Sandon
A Brief History

Please take one - £1



There are signs of occupation in the area dating back to the Roman era. Before 1066, it was held by Guthmund. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book, commissioned in December 1085 by William the Conqueror. During the civil war, the parish supported the Commonwealth. The church has existed since 1080 and been adapted repeatedly. Cardinal Wolsey, one time Lord of the Manor, added the unique tower and porch in 1520.
The church stands in an immaculate churchyard with a green on the east side, and without the A12 on one side and power lines on the other would be a perfect village scene.

Sandon Church and Village Time Line

1086 Sandon is mentioned in the Doomsday book of 1086 as Benedsteda with a population of just eleven people.

The current Chancel and Nave were built soon after in 1100s.

Around 1350 The North Aisle was added to the church.

Around 1520 Tower and Porch were added. They may have been designed by Girlano Trevise, who worked on Hampton Court in London.

More information in the Tower section.

1887 Rare Spanish Oak planted on the green for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.
It grew to become a main landmark of the village and covered much of the village green before it fell in 2001 due to strong winds after a fungal infection.

This booklet was inspired and significantly designed by Max Clubb in 2026.

1904 Church Restoration was carried out by Wykeham Chancellor and a buttress was found in the wall which is now in the North Aisle.

Gablefields development of 26 houses was built around 1980 on the site of Gable Farm, followed by the The Lintons in the 1990s.

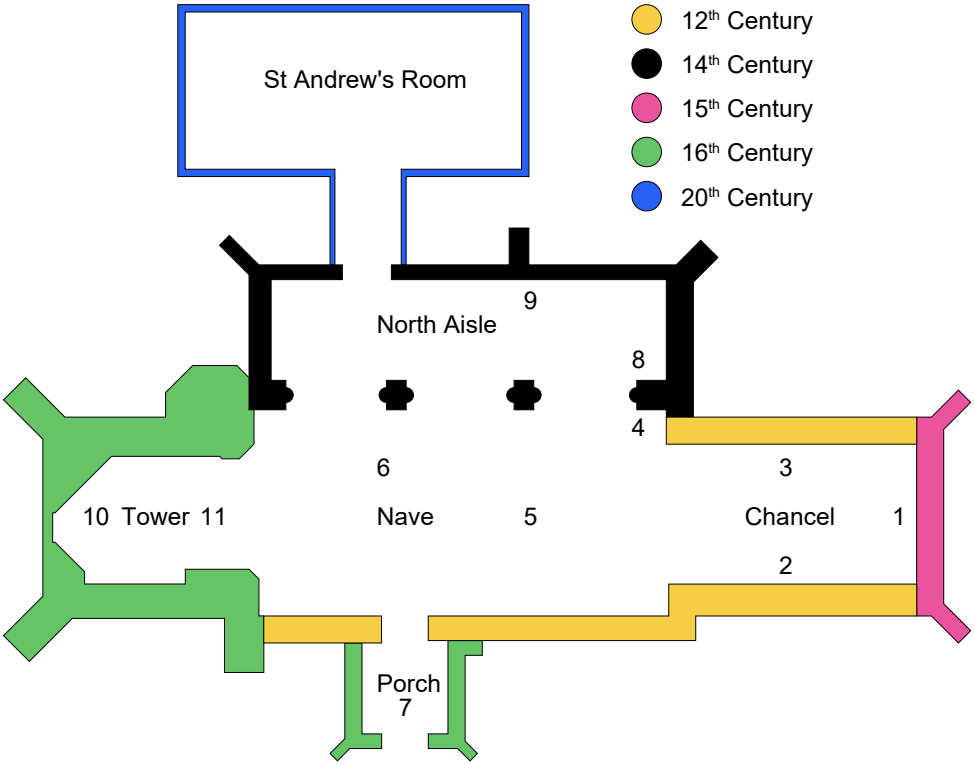
The St Andrew's Room was also built in 1993.

1960 - 69 The village school Closed. It had stood next to the village green for a century.
The churches old silver, chalice and flagons were also stolen (much of it seventeenth century) in February 1969 and never returned.

2021 Cracks were discovered in four of the bells which were then repaired.
The bells were rung again for the first time on 14th April 2022.

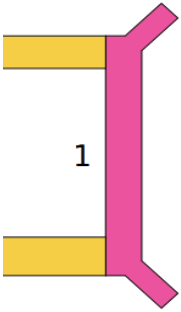
Sandon Church Plan

This Map is simplified and shows only the major changes in the Church.

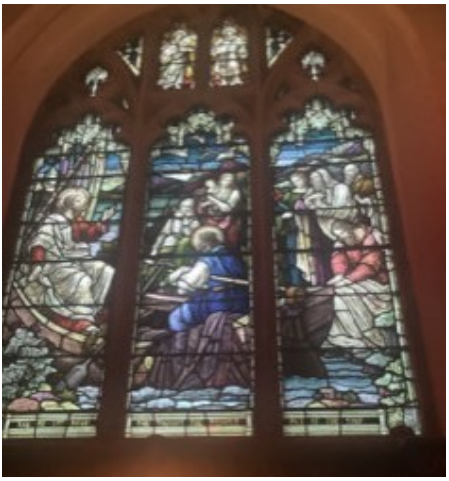


Please see the following pages for the key to the numbered items.

Key to the Church Plan



Location 1



The East window is built in memory of Stanley Callingham who died following WW1 and is buried in the churchyard.

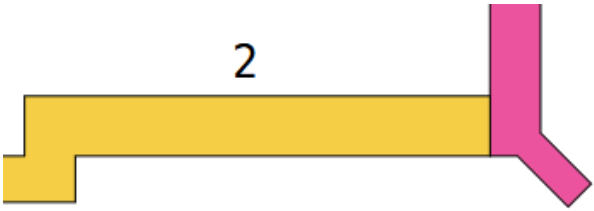


The Altar table is Jacobean (from around 1620).



The Altar rails were made in 1890 by the local Blacksmith.

Location 2





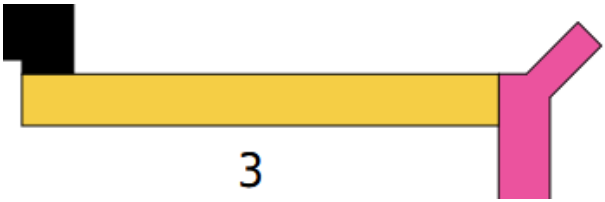
The right choir stall was built in memory of a man named John Perry in 1936 and the door behind is probably 17th Century.



This window on the south side was most recently added with a panel in the bottom right to mark the millennium. It was designed by Daphne Tovey.

Various pieces of glass including shields for St Gregory, Doreward (likely modern) and Darcy (15th/16th century and restored later).

Location 3





This choir stall on the left dates from around 1800.



This window was created in memory of Stanley Callingham's father, Frank Callingham who died a year or so after his son and is also buried in the churchyard.

Location 4





The octagonal 15th Century pulpit, with its original stem and foot was initially painted red, green and gold.
The pulpit had several layers of varnish until this was removed when the pulpit was cleaned in 1935.



Location 5

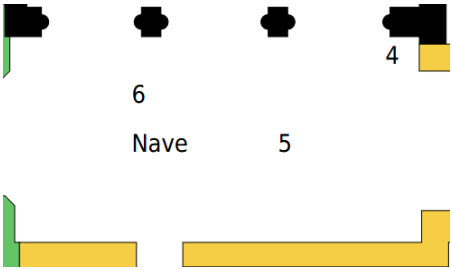
The Piscina here is 13th Century

This part of the church was built in the twelfth century except for the wall behind the altar, which was rebuilt in the 15th Century. The Arch is 13th Century and the ceiling is 15th Century.



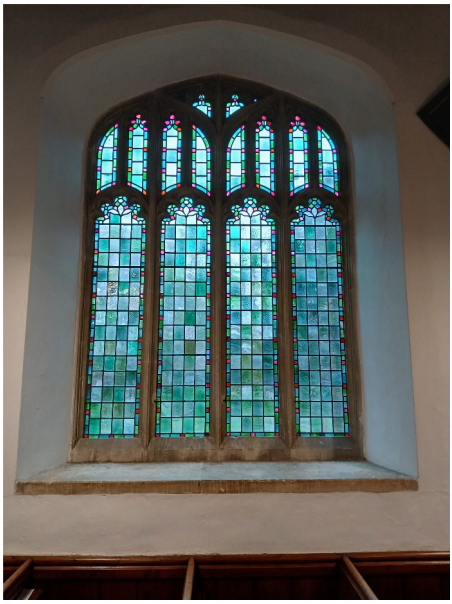


Location 5 continued



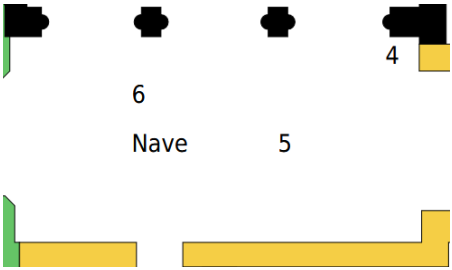


The fir roof was rebuilt in 1878 (except for one truss from the original 15th Century hammer beam roof).



All bar splays are modern, i.e. the part in between the arch and the glass.

Location 6





The 16th century font is octagonal, and the wooden cover was added in 1935 in memory of the wife of the then vicar, John Williams.
The Hebrew reads, “He who finds a wife finds something good.” Possibly based on Proverbs 18:22.

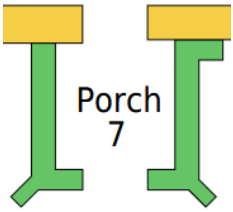




Here there is a modern window frame in place of a partly destroyed 13th century window.

Location 7





The 16th century Porch was built after the tower, possibly designed by Girlano Trevise, who worked on Hampton Court. The Alcove, above the doorway, would have held a small statue, if the church was Catholic, but not so due to Wolsey's control.

Location 8





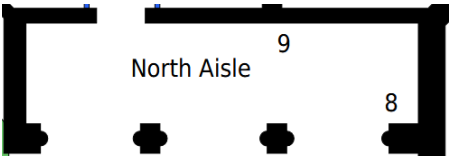
12th Century pillar piscina found in the wall in 1904 restoration with hatchet work is like that in Canterbury Cathedral.



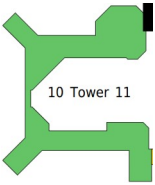
The aumbry, where consecrated bread and wine are kept had the door embellished with gold foil by Dorothy Burras c 2000.
The flower stand given in memory of Henry Harvey is now used as a pascal candle stand and there is an example of the stations of the cross given in memory of Frank Eagling.

Location 9









Location 10

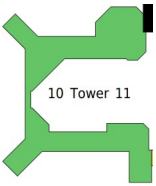


Internationally recognised artist Lynton Lamb, who moved to a cottage in Woodhill Road, Sandon in 1940, painted the painting of St Andrew (1972) and the aumbry door (1968) in the North Aisle. The Lintons (a road in Sandon) is named after him.

The west window of the north aisle is an 18th century window in an earlier opening.

The Organ was built in 1912 and moved to its current location in 1955. It was then restored in 1981.

Location 11



A 15th century door, from the north wall opening, is hung in the organ loft.

The 16th Century tower may have been designed by Girlano Trevise, who worked on Hampton Court in London.
The tower is built with crosses of St Andrew, and the top is designed to look like a cardinal's hat.
The west window of the tower, pictured by John Salmon, is a wonderful example of stained glass.



Details of the Bells

The bells were refurbished and retuned in 2021/2 by AJ Nicholson and Son.

Bell	Dia	Wt	Note	Date	Founder
Tenor	387/16”	9-2- 9	G	1908	James Barwell, Birmingham
Fifth	347/16”	7-0-23	A	1784	Chapman & Mears, Whitechapel
Fourth	321/16”	5-3- 9	B	1854	Charles & George Mears, Whitechapel
Third	3013/16”	4-3-25	C	1653	John Hodson & William Whitmore, London
Second	285/16”	4-1-11	D	1653	John Hodson & William Whitmore, London
Treble	283/16”	5-0- 5	E	1951	Gillett & Johnston, Croydon

Originally the church had five bells dating back to 1653. A major restoration took place in 1908 when the tenor was recast and all the bells were re-hung. In 1951 an additional bell, being the treble, was added. More recently, in early 2022, a major overhaul and redesign of the whole installation was undertaken (with funds raised by the parishioners and grants). Cracks were discovered and then repaired, in four of the bells, which were then tuned and once work was completed, the bells were then rung for the first time on 14 April 2022.

The following is from the Pevsner entry

Extract from Bettley & Pevsner, *Essex* (2007), pp 677–8

History
The double-square plan of the nave suggests that the church was built in the 12th century. In the early 16th century, the manor of Sandon was given by Henry VIII to Cardinal Wolsey, and it may have been he who was responsible for building the tower and south porch. The use of brick is typical of the area. The church was not fully restored until the early 20th century, by which date post-medieval features were more highly regarded than they were in the 19th century Gothic Revival, and consequently the church has retained several 18th century windows which might have been removed had the church been restored earlier.

The nave and chancel are 12th century. The chancel arch was rebuilt in the late 13th century. The north aisle was added in the mid 14th century, and the chancel was extended in the 15th century, when the nave was also re-roofed. The west tower and south porch are early 16th century. It was given some new windows in the 18th century. Some new fittings and restoration of the 1850s by Henry Ringham. The nave roof was restored in 1878. Further restoration in 1903-4 by Chancellor and Son. A meeting room was added to the north in 1993 designed by KC White and built by Lodge and sons.

Materials
Pudding stone and flint rubble with some Roman brick. The tower and south porch are 16th century brick. The dressings are limestone and brick. The roofs are tiled (five of six pannels were retiled by Caters Roofing in 2014). The Roman brick quoins of the 12th century chancel are visible as straight joints in the north and south walls. There is a 3-light, 15th century east window with cinquefoiled lights and Perpendicular tracery. The north wall has a late 13th century or early 14th century window of two pointed lights with a hood mould; the south wall has a window like that on the north and a heavily restored low-side window, with a 14th century door with chamfered jambs and a hood mould between them.

The nave south wall has towards the east a 16th century square window of two uncusped lights with an identical heavily restored or inserted window above it, giving the impression of a tall window with a transom. Next to this is a large Perpendicular window, and to the west of the porch is a 18th century window of two plain lights with an angled head. Below it is the remains of a probably 13th century lancet.

The north aisle has a 2-light 18th century east window, the west window is similar and is set in a 14th century opening, and there are two 2-light Perpendicular windows in the north wall. The moulded north door is 14th century, and provides access to the parish rooms, which are in diapered brick to co-ordinate with the tower.

The early 16th century brick south porch has an elaborate crow-stepped parapet on a corbel table of trefoiled arches. The outer arch is moulded and has a hood mould. Above it is an ogee niche, flanked by a diaper cross of St Andrew on either side. Inside the porch is a brick vault with chamfered ribs on angle shafts. There are two light brick windows in the porch north and south walls.

The brick tower is of 3 stages with diagonal buttresses, and has much diaper work in blue brick, including crosses of St Andrew and tall, conventional crosses in the upper stage below the parapet. The embattled parapet stands on a trefoiled corbel table like that of the porch. The polygonal north east stair turret also has an embattled parapet, and is topped by a small dome. The 4-centred west door is blocked by a 18th century window. Above it, the 16th century west window has brick tracery, and there are small windows in the second stage and larger, 2-light brick windows in the bell stage.

Interior

Very plain, possibly 13th century, pointed chancel arch with moulded imposts. North arcade of 3 bays. 14th century with two moulded orders on quatrefoil piers with moulded capitals and bases. Very tall 4-centred tower arch with 3 orders of dying mouldings. There is an organ loft under the tower.

The ceiling of the chancel is 15th century. It is boarded and is divided into panels by moulded ribs. The hammerbeam roof in the nave was rebuilt in the 19th century, but retains a 15th century truss at the east end. It has moulded hammerbeams and curved braces with traceried spandrels. The wall plates are embattled.

Other principal fixtures are the Chancel piscina is 13th century. There is also a 12th century pillar piscina with a spiral shaft, chevron base and interlace capital, found built into the north west buttress in 1904. Fine 15th century pulpit, unusually retaining its original stem and foot. Octagonal with pinnacled buttresses on the angles. The panels have linen fold panels and Perpendicular tracery. Polygonal font with plain bowl and moulded lower edge, 15th century or 16th century, with a late 17th century or 18th century cover. Choir stalls mid 19th century, incorporating 17th century panelling. Early 20th century reredos in an Arts and Crafts Gothic style.

Some good glass, including E window by Heaton, Butler and Bayne, 1920. Chancel N window by Horace Wilkinson, 1929. Tower window 1912 by A J Davies of the Bromsgrove Guild. There are also a few fragments of earlier heraldic glass.

Monuments include brass to Patrick Fearne, parson, d. 1588 and wife, and fragments of another brass of about 1510. There are also a number of wall tablets, including in the chancel Anne, wife of Brian Walton, the rector and author of the Polyglot Bible, d. 1640, and another to Deborah, d. 1647, wife of Samuel Smith, 'pastor of this congregation'. Several hatchments.

The 15th century north door has been hung on the organ loft wall. Probably 16th century door to tower stair, and 17th century chancel door.