Sandon Annual Reports 2026

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Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings 2025

Meetings were held in St Andrew's Church, Sandon on Sunday 27th April 2025 at 11:30 am.

Minutes for 2025 Annual Vestry Meeting

1 Opening prayers were led by Andy Horne.

2 Appointment of Clerk. Judy Cecil was appointed.

3 Apologies had been received from John Gruby, David Farrar, Liz Bobeldijk, Mike Harris, Gill Haddington, Kate Hollows, Gillian Ward Russell, Alwyn Jones, Jane Marshall, John Weir, Stuart and Rosemary MacKay
Present: Nick Bobeldijk, Judy Cecil, Richard Cecil, Andy Horne, Cathie Horne, Janet Terry, Eileen Bartrup, Alison Read, Christine Mennie, Janet Underwood, Ian Underwood, Barbara Underwood, Akindele Olowokere, Christine Fletcher, Peter Elwell, Ruth Saverymuttu, Seth Saverymuttu, (18 church members).

4 Approval of the minutes of the year 2024 Annual Vestry meeting agreed by all.

5 Election of two Churchwardens
Richard Cecil had been proposed by Alison Read and Andy Horne and Andy Horne had been proposed by Judy Cecil and Alison Read and they were duly elected.

6 Date of Next Meeting: provisionally Sunday 12th April 2026 at 11:00 am.

Minutes of 2025 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 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
These were proposed by Nick Bobeldijk, seconded by Alison Read, and agreed by all.

4 Reports

4.1 Electoral Roll Report. Twenty-five (25) within Sandon Parish and twenty-five (25) outside making a total of fifty (50). Liz Bobeldijk

and Nick were thanked for all their work in compiling this new electoral roll.

4.2 Annual Report. Everyone was given time to read the report and all agreed to adopt it.

4.3 Financial Report. Nick was thanked for his work in producing the report and accounts for the year and for his work as treasurer during the year. Thanks also to Jeremy Watson who examined the accounts.

4.4 Safeguarding Report. Alison gave a brief summary of safeguarding and reported there will soon be a 'dashboard' online for every parish showing all the information needed for safeguarding, of course password protected. This will keep all the documentation in one place and help to be proactive rather than reactive with safeguarding concerns.

4.5 Fabric Report was noted. Christine thanked Richard and Andy for their work. And for their efforts to keep us all warm during the winter while still trying to keep costs down and considering caring for the planet.

4.6 Deanery Synod Report was noted as was the Compass churches report.

4.7 Christians Together in Chelmsford. The report was noted.

4.8 Election of PCC Members
Noted that there is an error in the 2024 annual report. Janet Terry was elected for a further 3 years in 2024.
Richard explained that the PCC is made up of 2 churchwardens (already elected), 2 deanery synod members (Cathie Horne and Judy Cecil elected in 2023 for 3 years) and up to 9 others elected for 3 years at a time. During 2024 John Gruby resigned and David Farrar has stood down before this meeting. This leaves 6 vacancies. There is one nomination for Colin Bryan, proposed by Christine Mennie, seconded by Valerie Grimwood. Richard asked if there were any other nominations. Nick Bobeldijk offered and was proposed by Christine Mennie and seconded by Cathie Horne. Colin and Nick were elected for 3 years, signed nomination forms having been received.

5 Appointment of Compass Churches representative. Alison Read agreed to continue and was confirmed in this post.

6 Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer.
Liz Bobeldijk has agreed to continue and was confirmed in this post.

7 Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer.
Alison Read had agreed to continue and was confirmed in this post.

8 Appointment of Independent Examiner. Nick had thanked Jeremy Watson for his work this year and he has agreed to do this again next year.

9 Reports from organisations were noted. All who wrote reports and continue to run the many organisations which make this church and community such a welcoming and caring place.

10 Richard reminded us of the recent loss of Brenda Moyse and that we do miss her as part of our church and community. He noted that we continue to give 10% of our income to charity, Christian Aid, Marsabit Diocese and Made for More. He thanked Pam Knott and Jane Clark from Howe Green Chapel for their support.
He noted that the 'Friends' has closed during the year and the PCC has benefitted from an £8500 donation for tower repairs. Andy added that he and Richard will meet an architect on Monday 28th April to progress these repairs.
Daily prayer has continued for 100 days every day since 1st May 2024, and since then 5 days per week up to the present. Richard acknowledged support from the secretary, treasurer, PCC members other church members as well as organisations such as the Salvation Army who have agreed to play for Tea on the Green in July. The church has achieved a silver Eco-award; Advent and Lent study courses have been well attended and the need for mission continues. In many ways the church is healthy but obviously numbers are decreasing and with that there will be a challenge to sustain if there is not increase income. It remains important to keep our focus on Jesus Christ and not the worries of money and other problems. We thank Hugh for leading monthly Sunday Communion services and encouraging us with mission, we thank Carol Ball for leading Tuesday Communion services twice each month, Keith Anderson and Mark Pape for leading once each month. Carol has responded that she is delighted to support us and feels blessed by the opportunity.
Christine thanked Richard and Andy for all their work since Revd Terry Brown retired.
Alison suggested we display information about the charities we support, maybe on display boards in church.
Richard finished by suggesting we focus on mission, maybe with an

individual ‘mission officer’. It was decided the PCC will take up this role for now.
Date of Next Meeting: provisionally Sunday 12th April 2026 after the Annual Vestry Meeting.

The meeting ended with the Grace at 12.15pm.

Electoral Roll Report

The electoral roll was displayed at church from Saturday 4th April 2026. There were no new applications. Sadly, we lost 7 members of our congregation in the last year, namely David Farrar, Pam Norrington, Pat Salmon, Kay Tyler, Stuart MacKay, Jane Marshall and Derek Hollows.
There are 22 members resident in the Parish and 22 non-resident members. The total on the electoral roll is 44.

Liz Bobeldijk, Electoral Roll Officer

Annual Report

Aims and Purposes
St Andrew’s Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of promoting in the parish the whole mission of Jesus Christ, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church building and Churchyard near The Green, Sandon.

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

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

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Andrew’s. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing a knowledge and trust in Jesus.

- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

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

Achievements and Performance

Over the last year we have initiated a number of projects. Regular prayer has continued at least 5 days each week and more recently 7 days each week. We have managed to have a Tuesday communion service on 11 or 12 out of each of 13 weeks each quarter and on Sunday at least once each month. We have been saddened by the deaths in 2025 of seven people who have been on the church electoral role. And a further such death in 2026. We are working with the DAC to secure a better future for the Sandon Pax. We have begun repairs to the dome top of the tower which are awaiting completion.

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

We have maintained a Sung Eucharist each month, thanks to the commitment of Rev Hugh Dibbens and Rev Andrew Merchant. Rev Dr Jonathan Holmes, former Dean of our patrons Queens' College Cambridge has been most generous in his support on a number of Sundays. Most months we have had a Worship Together service, an Agape Meal service and Morning Worship. On the rare occasions when there has been a fifth Sunday, we have held a Songs of Praise service. Thanks to the help of many local clergy, in particular Rev Carol Ball, Rev Keith Anderson and Rev Mark Pape, Tuesday morning said communion services have continued most weeks. A definite plus to being in vacancy has been the great variety and depth of spiritual input from the various priests who have led the services. A Time to Remember service was led by Rev Andy Griffiths offering an opportunity for many to recall and celebrate lives of loved ones Remembrance Sunday was marked with the local Beavers Cubs and Scouts in attendance.

Christmas services were very well attended. We held a very successful crib service, and Christmas Morning Eucharist at which Rev Keith Anderson officiated. However, we were unable to hold a Midnight service in 2025. A group of us have been meeting for Morning Prayer, mostly five days a week, supporting Bishop Guli's 100 days of prayer for the diocese from Ash Wednesday to just after Pentecost. This is planned to continue for the foreseeable future and is greatly valued by all who take part. On Thursdays we combine with other churches in the Compass group via the medium of Zoom.

For Easter 2026 it was decided that we would hold Stations of the Cross on the Tuesday morning and that on Good Friday morning the congregation were

encouraged to attend the event in Chelmsford Town Centre. On Good Friday afternoon we held a service, 'Last Hour at the Cross.' On Easter Sunday we held a Sunrise service and Rev Dr Jonathan Holmes agreed to officiate at the 10:00 am Easter Sung Eucharist.

This year we ran a study course in Advent following the Pilgrim Course on the Lord's Prayer. During the year the Bishop of Bradwell has authorised Judy Cecil to be an Authorised Local Preacher and she along with, Richard Cecil and Andrew Horne, also Authorised Local Preachers, have preached regularly on Sundays. Other members of the congregation have also helped with planning and leading services.

Tea on the Green was a great success in 2025 with the Salvation Army providing the music. The preacher was Rev Dr Jessica Martin, the dean of Chelmsford Cathedral. This combined with an excellent fayre of cakes and excellent weather made for a truly wonderful afternoon.

Some may remember that in the context of a dry summer, we have a significant amount of rain on the day of the summer fête. Most of it was moved into the church and there were some happy conversations. And people came too. The Christmas Fayre was held in the village hall and all seemed to enjoy it. Despite slightly lower attendance the takings were of similar magnitude to previous years.

Mike Worboys pointed us to a grant from the Walter Farthing trust and successfully applied to have the set of 19 hand bells refurbished by a company in Glasgow. A number of people have since tried them and played a piece at the Beer and Carols just before Christmas. We were grateful for all who attended and for the hospitality from the Crown pub too.

We had an enquiry to use the St Andrew's Room and in different ways it has been used for meetings, for a craft group on many Thursdays, for a place of refuge for someone who lives a distance away but works consecutive nights in the area. It has been a privilege to be able to serve in these ways.

Judy Cecil is leading plans to have a group to support those who have recently been bereaved using well tested material, called the Bereavement Journey, from a group called 'At A Loss'.

We have much to be thankful for and offer thanks to all who have contributed. We aspire to continue to try to present and attract with the gospel of Jesus Christ and look for ways to do that.
God has challenged us regarding our worship in the last year. He has also blessed us greatly. Services and worship at St Andrew's have been invigorating and challenging both to be at and to plan.

Friends of Sandon Church
The group closed in March 2025 and agreed to make a donation of their remaining funds of just over £8,600 to Sandon church for work on the tower.

Deanery Synod and Compass Churches
Two lay members of the PCC, currently Judy Cecil and Cathie Horne, 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 Alison Read as a council member and Judy Cecil as Lay Chair and minute secretary.

Pastoral Care
The monthly Soup and Sandwich meal was discontinued in the Autumn. Many of our regulars have sadly passed away. At Greenwood Court, previously Baycroft, 'Tea with St Andrew's' has continued monthly, Communion is held once each month and there was a service for Remembrance and also a Christmas Carol service. A Communion service is held monthly at Chelmsford Care Centre.

Mission and Evangelism
In June this year there was another excellent Parish Walk and Cycle ride both organised by David Farrar. Sadly, he passed away in November. Other events of note were the Tea on the Green followed by Songs of Praise lead by the Salvation Army at the start of August. Our Harvest Festival service celebration took place in the church in September, and the Time to Remember and Remembrance Sunday services were held in November.
The church has continued giving 10% of its regular income divided between Marsabit, a diocese in the north of Kenya, Christian Aid and work in local schools 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 and thriving 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 Andrew's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, 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 nine times during the year i.e., January to December 2025. 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 Chestnut Cottage, Butts Green, Sandon, Chelmsford, CM2 7RN.

PCC Members who have served this year are:

Incumbent:	Vacancy since June 2024
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:	Mr Colin Bryan elected in 2025 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 2024 for 3 years
PCC Secretary:	Mrs Judy Cecil
PCC Treasurer	Mr Nick Bobeldijk

Standing Committee:
Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer and PCC member Alison Read

Bank:	Lloyds TSB, Chelmsford Branch
Examiner:	Jeremy Watson.

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Last year we received a total of £25,533.51 in giving compared to £28,425.52 in 2024, a decrease of 10%. Our total income from all sources stood at £43,942.88 compared to £45,871.80 for 2024. This is a decrease of £1,928.92, or 4%, from the previous year with a number of income categories showing decreases, including the Parish Giving Scheme, Small Donations Scheme, Fundraising, Parochial fees and Gift Aid Recovered.

Our total expenses for the year were £40,892.54, a decrease of some £2,197, or 5%, on the total for 2024. Payment of the Parish Share was made in full, with the amount paid being higher than in 2024 by some £1439 due to the voluntary payment in January of an additional £3,000 for the previous financial year. Mission payments totalling £4,593.60 were exactly 10% of 2024 total income.

In March 2025, the Friends of Sandon Church decided to cease their activities and to dissolve that organisation. As a result, we were grateful to receive the balance of their funds amounting to £8,632.82, on the understanding that these funds would be used for maintenance and repair of the church tower only. During 2025, £800 was taken from these funds to pay for two different surveys and £96 for the removal of a hornets' nest, leaving a remaining balance of £7,736.82.

We continue to hold charity funds in the names of John & Agnes Stevyns Charity, Mrs Mary Christina Pearsons Bequest charity and the Sandon Stevyns Charity with total funds of £10,392.68. These funds will be held in a 95-day notice deposit account with Lloyds Bank, an account which pays the highest rate of interest available to us. Our bank balances at the end of the year stood at £1,018.52 in the current account, £16,000 in our Instant Access deposit account and £40,392.94 in a 32-day Notice account. Cash in hand was £43.75.

Our financial state continues to be reasonably stable and I am pleased to report that the anticipated deficit at the end of the year did not materialise, largely due to the fact that we had successful Summer and Christmas Fetes/Fayres, raising £1,755.82 and £1,992.91 gross respectively, resulting in a year-end surplus of £3,050.34.

Nick Bobeldijk, Treasurer, 17 February 2026

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
Receipts				
Donations and legacies	£30,748.74	—	£30,748.74	£34,857.57
Income from charitable activities	£3,267.00	—	£3,267.00	£4,295.00
Other trading activities	£5,048.73	—	£5,048.73	£5,842.02
Investments	£892.13	—	£892.13	£854.56
Other income	£3,986.28	—	£3,986.28	£22.65
Total receipts	**£43,942.88**	**—**	**£43,942.88**	**£45,871.80**
Payments				
Raising funds	£433.22	—	£433.22	£611.55
Expenditure on charitable activities	£36,508.45	—	£36,508.45	£39,233.79
Other expenditure	£3,950.87	—	£3,950.87	£3,244.15
Total payments	**£40,892.54**	**—**	**£40,892.54**	**£43,089.49**
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	**£3,050.34**	**—**	**£3,050.34**	**£2,782.31**
Transfers				
Gross transfers between funds - in	£16,404.91	£7,484.77	£23,889.68	£11,215.21
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£7,484.77)	(£16,404.91)	(£23,889.68)	(£11,215.21)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains / losses	**£11,970.48**	**£8,920.14**	**£3,050.34**	**£2,782.31**
Net movement in funds	**£11,970.48**	**£8,920.14**	**£3,050.34**	**£2,782.31**
All assets at 01 January 2024	**£46,129.48**	**(£11,987.94)**	**£34,141.54**	**£31,359.23**
All assets at 31 December 2024	**£58,099.96**	**(£20,908.08)**	**£37,191.88**	**£34,141.54**
Represented by				
Unrestricted General Fund				
Restricted Restricted Funds	**£58,099,96**	**(£20,908,08)**	**£58,099,96** **(£20,908,08)**	**£46, 129.48** **(£11,987,94)**

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Current assets			
6501	Current Account	£1,018.52	£741.01
6505	Instant Access Deposit Account	£16,000.00	£5,000.00
6508	Fixed Term Deposit Accounts		£20,000.00
6510	Cash In Hand	£43.75	£33.78
6520	Deposits Paid	£105.00	£105.00
6530	Notice Deposit Accounts	£40,392.94	£20,354.69
	Total Current assets	**£57,560.21**	**£46,234.48**
Liabilities			
6610	Building Maintenance Fund	—	—
6620	Diocesan Board of Finance		£148.00
6630	Cutting Garden Funds	£327.50	£327.50
6640	Treasurer's Expenses	—	—
6650	Tower Renovation Fund	£7,736.82	—
6655	John & Agnes Stevyns and John Perry Charity	£6,499.34	£6,481.94
6656	Mrs Mary Christina Pearsons Bequest	£837.09	£888.31

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
6657	Sandon Stevyns and John Perry Charity	£3,022.34	£3,207.27
6660	Rector's Fees & Expenses		£34.00
6665	Soup & Sandwich Lunches	£62.08	£62.08
6670	Sponsored Flowers	£1,761.64	£822.32
6680	Tiny Tots	£121.52	£121.52
6690	Bell restoration fund	£644.75	
6695	Bell fund contra account	(£644.75)	
	Total Liabilities	**£20,368.33**	**£12,092.94**
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	**£34,141.54**	**£31,359.23**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	£3,050.34	£2,782.31
Z01	Starting balances	£34,141.54	£31,359.23
Z02	Other gains/(losses)	—	
	Total Reserves	**£37,191.88**	**£34,141.54**
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	£58,099.56	£46,129.48
	Restricted	(£20,908.08)	(£11,987.94)
	Total	**£37,191.88**	**£34,141.54**

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Restricted	This year	Last year
Current assets – Monetary				
Current Account -	£1,018.52	—	£1,018.52	£7401
Instant Access Deposit Account -	£16,000.00	—	£16,000.00	£5,000.00
Fixed Term Deposit Accounts -		—		£20,000.00
Cash In Hand -	£43.75	—	£43.75	£33.78
Notice Deposit Accounts -	£40,392.94	—	£40,392.94	£20,354.69
Totals	**£57,455.21**	**—**	**£46,129.48**	**£46,129.48**
Current assets – Debtors				
Deposits Paid -	—	£105.00	£105.00	£105.00
Totals	**—**	**£105.00**	**£105.00**	**£105.00**
Liabilities – Due after more than 1 year				
John & Agnes Stevyns Charity -	—	£6,499.34	£6,499.34	£6,481.94
Mrs Mary Christina Pearsons Bequest -	—	£837.09	£837.09	£888.31
Sandon Stevyns Charity -	—	£3,022.34	£3,022.34	£3,207.27
Totals	**—**	**£10,358.77**	**£10,358.77**	**£10,577.52**
Liabilities - Due within 1 year				
Diocesan Board of Finance -	—			£148.00
Cutting Garden Funds -	—	£327.50	£327.50	£327.50
Tower Renovation account		£7,736.82	£7,736.82	
Rector's Fees & Expenses -	—			£34.00
Soup & Sandwich Lunches -	—	£62.08	£62.08	£62.08
Sponsored Flowers -	—	£1,761.64	£1,761.64	£822.32
Tiny Tots		£121.52	£121.52	£121.52
Tiny Tots -	—	£121.52	£121.52	£121.52
Bell Restoration Fund		£644.75	£644.75	
Bell contra fund	(£644.75)		(£644.75)	
Totals	**(£644.75)**	**£10,654.31**	**£10,009.56**	**£1,515.42**
Grand total	**£58,099.96**	**(£20,908.08)**	**£37,191.88**	**£31,359.23**

Analysis of receipts and payments

Donations and legacies		Unrestricted	Total This year	Total Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Donations and legacies				
Collections - Gift Aided		£245.00	£245.00	£360.00
Direct Credits - Gift Aided		£2,106.00	£2,106.00	£2,156.00
Donations - Gift Aided		£1,235.00	£1,235.00	£825.00
Direct Credits - Non-Gift Aided		£2,620.00	£2,620.00	£2,870.00
Donations - Non-Gift Aided		£1,677.38	£1,677.38	£1,828.57
Parish Giving Scheme		£13,351.30	£13,351.30	£15,390.03
Small Donations Scheme		£4,285.83	£4,285.83	£5,221.42
Gift Aid Recovered		£5,228.23	£5,228.23	£6,206.55
	Total	£30,748.74	£30,748.74	£34,857.57
Income from charitable activities				
Parochial Fees		£3,267.00	£4,295.00	£4,295.00
	Total	£3,267.00	£4,295.00	£4,295.00
Other trading activities				
Fundraising – Gift Aided		£175.00	£175.00	
Fundraising - Non-Gift Aided		£3,771.73	£3,771.73	£4,563.67
Magazine – Advertising		£1,077.00	£1,077.00	£1,208.35
Magazine – Sales		£25.00	£25.00	£70.00
	Total	£5,048.73	£5,048.73	£5,842.02
Investments				
Interest Received		£892.13	£892.13	£854.56
	Total	£892.13	£892.13	£854.56
Other income				
Grants Received		£3,967.00	£3,967.00	
Miscellaneous Income		£19.28	£19.28	£22.65
	Total	£19.28	£19.28	£22.65
	INCOME TOTAL	£43,942.88	£43,942.88	£45,871.80

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds				
Event Expenses		£433.22	£433.22	£611.55
	Total	£433.22	£433.22	£611.55
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Bank Charges		£13.82	£13.82	£10.95
Mission		£4,593.60	£4,593.60	£5,776.58
Parish Share		£24,141.48	£24,141.48	£22,702.68
Fees		£229.61	£229.61	£608.78
Cost of Services		£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
Churchyard Expenses		£252.00	£252.00	£1,683.90
Printing & Stationary		£28.78	£28.78	£102.62
Clergy Expenses		£658.48	£658.48	£942.92
Electricity		£2,156.58	£2,156.58	£1,649.64
Insurance		£2,293.26	£2,293.26	£2,213.64
Water Rates		£146.40	£146.40	£132.09
Vestry Supplies		£227.64	£227.64	£499.99
Miscellaneous Expenditure		£19.28	£19.28	£907.65
Magazine Costs		£1,697.52	£1,697.52	£1,952.35
	Total	£36,508.45	£36,508.45	£39,233.79
Other expenditure				
Fabric Maintenance – Buildings		£159.00	£159.00	£2630.40
Fabric Maintenance – Other		£3,791.87	£3,791.87	£613.75
	Total	£3,950.87	£3,950.87	£3,244.15
	EXPENDITURE TOTAL	£40,892.54	£40,892.54	£43,089.49
	GRAND TOTAL	£3,050.34	£3,050.34	£2,782.31

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC

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

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, 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: 13/3/26

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 continue to follow the 'Parish Safeguarding Checklist' issued by the Diocese, based on the Church of England Guidance. This guides the PCC through their key roles and responsibilities and has now moved online, called the Safeguarding Dashboard.

One of our key responsibilities is to ensure those who need a DBS check (electronic police check) have completed one and any who have previously had one are up to date. At St Andrews this includes Church Wardens, Authorised Lay Preachers (ALP's), Pastoral Workers, Bell Captain, Bells Teachers, Choir Leader and Toddler Group Leader. Many of these roles overlap.

Another aspect is to ensure we are all able to access and complete the appropriate online and face to face 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.

St Andrew's Safeguarding Policy, demonstrating our commitment to following the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy, is on display in the St Andrew's room along with a poster named 'Promoting a Safer Church'.

Safeguarding is a matter for all and we would ask anyone who has any concerns to share their concerns, in confidence, with either myself, 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 the fabric of the church building and items within the church. This included ongoing work addressing items noted in the Quinquennial inspection report.

In keeping with a health and safety issue raised we have continued keeping the tower door open while someone is in the tower, to facilitate a rescue, although this does lead to a draught at the back of the church which undoubtedly has an effect on the warmth of the church and therefore the heating bill.

Following on from conversations with the DAC to assess the work needed to the outside of the tower, a faculty has been granted with regard to the repair needed to the top of the tower and also the cap and rendering at the top of the tower. A decision was taken to cover the cap on the top of the tower to protect it from water ingress until a permanent repair could be effected.

A building firm has been contracted for the work which is now taking place. Work to the brickwork on the north face of the tower was not included in either the faculty application or the building contract and will therefore need to be addressed at some stage in the future.

After much discussion about the "Sandon Pax" we consulted with the DAC, Chelmsford Museum and the V & A Museum about the best course of action to take to preserve it for the future and make it available for wider viewing. The decision was made that the artefact should be offered to the V & A Museum for preservation, exhibition and study. To this end a faculty has been sought to remove the Pax to the V & A Museum for assessment. The faculty has been granted and the artefact will be transported to the museum in the near future.

We have been considering the "Garden of Remembrance" and cremated remains area. The area is quickly filling. There is therefore a need for a second area which is now under consideration. It was also noted that the plaques in the current area are showing considerable signs of wear. An alternative form of plaque has been investigated and a faculty sought for a possible change to plaque material, construction and design.

Just before Christmas the flower arrangers commented that the Paschal candle stand was becoming unusable as far as flower arranging was concerned. They offered to finance a new stand. This was investigated with the hope that Sandon School might want to design and make a new one. However, this was not to be. It was then noted that the flower arrangers had a beautiful wooden stand that had been donated some years ago and that this could be converted into a new Paschal candle stand. Neil Arnold offered to make a candle holder for the stand using his wood turner. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his work and thanks to the Flower arrangers for suggesting the project in the first place. The church now has

a beautiful carved Paschal candle stand which looks perfect next to our, rather older, carved pulpit. However, the story does not end there.
A request was made by the Area Dean to use our thurible stand. Initially we intended to lend the stand. We have, in the end, donated the stand. This was made possible because Richard was able to make a new one for St Andrew's using the 'ex Paschal Candle' stand. We now, have not only a wonderful Paschal candle stand but also a far more ornate Thurible stand. A case where a single suggestion has had positive consequences far beyond those envisaged!
Light fittings and bulbs inside and outside the church fail from time to time. One fitting in the St Andrew's room has been replaced. At a recent PCC meeting the Sandon Parish Council representative remarked that the lighting outside the church was not bright enough. The bulbs in these fittings have therefore been replaced with LCD equivalents to give better illumination and also with the aim of being more environmentally friendly.
The organ was again tuned by Andrew Stevens in early November 2025, this time having been suggested as better for the accurate tuning of the instrument and has largely resulted in the organ staying pretty much in tune The organ is still in reasonably good condition and plays well.
We have continued working hard to keep the cost of heating as low as possible. Heating the church is expensive and the heating system for the main part of the church is largely ineffective in very cold weather. To this end we have from time to time used just the rear of the church so that the congregation are seated directly under the rear overhead electric heaters.
We thank all those who continue to keep the building and churchyard in such good condition.

Richard Cecil and Andrew Horne, Churchwardens

Deanery Synod Report

During 2025 and 2026 the deanery met 4 times, led by Area Dean Revd Simon Pearce and Lay Chair Jill Reading.
Speakers included Bp Guli in June *"on the matter concerning how lay people can be more supportive in the delivery of Holy Communion where clergy are not available".* Bishop Guli reminded us that 'Reserved Sacrament' is primarily for use with the sick and housebound and that 'Communion by extension' is only to be occasional, in exceptional circumstances and with the express permission of the Area Bishop. It cannot be a regular event to address the lack of clergy. This followed a proposal from our PCC for consideration regarding the lack of ordained clergy and the need for leadership and worship during vacancy.
In October Revd Canon Ivor Moody spoke on "*Holding and Being: Balancing Mental Health and Ministry".* Ivor suggested the need to cultivate boundaries: to realise and accept our limitations and our humanity, that it isn't our vocation

constantly to be ‘the hub of the wheel’. And to realise that evangelism and outreach is not only a Gospel imperative but essential too, for our mental health as we reach out to and partner others who suffer the same challenges to ‘hold’ and to ‘be’, and to realise that we are not alone.
In December Rev Sharon Quilter (Diocesan Racial Justice Officer) led a racial justice awareness session, based on an April 2021 report ‘From Lament to Action’ which made proposals to bring about a change of culture in the life of the Church of England.
In February we were invited to a Deanery Day where we worshipped together and spent time sharing good practice in multi-parish arrangements, developing community engagement and where churchwardens and safeguarding officers met to share concerns and ideas.
General synod reports are shared when appropriate and at each meeting a time of prayer in small groups is held and a financial report is shared.

Judy Cecil, Deanery Representative

Compass Churches Report

The Compass Group is a group of Churches forming a **Mission and Ministry Unit** within the Deanery of Chelmsford. Revd Jacqui Jones is chair and Judy Cecil has generously stepped in as Minute Secretary.
A number from the Compass Group clergy and others meeting online at 8.30am Thursday mornings for Morning Prayer and a Compass Group meeting is held quarterly at the various churches in the group. Representatives from each church join together to support each other by exchanging news & views and discussing topics that are relevant to all in the group including Finance, Health and Safety, Buildings, Events, Safeguarding and more.

Alison Read, Representative

Bell Ringing Report

The bells are in good shape and ring 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 and lots of teaching each week for new ringers from towers across the local District. We have a lovely band of ringers who have managed to ring the bells for most of the Sunday morning services, festivals and weddings throughout the year. Very sadly, John Wood, one of the founder Members of the current band, died in January 2026. He is deeply missed by all who knew and rang with him.

Mike Worboys, Tower Captain

Handbells Report

A small group of ringers met for a few weeks before Christmas to practise for playing at the Crown pub during 'Beer and Carols'. Great fun was had by all. We plan to meet again and perform at the Church Fete in June.

Judy Cecil

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. Available from Richard. *Richard Cecil*

St. Andrew's Choir & Music

It is with great sadness that we have lost two of our choir within the last six months. Kay Tyler, who was determined to sing as long as she could, finally lost her life. We gave her a rousing send off.

Peter Elwell had a crippling fall and has been bed-bound since. His family does have plans to wheelchair him to St Andrew's in the foreseeable future.

Those of us remaining are keeping going by using stacks of NHS expertise and turn up to sing when we are able.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Cathie, who has also supported Boreham, as well as playing for the many and varied services at our own church.

Many thanks to all who contribute and support the music at St. Andrew's.

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. We are grateful for the regular columns provided by Narelle Arnold and the Speakman family. Richard Simmonds offers verse, thank you too. We will miss contributions from David Farrar and Bernard White after their deaths in the last year.

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 and more difficult to maintain the churchyard to a high standard as we have done in the past. During the summer months a small group of people come and do as much as they can. Thank you to John Wier, Eileen Bartrup, Katherine Hollows, Christine Fletcher, Judy Cecil, Ruth and Seth Saverymuttu and yours truly. Also, to Andy Horne with the mower and Richard Cecil with the chain saw. Thank you to everyone who helps.

Christine Mennie

Holy Dusters

The little group of fairies continue to come every month to clean the church. Floors are swept, pews polished, carpets hoovered and all the floors washed. A wonderful team work very hard and I thank John, Judy, Katherine, Christine, Claire, Janet on tea duty and myself for keeping the church clean throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who comes to help keep the church at its best.

Christine Mennie

1st Sandon Scout Group

A busy year as always for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Thursday evenings in Sandon Village Hall. For more information, please make contact via *https://www.scouts.org.uk/groups/10015540?loc=CM61BG&page=18&slug=1st-Sandon-%28St-Andrews%29*.

Scout Leaders

Church Flowers: Festivals and Events

In the past year, the Flower Arranging Team arranged flowers for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas and for the funeral of David Farrar. Donations covering the cost of the Easter flowers have been gratefully received from the community. Funds were raised through holding four Christmas wreath 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 sustainable mechanics. 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 wholesale supplier based in Spalding. Foliage is sourced from our gardens. This supports our sustainable practices, reducing our carbon footprint. We are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and skilful team of arrangers who are supportive of each other. New arrangers are always welcome; no previous experience is required! We receive many positive comments about the flowers in St Andrew's. We share photos of our creations and sustainable practices on our Facebook page which has 51 followers from around the UK. Why not take a look. www.facebook.com/StAndrewsSandonFlowerArrangers/.

The General Synod recently passed a motion supporting the Sustainable Church Flowers movement. The motion advises the discontinued use of floral foam (Oasis) and the use of more locally sourced, seasonal flowers. We have come a long way towards this at St Andrew's and as the Sustainable Church Flowers Ambassador for Essex, I am looking forward to sharing our progress with other church flower arrangers over the coming months.
For more information about the Sustainable Church Flowers movement visit https://suschurchflowers.com/.

Lesley Worboys, Flowers for Events and Festivals Co-ordinator

Church Flowers: Flower Rota

Our nine flower arrangers on the weekly rota have created beautiful arrangements on the Altar over the last year. They generously supplied their own flowers and foliage.
We are very pleased to welcome two new arrangers onto our team but still need a few more to be able to cover every week. If you know anyone who would be interested in joining the weekly rota please contact me.
Janet Terry has sadly stepped down from the rota this year. I would like to thank Janet for creating many beautiful arrangements both as a member of the rota and at our festivals. Thanks too, go to her for all her work behind the scenes. Janet has helped tidy the Church after the arrangers have finished, made refreshments, watered the flowers after our festivals and helped to dismantle the arrangements. She also organised the flower arrangers for a few of our festivals.

Janet Underwood Flower Rota Organiser

2026 Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings

The meetings will be held in Church on Sunday 19th April 2026 after the 10am service, at 11.30am.

Agenda for 2026 Annual Vestry Meeting

1 Opening prayers
2 Appointment of Clerk
3 Apologies
4 Approval of the minutes of the year 2025 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 2026 at 11:30 am.

Agenda for 2026 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 2025 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

5 Election of 2 Deanery Synod Members
6 Election of up to 6 PCC Members
7 Appointment of Compass Churches representative
8 Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
9 Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer
10 Appointment of Independent Examiner
11 Reports from other Organisations
12 Churchwardens' Report and closing prayers.
Date of Next Meeting -
provisionally a Sunday in April 2026 after the Vestry meeting.