

St Andrew's, Sandon

Parish Profile

January 2025

Contents

Summary of the Church

Aspirations of key gifts, skills and experience in a new priest

A view of our strengths and our weaknesses

Some opportunities for future priorities

A message from Bishop Guli, Diocesan Bishop

A message from the Archdeacon of Chelmsford

How we fit into the Diocese, the Deanery and other groupings

The coming and goings on at Sandon Church

The parish of Sandon as a mission field and a home

Our Buildings

A Financial view

Where you might live



**St Andrew's Church
Painting by Rosemary Taylor 2024**

Summary of the Church

- Historically significant Grade 2b listed building originally from 1080 and attractive church at the centre of the village of Sandon
- Most of the congregation (often 30 in number) are over 60+ with a few younger people, an ageing but faithful choir, keen bell ringers, a small tiny tots group meeting monthly and occasional children's holiday activities
- We are welcoming and friendly (according to newcomers and visitors)
- Some are developing a deeper understanding and reliance on God as the vacancy progresses
- There is a modern well-kept Rectory near the church
- We also have a side room with facilities known as the St Andrew's room
- You can see more and many images on our website www.sandon-church.info which is frequently used and kept updated
- We have good relations with our Patrons, Queens' College, Cambridge



Sandon Church in the winter

Aspirations of key gifts, skills, experience in a new priest

- Prayerful and a fond student of Scripture
- Promoter, communicator and encourager of lay participation
- Preacher of the gospel and encourager of others to share it too
- Willing to listen to the Sandon church community and engage with the local village community, open to new ideas
- A team player who is open and transparent, with a sense of humour
- An experience of the power of God in their life and difficult situations
- Sensitive in pastoral caring



Inside the church

A view of our strengths and our weaknesses

Strengths

- An enthusiastic, caring and welcoming church who give 10% of its income
- Good connections with two local care homes
- Excellent bells, active ringers and a good organ and a congregation who love music
- A range of regular worship, community, prayer and teaching activities
- A beautiful well cared for church yard used for our summer fête and other activities
- A congregation engaged with many aspects of the community



Bells during refurbishment



Scouts at a service

Weaknesses

- There are rarely children in the church
- We have only a few people who are willing to plan and lead initiatives outside of Sunday services
- We only have one home group currently running
- A small choir

Some opportunities for future priorities

- We believe that there are opportunities to have pastoral associations with the local Sandon School which is sited about 400 yards from the church. The school is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive academy of 1,275 students



The Sandon School



Howe Green Chapel

- There is also a continuing need to work closely with all those in Sandon who are recently bereaved. This potential 'Outreach' is so often the first and only time that many members of the village will have direct interaction with the church
- Soon there are to be at least another 150 houses to be built in this area and this could be a chance to enhance our churchgoing population
- Also within Sandon's bounds is the Great Baddow Tennis Club with a hundred plus, members
- In addition, we have good contacts with our sister church in Howe Green some 2-3 miles away within Sandon but again numbers there are very low

More opportunities for future priorities

- Other areas of potential are the Chelmsford Care Home, with its significant house and grounds



Chelmsford Care Home

- There is a plant nursery at Butts Green Nursery and Café, plus several riding schools all within the parish and these would also be opportunities for good contacts
- A new Sports Club and Village Hall is being built soon, after years of planning, so this will see many more people visiting Sandon further enhancing the various clubs and events arranged there during the year
- Small groups of people meet monthly to clean the church and to tidy the churchyard. These can be opportunities to bring people in from the fringe of church to be more engaged and experience working together

A Message from the Diocesan Bishop, Guli Francis-Dehqani



Covering Essex and East London, Chelmsford is one of the largest, most diverse and exciting dioceses in the Church of England. We are home to more than 3 million people representing many socio-economic, ethnic and faith groups and a fantastic variety of cultures and traditions.

We have enormous opportunities for mission and service and considerable challenges to face and resolve as we continue to deal with the long-term implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and global challenges that have a direct impact on our parish churches and the communities we serve.

My sense is that the whole Church of God is in a liminal season when we cannot clearly see the future and so don't quite know what it will look like. But we know that the Church has faced profound challenges in the past and as we look to the future we do so with faith that when we open ourselves up to being changed and transformed, we are best placed to serve God and God's people.

It is within this context and following a period of listening and discernment that started when I became Bishop of Chelmsford in 2021, that we have begun to articulate our future direction of travel as a Diocese with a focus on travelling well together:

Our purpose is to love God and to love our neighbour; to worship faithfully and empowered by the Holy Spirit, witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ as we serve the extraordinarily diverse array of local communities in Essex and East London.

Our approach is to enable and empower parishes and worshipping communities to discern how they are to be God's people in their own very different local contexts and as part of one diocesan family.

Underpinning our approach is an invitation to a way of being articulated by shared diocesan values which might shape how we travel together, support each other and provide mutual accountability.

Since I became Bishop of Chelmsford, I have witnessed people's great warmth and I have seen first hand, the wonderful things going on in our parishes. Any new priest joining us in the Diocese of Chelmsford does so at a time of challenge, a time of change and most significantly a time of hope for our Church in this most diverse and exciting of dioceses.

+Guli
Bishop of Chelmsford

Find out more about our Diocesan Direction of Travel and Values:

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/travelling-well-together

A message from the Archdeacon of Chelmsford

I am delighted you are reading this profile and discerning whether Sandon could be the place God is calling you to minister.

The profile speaks honestly of a community of faith that is at ease with itself and its spiritual life, has strong and established links with the local community and is well equipped with experienced and capable lay leadership who will provide encouragement and support to their new priest.



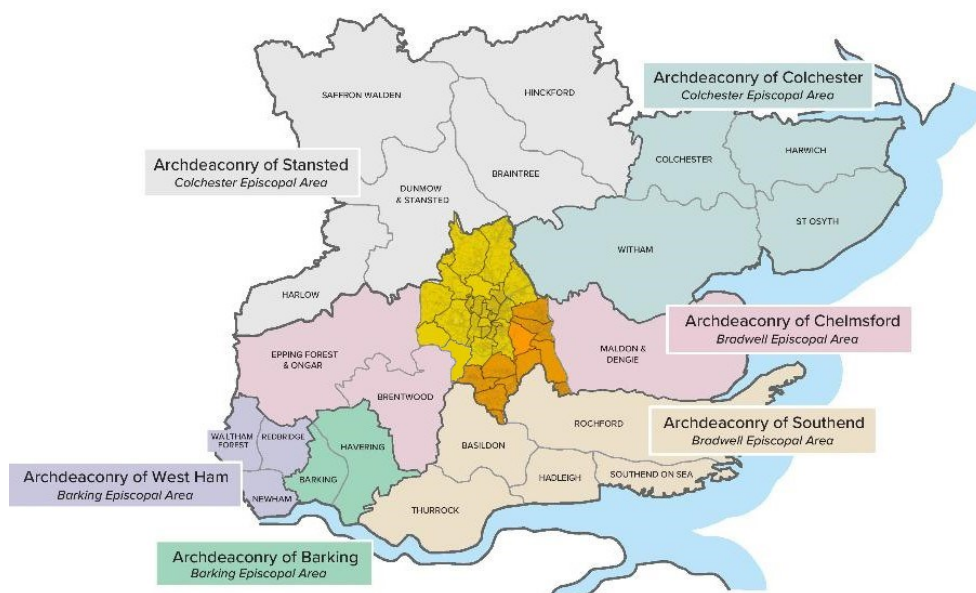
Located just outside the city of Chelmsford, Sandon is part of the large Deanery of Chelmsford that covers the city and a wide radius of surrounding towns and villages. The deanery is supportive and active - and the Compass Group within the deanery provides a smaller and closer community of churches who support one another and pray together.

In the Archdeaconry, and across the Bradwell Area, we are seeking to enable flourishing of our congregations and our clergy as we pursue the vision of Travelling Well Together. We hope as you prayerfully consider this role, you will be confident of a warm welcome and strong support from Bishop Adam and from me, along with clergy colleagues across the deanery.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you would like to discuss the role further,

The Venerable Jonathan Croucher
Archdeacon of Chelmsford

How we fit into the Diocese, the Deanery and other groupings



Sandon is part of the **Compass Group of Churches**, part of the **Chelmsford Deanery**, part of the **Chelmsford Archdeaconry**, part of the **Chelmsford Diocese**.

The coming and goings on at Sandon Church

- Worship every Sunday at 10:00 am currently each month one Sung Communion per month, lay led Worship Together, Morning worship, Agape meals and Songs of Praise
- Average number attending Sunday Worship is 30
- We hold a Tuesday morning Said Communion service every week at 9:30 am. Average attendance of 12 - 18 people
- Monthly Tiny Tots group (although there is often only one tot!)
- One weekly home group comprising 4 - 6 people
- Weekly Wednesday evening prayer meeting via Zoom with an average attendance of 12
- Morning Prayer in the church at 8:30 am on five mornings a week
- The church currently has two ALPs, one pastoral assistant, 9 Eucharistic ministers and several who lead prayers
- We have a small but committed worship planning team



Tea on the Green

- Advent and Lent study groups
- Annual Summer Fayre, Tea on the Green, Christmas Fayre and Beer and Carols
- Pastoral care is informal and offered by many members of the congregation keeping in touch with friends who are unwell and cannot get into church
- Monthly Soup and sandwich lunch in the St Andrew's room attended by 12 - 14 people

More comings and goings

- Various members of the congregation are involved with local schools, food bank, Churches Together in Chelmsford and the local Evangelism Group and charities at home and abroad
- The church is committed to giving away 10% of its income every year to charities nominated by the PCC
- Well established regularly updated church website and Facebook page
- Weekly church newsletter via email with hard copy for those without internet access and a quarterly Parish magazine
- We have been exploring eco initiatives we currently hold an A Rocha silver eco-award

The Parish of Sandon as a mission field and a home

- The Villagers in Sandon support the local church in many ways
- Our local pub The Crown is a good, typical village pub, family run and welcoming. It is the usual starting point on the Village Green where our Annual Walk and Annual Bike Ride start and finish. We have a mutual arrangement so that Pub users can park in the church car park which is close by
- The Village Green is the village centrepiece and is used for our annual 'Tea-on- the Green' plus Songs of Praise event and other special birthday celebrations



The Crown, local public house



Artists on the Green

More of Sandon as a mission field and a home



Village Green Jubilee event

- Another notable event is our Rogation Sunday service held in Cherries Barn in the local farmer's barn



Rogation service at Cherries Barn

- Other village events include money raising by 'The Friends of Sandon Church' whether by quizzes or big bands.



Quiz in the Village Hall



Big Band evening

And more...

- Another feature of life here is the annual walk and annual bike ride which are church initiatives



Annual bike ride



Annual walk

- Other local events include the annual Christmas Fayre and Beer and Carols in the pub



Beer and carols



Christmas Fayre

- Another well supported event is our Patronal Festival where all church helpers over the year, including bell ringers, magazine deliverers, flower arrangers and friends are invited along



Altar flowers



St Andrew's cheese and wine

And more...

- Woods, undulating fields and winding lanes and ideally suited to people who enjoy the countryside, the farming scene and the village way of life
- Our local footpaths are excellent for walkers and dog walkers and we are also lucky enough to be close to the local River Chelmer and the helpful Park and Ride, Sandon
- Apart from the close proximity to the A12 road the overall Parish of Sandon is generally a quiet and peaceful place. It is an area of natural charm with woods, undulating fields and winding lanes and ideally suited to people who enjoy the countryside, the farming scene and the village way of life

Our Buildings

Historically significant Grade 2b listed building and attractive church at the centre of the village of Sandon



**Poppies for
Remembrance
Sunday**



View from the church tower

- St Andrew's is an 11th century church with modern adjoining meeting room and attractive, frequently visited churchyard. The building is in a good state of repair, requiring only minor work from the latest quinquennial of 2023
- Church is open every day for quiet prayer and visitors
- The physical structure of the church is comprised of a main building dating back to 1080 made up of various materials including Hertfordshire pudding stone
- This has been added to with the addition of a more modern annex known as The St Andrew's Room built in keeping with the original church building

Financial view

- We have a treasurer who keeps account of finances and reports to the PCC
- Parish share has been paid in full up to present and we have balanced income and expenditure but with only modest reserves
- We understand that up to now we have been supporting an SSM with no housing costs and so will need to address stewardship with the congregation in the future to raise extra funding
- The village and Friends of Sandon church have been generous in their support of building projects, in 2017/18 assisting with re-tiling of the roof and in 2022 repair, refurbishment and tuning of the 6 church bells, both projects also supported by generous grants. The Friends of Sandon church is now being wound up.
- The PCC administers an ancient charity with a small investment, the interest of which is given to 'the necessitous poor of Sandon', interpreted for nowadays as a few people in need of a little financial help coming up to Christmas
- The PCC are committed to giving 10% of total income to charity, this year split between Marsabit Diocese in Kenya and Christian Aid



Church roof

Where you might live

- There is a house available in The Lintons a small estate a short walk from the church.



Sandon Rectory



View from the front door



Living room



Dining room



Living room



Kitchen