

# Sandon Parish Magazine

**May  
2014  
40p**

'Behold the lilies  
of the field...'



<b>Contents</b>	
<b>May Services</b>	<b>P2</b>
<b>Who's Who</b>	<b>P3</b>
<b>Terry's letter</b>	<b>P4</b>
<b>What is the Gradual?</b>	<b>P5</b>
<b>Sandon Pax</b>	<b>P6</b>
<b>Annual Meetings</b>	<b>P8</b>
<b>Noah Today</b>	<b>P10</b>
<b>Are you a Viking?</b>	<b>P12</b>
<b>Crossword</b>	<b>P14</b>
<b>Quiet Day</b>	<b>P14</b>
<b>Caption Competition</b>	<b>P16</b>
<b>Open Gardens</b>	<b>P17</b>
<b>Sponsored Walk</b>	<b>P18</b>
<b>SAYF report</b>	<b>P19</b>
<b>The King's Speech</b>	<b>P20</b>
<b>Christian Aid Week</b>	<b>P20</b>
<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	<b>P23</b>
<b>WI Report</b>	<b>P24</b>
<b>To Cruise or Not</b>	<b>P26</b>
<b>Parish Person</b>	<b>P28</b>
<b>Plot to Pot</b>	<b>P30</b>
<b>Our Page</b>	<b>P31</b>
<b>Church Contacts</b>	<b>Back</b>

## May Church Services

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 pm

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am

10:00 am

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am

7:30 pm

at Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers  
The Chelmer Crouch Group are coming together  
The music in this service is both wonderful and  
peaceful with times of reflection.

Page 2

## St. Andrew's, Sandon

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Parish Eucharist

Said Holy Communion

Service for the Guild of Sanctuary Servers

CCG Morning Prayer at St John's, Danbury

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Said Holy Communion

Family Service with Baptism

Said Holy Communion

Celtic Morning Prayer

CCG Morning Prayer at All Saints, East Hanningfield

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Parish Eucharist

Said Holy Communion

**Easter 6 Rogation Sunday**

Rogation Service at Cherries Farm, Danbury Park  
(off A414 or Hulls Lane)

Said Holy Communion

Celtic Morning Prayer

**Ascension Day**

CCG Morning Prayer  
at St Andrew's, Sandon

CCG Taizè Service



Sandon Parish Magazine

## Sandon Parish Contacts

Howe Green URC

Revd Jon Sermon Minister 601662

Essex County Councillor

Ian Grundy 01277 840737

Chelmsford City Councillors

Chris Kingsley 223744

Bob Shepherd 223709

Ian Wright 226289

Sandon Parish Councillors

Ron Bullus Chair 473633

Cedric Calmeyer

Darren Chaplin 478325

Martin Cross Vice-Chair 478275

Dee Hyatt 478203

David Pearson 471589

Ron Robbin-Coker 476808

Sue Dobson Clerk 227734

Sandon Village Hall

Julie Fisher Chair & Bookings 475976

Evelyn Ellis Vice-Chair 222682

Nick Bobeldijk Treasurer 471756

St Andrew's Youth Fellowship

Evelyn Ellis 222682

Uniformed Organisations

Susan Little Brownies 01621 840525

Jane Ronaldson Girl Guides 07939 047987

Janet Bernardes Beavers 476830

Jean Blake Cubs 603155

Neville Paul Scouts 474891

Women's Institute

Dorothy Gray 223609

Sandon Sports Club

Graham Lucas 283730

Sandon Parish Magazine

May 2014

Page 3

## Terry's Letter

During the month of May churches throughout the country celebrate Rogation Sunday in different ways. The most traditional way has been to 'beat the bounds' of the parish. Sounds strange doesn't it, but it merely means congregations walking around the boundaries of the parish and praying for local farmers as they go, stopping at the four corners of the parish.

Prayers are said for a good harvest, for the weather to be kind enough to produce enough water and sunshine to produce a good crop; for the animals that are reared on our farms and for all who work in the agricultural industry. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the often forgotten hard work of our farmers, especially in light of the economic climate and the relentless work every day of the year.

Of course, this also gives us a chance to remember that it is not by human hands and endeavours only that we have the means of providing food and work for ourselves – through our prayer we acknowledge God's creation and his continuing help in creating our harvests by providing the rain and sunshine that is needed for growth. (If only

it came in the right proportions I hear our farmers say!)

At St Andrew's we will be having our Rogation Service at 'Cherries Farm, Danbury Park' courtesy of the Speakman family. We hope that many people will come along to join us in thanksgiving to God for our farmers and all their continuing hard work. (Access is either from Hull's Lane or the layby on the A414.)

As Christian communities we are all involved in harvesting; remember Jesus' words 'the harvest is plenty but the labourers are few'. He was of course referring to the potential harvest of souls, ready to be drawn closer to him and enabled to reap the great benefits and blessings of a relationship with him.

We can readily see that if we only look around us at the number of people who are missing out on building that relationship with God. But how do we reach them? Where are all the labourers to help with this great harvest? Well, they are already here amongst us needing just a little encouragement to extend their ministry – they are indeed each one of us already committed to Jesus.

Does it sound a bit scary? It isn't

really; it is just about extending our hospitality to others a little bit more or thinking to accompany people alongside the invitation to come and see Jesus, to hear about him and improve that existing relationship with him. Some people are not aware of that existing relationship with Jesus simply because they haven't accepted the invitation to get to know him better, but he is there already, loving and caring for them and wanting to guide their lives more as he journeys with them. Others have already acknowledged Jesus in their lives but somehow he is still there on the edge of life and not in the centre.

Perhaps you can help someone discover that Jesus really is relevant to their lives, the decisions they make for themselves and their families. Perhaps you can help someone discover that Jesus has already blessed them with family and friends and wants to enhance those relationships even more.

Let us all encourage one another to reap the harvest that awaits our labour through prayer, hospitality and invitation and love for those around us whom Jesus also loves.

May God enable us all to be good labourers for his harvest.

Terry

## The Gradual Hymn

I was asked recently why the second hymn in our Sung Eucharist Service is called the *Gradual*. It is not because it gets slowly louder nor is it intended to get gradually faster!

The name comes from the Latin word *GRADUS* – a step. The hymn (or a psalm) was originally sung before the gospel was read on the altar step. At St Andrew's we now carry the Gospel Book from the altar where it has rested near to the gospel candle, to the chancel step (except that St Andrew's does not have a chancel *step*). This is called the Gospel Procession and is done during the Gradual hymn.

So the Gradual Hymn is sung after the Epistle (or first reading) and before the Gospel reading. Simple isn't it and like so much of our ritual full of history and meaning.

While on the subject of hymns, the Offertory Hymn – our third – is so called because it marks the end of the Ministry of the Word and the beginning of the Eucharist. During this hymn members of the congregation carry up the bread and wine and hand them to the priest to be *offered* to God, hence Offertory Hymn. That we also take the collection at this time is coincidental and, by the way, when this is handed to the priest, a prayer is said but it is not placed on the altar.

I could go on about corporals and lavabo cloths but that is for another day.

Michael Puffett

## Have you seen...

### ...a Small Sign of Peace?

Tucked away in a corner of rural Essex there is a tiny bit of exquisite history. In fact, it is relatively unknown and will not have been seen by many. It is almost unique, being one of only two extant in the country. Five hundred years ago, however, it was one of hundreds that were known by all. Every Sunday it would be first kissed by the Priest, then passed reverently from hand to hand and kissed by each member of the congregation in turn as a sign of peace. It is the Sandon Pax.

I was given the rare privilege of seeing this beautiful object, safely kept in the place where it was used all those years ago. It is a small wooden rectangle, of twenty-six by twenty-three centimetres. The frame is finely carved and was originally gilded, although this has, to a great extent, worn away. Recessed in the centre is a miniature work of art, smaller than a playing card and painted in watercolour on vellum. It shows Christ on the cross, head bowed, with the Latin sign above declaring him to be Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. On his right stands Mary, his mother, and on his left, stands John, into whose protection he gave his mother.

The style of the watercolour has been pronounced as Gothic<sup>1</sup> with decorative pastel colours and highlights in gold, picking out the folds of Mary's robe, the waves of John's idealised hair and the rays of Christ's halo. There is some similarity here with the intricately wrought illuminated manuscripts and Books of Hours of the thirteenth and fourteenth century, the Luttrell and Ormesby Psalters being two such examples. Although this comparison firmly places the Sandon Pax in the Gothic tradition, I would argue that some small flowering of Renaissance form can be seen. The sidelong glance of Mary, her head inclined downwards but subtly turning towards John, shows some understanding of anatomical realism. This is not simply a full frontal, flat image, but one with shadow and depth. Furthermore, Mary's slightly parted lips seem to me to display emotion, something that Renaissance artists were striving to represent at this time. Mary's eyes have been painted non-symmetrically, one slightly larger than the other, a technique used by artists such as Holbein to give character to a face.<sup>2</sup> Although these are small points, they are worth noting. It has been suggested that the artist was French<sup>3</sup> and certainly England

received some Italian Renaissance ideas through a French filter.

The Sandon Pax was created during the reign of Henry VII, a self-pronounced Renaissance Prince and man of letters and culture. His mother Margaret Beaufort was a humanist who founded colleges, patronised art and helped establish chapels. Catholicism was firmly established as the religion of the country, a situation unchanged for hundreds if not a thousand years meaning that the Sandon Pax is, in fact, a Catholic object. It would no doubt have been used throughout the next King's reign too, as Henry VIII was staunchly Catholic on his accession in 1509. Although in 1529, Henry broke from Rome and declared himself to be Supreme Head of the Church, that Church was still Catholic in doctrine and the King, Catholic in belief until his death.

Protestant rumblings began to be felt, however, and at the new King's accession in 1547 everything changed. Edward VI, son of Catholic Henry had

nonetheless been tutored by humanists with Protestant leanings and the nine year old boy was a devout Protestant. The Pax had now become a sign of Papist belief instead of peace and was at risk: Iconoclasm had arrived. Maybe it was at this moment that the precious Sandon Pax was smuggled into the home of a Catholic parishioner to preserve it from the wholesale destruction of idolatrous images. It lay undisturbed for three hundred and sixty years when it was rediscovered in 1910 by the downstairs fireplace of a Tudor cottage in Sandon.<sup>4</sup>

Looking at it now and seeing the wear from the fingernails of hundreds of hands, the evidence of faith from fifty years unbroken use, it strikes me how precious this small sign of peace really is. I cannot entreat you to go and see it for yourself as it is not, as yet, on public display. However, measures are being taken to ensure just that, and I will let you know when this happens.

*Alison Barker*

1 Marks R & Williamson P(eds), *Gothic Art for England, 1400-1547*, V & A Publications, 2003, p.415

2 Foister, *Holbein in England*, Tate, London, 2006, p.54

3 Marks R & Williamson P (eds), 2003, p.415

4 Bush R, *Sandon - A Village History*, 1999, p.26

## Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings for 2014

Annual Vestry Meetings can be dull but this year the main business of electing two Churchwardens for 12 months service was a little more exciting! There were three candidates and Janet Terry and David Farrar were elected by a majority of the 30 attendees present. Thanks were then given to Michael Puffett who was retiring as Churchwarden after four years' service. Michael had ensured the smooth running of the Church Services by calling in many local clergy.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting included reports from most of the Church Officials and Groups, covering finance, fabric (building and churchyard upkeep), bell ringers, choir, youth fellowship magazine, uniformed Groups etc. Ian Underwood our Treasurer advised that our 'excess of payments over our receipts in 2013 was £3,249 compared to £5,657 the previous year. So our financial assets have fallen to just £6,229, including some liabilities and we must somehow improve our income levels to make 'ends 'meet'!! Our Fabric Report, highlighted the need to start saving for a

'major roof repair costing about £31,000 in a time scale of 2-3 years! Other than this the building is considered to be in 'good repair'

The annual church report showed the monthly Family Services had resulted in significantly increased attendances, and then covered 'Outreach' Activities such as BBQs, Annual Walk, Summer Fete, Christmas Fayre, Cheese and Wine Party. Thanks were given to the very many people involved in our various activities. Terry Brown was thanked for his enthusiasm in guiding us on Sundays and many other days of the week that included the Tea and Chat on Tuesdays where he has introduced some new ideas. Our Charity fund raising continued with our support of the Marsabit community in Kenya and other local Charities here in this neighbourhood.

Judy Cecil and Dennis Terry were elected as Deanery Synod members for three years. Guy Speakman, Valerie Grimwood, Nick Bobeldijk and Ian Underwood were elected to the Parochial Church Council. Alison Read was re-elected as 'Child Protection Officer' as was Christine Farrar as 'Vulnerable Adult Officer'.

A motion by Judy Cecil 'That elected PCC members be

eligible despite immediate prior service on the PCC' was approved by a large majority. Terry Brown thanked all of those who had contributed to the Church since his arrival and he gave a wide ranging, encouraging report of his hopes and plans for the future. Terry pointed out that these are the challenges we face:

### Challenges

Finances of our church and the setting up of a Friends Group.

How to serve all the people of Sandon.

How to focus on the needs of families and children

Developing new styles of worship to better serve all those in our parish.

To work closely with baptism families as well as newly married couples.

To introduce ways of keeping in touch with new families via email, card invitation and setting up a church parent for each child.

How to grow in Christian discipleship

Setting up of a nurture group.

How to develop deeper friendships with each other knowing that we can be stronger together

How to value difference and different ideas and

continue to love one another

How to welcome new people. In particular Terry impressed the need for us to increase somehow our personal 'giving' and he introduced plans for the setting up of 'The Friends of Sandon Church' Charity, which with enough local support, drawn mainly from outside the regular attendees at Church, would enable us to cover major fabric problems such as the repair of the Church roof.

This Group's committee is currently formulating its plans and has just had its first meeting. We thank John Willsmer, Richard Speakman and Darren Chaplin for assisting in this project and John for also cutting the Churchyard grass regularly!!

These two meetings were followed by the new PCC's first brief meeting in which the following were appointed: Vice Chairman David Farrar, Treasurer Nick Bobeldijk, Secretary Christine Mennie and Electoral Roll Officer Liz Bobeldijk.

Finally and not before time - this was followed by a 'Bring and Share Lunch' which I thought was just what was needed to complete a tiring but memorable morning!

*David Farrar*

## Noah Today

In the year 2013, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in London and said, "Once again, the earth has become evil and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save 2 of every living thing along with a few good humans." He gave Noah the blueprints, saying, "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark.

"Noah!" He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed."

"I needed a Planning Permission."

"I've been arguing with the Building Inspector about the need for a sprinkler system."

"My neighbours claim that I've violated the local By-Laws by building the Ark in my back garden and exceeding the height limitations.

We had to go to the Local Planning Committee for a decision."

"Then the Local Council and the Electric Company demanded a

## James Bryan

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boat load of money for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it."

"Getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the Greater Spotted Barn Owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!"

"When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA took me to court. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodations were too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space."

"Then the Environment Agency ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood."

"I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equality Rights Commission on how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my building crew."

"Border Control is checking the Visa status of most of the people who want to work."

"The Trades Unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with ark-building experience."

"To make matters worse, HMRC seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species."

"So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

"Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky."

Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The Government beat me to it."

*Submitted by Gill Haddington*

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## THE GIFT OF MUSIC

The singers of **The Lingwood Consort** and **Flautista** are on familiar ground in **Danbury Parish Church** with a recital for small choir and flute ensemble titled **The Gift of Music** on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May**. Beginning at **7:30 pm**, the programme opens with some madrigals focussing on the month of May. This leads into two songs about nightingales including the well-known *A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square*. After some pieces from **Flautista**, the first half continues with a group of folk songs including two favourites, *Early one morning* and *Polly Oliver*. The first half is rounded off with some part songs including Vaughan Williams' lovely *Linden Lea* and ends with a bell-like setting by Charles Wood of Shakespeare's words

*Full fathom five thy father lies.*

At the interval wine and canapés will be served. The second half begins with two songs about music spanning three centuries from Henry Purcell's *If music be the food of love* to John Rutter's *The gift of music*. After a second selection from **Flautista** a collection of songs called Gardens and Flowers includes C.V. Stanford's fine part song *When Mary through the garden went* recounting Mary Magdalene's walk in the garden on the first Easter Day. Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of the First World War the evening concludes with George Dyson's *Three Songs of Courage*.

Tickets priced at £10 include a glass of wine during the interval and may be obtained from Christopher Kingsley on 01245 23744 or on the door.



# John Glynn & Aquila

## In Concert

**Admission Free (no ticket required)**

Charity collection for Christian Aid

**Christ Church Chelmsford URC,**  
164 New London Road, CM2 0AW

**Sunday 11th May, 6.30pm start**

[www.johnglynn.org.uk](http://www.johnglynn.org.uk)

Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Danbury

## Tower & Teas

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2pm—5pm**

Climb to the top of the Church tower to see wonderful views of Essex.

Cream Teas  
Model Railway  
Plants & Produce  
Fun Church and  
Churchyard Quiz





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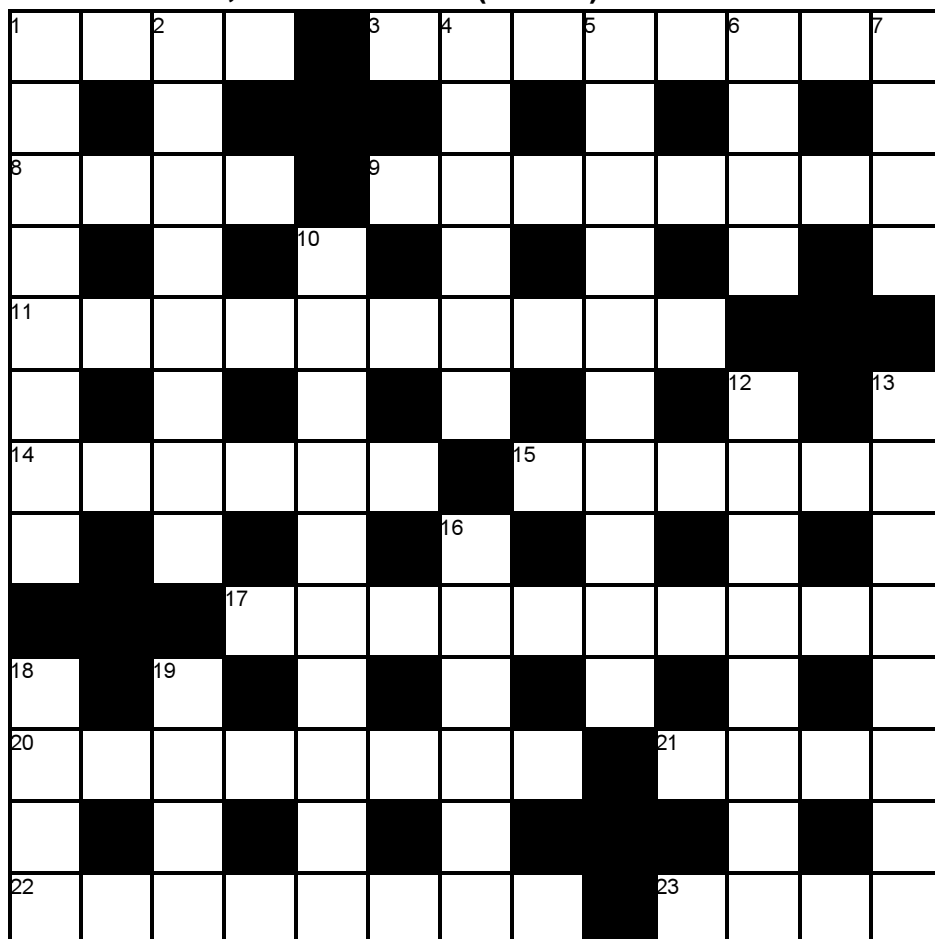
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## Three Down, Nine Across (No 77)



### Chelmer Crouch Group Quiet Day

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June  
10:00 am until 4:00 pm

### Being a Christian in our World Today

Venue - Othona Community  
Bradwell

Cost £20 which includes all refreshments and a hot lunch  
Contact Christine Horton, 01245 466534, for a place  
Deadline for applications for a place 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
Let us make this a well supported occasion in our centenary year!

## Across

- 1 One of Lamech's two wives (*Genesis 4:19*) (4)
- 2 What Paul urged the Christians in Colosse to be in relation to prayer (*Colossians 4:2*) (8)
- 8 He lives in the Vatican (4)
- 9 'If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he — — of God's Church?' (*1 Timothy 3:5*) (4,4)
- 11 Inhabitants of the city whose church was condemned for being lukewarm (*Revelation 3:16*) (10)
- 14 Vigour (*Colossians 1:29*) (6)
- 15 'Though they plot evil against you and — wicked schemes, they cannot succeed' (*Psalms 21:11*) (6)
- 17 Paul tells those with this gift to 'govern diligently' (*Romans 12:8*) (10)
- 20 She prompted her daughter to ask for the head of John the Baptist (*Matthew 14:6*) (8)
- 21 'After the earthquake came a — ' (*1 Kings 19:12*) (4)
- 22 Jesus said that this would be an emotion experienced greatly in the run-up to the end of the age (*Matthew 24:21*) (8)
- 23 'The owl will nest there and lay — , she will hatch them, and care for her young under the shadow of her wings' (*Isaiah 34:15*) (4)

## Down

- 1 Shocked and horrified (*Daniel 8:27*) (8)
  - 2 Commends (*Romans 14:22*) (8)
  - 4 Astonished (*Acts 2:12*) (6)
  - 5 'He who has — hands and a pure — , who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false' (*Psalms 24:4*) (5,5)
  - 6 Defect (*Deuteronomy 17:1*) (4)
  - 7 How the devil is described: 'father of — ' (*John 8:44*) (4)
  - 10 Tertullus described Paul to Felix as 'a — of the Nazarene sect' (*Acts 24:5*) (10)
  - 12 'He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and — upon him' (*Matthew 3:16*) (8)
  - 13 Vulnerable (*Matthew 9:36*) (8)
  - 16 Ladies (anag.) (6)
  - 18 'Through [Christ] to reconcile to himself all things... by making peace through his blood, — on the cross' (*Colossians 1:20*) (4)
  - 19 'He threw his — around him' (*Luke 15:20*) (4)
- By John Capon, from *Three Down, Nine Across* (No 77), published by BRF  
www.brf.org.uk 2008, used by permission  
The first correct entry given to Terry by 27<sup>th</sup> May receives a £10 prize.



## St Andrew's, Sandon

www.sandon-church.info

**Contributions should be sent** to magazine@sandon-church.info or Richard Cecil, Chestnut Cottage, CM2 7RN. Please ensure they are sent by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

### Baptism Register

We have welcomed into God's church in Baptism:

30<sup>th</sup> March

Keira Elizabeth Townsend

13<sup>th</sup> April Alex Christopher Slade

### Burials Register

We have commended into God's care at their funerals:

31<sup>st</sup> March

Alma Rowley

### Wedding Register

We offer our congratulations to:

19<sup>th</sup> April

Joseph Fisher & Mandy White

## Caption Competition



Last month's contributions

Lady facing the camera:

"Speaking as your doctor, I can't stop your friend sucking her thumb - but if it helps her to think..." Geoffrey Griggs

Lady facing the camera: "Yes, we can accommodate slightly older pupils at this school so your daughter can start in the Summer term." Geoffrey Griggs  
"My donation last month to the restoration fund did not work. I still have my wrinkles!" Pat Eden

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# farleigh hospice

caring for life

## Sandon Open Gardens Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>

11am – 5 pm

Gardens in Sandon will again be opening to visitors from across Essex and beyond to raise funds for Farleigh Hospice.

There will be the opportunity to enjoy wonderful cream teas, lunches and a barbeque as well as enjoy the actual gardens. Also on offer will be craft and plant sales and a vintage/classic car display. Nick Tovey is hoping to organise a quarter peel on Sandon's six bells. Free taxi buses will go around the route continuously.

This event has been in the calendar for Sandon village since 2010 and had been organised by Dianne Neal who sadly died last year. We are very pleased that it is to continue. Admission by programme £5 per person (children under 16 free) available from Farleigh Hospice, Meacock & Jones, Estate Agents, Eves Corner, Danbury 01245 222856, Chris & Coral Mann 01245 472504 or any open garden on the day.

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*M.S.S.Ch, M.B.Ch.A*

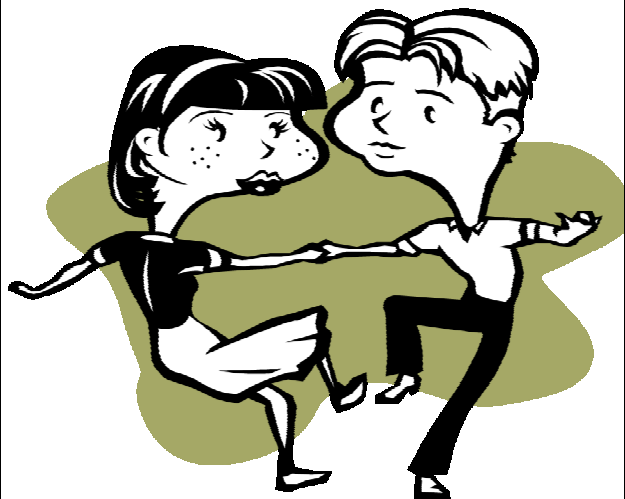
## Visiting Chiropodist

Home visits

for an appointment please  
telephone

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07921 711412



June 21<sup>st</sup> 2014

**DANCE at Sandon Village Hall**

**Dancing to O'Hare & Chambers**

## SANDON VILAGE HALL DANCE

Help raise funds for  
the village hall

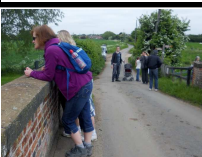
Come along and  
support our dance

Tea, Coffee & Cake  
available bring your  
own drink

## RAFFLE

8:00 pm until  
11:30pm

Contact  
Ray 01245 472386  
for details



## Intervillage Walk

Do join us for a  
Sponsored Circular Walk

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014**

Morning: Sandon to The Cricketers  
Lunch: The Cricketers Pub at 12 noon  
Afternoon: The Cricketers to Sandon

For more detail and sponsor forms  
**contact David Farrar (471484)**

We start at St Andrew's Church car park,  
Sandon at 10:00 am

In aid of St Andrew's Church funds  
and Little Havens Hospice

Morning circa 5 miles  
Afternoon circa 2 miles



## ST ANDREW'S YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 SAYF  
celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday.  
We had a party on Tuesday  
1st April at our last club  
evening before the Easter  
holiday. Present members,  
some past members, friends  
and parents enjoyed party  
games, a sing-a-long and  
blowing out the birthday  
candles. It has been a  
wonderful achievement to  
reach this significant birthday,  
largely due to the untiring  
work of Peter Ellis for 39  
years. We have lots of plans  
for new activities and  
continued drama productions.  
The Youth Fellowship offers a  
safe environment for young  
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## Preparation for Easter

The subject for this year's Lent course at St Andrew's was certainly different. It was based on the film 'The King's Speech' and included relevant Bible readings and meditations.

One could say that the author, Hilary Brand's idea was an inspiration when she compiled "Finding a Voice", producing a book that was thought-provoking and challenging.

Although unable to attend the weekly sessions, which undoubtedly meant missing out on the feedback and discussion from the group members, I was still able to follow the various subjects covered. Some of these were disturbing or worrying whereas others were elating, comforting and encouraging. All were based on various emotions shown in the film as the Duke of York, later King George VI, struggled for years to overcome his impediment with the help of his family and most of all his speech therapist, Lionel Logue. No doubt everyone who participated in the course had varying reactions to the different situations but this little book was packed with punches, a good study and not just for the period of Lent, as we prepare for the Easter Festival.

*Pat Eden*

Those of us who attended the sessions which were well-led by Richard and Judy Cecil and Revd Terry would whole-heartedly agree with this. Although it was not always easy to empathise with a 'Royal', headings like 'The stuff of

nightmares' and 'No short cuts' might indicate the path that the study took. A different but worthwhile course. *Michael Puffett*

## Christian Aid Week 11-17 May

"By acting together we will make a huge difference to people living in poverty." These words on a Christian Aid poster stood out and hit me. Why? A few years ago – five maybe – this parish raised over £1100 to say to those living in fear "You are not alone, we're alongside you."

Last year we raised £106 – less than two Sunday service collections. The reason for this fall is not that we don't care but is that we are an aging congregation at St Andrew's and too few in numbers to carry out the house-to-house collections that were so successful in the past.

I will enclose an envelope in this May magazine: please think of the plight of people living in places like South Sudan. Ask yourself "Who is my neighbour?" and say "We're helping you to rebuild your lives, working for peace."

Churches together in Chelmsford raised over £40,000 last year. How can we help? Bring your envelope to church, or put it in the wall safe, or hand it in to me or to Revd Terry Brown. However small your donation it will help to lift communities out of the cycle of poverty. Thank you.

*Michael Puffett*

*Christian Aid Coordinator*

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## Sandon Village Hall Committee of Management AGM

The Village Hall AGM is to be  
held on Monday May 19<sup>th</sup>  
8:00pm in the Village Hall.

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## Rogation Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup>

On the Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May there will be no service in church as we will be worshipping at 10:00 am in a Barn at 'Cherries Farm, Danbury Park' courtesy of the Speakman family. PLEASE SHARE CARS AND ENCOURAGE ALL TO COME. On this occasion we will be joined by our uniformed organisations. There will be refreshments following the service.

**Directions:** you will find the barn off the Main Road (A414) between Well Lane and Hulls Lane. (The same venue as 'Lambing Live') BRING A FOLD UP CHAIR if you wish, hay bales will also be available.

**Further details available from: Revd Terry Brown**

## Jumble Sale

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## Men's Breakfast



We are delighted to welcome  
Bishop of Bradwell  
Right Revd John Wraw  
to our Men's Breakfast  
on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May

We will be meeting at the Crown  
at 8:30 am  
for a full English Breakfast  
followed by a time to grill the  
Bishop.

Please contact  
Terry by email  
[tgabrown@hotmail.com](mailto:tgabrown@hotmail.com)  
or [dennis.terry@talktalk.net](mailto:dennis.terry@talktalk.net)

We know this will be a popular  
event so please book no later  
than Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May

Please accept our apologies that  
the April breakfast did not take  
place

## Teacher always Right?

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, 'Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.' 'Yes,' the class said. 'Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?' A little fellow shouted, 'Cause your feet ain't empty, Miss.'

*Submitted by David Farrar*



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## Sandon WI Report

Our March speaker Oggie Weldon told us all about the business she set up making beautiful hats for ladies to wear at weddings, going to the races, garden parties, special occasions and purely just for pleasure. She brought along a wonderful display of her wares and showed us how she makes a crown for a hat and embellishes it. It was great fun to go up during the tea break to have a closer look at the hats. Several members had made superb pill box hats for the competition and Frances Fremont was the lucky winner. Those who had been to the County Annual Meeting had a thoroughly enjoyable day and said that both Carol Bundock

and Michael Portillo were excellent speakers. Our May meeting will be our Annual Meeting and we will discuss the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) Resolutions concerning Organ Donation, as well as asking WI members for their help in running Sandon WI. The Organ Donation Resolution is being proposed by Standon & Cotes Heath WI in Staffordshire and its wording goes, "The NFWI notes that three people die every day whilst waiting for an organ transplant. We call on every member of the WI to make their wishes regarding organ donation known, and to encourage their families and friends, and members of their local communities to do

likewise." See Editor's notes opposite.

The Keep Fit Group meets on Monday mornings at 10 am in the Village Hall. Come and join us then or on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 2 pm in Sandon Village Hall. We have a good time and you would be very welcome.

*Dorothy Gray*

## Organ Donation

The briefing notes from NFWI state, "The UK's consent rate is one of the lowest in Europe - last year, four in ten families said no to allowing their loved one's organs to be donated, even in cases when that person was on the Organ Donation Register. The reluctance to discuss organ donation and end of life care has led to the NHS to call for a 'revolution in consent' for organ donation in the UK." It continues later, "Families are crucial in the transplant system. But most families are only faced with the burden of making a decision about donation at a very distressing time; with a range of factors underpinning any decision about organ donation, the decision is often complex, and the reluctance of many to proceed is understandable. The NHS has worked hard to

improve its approach to families and increase the support and information given to them to mitigate the effects of shock and grief upon decision-making. It is possible for family members to make an organ donation decision on behalf of the deceased, or to overrule the deceased's decision:

"People can become donors without having officially registered their wishes first if their family gives consent (last year 1,200 people became donors this way) "Family members can stop deceased people becoming donors even if they had registered their wishes to donate. 115 families did this last year."

*Editor*

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## To Cruise or Not To Cruise—That is the Question!

We were stopped in our tracks when two friends asked us to join them for a week's cruise in the Mexican Gulf and West Caribbean. They were planning to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary! Having always said that cruising was only for 'old people' this presented on the one hand a difficult decision and the other hand an opportunity not to be missed! We said 'yes' since we are now in the older people category! Our Cruise Ship 'Carnival Legend' started out from Tampa, Florida, starting with a full day at sea! However there were plenty of optional interactive things to do but we selected 'sunbathing and eating'! There were many choices for breakfast and also for lunch ranging over Carvery, Deli, French, Chinese, Salad Bar, Italian, Pizza etc. In addition, all day there was self-service ice creams and other foods. Dinner was a three course, more formal affair with excellent selections



*Mahogany Bay, Roatan Island, Honduras*



*A tough cruising day!*

and interesting variety of waiters. Needless to say there were a large number of significantly over-weight people on board! One could eat day and night non-stop! I felt myself gradually slipping into the overweight category! There were about 2,000 passengers and 1,000 crew on board and the ship had 12 decks with our cabin on deck 6 with a very nice balcony overlooking the sea. Other than a slight tremor the ships stabilisers kept everything solid below my feet!

Our steward Nelson was brilliant and kept us supplied with everything needed. The daily news sheet reminded everyone that it was a 'Fun Ship'

and there were plenty of activities to ensure that this would happen. Communication was excellent! For those needing activity there was crazy golf on the upper deck, basketball, 2 flumes, a large gym with Jacuzzi, a running track, Family Shows, quizzes, karaokes, discos etc etc. In addition there was almost a complete deck for gambling at slot machines,

blackjack and roulette. It was easy enough not to get involved with any of this and chill out on one's balcony! We stopped at the island of Cozumel, off the coast of the Mexican Yucatan Peninsula. We visited 'Ocean Beach' but as there were three other ships in port the beaches were packed. After an overnight cruise we visited Belize in Central America and went on an organised visit. Some 200 miles away, we arrived at Roatan Island's Mahogany Bay, and a private beach owned by the Cruise Company. We found an idyllic spot to lie and drink G and T's and survey the ship parked nearby. It was a very tough and energetic day! Then to Grand Cayman Island where we took a tour bus, visiting a place called 'Hell' where one could get suitably titled postcards to send home incorporating pictures of the Devil. The area is home to some strange looking igneous rocks caused by volcanic action. There is hope for the Grand Cayman people however—they still drive on the left which upsets the main visitors from the USA! Finally we cruised back to Tampa. We had a wake up call

to meet the USA immigration officials at 7:30 am before we disembarked. They were quick and efficient and let us back into the USA again!

**In summary**, my first cruise gave me a different type of week with interesting sights and sounds and a different view for most days! Before we set out friends asked me to do a frank report giving the pros and cons: so here goes!

**The pros** were the food, sights, people, new places, the sea environment (my first frigate bird and flying fish), an excellent crew and the reasonable cost (\$1,800 for two, all inclusive bar alcoholic drinks and for 7 days cruising).

**The cons** were the large number of people on board and at all of the sites visited and the ship's décor which was a little garish. The captain, was Italian I think—a little worrying! (Remember that ship colliding with rocks in the Med. on a 'fly-by' or 'wave-by'!). We had a calm and restful time for the whole week— and I am a bad sailor! I plead to your good natures to take all of the comments above with a slight 'pinch of salt'!!

*David Farrar*



## 'PARISH PEOPLE'



### 'PARISH PEOPLE'

Full name: My name is Greta Joyce Mills

Known as: Greta (pronounced as 'better')

When did you arrive in Sandon? We came in 1938.

What was the reason you came? My father built us a new bungalow and we moved from Danbury to Sandon at that time. Did you have any ambitions as a child? I wanted to marry and have a family.

Do they remotely resemble anything you do now? Well yes as I do have grandchildren now. What one life lesson do you feel you have learned? I think over the years I have learned how important it is to give and take. How did you become a Christian? I think it started as a habit and soaked in, as I was always sent to church and

Sunday school from the age of 8 years.

What do you like about Sandon Church? I find it friendly and there are not too many people. You can get to know each other and not get lost in the crowd. Do you believe in miracles? Yes, I do.

What do you hope for the future? I hope to keep well and continue to be able to get about to shop and meet friends.

Outgoing or shy? I think of myself as outgoing.

Coffee or tea? I enjoy tea rather than coffee.

What life experiences have been most special for you? My special memories are of marrying and having children and now enjoying my grandchildren.

A film or book that has moved you? I was moved by 'Father Tom'.

What is your favourite part of the Bible? I enjoy the New Testament, rather than the Old.

What quality do you most value in another person? I really value honesty in other people and being able to trust people I have dealings with.

What kind of behaviour do you find most difficult to tolerate? I dislike bad manners and also bad language and I find both difficult to put up with.

Night or morning person? I am a morning person.

Which season do you prefer? I prefer the Spring. A moment when you felt the presence of God? I felt God was with me when I lost my daughter. (When I was talking with Greta about this I was amazed at her resilience with no sense of bitterness. Jeanette died during an ambulance drivers' strike and so it took too long to get help to her. She was only 30 years old at the time. Greta's

husband, Donald, died grief stricken about 18 months later. Editor) Favourite hymn? I always feel moved by hearing 'Abide with me'. Do you believe religion and politics should be kept separate? I do believe these should be kept separate.

Do you have friends from other faiths? I do have friends who have faiths different from mine. If you could donate a large sum to a charity which would you choose? I would choose the Parkinson's disease society as they do such good work. If you could save one thing that you own from a fire, what would it be? I would try to save my bible.

What advice would you give to an 18 year old? I would advise them to be honest and suggest they always try to respect other people, especially the elderly. What moment of your life would you most like to relive? I think the moment my first grandchild was born. What age would you most like to be? I would like to be forty again. Any special interests? I enjoy reading.

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Greta's brother-in-law is listed on the War Memorial in the church at Sandon. He was Alexander Leslie Mills, who died in August 1944 He was born in Essex. Whilst serving with the Royal Army Service Corps he caught malaria in

Burma. He was transferred to India along with 402 others. It was in India that he died along with 2 others. He is shown as L A Mills on the War Memorial. I have been amazed at Greta's ability to cope with all sorts of difficulties and how her response has so often been to go out and help her neighbour with a cup of tea or to prepare a meal for them. Thank you Greta for all you have done and taught us.

*Editor*

## Plot to Pot

*"In every gardener there is a child who believes in The Seed Fairy."*  
Robert Brault

The days grow longer and warmer into May and at last the seeds of tender vegetable plants can be sown. Beans can now be sown directly outside with less risk of frost damage.

French beans are very easy to grow, pick and prepare for cooking.

There are two types: dwarf bush varieties and climbers. Dwarf bush beans grow into small bushy plants about 45cm/18" tall.

Climbers produce more beans per plant and will require some support.

Whichever type you choose to grow, they prefer a warm, sunny, fertile soil and respond well to the addition of

organic material. The seeds are planted 5cm/2" deep at about 15-20 cm/6-8" apart. Add a wigwam of bamboo canes to support the climbing varieties. Bush types should be planted in blocks or in rows. Cover with fleece if there is any indication of frost. We have grown 'Blue Lake Climbing' and 'Purple Queen' dwarf varieties. The purple French beans are easier to see to pick but will turn a dark green when cooked.

Runner beans require little effort but produce an abundant crop for a long period. Children love sowing the seeds and watching them grow as the results are so spectacularly quick to see. There are many varieties on the market and it simply a question of taste. As well as tall climbing varieties, dwarf forms are now available. We grow 'Painted Lady'. This is a variety that we first saw grown in the vegetable garden at The Lost Gardens of Heligan in

2000. It has bicoloured flowers and produces beans of a medium length. Other varieties with white and red flowers are also available. Bamboo canes or bean poles should be placed in the ground first to provide support either as a wigwam or as a ridge frame. Two seeds per cane should be planted near the base of each cane,

so the seedlings can start to wind their way up the supports as soon as they are needed.

Apart from protecting from slugs and snails and watering during dry weather, the bean plants should require little attention until harvesting time. Regular picking will encourage more beans to develop. The perfect crop to share with your family and friends.

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## NOR - PUZZLE

All the answers start with the letters NOR. Answers at the bottom of the page.

What NOR is....

1. The language of the Vikings.
2. A compass point.
3. Three English counties.
4. A country.
5. A man's name and a style of church building.
6. The town where Julian lived.
7. It's not unusual.

What do you get if you cross a Viking and a detective?

What do Eric the Red and Winnie the Pooh have in common?



Answers on Page 21

## JULIAN of NORWICH

Julian was a woman who lived in Norwich, and in 1373, on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, she had a series of visions of Jesus that were so important to her that she spent the next 20 years learning to read and write so that she could share these visions with others. Imagine the hard work and trouble that must have caused because it was very rare for any woman to read and write at that time, let alone an unimportant countrywoman. Julian lived most of her life in a small room that joined onto one wall of St Julian's Church in Norwich. And you can actually visit the room (it was bombed during the Second World War but rebuilt).

Dame Julian wrote about the love of God and you can still read her book 'The Revelations of Divine Love' today. The book ends with the words "before God made us, he loved us". Before we were born, God chose us for the work we are to do. And as we know, God doesn't make mistakes. He chose you and me, and he loves us. What a wonderful promise!



## Saint Andrew's Parish Church Contacts

Priest-in-Charge	Rev. Terry Brown* <a href="mailto:tgabrown@hotmail.com">tgabrown@hotmail.com</a>	698988
Church Wardens	Michael Puffett* till May 15 <sup>th</sup>	222066
	Janet Terry*	472997
	David Farrar* from May 15 <sup>th</sup>	471484
PCC Secretary	Christine Mennie*	281305
PCC Treasurer	Nick Bobeldijk*	471756
Child Protection	Alison Read	474858
Vulnerable Adults	Christine Farrar	471484
Electoral Roll	Liz Bobeldijk	471756
Organist	Ron Woods	268304
Bell Ringing	Nick Tovey	472692
Tiny Tots	Alison Read	474858
Magazine Editor	Richard Cecil	224747
Parochial Church Council Members	as * above and Judy Cecil, Valerie Grimwood, Dennis Terry.	

## Regular Activities

Sundays	08:00 am	On 8 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> of month only Holy Communion (Traditional)
	10:00 am	Parish Eucharist except on 8 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> of the month Family Service
Tuesdays	9:30 am	Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Tea/Coffee and Chat
	6:30 pm	St Andrew's Youth Fellowship (term time only)
	7:45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Wednesdays	9:30 am	Celtic Morning Prayer (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> of month)
	1:00 pm	Tiny Tots (term time only)
Fridays	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Page 32	May 2014	Sandon Parish Magazine