

Sandon Annual Reports 2025

Contents

Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings 2024.....2

Electoral Roll Report.....4

Annual Report4

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2024.....9

Safeguarding.....15

Fabric Report16

Deanery Synod Report16

Compass Churches Report.....17

Christians Together in Chelmsford.....17

Bell Ringing Report.....17

Bible Reading Notes.....18

St. Andrew’s Choir & Music18

Magazine Report18

Churchyard.....19

Holy Dusters19

Soup and Sandwich Lunches.....19

Friends of Sandon Church19

Annual Village Walk and Bike Ride20

Howe Green Chapel.....20

1st Sandon Scout Group.....21

Tiny Tots Toddler Group21

Church Flowers: Festivals and Events.....21

Church Flowers: Flower Rota.....22

2025 Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings.....23

Agenda for 2025 Annual Vestry Meeting.....23

Agenda for 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting23

Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings 2024

The meetings were held in St Andrew's Church, Sandon on Sunday 14th April 2023 at 11:30 am

Minutes for 2024 Annual Vestry Meeting

- 1 Opening prayers were said by Revd Terry Brown.
- 2 Appointment of Clerk. Judy Cecil was appointed.
- 3 Apologies had been received from John Gruby
Present: Nick Bobeldijk, Liz Bobeldijk, Terry Brown, Judy Cecil, Richard Cecil, David Farrar, Mike Harris, Gill Haddington, Andy Horne, Cathie Horne, Brenda Moyse, Janet Terry, George Turner, Eileen Bartrup, James Valentine, Alison Read, Christine Mennie, (17 church members).
- 4 Approval of the minutes of 2024 Annual Vestry Meeting Proposed by David Farrar, seconded by Christine Mennie, and agreed by all.
- 5 Election of two Churchwardens
Richard Cecil had been proposed by Christine Mennie and Andy Horne and Andy Horne had been proposed by Judy Cecil and Christine Mennie and they were duly elected.
- 6 Date of Next Meeting: provisionally Sunday 6th April 2025 at 11:30 am

Minutes of 2024 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 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
These were proposed by Christine Mennie, seconded by David Farrar, and agreed by all.
- 4 Reports
 - 4.1 Electoral Roll Report. Thirty-eight within Sandon Parish and thirty outside making a total of sixty-eight. Liz Bobeldijk was thanked for her work with this.
 - 4.2 Annual Report. Terry commended this report whose adoption was proposed by Andy Horne, seconded by Janet Terry, and all agreed.



- 4.3 Financial Report. Nick pointed out a minor error in the figures and gave a brief report. The Parish Giving scheme works well and more people will be encouraged to use it, via the weekly email. Nick reported that a new digital giving terminal had been agreed by the diocese free of charge and will arrive in June. There will be a small monthly cost. Hopefully, this can also be used for the fete. Terry thanked Nick for his work as treasurer.
- 4.4 Fabric Report was noted. Richard and Andy were thanked for their work.
- 4.5 Deanery Synod Report was noted. Terry thanked Judy. The Compass churches report was noted, and Terry thanked Alison.
- 4.6 Christians Together in Chelmsford. The report was noted. Terry thanked Richard.
- 5 Election of PCC Members
Janet Terry was proposed by Gill Haddington and Mike Harris and was duly elected.
- 6 Appointment of Compass Churches representative. Alison Read agreed to continue and was confirmed in this post.
- 7 Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer.
Liz Bobeldijk has agreed to continue and was confirmed in this post.
- 8 Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer.
Alison Read had agreed to continue and was confirmed in this post.
- 9 Appointment of Independent Examiner. Nick had thanked Jeremy Watson for his work this year and he has agreed to do this again next year.
- 10 Reports from organisations were noted.
- 11 Richard proposed that we agree to the churchwarden term of office being a maximum of 6 years rather than the 4 years which the St Andrew's annual meeting agreed around 12 years ago. The national maximum is 6 years except if the PCC agree to change this. So, Richard Cecil proposed, David Farrar seconded, and all agreed to the term of office maximum of 6 years.
- 12 Rector's Report:
Terry noted this is his last time as Chair of our annual meetings. An emotional time. He thanked Churchwardens, PCC, including secretary and treasurer, our organist Cathie and choir, bell ringers especially Mike

Worboys and Smurf as they have been teaching youngsters. He thanked Richard for producing the magazine and would like a copy posted to him. Also, Richard, Judy, Andy, and Suzy Edmondson, for leading Lent and Advent courses and Alison, Gill, Janet, and Dessi for Tiny Tots. So many other things to be thankful for: Flower arrangers led by Lesley Worboys and Janet Underwood, Alison for safeguarding, Nick for sacristan, Liz for electoral roll and the 'Friends' helping with fundraising. We have enjoyed Tea on the Green with the Salvation Army band and regular visits to Baycroft care home to take communion and for a chat, as well as monthly soup and sandwich lunches here in church. We have encouraged prayer with the prayer diary and using the book for prayer requests. The Community choir has restarted this year, and we are looking to Eco church silver award with a new group. So much to be thankful for.

So into a vacancy in June with more work especially for churchwardens and PCC, and maybe some compromises but a time for growth to nurture new green shoots. God's grace is with us and life in the spirit is about connecting with God and community. In the last years we have learned a lot and laid the groundwork for the future. It has been a pleasure to lead at St Andrew's and I thank God that he has worked with us and is working with us now and for the future.

Terry ended with prayer.

Date of Next Meeting: provisionally Sunday 6th April 2025 after the Annual Vestry Meeting

Richard thanked Terry acknowledging this had been a difficult report to give. George thanked Terry too.

The meeting ended at 12.30pm

Electoral Roll Report

Here are the numbers for the electoral roll: In Parish 25, Outside Parish 25., giving a total of 50.

Liz Bobeldijk

Annual Report

Aims and Purposes

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



Objectives and Activities

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

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

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

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

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

Achievements and Performance

Over the last year we have continued moving slowly forward as a church. Some initiatives have been successful, some less so depending on the criteria used for measuring that success. An activity afternoon was planned for children during the Autumn Half-term holiday. However it was only attended by one child. Regrettably we therefore took the decision to not have an activity afternoon during the Easter Holiday 2025.

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

Since the retirement of the Rev Terry Brown we have had to make some slight adjustment to services at St Andrew's. We have maintained a Sung Eucharist on the first Sunday of every month, thanks to the commitment of Rev Hugh Dibbens who has officiated at each service and then run a post service discussion group. The second Sunday has been a Worship Together service, on the third Sunday we



have held Agape Meals and Morning Worship has been held on the fourth Sunday of each month. On the rare occasions when there has been a fifth Sunday, we have held a Songs of Praise service. The only service discontinued was the monthly 8:00 am said communion service. Thanks to the help of many local clergy, in particular Rev Carol Ball, Tuesday morning said communion services have continued most weeks with a congregation numbering in the teens. 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. Remembrance Sunday was marked as usual, with the local Beavers Cubs and Scouts in attendance.

Christmas services were very well attended, although some adjustment had to be made to accommodate lack of clergy. To this end we held a very successful crib service, and Christmas Morning Eucharist at which the Bishop of Bradwell officiated. However we were unable to hold a Midnight service in 2025. Since the start of May 2024 a group of us have been meeting for Morning Prayer, initially every day of the week for one hundred days and then continuing five days a week. 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.

Adjustments were made for Easter 2025. It was decided that we would hold Stations of the Cross on two mornings and that on Good Friday morning the congregation would be encouraged to attend the event in Chelmsford Town Centre. On Good Friday afternoon the Last Hour at the Cross would include a reading of The Passion. On Easter Sunday we plan to hold a Sunrise service and the Archdeacon of Chelmsford will officiate at the 10:00 am Easter Sung Eucharist.

This year we have run two courses for those wishing to deepen their understanding of Christianity. During Advent 2024 we ran a course based on the Sermon on the Mount and in particular the Lord's Prayer which was well attended. During Lent 2025 we planned and ran a course based on material from the Diocese of Gloucester entitled: Loved and Liked.

Since the retirement of Rev Terry Brown, Richard Cecil and Andrew Horne, both authorised as Local Preachers, have preached regularly on Sundays, alternately once and twice each month. Other members of the congregation have also helped with planning and leading services. The only Sunday on which a priest leads and preaches is currently the first Sunday of each month.

Tea on the Green was a great success again in 2024 with the Salvation Army providing not only the music but the preacher as well. As a bonus Rev Hugh

Dibbens gave a very inspiring extra talk to whet our appetites for future services. This rounded off a truly wonderful afternoon.

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.

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.

Pastoral Care

The monthly Soup and Sandwich lunchtime meal has continued throughout the winter months. 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 home.

Mission and Evangelism

In June this year there was another excellent Parish Walk and Cycle ride both organised by David Farrar. 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 at least 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. 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 six times during the year i.e., January to December 2024 with an average level of attendance of 80%. Thank you to our electoral roll officer and our Parish Safeguarding officer.

Administrative Information

St. Andrew's Church is situated by The Green, Sandon. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. Our correspondence address is: - c/o Chestnut Cottage, Butts Green, Sandon, Chelmsford, CM2 7RN

PCC Members who have served this year are:

Incumbent: Rev Terry Brown (to 2nd 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 2022 for 3 years

Mr David Farrar elected in 2023 for 3 years

Mr John Gruby (to 27th November 2024)

Mrs Christine Mennie elected in 2023 for 3 years

Mrs Alison Read elected in 2023 for 3 years



	Mrs Janet Terry elected in 2022 for 2 years
PCC Secretary:	Mrs Judy Cecil
PCC Treasurer	Mr Nick Bobeldijk
Standing Committee:	
Churchwardens, Secretary and PCC member	Alison Read
Bank:	Lloyds TSB, Chelmsford Branch
Examiner:	Jeremy Watson

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Total receipts from all sources for the year were £45,871.80 of which £3,341.00 was unrestricted voluntary donations qualifying for Gift Aid in addition to donations received through the Parish Giving Scheme. The donations made through PGS decreased by some £611, or 4%, which was mainly due to the withdrawal of one anonymous donor early in the year. Gift Aid due to the end of November was claimed from HMRC in December. Gift Aid due under the Small Donations Scheme up to the same date was also claimed at that time.

Planned giving, through envelopes and direct credits, decreased by £537 (18%) although total income, including tax recovered, only decreased by 4% compared with 2023. Fundraising during the year totalled £4,789.17 with the quiz night in January raising £965, the Summer Fete raising £1,523.71 and the Christmas Fayre £2,230.46, these figures being gross receipts.

Notable changes in income were a marked decrease in Gift Aided donations, down by £1,025 and a decrease in Parochial Fees of £1,141 for obvious reasons, A total of £43,089.49 was spent from all sources to provide the Christian ministry of St Andrew's church, including our payment towards the Diocesan Parish Share which was £2,464.08 less than in 2023. Overall, our total expenses increased marginally by 1% compared to 2023.

Generally, expenses incurred remain manageable. Spending on Mission was 12% of 2023 total income at £5,776.58 while Churchyard expenses decreased this year, possibly due to the inclement weather! Other notable changes in expenditure include £2,630 spent on building maintenance, mainly electrical work, miscellaneous spending of £907 mainly related to Terry's retirement and an increase in our electricity costs of some £571. Minor remedial work was also undertaken on the roof in April amounting to £1,881 but this was funded by the Friends of Sandon Church plus a re-claim of the VAT involved. The net result for 2024 is a surplus of £2,782.31 or 6% of our total income, which remains a reasonably healthy result.

The bank and deposit balances carried forward as at 31st December totalled £46,234.48 including £20,000 held as fixed term deposits maturing in May 2025 and a further £20,000 (plus interest accrued) held in two ‘notice’ accounts of 32 and 95 days’ notice respectively which were opened during the year. Of the overall total, some £12,092 is classed as restricted funds including one of the fixed term deposit accounts although this account is not shown as restricted funds in these accounts.

Nick Bobeldijk, Treasurer 14th January 2025

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior year Total Funds
Receipts				
Donations and legacies	£34,857.57	—	£34,857.57	£35,887.27
Income from charitable activities	£4,295.00	—	£4,295.00	£5,436.01
Other trading activities	£5,842.02	—	£5,842.02	£5,124.86
Investments	£854.56	—	£854.56	£1,286.66
Other income	£22.65	—	£22.65	—
Total receipts	£45,871.80	—	£45,871.80	£47,734.80
Payments				
Raising funds	£611.55	—	£611.55	£228.46
Expenditure on charitable activities	£39,233.79	—	£39,233.79	£41,366.75
Other expenditure	£3,244.15	—	£3,244.15	£963.20
Total payments	£43,089.49	—	£43,089.49	£42,558.41
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	£2,782.31	—	£2,782.31	£5,176.39
Transfers				
Gross transfers between funds - in	£5,603.05	£5,612.16	£11,215.21	£16,229.29
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£5,612.16)	(£5,603.05)	(£11,215.21)	(£16,229.29)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains / losses	£2,773.20	£9.11	£2,782.31	£5,176.39
Net movement in funds	£2,773.20	£9.11	£2,782.31	£3,502.21
All assets at 01 January 2024	£43,356.28	(£11,997.05)	£31,359.23	£27,857.02
All assets at 31 December 2024	£46,129.48	(£11,987.94)	£34,141.54	£31,359.23

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Current assets			
6501	Current Account	£741.01	£782.49
6505	Instant Access Deposit Account	£5,000.00	£22,500.00
6508	Fixed Term Deposit Accounts	£20,000.00	£20,000.00
6510	Cash In Hand	£33.78	£73.79
6520	Deposits Paid	£105.00	£105.00
6530	Notice Deposit Accounts	£20,354.69	—
	Total Current assets	£46,234.48	£43,461.28



Liabilities

6610	Building Maintenance Fund	—	—
6620	Diocesan Board of Finance	£148.00	£164.00
6630	Cutting Garden Funds	£327.50	£327.50
6640	Treasurer's Expenses	—	—
6650	Friends of Sandon Church	—	—
6655	John & Agnes Stevyns and John Perry Charity	£6,481.94	£6,481.94
6656	Mrs Mary Christina Pearsons Bequest	£888.31	£859.98

Class and code

	Description	This year	Last year
6657	Sandon Stevyns and John Perry Charity	£3,207.27	£3,104.98
6660	Rector's Fees & Expenses	£34.00	£235.00
6665	Soup & Sandwich Lunches	£62.08	£92.53
6670	Sponsored Flowers	£822.32	£714.60
6680	Tiny Tots	£121.52	£121.52
	Total Liabilities	£12,092.94	£12,102.05

Net Asset surplus(deficit)

£34,141.54 **£31,359.23**

Reserves

	Excess / (deficit) to date	£2,782.31	£20,484.80
Z01	Starting balances	£31,359.23	£12,548.61
Z02	Other gains/(losses)	—	(£1,674.18)
	Total Reserves	£34,141.54	£31,359.23
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	£46,129.48	£43,356.28
	Restricted	(£11,987.94)	(£11,997.05)
	Total	£34,141.54	£31,359.23

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Restricted	This year	Last year
Current assets – Monetary				
Current Account -	£741.01	—	£741.01	£782.49
Instant Access Deposit Account -	£5,000.00	—	£5,000.00	£22,500.00
Fixed Term Deposit Accounts -	£20,000.00	—	£20,000.00	£20,000.00
Cash In Hand -	£33.78	—	£33.78	£73.79
Notice Deposit Accounts -	£20,354.69	—	£20,354.69	—
Totals	£46,129.48	—	£46,129.48	£43,356.28
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 -	—	£6,481.94	£6,481.94	£6,481.94
Mrs Mary Christina Pearsons Bequest -	—	£888.31	£888.31	£859.98
Sandon Stevyns Charity -	—	£3,207.27	£3,207.27	£3,104.98
Totals	—	£10,577.52	£10,577.52	£10,446.90
Liabilities - Due within 1 year				
Diocesan Board of Finance -	—	£148.00	£148.00	£164.00



Cutting Garden Funds -	—	£327.50	£327.50	£327.50
Rector's Fees & Expenses -	—	£34.00	£34.00	£235.00
Soup & Sandwich Lunches -	—	£62.08	£62.08	£92.53
Sponsored Flowers -	—	£822.32	£822.32	£714.60
Tiny Tots -	—	£121.52	£121.52	£121.52
Totals	—	£1,515.42	£1,515.42	£1,655.15
Grand total		£46,129.48	(£11,987.94)	£34,141.54
				£31,359.23

Analysis of receipts and payments

	Total	Total
Unrestricted	This year	Last year

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Donations and legacies

Collections - Gift Aided	£360.00	£360.00	£767.00
Direct Credits - Gift Aided	£2,156.00	£2,156.00	£2,306.00
Donations - Gift Aided	£825.00	£825.00	£1,970.00
Direct Credits - Non Gift Aided	£2,870.00	£2,870.00	£1,820.00
Donations - Non Gift Aided	£1,828.57	£1,828.57	£1,437.95
Parish Giving Scheme	£15,390.03	£15,390.03	£16,001.47
Small Donations Scheme	£5,221.42	£5,221.42	£5,039.17
Gift Aid Recovered	£6,206.55	£6,206.55	£6,545.68
Total	£34,857.57	£34,857.57	£35,887.27

Income from charitable activities

Parochial Fees	£4,295.00	£4,295.00	£5,436.01
Total	£4,295.00	£4,295.00	£5,436.01

Other trading activities

Fundraising - Non Gift Aided	£4,563.67	£4,563.67	£3,975.66
Magazine – Advertising	£1,208.35	£1,208.35	£1,124.20
Magazine – Sales	£70.00	£70.00	£25.00
Total	£5,842.02	£5,842.02	£5,124.86

Investments

Investment Income	—	—	£837.09
Interest Received	£854.56	£854.56	£449.57
Total	£854.56	£854.56	£1,286.66

Other income

Miscellaneous Income	£22.65	£22.65	—
Total	£22.65	£22.65	—

INCOME TOTAL	£45,871.80	£45,871.80	£47,734.80
---------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

Event Expenses	£611.55	£611.55	£228.46
Total	£611.55	£611.55	£228.46

Expenditure on charitable activities

Bank Charges	£10.95	£10.95	£6.75
Mission	£5,776.58	£5,776.58	£6,852.41
Parish Share	£22,702.68	£22,702.68	£25,166.76
Fees	£608.78	£608.78	£448.60
Cost of Services	£50.00	£50.00	£200.66
Churchyard Expenses	£1,683.90	£1,683.90	£2,334.43
Printing & Stationary	£102.62	£102.62	£130.91
Clergy Expenses	£942.92	£942.92	£719.84
Electricity	£1,649.64	£1,649.64	£1,078.25
Insurance	£2,213.64	£2,213.64	£2,115.49
Water Rates	£132.09	£132.09	£111.63
Vestry Supplies	£499.99	£499.99	£306.93
Miscellaneous Expenditure	£907.65	£907.65	£38.92
Magazine Costs	£1,952.35	£1,952.35	£1,855.17
Total	£39,233.79	£39,233.79	£41,366.75

Other expenditure

Fabric Maintenance – Buildings	£2,630.40	£2,630.40	£203.20
Fabric Maintenance – Other	£613.75	£613.75	£760.00
Total	£3,244.15	£3,244.15	£963.20
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	£43,089.49	£43,089.49	£42,558.41
GRAND TOTAL	£2,782.31	£2,782.31	£5,176.39



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 2024, 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:



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

As part of this we follow the Church of England's National Safeguarding Standards detailing 5 key standards;

1. Culture, Leadership and Capacity
2. Prevention
3. Recognising Assessing and Managing risk
4. Victims and Survivors
5. Learning, supervision and Support

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

-As part of this we ensure all those who work with children, young people and/or vulnerable people have a DBS check and can access and complete the appropriate online training provided by the Diocese. The online training is available for anyone within the church who is interested so please contact me if you would like further details. You will simply need access to a computer along with an email address. There is also a Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse online training, which may be of interest to you.

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 fabric: the ongoing work addressing the items raised on the Quinquennial inspection, the 5 yearly electrical inspection of the church together with necessary remedial work and the refitting and insulation of the tap outside the St Andrew's room.

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.

We are currently in conversation with the DAC to assess the work needed to the outside of the tower, highlighted by the Quinquennial inspection with a view to planning a way forward for this project in the near future.

The organ was tuned by Andrew Stevens in early November 2024, this time having been suggested as better for the accurate tuning of the instrument. The organ is in reasonably good condition and still 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.

In the past George Turner has spent a great deal of time helping to keep the churchyard in good condition. He has recently been advised to step back from this role for reasons of health, although I am sure he will still want to keep an eye on what we are doing. We owe George our gratitude for all his work over the years. His efforts will be missed and others of us will find it hard work to try to take up the slack. 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 2024 and 2025 the deanery met 4 times. Revd Tim Ball retired in February 2025 and Revd Simon Pearce took over as Area Dean. Speakers have included Sally Croft encouraging churches to join with the Week of prayer for Christian Unity, Jill Reading, Lay Chair, reporting on the Deanery Day held in February 2024, Jill again talking about lay involvement in worship, church activities and especially leadership roles. Maxine Paul spoke about the Mother's Union and St Andrew's sent a proposal for consideration regarding the lack of ordained clergy and the need for leadership and worship during vacancy. Discussion was held and Bishop Guli will come to synod in June for further talks. Michaela Southworth spoke about the difficult diocesan financial situation. General synod reports were shared when appropriate.



At each meeting a time of prayer in small groups was held and a financial report was 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 joint chair with Alex Cooper from Danbury, however a replacement for Alex will be sought as he wishes to stand down. A number from the Compass Group clergy and others meet regularly 8.30am on a Thursday morning for Morning Prayer and a group meeting is held quarterly where representatives from each church join together to receive a finance update and exchange news & views. Robert Andrews, Treasurer, advised that the Compass Churches Group have paid 86.9% requested parish share, compared to Chelmsford Diocese at 81%.

Alison Read, Representative

Christians Together in Chelmsford

Sandon have for many years been members of Christians Together in Chelmsford. About 80 churches and Christian organisations in Chelmsford are members. It provides a vehicle where churches can share events across a wider forum. A prayer rota is maintained and available on the website. Its Procession of Witness from 5 local places to the City centre High Street for a service to mark Good Friday continues followed by an afternoon evangelical event. All main Christian denominations are involved.

Richard Cecil

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, the donations from which provide a net income to the church.

We have a lovely band of ringers who have managed to ring the bells for all Sunday morning services, festivals and weddings throughout the year. This is getting harder to do because of ringers moving away or having other calls on their time. We would like to grow our number, particularly from within the village community, and are considering how we might do this during the forthcoming year.

Mike Worboys, Tower Captain



Bible Reading Notes

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

Richard Cecil

St. Andrew's Choir & Music

Another year, with many changes, has gone by.

Cathie et al, with some input from the choir, has selected the hymns. With an enormous depth of knowledge in the choir, we can normally handle whatever we are asked to sing.

Very many thanks to Cathie, whose repertoire is being continually expanded and is always there to play for us all – practices, regular services, weddings and funerals, and at nursing homes.

The choir continue to turn up for our services and even when not required to robe up, are to be found encouraging our leaders from the front pews. Regrettably some of us seem to spend more time in hospital as we get older but turn up again like the bad pennies we are, when well once more.

So thank you everyone who contributes to 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. Rosemary Taylor and Richard Simmonds offer verse, thank you too.

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 very high standard as we have done in the past. George as usual has worked tirelessly to keep the churchyard looking lovely. Unfortunately, due to ill health George will be unable to work in the churchyard in the way he has done. We will miss his help. Thank you, George for all your hard work. During the summer months a small group of people come and do as much as they can. Thank you to John, David, Eileen, Katherine, Christine, Judy, Ruth, Seth and yours truly. With the added help of Andy we are hoping to be able to do more. Thank you to everyone who helps.

Christine Mennie

Holy Dusters

The little group of fairies continue to come every month to clean the church to a very high standard. Floors are swept, pews polished, carpets hoovered and all the floors washed. A wonderful team work very hard and I thank John, Judy, James, Katherine, Christine, Claire, Janet on tea duty and myself for keeping the church clean throughout the year. Next month we will start the yearly spring clean. If you would like to help there will be a list on the radiator at the back of church and we would be very grateful. Thank you to everyone who comes to help keep the church at its best.

Christine Mennie

Soup and Sandwich Lunches

The lunch held every 1st Tuesday in the month continues to be very popular. There is an average of around 12 who attend regularly. We start with soup, followed by bread rolls and fillings, finishing with something sweet. All are welcome to come and join us and share a very enjoyable lunch, good conversation and some company. Thank you to Richard, Judy, Janet, Andy and Christine and Cathie for all their hard work. Come along and join us from 12 to 1.30pm. *Christine Mennie*

Friends of Sandon Church

The Friends held a very good Big Band event on the 8th of June last year in Richard and Sally Speakman's Barn raising some £900. Later in the year, on October the 11th at the AGM, the Friends celebrated their 11th year of fund raising. However a few months later, following difficulties agreeing a clear way forward with the PCC, a Special General Meeting of the Friends was convened on the 22nd of January, during which there was an almost unanimous vote by members to wind up the activity. Following on, immediately, at the final Friends committee meeting it was agreed to forward all of the remaining funds, amounting to £8,789 to the PCC Treasurer for exclusive use on future Sandon Church Tower repairs. This was the last action of the Friends.

David Farrar



Annual Village Walk and Bike Ride

Walk

On the 22nd of June some 20 of us took part in the annual walk which this year was routed via the River Chelmer, up Graces Walk and finally climbing to Danbury, past the church and down to the Cricketers where we had a range of lunches outside in pleasant weather. Later, suitably refreshed we proceeded via the ford back to Sandon and the Crown.

Bike Ride

This was held on Saturday the 7th of September and this time the temperature was a sensible 22 degrees unlike the heat wave of 31 degrees last year! We cycled from Sandon to Galleywood before descending the steep hill taking us down to Mountnessing. Then we followed the old A12 road taking a right turn to get to Fryerning and the Cricketers there. This was said to be a mere 8.5 miles, and enough to make the lunch very appetizing! Next, we were off to Writtle where we stopped briefly at the Rose and Crown for refreshments. The final part home was to follow the Route 1 cycle path along the River Chelmer, through Chelmsford as far as the Sandford Lock and then up to the A414 and back to Sandon. This made a total of approx. 20 miles during which the writer managed to fall off three times! The cyclists totalled just 6 this year and we look forward to this being significantly boosted next time!

David Farrar

Howe Green Chapel

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

Howe Green URC continues to share the occasions with St. Andrews which are more community related. We attend village soup lunches held monthly at St. Andrew's Church, and also the Tea on the Green, Christmas Fete, and Beer and Carols.

As we are still without a Minister and a small congregation, we are only having a monthly service, and we do appreciate the help given and attendance by members of St. Andrews.

The Howe Green congregation has attended various services at St. Andrew's - including being part of the Easter (Maundy Thursday) and Christmas services, and we very much appreciate being included in your traditional events. They have also shared in various Bible studies.

Howe Green organises a very popular Christmas Carol Service at the Chapel which includes some village organisations. We were very happy that we were joined by members from St Andrews taking part in that too.

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

Pam Knott



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 by email 1stsandongsl@gmail.com *Scout Leaders*

Tiny Tots Toddler Group

Tots has seen a great decrease in attendees this last year however we are there, both in body and soul, on the 2nd Wednesdays of each month in anticipation of new attendees. We continue to pray for the group, for those that have been before and for those that may yet come.

As we see it, there are a number of reasons that could be contributors to the decline including:

fewer young children in the village, fewer families & baptisms at St Andrew's, a crowd generates a crowd, so without members at Tots it is hard to attract more.

Meeting monthly rather than weekly could also be a contributing factor, as families with young children need activities regularly. A month can be rather a long time when raising little ones!

With fewer attendees there's also less of an opportunity for parents/carers to meet others of the same age, equally for some, the quietness and beauty of a small Toddler group in church is just what they need so that is where we come into our own!

"Mighty oaks from little acorns grow".

Alison Read and the Tots Team

Church Flowers: Festivals and Events

In the past year, the Flower Arranging Team arranged flowers for Easter, Terry's Farewell Service as Priest in Charge, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. Donations covering the cost of the Easter flowers have been gratefully received from the community. Funds were raised through holding seven Christmas workshops including two new eco-friendly ones. We have a surplus to carry forward into the next year, which is held in general church funds.

The team continue to create arrangements using alternative mechanics which are more environmentally friendly than floral foam. Most of the flowers we use are seasonal, British grown and supplied in recyclable materials including paper, cardboard boxes and real rubber bands from Evolve Flowers, a wholesale supplier based in Spalding. Some flowers have been sourced from a more local flower grower, Sarah Amos, of Fairwinds Flowers in Purleigh including the bouquet presented to Caroline Brown at Terry's Farewell Service. 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 and we welcome new arrangers to join our team. We receive many positive comments about the flowers in St Andrew's. We share our creations and sustainable practices on our Facebook page which has 48 followers from around the UK. I am now the Essex Ambassador for Sustainable Church Flowers and looking forward to supporting other church flower arrangers.

Lesley Worboys, Flowers for Events and Festivals Co-ordinator

Church Flowers: Flower Rota

We currently just have nine flower rearranges on the weekly flower rota. So, for the first time in many years, we have not been able to put flowers on the Altar every week. Our arrangers have created beautiful arrangements with flowers they have provided themselves. They have continued with our more ecofriendly approach by not using floral foam. We would welcome any new arrangers. Please contact Janet Underwood if you are interested.

This year Ann Dunn withdrew from the rota. We thank her for the many years she created beautiful arrangements on the weekly rota and for our festivals.

Thank you too to all our Flower Arrangers and to Lesley Worboys for raising funds for the festival flowers with her Christmas Wreath Workshops.

Janet Underwood Flower Rota Organiser



2025 Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings

The meetings will be held in Church on Sunday 27th April 2025 after the 10am service, at 11.30am

Agenda for 2025 Annual Vestry Meeting

- 1 Opening prayers
- 2 Appointment of Clerk
- 3 Apologies
- 4 Approval of the minutes of the year 2024 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 2025 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 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- 4 Reports
 - 4.1 Electoral Roll Report
 - 4.2 Annual Report
 - 4.3 Financial Report
 - 4.4 Fabric Report
 - 4.5 Deanery Synod Report
 - 4.6 Christians Together in Chelmsford
- 5 Election of up to 5 PCC Members
- 6 Appointment of Compass Churches representative
- 7 Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
- 8 Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer
- 9 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 10 Reports from other Organisations
- 11 Churchwardens' Report and closing prayers.
Date of Next Meeting -
provisionally a Sunday in April 2026 after the Vestry meeting.

