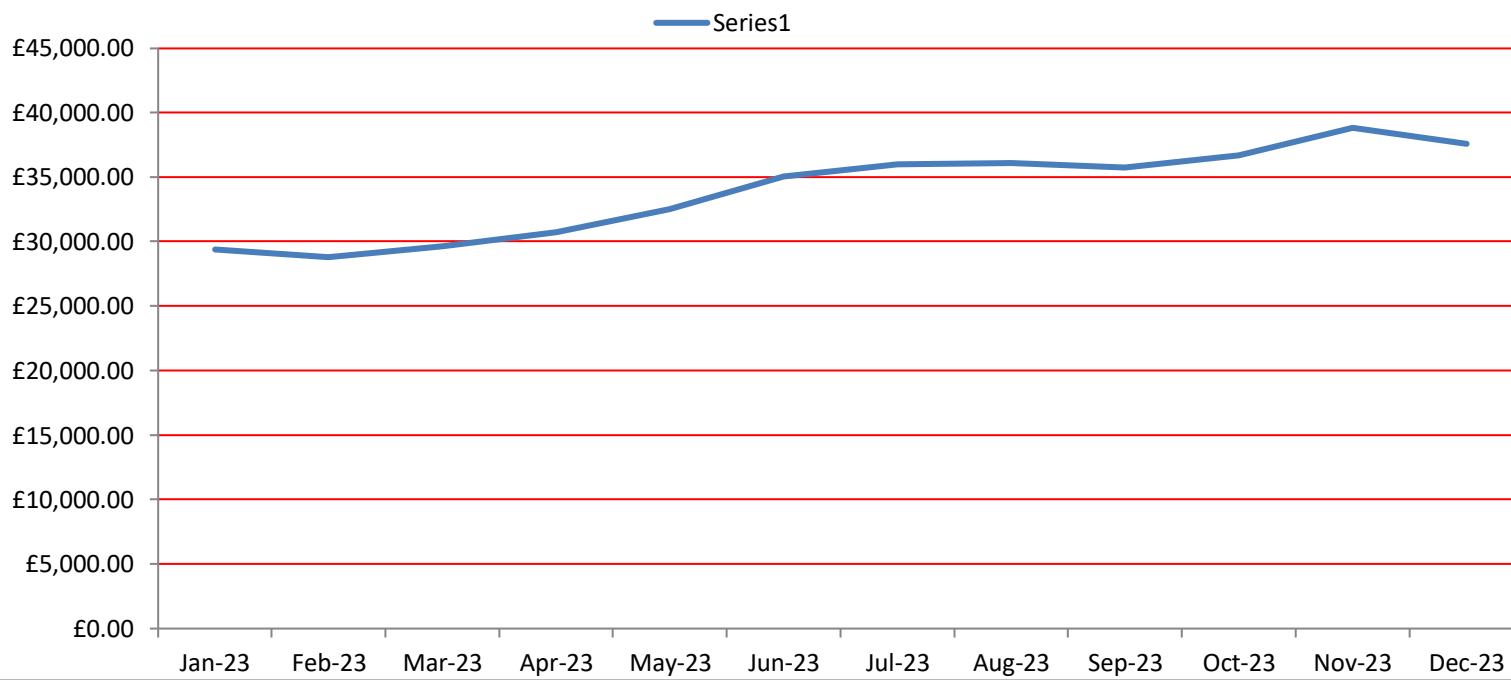
Our bank balances at the end of April were £2,756.66 in the current account and £20,011.75 in the deposit account. We are also holding two fixed term deposit accounts of £10,000 each which are due to mature later this month. These deposits will be renewed for a further 6 months each, unless instructed otherwise, with the interest received being credited to the respective charity accounts on a proportional basis. Cash in hand was £292.04

The residual balance of the Bell Restoration Fund stands at £578.32 and a further residual amount of £486.42 remains in the Building Maintenance Fund.

A cash flow projection is included with the interim accounts which shows a small increase in funds during the year.

Nick Bobeldijk
Treasurer.

Income & Expense by Category	2023 01/01/2023- 30/04/2023	2022 01/01/2022- 30/04/2022	Difference
Income			
Giving - Gift Aided			
Giving - Gift Aided:Direct Credits	£ 792.00	£ 982.00	-£ 190.00
Giving - Gift Aided:Donations	£ 665.00	£ 600.00	£ 65.00
Giving - Gift Aided:Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 280.00	£ 110.00	£ 170.00
TOTAL Giving - Gift Aided	£ 1,737.00	£ 1,692.00	£ 45.00
Giving - Non Gift Aid			
Giving - Non Gift Aid:Collections	£ -	£ -	£ -
Giving - Non Gift Aid:Direct Credits	£ 540.00	£ 540.00	£ -
Giving - Non Gift Aid:Donations	£ 128.08	£ 606.24	-£ 478.16
Giving - Non Gift Aid:Parish Giving Scheme	£ 5,113.69	£ 5,004.97	£ 108.72
Giving - Non Gift Aid:Shopping Rewards	£ -	£ -	£ -
TOTAL Giving - Non Gift Aid	£ 5,781.77	£ 6,151.21	-£ 369.44
Giving - Small Donations Scheme	£ 1,353.80	£ 1,408.22	-£ 54.42
Other Receipts			
Other Receipts:Fundraising - Gift Aided	£ -	£ 105.00	-£ 105.00
Other Receipts:Fundraising - Non Gift Aided	£ -	£ 162.50	-£ 162.50
Other Receipts:Fundraising - Non Gift Aided:Christmas Fayre	£ -	£ -	£ -
Other Receipts:Fundraising - Non Gift Aided:Ride & Stride	£ -	£ -	£ -
Other Receipts:Fundraising - Non Gift Aided:Sponsored Walk	£ -	£ -	£ -
Other Receipts:Fundraising - Non Gift Aided:Summer Fete	£ -	£ -	£ -
TOTAL Other Receipts:Fundraising - Non Gift Aided	£ -	£ 162.50	-£ 162.50
Other Receipts:Gift Aid Recovered	£ 2,295.33	£ 1,115.34	£ 1,179.99
Other Receipts:Grants	£ -	£ 8,500.00	-£ 8,500.00
Other Receipts:Grants:Sandon Parish Council	£ -	£ -	£ -
TOTAL Other Receipts:Grants	£ -	£ 8,500.00	-£ 8,500.00
Other Receipts:Interest	£ 33.32	£ 0.98	£ 32.34
Other Receipts:Investment Income	£ 837.09	£ 198.78	£ 638.31
Other Receipts:Legacies	£ -	£ -	£ -
Other Receipts:Miscellaneous	£ -	£ -	£ -
Other Receipts:Parish Magazine	£ 25.00	£ 10.00	£ 15.00
Other Receipts:Parish Magazine:Advertising	£ 1,075.88	£ 935.92	£ 139.96
TOTAL Other Receipts:Parish Magazine	£ 1,100.88	£ 945.92	£ 154.96
Other Receipts:Parochial Fees	£ 1,850.00	£ 1,063.67	£ 786.33
TOTAL Other Receipts	£ 6,116.62	£ 12,092.19	-£ 5,975.57
TOTAL Income	£ 14,989.19	£ 21,343.62	-£ 6,354.43
Expenses			
Bank Charges	£ -	£ -	£ -
Church Running Expenses			
Church Running Expenses:Insurance	£ 687.80	£ 647.44	£ 40.36
Church Running Expenses:Utilities	£ -	£ -	£ -
Church Running Expenses:Utilities:Electricity	£ 627.27	£ 439.28	£ 187.99
Church Running Expenses:Utilities:Water Rates	£ -	£ -	£ -
TOTAL Church Running Expenses:Utilities	£ 627.27	£ 439.28	£ 187.99
Church Running Expenses:Vestry Supplies	£ 85.55	£ 184.45	-£ 98.90
TOTAL Church Running Expenses	£ 1,400.62	£ 1,271.17	£ 129.45
Churchyard Expenses	-£ 0.20	-£ 200.00	£ 199.80
Clergy Expenses	£ -	£ -	£ -
Cost of Services	£ -	£ -	£ -
Event Expenses	£ -	£ -	£ -
Fabric Maintenance			
Fabric Maintenance:Buildings	£ 133.20	£ 30,126.42	-£ 29,993.22
Fabric Maintenance:Other	£ 28.00	£ 3.00	£ 25.00
TOTAL Fabric Maintenance	£ 161.20	£ 30,129.42	-£ 29,968.22
Fees	£ 140.20	£ 384.20	-£ 244.00
Magazine Costs	£ 450.88	£ 345.90	£ 104.98
Miscellaneous	£ 38.92	£ 159.55	-£ 120.63
Mission	£ 854.83	£ 1,749.72	-£ 894.89
Parish Share	£ 8,388.92	£ 8,473.76	-£ 84.84
Printing & Stationary	£ 92.98	£ 33.25	£ 59.73
TOTAL EXPENSES	£ 11,528.35	£ 42,346.97	-£ 30,818.62
OVERALL TOTAL	£ 3,460.84	-£ 21,003.35	£ 24,464.19





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A sermon for use in “A Special Commemoration Service for the Coronation”

<https://www.churchofengland.org/coronation/prayer-worship>

Ephesians 3:14-21

May 7 2023

Andy Griffiths, Head of Training

The reading from Ephesians is the one chosen by the archbishops, when they sent out an order of service for a commemoration of the coronation. I guess they felt that the coronation is an event full of splendour, so it deserved a splendid prayer, and prayers don't get more splendid than Ephesians 3. I mean, there's nothing wrong with unsplendid prayers – "Help me!" or "Sorry" or "Thank you, God", just like there's nothing wrong with a warehouse on an industrial estate - you just wouldn't hold a coronation service there. Westminster Abbey provides flying buttresses and vaults and trumpets and flags in keeping with the event, and Ephesians 3 is the biblical equivalent. I want to talk about how big God is, then how small we are, and then about how this prayer relates the two.

First of all, **let's see how big God is**. This prayer points us to "the riches of God's glory". It talks about a God who is able to do not just what we ask, not just what we imagine, but more than we can ask or imagine. It talks about a God to whom all glory is due, now and forever, in the church and in Christ Jesus. An unimaginably rich, unimaginably powerful, unimaginably glorious God who is majestically, wonderfully able. There's a book by JB Phillips called "Your God is too small". Overhearing Paul's prayer starts to make God bigger, not in the universe but in our eyes. When a building or an occasion or a prayer or a thought is awe-inspiring, don't turn aside in cynicism, allow awe to be inspired.

Now, **let's look at how small we are**. It's impossible to look at Westminster Abbey, or the grandeur of the monarchy, or the might of the British Armed forces out on parade, or Ephesians 3, and not feel a certain sense of smallness. Here's a poem by Veronica Zundel:

*I scan you on the figured page
in tales of every distant age
I chant you in a holy song
but yet I hear I see you wrong
I am so small you are so all*

*and I would scent you in a flower
that flares and fails from hour to hour
to count your liberality
in berries bright upon the tree
but they are so small and you are so all*

*and narrow is my inward sight
I do not spell your meanings right
and guttering my outward gaze
I do not steady trace your ways
my steps are small
to map your all*

*then break me wide your raging word
in flintstruck light from darkness stirred
and break me wide your dancing love
that soars the hawk, that swoops the dove
I am so small you are so
all in all.*

We are so small. But smallness is not a bad thing, and if you looked at the coronation service and felt bad about your own parish church because you can't reproduce Westminster Abbey there, then forgive me, but you've missed the point. A satsuma is not a failed orange, St Andrew's Bicknacre is not an inadequate cathedral, you are not an underperforming Messiah. The church in Ephesus was new, small and fragile, but that was not a sign of failure. Perhaps it was like the Anglican Church in Iran about which Bishop Guli writes: "Yes, they are small and insignificant in worldly terms, they have no institutions and in many cases no church buildings either, but in God's sight they are like the priceless precious pearl: loved, valued and nurtured.... *When given space to breathe, the Holy Spirit works through our fragility, brokenness and failures*". One of our diocesan values is precisely to value the small, the vulnerable and the marginal – "*our calling is not to strain after worldly success but to be a faithful and gentle presence.*"

So: thirdly and finally, **how does God's bigness relate to our smallness** in this prayer? In Ephesians 3 we feel awe at the greatness and glory of the mighty God, and turn in faith to ask this same God to work in our local, unimpressive smallness. "I am so small, you are so all." Paul prays that we – unimpressive, little we - *might have power*. Yes, power – twice, he asks God to give us power. But not power to be big, or dominate, or gain status, or hold on to privilege. First, he asks God to give us power in our inner being so that Christ can dwell in our hearts and we will be rooted and grounded in faith. "Rooted" is a metaphor from trees, "grounded" is a metaphor from architecture. So this first request is for *the power to receive the presence of Jesus that will make us secure right here where we are*. And second, he asks God to give us the power to know the dimensions of God's love that surpasses knowledge and be filled with all the fullness of God. This is *the power to know unknowable love and be filled with the uncontainable*. I told you it was a big prayer, didn't I?

Paul wasn't praying for an individual, but for a community; all the "you"s are plural. We can pray together for the power to stand firm, the power to know and the power to love, the power to be filled to overflowing, all for the glory of this mighty God who is able to do more than we can imagine and is all in all. A sermon by Martin Luther King refers this passage particularly to those who are struggling for justice:

*“Our God is able,
our God is able,
believe me, it is not a weak God,
it is not an incompetent God with Whom we have to deal
but a God who is able,
a God whose strength sustains the weak who,
conscious of their smallness,
filled with his greatness,
cry to the one mightier than themselves.”*

Because it is us that Ephesians 3 is about – us, the infant church in Ephesus, us the persecuted church in Iran, us the struggling Church of England with a new Supreme Governor, us the often confused Diocese of Chelmsford, conscious of our smallness, filled with God’s greatness – it’s not some other, alternative institution. *We* are the ones, we as we are. Christ longs to dwell in *our* smallness and ground *us* in faith and teach *us* the height and breadth and length of God’s love, to the Father’s awe-inspiring glory.

I want to finish with some words about the king. If Westminster Abbey and the might of the state make us aware of our smallness, how much more must that be true of him, small as he is as one individual with so many expectations resting upon him. Martin Luther King certainly did not have our king in mind when he wrote *“conscious of smallness, filled with his greatness”*, but I pray the words will fit him nevertheless. So here is my prayer: “Almighty Father, we bring to you our brother and Governor, his majesty Charles III. We pray that he will be rooted and grounded in faith, and have the power to know your love that surpasses knowledge and be filled with all the fullness of God, to your glory, for you are able to do more than we can ask or imagine, and though we are so small, you are all in all. Amen”