

# Sandon Annual Reports 2024

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## **Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings 2023**

The meetings were held in St Andrew's Church, Sandon on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 at 11:30 am

### **Minutes for 2023 Annual Vestry Meeting**

- 1 Opening prayers were said by Revd Terry Brown.
- 2 Appointment of Clerk: Judy Cecil was appointed.
- 3 Apologies were received from John Gruby, Gillian Speakman, Gill Haddington, Gillian Ward-Russell, Colin Bryan, John Weir and Stuart & Rosemary McKay.  
Present: Nick Bobeldijk, Liz Bobeldijk, Terry Brown, Judy Cecil, Richard Cecil, Peter Elwell, David Farrar, Mike Harris, Andy Horne, Cathie Horne, Brenda Moyse, Janet Terry, George Turner, Eileen Bartrup, Kay Tyler, Cedric Calmeyer, Ruth Savarymuttu, Seth Savarymuttu, Derek Hollows, James Valentine, Alison Read, Christine Mennie and Pam Norrington.
- 4 Approval of the minutes of the year 2022 Annual Vestry Meeting Proposed by David Farrar and seconded by Andy Horne and agreed by all.
- 5 Election of two Churchwardens  
Richard Cecil had been proposed by Cathie Horne and Valerie Grimwood and Andy Horne had been proposed by Richard Cecil and Rosemary McKay and were duly elected.
- 6 Date of Next Meeting –  
provisionally Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at around 11:30 am

### **Minutes of 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

(followed immediately after the Annual Vestry Meeting)

- 1 Apologies for absence and those present were as for the Vestry Meeting.
- 2 Election of Tellers. None were required.
- 3 Approval of the minutes of the year 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

These were proposed by Janet Terry, seconded by David Farrar and agreed by all.

#### 4 Reports

4.1 Electoral Roll Report. 36 within Sandon Parish and 30 outside. Liz Bobeldijk was thanked for her work with this.

4.2 Annual Report. Terry commended this report whose adoption was proposed by Christine Mennie, seconded by Alison Read and agreed by all.

4.3 Financial Report. Nick answered a few questions. It was noted that funds from the Stevyns and Perry charities have been transferred to a restricted fund within the PCC account. This was to avoid difficulties with rather onerous regulations concerning the charity bank account. Terry thanked Nick for his work as treasurer.

4.4 Fabric Report was noted. Appointment of a new church architect and issues with the organ during the summer heat wave were also noted.

4.5 Deanery Synod Report was noted. Terry thanked Richard and Andy, our representatives who have attended meetings with Terry.

4.6 Christians Together in Chelmsford. The report was noted. Terry thanked Richard.

#### Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

Cathie Horne had been proposed by Peter Elwell and Janet Terry.

Judy Cecil had been proposed by Andy Horne and Alison Read.

Cathie and Judy were duly elected.

#### 5 Election of PCC Members

Alison Read had been proposed by Michael Puffett and Christine Mennie.

David Farrar had been proposed by Richard Cecil and Janet Terry.

Christine Mennie had been proposed by Alison Read and Michael Puffett.

Alison, David and Christine were duly elected.

- 6 Appointment of Compass Churches representative. Alison Read agreed to continue and was confirmed in this post.
  - 7 Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer.  
Liz Bobeldijk has agreed to continue and was confirmed in this post.
  - 8 Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer.  
Alison Read had agreed to continue and was confirmed in this post.  
everyone was encouraged to read the Safeguarding Report
  - 9 Appointment of Independent Examiner. Nick had thanked Jeremy Watson for his work this year and he has agreed to do this again next year.
  - 10 Reports from organisations were noted.
  - 11 Rector's Report
- Date of Next Meeting –  
provisionally Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 after the Annual Vestry Meeting

Closing Prayers were led by Terry Brown.

### **Electoral Roll Report**

Here are the numbers for the electoral roll. In Parish 38, Outside Parish 30.

*Liz Bobeldijk*

### **Annual Report**

#### *Aims and Purposes*

St Andrew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent Revd Terry Brown (Terry), in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church building and Churchyard near The Green, Sandon.

#### *Objectives and Activities*

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

- To glorify and worship God and to further his kingdom on earth.
- To declare and show the love of Christ for all people to the people of Sandon.
- To teach, encourage and help people to be disciples of Christ.

- To proclaim Christ's Gospel to the people of Sandon and the wider world
- To encourage commitment and personal growth in Christian discipleship and spirituality
- To channel God's love through service and care for all.

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

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

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

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

### *Achievements and Performance*

We were able to mark 10 years since Revd Terry Brown came to Sandon in June and then in July had a Tea on the Green, which was pushed into the church, by bad weather.

Regular worship of the Lord has continued and a number have taken the opportunity to engage in a deeper study of St Paul's letter to the Romans during advent 2023 and Lent 2024.

Gradually we have been talking to Terry and indeed the new Bishop of Bradwell about how the church might manage after Terry's retirement in June.

Other teaching has been able to continue too, for example the half term afternoon in the autumn and the Easter children's activity.

Soup and Sandwich has continued through the winter months.

Recently volunteers have been less forthcoming so we are extremely grateful for all those who do volunteer.

The advance of the gospel must be our firm priority both in terms of developing individuals' spiritual lives and in terms of increasing numbers of those who are being saved in the name of Jesus.

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

Except for Night prayer and the Thursday morning Compass Churches Morning prayer all services and other events remain as face-to-face occasions. The regular pattern of worship is Eucharist at 10 am on the first and third Sundays of the month, family worship at 10 am and Eucharist at 8 am on the second Sunday of the month and Morning Worship on the fourth Sunday of the month. On months with a fifth Sunday there has been a third Eucharist at 10am. This pattern has been largely successful although there has had to be some adjustment from time to time to accommodate Remembrance, Mothering Sunday and other like events.

Christmas services were well attended. Easter services followed the pattern from last year with a sunrise service on Easter morning outside. followed by Eucharist at 10 am.

Over the year we have run several courses for those wishing to deepen their understanding of Christianity.

Richard Cecil and Andrew Horne continue to preach regularly as well as leading other study sessions, along with Judy Cecil, when needed in support of Terry.

Andy Griffiths, Suzy Edmondson, Jacqui Jones and Sandy Southee have supported us by leading services and preached at Tuesday morning Eucharist when Terry has been unavailable.

At Baycroft, 'Tea with the Vicar' has continued monthly and is now known as 'Tea with St Andrew's'. Communion is held once each month and there was a service for Remembrance and also a Christmas Carol service.

Christmas services in church followed much of their previous pattern with Festival of Carols and Readings, Beer and Carols in the Crown, Christingle service, Crib Service, Midnight Communion and Christmas Morning Communion

The Parish Prayer diary continues to be used in private prayer and at Sunday and Tuesday services in church.

## *Safeguarding*

In summary: -

*Display:* A formal copy of our Safeguarding Policy and the adoption of the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement' is on display in the SAR, signed and dated April 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

*Food hygiene training:* Complete to date and will be renewed in 2026.

### *Deanery Synod and Compass Churches*

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

### *Pastoral Care*

The monthly Soup and Sandwich lunchtime meal has continued throughout the winter months. At Baycroft, 'Tea with the Vicar' has continued monthly and is now known as 'Tea with St Andrew's'. Communion is held once each month and there was a service for Remembrance and also a Christmas Carol service.

### *Mission and Evangelism*

In June this year there was yet another excellent Parish walk followed by lunch outside the Crown organised by and with thanks to David Farrar.

Other events of note were the Tea on the Green followed by Songs of Praise led by the Salvation Army at the start of August. Pete Bardwell, leader of The River Church in Chelmsford, preached at the event. Our Harvest Festival service celebration took place in the church in October, as did our Remembrance Sunday service.

The church has continued giving at least 10% of its regular income divided between Marsabit, a diocese in the north of Kenya, Christian Aid and local schoolwork by Made for More. From time to time we also contribute to other charities such as the Royal British Legion at remembrance time.

Various members of our fellowship also give to many causes throughout the year as a private matter.

### *Ecumenical Relationships*

The church is a member of Christians Together in Chelmsford. The local United Reformed Church (URC) at Howe Green continues with services each month and we have continued to convey a message from them in each magazine and advertise and support events when they notify us of them. One member of the URC congregation has consistently joined us both for bible studies and mid-week prayer on Zoom.

### *Volunteers*

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

### *Structure, Governance and Management*

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. St Andrew's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), 2 Churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. There are up to 2 deanery synod representatives and there are 9 elected members allowed with 3 elected each year for 3 years. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and



stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC. The full PCC met six times during the year i.e., January to December 2023, with an average level of attendance of 80%. Thank you to our electoral roll officer and our Parish Safeguarding officer.

### *Administrative Information*

St. Andrew's Church is situated by The Green, Sandon. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. Our correspondence address is: -

c/o The Vicarage, St Augustine's Way, North Springfield, Chelmsford, CM1 6GX until 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.

PCC Members who have served this year are:

Incumbent: Revd Terry Brown

Wardens: Mr Richard Cecil  
Mr Andy Horne

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mrs Judy Cecil elected in 2023 for 3 years

Mrs Cathie Horne elected in 2023 for 3 years

Elected members:

Mrs Liz Bobeldijk elected in 2021 for 3 years

Mr Colin Bryan elected in 2022 for 3 years

Mr David Farrar elected in 2023 for 3 years

Mr John Gruby elected in 2022 for 3 years

Mrs Christine Mennie elected in 2023 for 3 years

Mrs Alison Read elected in 2023 for 3 years

Mrs Janet Terry elected in 2022 for 2 years

PCC Secretary: Mrs Judy Cecil

PCC Treasurer Mr Nick Bobeldijk

Standing Committee:

Rector, Churchwardens, Secretary and PCC member Alison Read

Bank: Lloyds TSB, Chelmsford Branch

Examiner: Jeremy Watson

## Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

<b>Receipts and Payments Account</b>				
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Prior year Total funds</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations and legacies	35,887.27	—	35,887.27	34,720.69
Income from charitable activities	5,436.01	—	5,436.01	4,565.67
Other trading activities	5,124.86	—	5,124.86	5,708.04
Investments	1,286.66	—	1,286.66	130.37
Other income			10,100.00	
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>47,734.80</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>47,743.80</b>	55,224.77
<b>Payments</b>				
Raising funds	228.46	—	228.46	255.00
Expenditure on charitable activities	41,366.75	—	41,366.75	37,070.80
Other expenditure	963.20	—	963.20	29,958.56
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>42,558.41</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>42,558.41</b>	<b>67,284.14</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments before transfer</b>	<b>5,176.39</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,176.39</b>	<b>(12,059.37)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>				
Gross transfers between funds - in	8,600.20	7,629.09	16,229.29	75,186.28
Gross transfers between funds – out	(7,629.09)	(8,600.20)	(16,229.29)	(75,186.28)
<b>Excess receipts over payments before other gains/losses</b>	<b>6,147.50</b>	<b>(971.11)</b>	<b>5,176.39</b>	<b>(12,059.37)</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>6,147.50</b>	<b>(2,645.29)</b>	<b>3,502.21</b>	<b>(12,059.37)</b>
<b>All assets at 01 January 2023</b>	<b>37,208.78</b>	<b>(9,351.76)</b>	<b>27,857.02</b>	<b>39,916.39</b>
<b>All assets at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>43,356.28</b>	<b>(11,997.05)</b>	<b>31,359.23</b>	<b>27,857.02</b>
<b>Represented by</b>				
<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>43,356.28</b>		<b>43,356.28</b>	<b>37,208.78</b>
General fund				
<b>Restricted</b>				
Restricted Funds		(11,997.05)	(11,997.05)	(9,351.76)

<b>Balance sheet</b>			
<b>Class and code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>This year</b>	<b>Last year</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
6501	Current Account	782.49	1,906.31
6505	Deposit Account	22,500.00	15,000.00
6508	Lloyds Fixed Term Account	20,000.00	20,000.00
6510	Cash Account	73.79	660.42
6520	Deposits Paid Account	105.00	105.00
6530	Account no longer used	-	-
	<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>37,671.73</b>	<b>37,671.73</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
6610	Building Maintenance Fund	-	
6620	Diocesan Board of Finance	164.00	
6630	Cutting Garden Funds	327.50	
6640	Treasurer's Expenses		
6650	Friends of Sandon Church		
6655	John and Agnes Stevyns, John Perry	6481.94	6211.94
6656	Mary Pearson bequest	859.98	
6657	Sandon Stevyns Charity	3,104.98	
6660	Rector's Fees & Expenses	235.00	2,038.89
6665	Soup & Sandwich Lunches	92.53	123.18
6670	Sponsored Flowers	714.60	991.68
6680	Tiny Tots	121.52	121.52
6690			
6695			
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>12,102.05</b>	<b>9,814.71</b>
	<b>Net Asset surplus(deficit)</b>	<b>31,359.23</b>	<b>27,857.02</b>
<b>Reserves</b>			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(5,176.39)	(12,059.37)
	Starting balances	27,857.02	39,916.39
	Other gains/losses	(1,674.18)	
Z01	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>31,359.23</b>	<b>27,857.02</b>
<b>Represented by funds</b>			
	Unrestricted	43,356.28	37,208.78
	Designated		
	Restricted	(11,997.05)	(9,351.76)
	Endowment		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>31,359.23</b>	<b>27,857.02</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Restricted	This year	Last year
<b>Current assets</b>				
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>				
Current Account -	782.49		782.49	1,906.31
Deposit Account -	22,500.00		22,500.00	15,000.00
Lloyds Fixed Term Account	20,000.00		20,000.00	20,000.00
Cash Account -	73.79		73.79	660.42
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43,356.28</b>		<b>43,356.28</b>	<b>37,566.73</b>
<b>Current assets - Debtors</b>				
Deposits Paid Account -		105.00	105.00	105.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>105.00</b>	<b>105.00</b>	<b>105.00</b>
<b>Liabilities Long Term</b>				
John & Agnes Stevyns-John Perry		6,481.94	6,481.94	6,211.94
Mary Pearson Bequest		859.98	859.98	-----
Sandon Stevyns charity		3,104.98	3,104.98	-----
<b>Totals</b>		<b>10,446.90</b>	<b>10,446.90</b>	<b>6,211.94</b>
<b>Liabilities Short Term</b>				
Diocesan Board of Finance		164.00	164.00	-----
Cutting Garden Funds		327.50	327.50	327.50
Rector's Fees & Expenses -		235.00	235.00	2,038.89
Soup & Sandwich Lunches -		92.53	92.53	123.18
Sponsored Flowers -		714.60	714.60	991.68
Tiny Tots -		121.52	121.52	121.52
Bell Restoration Fund -				578.32
Bell Fund Contra Account -				(578.32)
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,655.15</b>	<b>1,655.15</b>	<b>3,602.77</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>43,356.28</b>	<b>(1139977.05)</b>	<b>31,359.23</b>	<b>27,857.02</b>

### Analysis of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	This year	Last year
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>				
Donations and legacies				
Collections - Gift Aided	767.00		767.00	435.00
Direct Credits - Gift Aided	2,306.00		2,306.00	2,926.00
Donations - Gift Aided	1,970.00		1,970.00	1,480.00
Direct Credits - Non-Gift Aided				
Donations - Non-Gift Aided	1,437.95		1,437.95	885.45
Parish Giving Scheme	16,001.47		16,001.47	15,065.87
Small Donations Scheme	5,039.17		5,039.17	4,926.51
Gift Aid Recovered	6,545.68		6,545.68	7,331.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,887.27</b>		<b>35,887.27</b>	<b>34,720.69</b>
Income from charitable activities				
Parochial Fees	5,436.01		5,436.01	4,565.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,436.01</b>		<b>5,436.01</b>	<b>4,565.67</b>

Other trading activities			
Fundraising - Gift Aided			655.00
Fundraising - Non-Gift Aided	3,975.66	4,047.31	4,047.31
Magazine – Advertising	1,124.20	1,124.20	995.73
Magazine – Sales	25.00	25.00	10.00
Total	5,124.86	5,124.86	5,708.04
Investments			
Investment Income	837.09	837.09	118.17
Interest Received	449.57	449.57	12.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,286.66</b>	<b>1,286.66</b>	<b>130.37</b>
Grants received			10,100.00
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>47,734.80</b>	<b>47,734.80</b>	<b>55,224.77</b>
EXPENDITURE			
Event Expenses	228.46	228.46	255.00
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Bank Charges	6.75	6.75	1.79
Mission	6,852.41	6,852.415	5,174.75
Parish Share	25,166.76	25,166.76	25,421.28
Fees	448.60	448.60	545.60
Cost of Services	200.66	200.66	20.00
Churchyard Expenses	2,334.43	2,334.43	(269.00)
Printing & Stationary	130.91	130.91	73.11
Clergy Expenses	719.84	719.84	796.89
Church Running Expenses – Electricity	1,078.25	1,078.25	825.63
Church Running Expenses – Insurance	2,115.49	2,115.49	1,992.71
Church Running Expenses - Water Rates	111.63	111.63	122.30
Church Running Expenses - Vestry Supplies	306.93	306.93	424.90
Miscellaneous	38.92	38.92	159.55
Magazine Costs	1,855.17	1,855.17	1,643.07
Extinguishers			138.00
Total	41,366.45	41,366.45	37,070.58
Other expenditure			
Fabric Maintenance – Buildings	203.20	203.20	29,661.56
Fabric Maintenance – Other	760.00	760.00	297.00
Total	963.20	963.20	29,958.56
<b>EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>	<b>42,558.41</b>	<b>42,558.41</b>	<b>67,284.17</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>5,176.39)</b>	<b>5,176.39)</b>	<b>(12,059.37)</b>

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, which are set out above.

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), and that an Independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act.
- Follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the Act: and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the final accounts and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act;
  - or to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Jeremy Watson

4 Anchor Lane, Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4LS

Date

4/3/2024

## **Safeguarding**

Our safeguarding commitments: -

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

We are now following the 'Parish Safeguarding Checklist' issued by the Diocese which guides the PCC through their key roles and responsibilities. One of our key responsibilities is to ensure those who need a DBS check have completed one and any who have previously had one are up to date. Another aspect is to ensure all those who work with children, young people and/or vulnerable people can access and complete the appropriate online 'Basic Awareness' and 'Foundations' training and Zoom Leadership training provided by the Diocese. The online training is available for anyone within the church who is interested so please contact me if you would like further details. You will simply need access to a computer along with an email address. There is also a Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse online training, which may be of interest to you.

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

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

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

*Alison Read, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

## **Fabric Report**

During the year the PCC discussed the following in relation to fabric: The tower door, the organ and its blower and a quinquennial inspection. The latter was completed in May by David Whymark as a new architect and various modest follow-up pieces of work have been undertaken. This calendar year we will need to get the 5 yearly electrical inspection completed.

The organ continues to play well and has been retuned by Andrew Stevens. There still appear to be some minor air leaks.

We need to have an inspection of the electrics during this calendar year, 2024.

George Turner spends much time helping to keep our surroundings in good condition. The outside tap has been changed to assist him and others in watering the new yew hedge.

We thank all those who keep the building and churchyard in such good condition. *Richard Cecil and Andrew Horne, Churchwardens*

## **Deanery Synod Report**

During 2023 and early 2024 the Synod met 4 times.

The synod facilitated discussion about the purpose of the Deanery Synod, was pleased to have a talk from Linda Percival of St John's Moulsham who encouraged churches to engage with EcoChurch and an opportunity to meet Bishop Adam Atkinson who led a question and answer session followed by prayers for him and his ministry.

At each meeting there has been time for prayer for the different parishes generally in small groups. A Deanery Day is planned for February 24<sup>th</sup> to share good practice and to encourage each other. *Judy Cecil*

## **Compass Churches Report**

The Compass Group is a group of Churches forming a Mission and Ministry Unit within the Deanery of Chelmsford. Revd Terry Brown continues as joint chair with Alex Cooper from Danbury, however a replacement for Terry will be sought as he retires in June. A number from the Compass Group clergy and others meet regularly 8.30am on a Thursday morning for Morning Prayer and a group meeting is held quarterly where representatives from each church join together to receive a finance update and exchange news & views. Robert Andrews, Treasurer, advised that the Compass Churches Group have paid 86.9% requested parish share,



compared to Diocese at 81%. There is to be a Quiet Day at The Othona Community, East End Road, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex, CM0 7PN Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 10am to 4pm.

A few key notes from each Parish: Bicknacre, St. Andrew's and Woodham Ferrers, St Mary's; currently in vacancy and looking forward to a new Priest in Charge. Danbury, St Johns the Baptist; is eagerly looking for new Church Wardens as they currently have none. Downham, St Margaret's, South Hanningfield, St Peter's and Ramsden Bellhouse, St Mary the Virgin; have now merged and a new joint PCC will be established. East Hanningfield, All Saints'; Also in vacancy, which is being covered by Terry Brown, Andy Griffiths, Melissa Clark and visiting clergy. East Hanningfield is joining Hill and Vale Churches with South Woodham Ferrers, Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre and looking forward to engaging a new priest in charge with them. Little Baddow, St Mary the Virgin; have just one church warden & are planning for their annual Open Gardens. Sandon, St Andrews; discussed that Terry will be retiring in June and the future of its ministry is under discussion. South Woodham Ferrers, Holy Trinity Church; Managing with vacancy, no first Sunday service, encouraged to go to Bicknacre or Methodist service later in the day. Andy Griffiths offers communion once a month, other services are lay led. Stock, All Saints'; Good relations with 2 other stock churches with joint activities planned. West Hanningfield, St. Mary's & St. Edward's; Bells have been restored, but after their installation, faults were found in the timber structure of the tower so they can't be rung. *Alison Read, Representative*

### **Christians Together in Chelmsford**

Sandon have for many years been members of Churches Together in Chelmsford. About 80 churches and Christian organisations in Chelmsford are members. It provides a forum for members to share invitations and needs and manage a prayer rota. It is aiming to see each street in the city prayed for during the year. Its Procession of Witness from 5 points to the City centre High Street for a service to mark Good Friday continues but likely this year on a reduced budget. At the AGM in the spring Phil Hannam, leader of Life Church, was elected as Chairman. All main Christian denominations are involved, and it provides a vehicle where churches can share events across a wider forum.

*Richard Cecil, CTiC Secretary*



## **Bell Ringing Report**

Two years after their restoration, the bells are in good shape and ring very well. Quarterly maintenance inspections are undertaken by our Steeple Keeper, Amanda Owens, where any issues are quickly dealt with. The tower attracts several groups of visiting ringers throughout the year and is used for training events by the Essex Association of Bell Ringers, the donations from which provide a net income to the church.

We have a lovely band of ringers who have managed to ring the bells for all Sunday morning services, festivals and weddings throughout the year. This is getting harder to do, as a result of ringers moving away, getting older or having other calls on their time. We would like to grow our number of young ringers but attempts to do this from within the village community and by running 'have a go' evenings with the Sandon and Chelmsford Scouts have not been successful. It is a challenge we will continue to work on.

*Mike Worboys, Tower Captain*

## **Bible Reading Notes**

'New Daylight', published by BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship), provides a short scripture reading for each day with a commentary about it. These commentaries, written by a wide range of authors, can explain stories from the Old and New Testaments as well as use scripture to illuminate the lives of men and women of God from different ages both before Christ and since. To grow effectively as a Christian some form of Bible study seems a must. These notes do not have a monopoly on this but do provide an outlet for a disciplined approach if that is what you aspire to.

*Richard Cecil*

## **St. Andrew's Choir & Music**

We have always recognised the importance of music in the life of the church, so meet regularly to rehearse, discuss and perform hymns and anthems for our congregation. Many thanks to Cathie and Terry for music selection – it always surprises me how much effort is put into matching the church calendar and sermons with the music used.

Thanks to Cathie for also playing, when requested, at weddings, baptisms and funerals, with or without the choir.

We are all ageing, so take somewhat longer to process through the church [slow down please Nick], but many thanks to our regular choir and to Andy and Judy who swell our numbers when needed.

*Gill Haddington, Choir Monitor*



## **Magazine Report**

The magazine is indebted to the wide variety of those who contribute in so many ways: ideas, articles, reports, advertisements, distribution. David Farrar and Terry Brown of course also provide a regular supply of material. We are grateful for the regular columns provided by Narelle Arnold and the Speakman family. Valerie Grimwood has consistently contributed by proof-reading which has been greatly appreciated. Claire Jefferies has managed the advertising and Alison Read has been organising the distribution with a great team of distributors who circulate this magazine to all households in the parish four times in the year. Those outside the parish are asked to pay 75p. Thank you again to all who have contributed and please continue to do so.

*Richard Cecil, Editor*

## **Churchyard**

Each year it becomes more difficult to keep the churchyard in tip top condition and looking beautiful. Without George doing the bulk of the work we would not be able to keep it to the high standard we have come to expect. Thank you, George. Every month during the Summer a very small number of people come and work in the churchyard. Thank you to David for cutting the grass, John for the path and graves, Judy, James and Eileen. Unfortunately, we are only able to concentrate on the Garden of Remembrance as the number are few. Because most of us are over 80 we cannot always do the heavy jobs (mainly because of knees that do not bend so well). If you feel able, please come along and help us on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10am to 12noon. As an incentive tea and bread pudding will be provided, Thanks again to all those who help us to enjoy the peace and quiet.

*Christine Mennie*

## **Holy Dusters**

If you ever wonder how the church always looks so clean, wonder no longer. It is done by a little group of fairies who come every 1st Monday. Floors are swept, pews polished, carpets hoovered and the floor is washed. A team of John, Judy, James, Catherine, Brenda and myself, work to keep the church clean throughout the year. Next month we will start to do the yearly spring clean. Have a look at the list of jobs to be done on the radiator at the back of the church. If you can help, please do so, we will be very grateful. Thank you to everyone who comes to help to keep our lovely church at its best.

*Christine Mennie*

## **Soup and Sandwich Lunches**

The lunch held every 1st Tuesday in the month continues to be very popular. There is an average of around 12 who attend regularly. We start with soup, following with rolls with different fillings and then finish with something sweet. Everyone is welcome to come and share a very enjoyable lunch. Thank you to Judy, Janet, Richard and Terry for all their hard work. Come and join us from 12 noon to 1.15.

*Christine Mennie*

## **Friends of Sandon Church**

The Friends celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation at the AGM held on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2023.

We noted that The Friends had financially supported in this time the church roof repairs, church redecoration, Gibson Memorial Cross re-alignment, church bells repair, yew hedge purchase etc. The AGM, which covered the previous two years due to 2022 cancellation due to Covid, included a report that recounted that we had organised 4 events starting with the Big Band Evening held in Cherries Farm, a quiz, a Concert given by the Essex Police Choir, and then more recently a concert by The Southend Boys and Girls Choir. Currently The Friends currently have approx. £8,000 for approved Church Fabric Expenses.

This year's Committee consists of Rev Terry Brown, (Chairman) Darren Chaplin (Treasurer), David Farrar (Secretary), Mike Worboys (Membership Secretary), Andy Hilton, Amanda Parsons (Publicity and Website), Janet Terry, Cedric Calmeyer, Richard Cecil, Andy Horne, and John Gruby.

*David Farrar*

## **Annual Village Walk and Bike Ride**

### **Walk**

On the 17th of June some 22 of us had lunch in the Cricketers, Danbury Common after walking there via a route crossing Mayes Lane and up Sporhams Lane through the local ford. We came back to Sandon via Danbury towards Hulls Lane. This year we did not have the walkers sponsored.

### **Bike Ride**

The weather was so hot on the chosen day of the 8th of September (31 degrees), that most of us sensibly? cancelled out the cycling bit! Just four brave souls managed to cycle to The Windmill at South Hanningfield via

the Reservoir for well-deserved drinks and lunch. They were Dessi and Guy Speakman, and Charlotte and Simon Fletcher. Well done!! Again, this was not an officially sponsored event.

More of us made our way to South Hanningfield by car! En route back we did manage a stop at The Baddow Brewery - which still exists I am glad to say!

*David Farrar*

## **Howe Green Chapel**

Report of working with St. Andrew's Church, Sandon

In the past year Howe Green URC has been able to share several occasions with St. Andrews which are more community related, such as the village soup lunches held monthly at St. Andrew's Church, the Summer Tea on the Green, and the Christmas Fete etc.

Due to not having a minister and a small congregation we only have a monthly service and continue to join with Christ Church in Chelmsford (with whom we shared our previous Minister) on other Sundays. We welcome members of St. Andrews who are able to be present at our services and events and thank them for their support.

Members of the Howe Green congregation have attended various services at St. Andrew's - including taking part in the service celebrating the week of prayer for Christian Unity. They have also shared in various Bible studies such as the ones for Lent.

Howe Green arranges a very popular Christmas Carol Service at the Chapel which includes some village organisations. So it is good that the Revd. Terry Brown was able to take an important role in that service and was joined by several others from St Andrews.

We very much look forward to continuing with our connection to St. Andrews' Church and events that we can share.

*Pam Knott*



## **1<sup>st</sup> Sandon Scout Group**

A busy year as always for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

We need more leaders and if you feel that you could help on Thursday evenings in either the Beavers, Cubs or Scouts please contact me by email [1stsandongsl@gmail.com](mailto:1stsandongsl@gmail.com)

*Jean Blake Group Scout Leader*

## **Tiny Tots Toddler Group**

Tiny Tots continues on Wednesday afternoons with a great team of helpers and as always, a room full of toys and activities including both crafts, role play toys, playdough, bricks to build and slides to slide on, along with lots more, finishing with rhyme time where we join together to sing. The kettle is always on and Dessi brings home made cakes for us to try.

Our numbers have diminished considerably despite lots of advertising so do spread the word. Thank you to all those who support us both at Tots and behind the scenes keeping the Church a beautiful place to bring children and families to.

*Alison Read*

## **Church Flowers: Festivals and Events**

In the past year, the Flower Arranging Team arranged flowers for Remembrance Sunday, the 10th Anniversary of Terry's Installation as Priest in Charge, Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Donations covering the cost of the Easter flowers have been gratefully received from the community. Flowers were also arranged for one wedding and one Service of Remembrance. Three arrangements in memory of loved ones were sponsored by members of the church community. Fund were raised through holding five Christmas Wreath Making workshops. We have a surplus to carry forward into the next year, which is held in general church funds. The team continue to create arrangements using alternative mechanics which are more environmentally friendly than floral foam. Most of the flowers we use are seasonal, British grown and supplied in recyclable materials including paper, cardboard boxes and real rubber bands from Evolve Flowers, a wholesaler based in Spalding. Some flowers have been sourced from a more local flower grower, Sarah Amos, of Fairwinds Flowers in Purleigh. Foliage is sourced from our gardens. This supports our sustainable practices, reducing our carbon footprint.

We receive many positive comments about the flowers in St Andrew's. We share our creations and sustainable practices on our Facebook page which

has 44 followers from around the UK. We are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and skilful team of arrangers who are supportive of each other.

*Lesley Worboys, Flowers for Events and Festivals Co-ordinator*

### **Church Flowers: Flower Rota**

The Altar and the Paschal Candle, (when required), have been beautifully decorated each week by members of our team of eleven flower arrangers. They generously supply their own flowers each week, arrange and maintain them.

Valerie Grimwood has decided to step down from the rota this year. I would like to thank her for creating so many beautiful arrangements over the many years she has been on the weekly rota. I am pleased that Valerie will continue to arrange at our festivals.

Over recent years the number of arrangers on our rota has reduced. If you know anyone who would like to join us, please contact me.

*Janet Underwood Flower Rota Organiser*

## **2024 Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings**

The meetings will be held in Church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 after the 10am service, at 11.30am

### **Agenda for 2024 Annual Vestry Meeting**

- 1 Opening prayers
- 2 Appointment of Clerk
- 3 Apologies
- 4 Approval of the minutes of the year 2023 Annual Vestry Meeting
- 5 Election of two Churchwardens  
(Nominations received by the chair prior to the meeting.)
- 6 Date of Next Meeting –  
provisionally a Sunday in April 2025 at 11:30 am

### **Agenda for 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

(to follow immediately after the Annual Vestry Meeting)

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Election of Tellers
- 3 Approval of the minutes of the year 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- 4 Reports
  - 4.1 Electoral Roll Report
  - 4.2 Annual Report
  - 4.3 Financial Report
  - 4.4 Fabric Report
  - 4.5 Deanery Synod Report
  - 4.6 Christians Together in Chelmsford
- 5 Election of up to 4 PCC Members
- 6 Appointment of Compass Churches representative
- 7 Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
- 8 Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer
- 9 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 10 Reports from other Organisations
- 11 Rector's Report and closing prayers.  
Date of Next Meeting -  
provisionally a Sunday in April 2025 after the Vestry meeting.