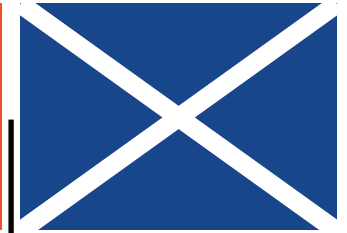
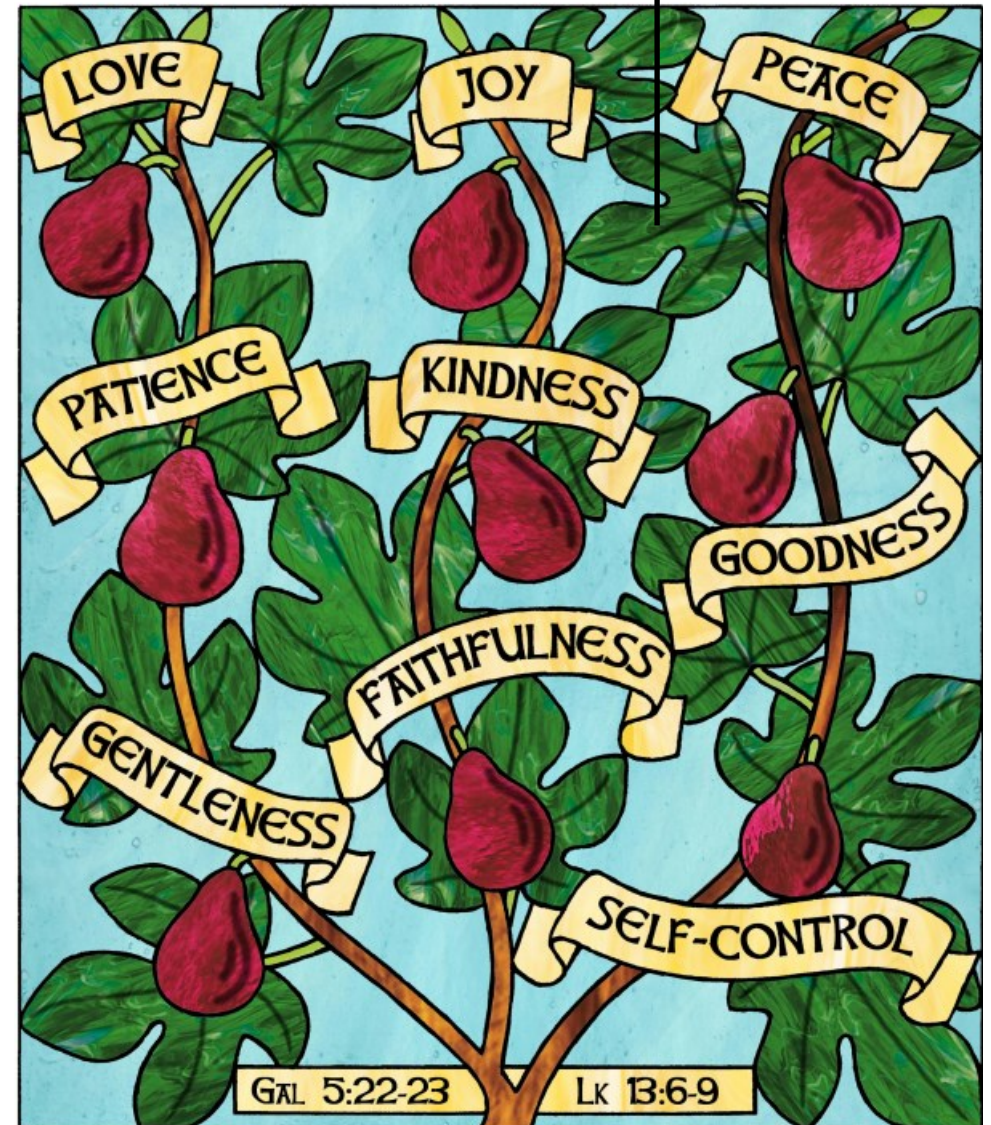


# Sandon Voice



Quarterly from St Andrew's 75p for non residents

June 2025



## Farming Today

Sheep shearing was completed on 9<sup>th</sup> May, that is 373 ewes, 70 first-time ewes, 36 rams, 11 lambs. The shearing team were a champion prize winning Welshman holding the record of shearing 900 sheep in 9 hours, together with a north country chap and a New Zealander.

The first 40 lambs have been sold each weighing between 40 – 50 kilos.

Pip, an 18-month-old sheep dog bitch. has recently been purchased and she and her handler are leaving her instructor together with the breeder.

Hedge cutting will restart on 1<sup>st</sup> September allowing birds and other wildlife space and time to breed.

The willow plantation is doing well and 4 trees damaged by rams rubbing against them have been replaced.

Students for seasonal work have been engaged. Two Australians arrive mid-June and a New Zealand boy is already here; all have to obtain visas and employers by law have to check details of each visa.

The first haylage has been cut at the time of writing, 10<sup>th</sup> May, an easier and quicker system than original hay making.

All the wheat crops have been sprayed against yellow rust and septoria.

2500 Kelly turkeys have arrived on the farm – free-range for 21 weeks and killed at 20 kilos for the home market.

*Gillian assisted by Charlotte*



### Quiet Day

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June  
10 am to 4 pm

Othona Community,  
East End Road,  
Bradwell on Sea, CM0 7PN

Cost £27 per person including  
tea/coffee and lunch

Quiet Day led by Revd. Carol  
Ball concluding with Communion  
Service in the Chapel

Please let Richard Cecil know if  
you wish to come:  
[richard@cecil.family.clara.net](mailto:richard@cecil.family.clara.net)

## Bonfires

Lesley Murphy writes, "It might be useful to ask people to think about the times they are setting bonfires. There's definitely been an increase since the new brown bin charges and it's not very pleasant during the day when people and their washing are outside. Thank you."

Which prompted me, Richard Cecil, to look up what the rules are about bonfires. At <https://www.gov.uk/garden-bonfires-rules>, I found the following quite succinct piece.

### Garden bonfires: the rules

There are laws about burning certain types of waste and to prevent bonfires causing a nuisance.

### Burning domestic waste

You cannot get rid of household waste if it will cause pollution or harm people's health. This includes burning it. You can get rid of household or garden waste by composting or recycling it. Contact your local council to find out how to dispose of garden waste and about recycling in your area. You could be fined if you light a fire and allow the smoke to drift across the road and become a danger to traffic.

## Complain about a neighbour's bonfire

Your council has a responsibility to investigate complaints of smoke and fumes that could be a 'statutory nuisance'. They can issue an 'abatement notice' if a neighbour's bonfire is causing a nuisance. Your neighbour can be fined if they do not follow the rules of the abatement notice.

## Getting on a Bit - A view

Well, as days pass, I've sensed I'm getting old. I'm 77 years old soon and can't do what I could 10 years ago. Also, old friends, family, and valued neighbours have slowly disappeared. We all have to go through it, that's life. But there's the consolation of knowing God is in control of our futures, both here and in the after-life.

I'm going to do what I hope most people will. Make every day pass in happiness and enjoyment. I'm doing my utmost to do that... every hour of every day.

*God bless. John L Gruby*

## Letter from the Wardens

When I, Richard, was at school from the age of 8 till 12 I was at a school where we used to sit down in an ornate dining room as a whole school to eat. Before each meal we would stand and, generally it was the headmaster, but occasionally one of the pupils would say: *Benedictus benedicat per Jesum Christum Dominum nostrum*. I gather this translates as *May the Blessed One bless us, through Jesus Christ our Lord*. After the meal it was the same format but the words were slightly different: *Benedicto benedicatur per Jesum Christum Dominum nostrum*. This translates to *Blessed be the blessed one, through Jesus Christ our Lord*.

So we used to say grace and I know several of us try to do that now. If we were to say grace, what might we say? ...

For what we are about to receive may the Lord make us truly grateful.

May the Lord make us truly grateful. Why should we be grateful? Do we want to be grateful? And if we do, how do we get there? And how might we express gratitude?

Why should we be grateful? I think we have to look at what God has done for us. Sadly we don't say these words so often these days but: *The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.*

Fundamentally God has made us, and more personally has suffered and died for us. That might be reason enough. God has made us and has suffered and died for us.

Let us look a bit more at the character of God and his generosity as we can see in the Scriptures. Let me share some words from a book about John's gospel written by David Ford. He writes, "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace" That is from John 1:16. He continues, John is a Gospel of abundance. The prologue to John's gospel sounds this note; the first sign that Jesus does, turns a huge amount of water into good wine; the Spirit is a wind that blows where it will and is given "without measure" (John 3:34); the "living water" that Jesus gives is "a spring of water gushing up to eternal life" (4:14); when Jesus feeds five thousand with five loaves, there are twelve baskets of fragments left over;

through Jesus there is abundance of glory, healing, light, life, truth, fruitfulness, joy and love; the last sign that Jesus does brings about a large catch of big fish; and John's closing sentence responds to the impossible task of writing all that could be said about what Jesus did: "If every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (21:25). Clearly John, and indeed David Ford, see a Jesus, and in Jesus God, as one of great abundance.

Hopefully we all might share that view. May the Lord make us truly grateful. That, I trust, addresses, why we might be grateful.

But what about whether we want to be grateful. It is a choice we have. And I wonder if it is one that is both profound and deeply spiritual. This gratitude business is a spiritual battle, in my view from a reading of the Scripture. So making the choice to be

grateful is not necessarily an easy one but if you want to, then perhaps make the prayer your prayer, "May the Lord make us truly grateful." There is a choice.

And if we do, how do we get there? And how might we express gratitude? I don't know why I set that question! It has an enormous answer. A life-time's answer. But obeying Jesus in faith. Bearing witness to the truth. That is something we are all called to do. I get that from Tom Wright, a well-respected theologian. Now this is ridiculous because I started writing this trying to write something that encouraged giving. And I am sure that generous giving is a right part of our response

and will indeed help us to be a fuller part of God's Kingdom. By giving I don't mean buying. We are not giving if we give to gain influence. We are buying or possibly bribing. That's not it. But as we give, we might find that we are influenced. As we give to



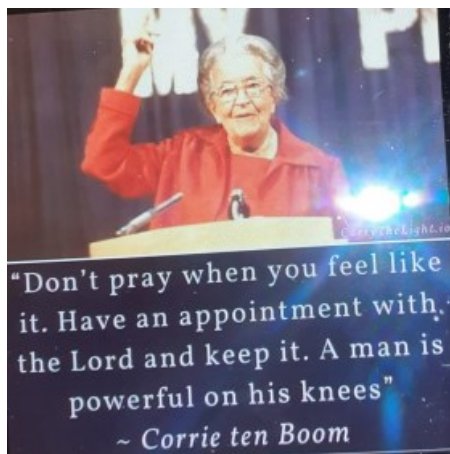
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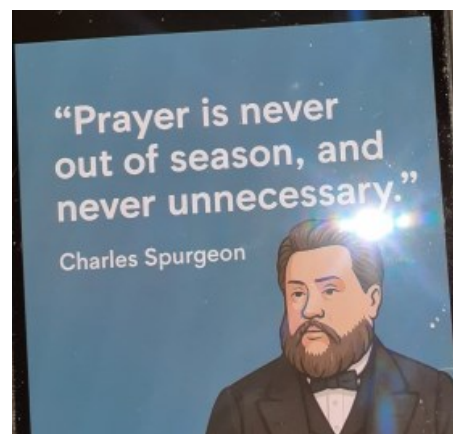
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And I look at the way some people respond to others in church and feel genuinely challenged by the kindness and thoughtfulness exhibited.

Andy and Richard  
Church Wardens



relieve some form of distress, we might find that we want to learn more about it and to engage with it. And we are called to give of our best too. You might reasonably give away something you are throwing out already. That is fine but I don't believe we can kid ourselves that this is the total of Christian giving.

And offering our attitudes to God too must be important. I was finding myself challenged by the way I was looking at some WhatsApp messages the other day and what it said about my attitude to some other people. Seeking to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit does not need a priest at Sandon or anywhere else. But it is a way of responding to God's generosity. In his letter to the Galatians St Paul lists love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Not easy.

## A little thought crossed my mind....

I wonder if you, like me, have ever wondered to yourself where Jesus got all of the ideas for his little stories from - those stories that we call 'parables'? He never seemed to be at a loss for an idea did He, no matter the situation? And yet, just now and again...

Parables, by the way were nothing new in Jesus' time, they were simply a well-known device used by teachers and rabbis alike. [Parable comes from the Greek, *parabole* meaning 'seen alongside' but no matter for now].

Have a look if you will at Luke 13:18 because it seems that Jesus, at last, has finally run into a sort of mental wall. 'What is the Kingdom of Heaven like?' He muses. 'What can I compare it to?' And then the ideas come tumbling out. For one of those ideas, he likens the kingdom to a great big feast and from there He spins His tale. [Luke 13:1524]

But why a feast? Perhaps a big banquet doesn't really move us very much today nor would it cause so much excitement. Yet in Jesus' time the majority of folk existed on very plain fare and sometimes not much of it. (Do you remember the story of the labourers in the vineyard? [Matthew 20:1ff] Those workmen

really *needed* that day's work to feed their families).

So Jesus' story about the Kingdom being like a great feast would resonate with the people; it was for most of them only a dream and something they could only *aspire* to. So with the Kingdom like that — a feast; well.... what's not to like? (I do wonder though what our aspirations might be in our somewhat affluent society today!)

We have two versions of this story in our gospels; one in Luke (14:15 - 24) and the other in Matthew (22:1 - 14). But the Matthew version has a slightly darker tone altogether so let's think of that.

The setting here is that the feast is a wedding banquet rather than just a feast — but the point is quite similar. In Matthew, the giver of the feast (He must have been incredibly rich by the way to afford all this!) walks among his guests — presumably to greet and welcome them but then - to everyone's surprise throws one man out simply because he wasn't wearing a 'wedding garment' (read, his best suit). Why? It does seem a bit of a harsh move after all.

Jesus' point here is that to be invited to that wedding feast in the first place

was not just a 'come as you are' sort of thing. It was special and guests were expected to make an effort, to look their best. If you were invited then it was a privilege and you would prepare accordingly and would — I imagine — *want* to look your best.

Yet there is something sacramental here as well I think because it's a pictorial way of telling us that to be a participant in God's kingdom then we need to leave our former selves behind. Perhaps, yes, radical changes might be needed in our lives if we are to take part (which is represented here by the change of clothes).

We are each one invited into God's kingdom and so need to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ (the 'wedding garment') and so leave our former selves behind — we are, after all, sinners saved by grace. Very basically, we cannot just be a part of the kingdom 'as we are'. So, changes need to be made.

And this is where our church fellowship really comes into its own. It is here that we will find out what the Christ-centred life is; it is here that we have the support and presence of each other. Our Sunday service should not be just an 'optional extra' ('I'll attend if I can' sort of thing) but rather it is where, *together*, we find the confidence and support of our friends for the coming

week. But, predominately, seeking the God we serve.

I personally have recently had a difficult time and I know from the church prayers that some of you have as well; but in all of that time - for me - the prayers and support of the church family has been a huge support. And so for all others as well — it's what we do!

Likewise of course a cup of coffee — or tea — after a service is helpful; because it is there that we can meet folk just like ourselves with similar concerns and joys — things to be shared. And equally, to meet with those who are — perhaps — not like ourselves; it's the chance to talk to them as well and make them feel really welcome. We need to 'use' every opportunity to come together as a part of God's great family.

There is one 'let-out' however; you do not need 'special clothes' for that — you really can come as you are because, overall, that is exactly how people do come to God in the first place. A bit grubby and perhaps a bit tatty from the previous week.

But for us God Himself will make the changes for us as we go along.

*Rev. Geoffrey Griggs*  
(*Geoffrey is a retired non-conformist minister and usually attends the Service on Tuesdays — sometimes Sunday as well!!*)

## Farleigh Hospice News

*Open Gardens – June and July*  
You are invited to explore some beautiful private gardens that are kindly being opened to the public this summer in aid of Farleigh Hospice.

Every year, residents in Springfield open their gardens and this year there will be 14 for you to enjoy on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Curling Tye is a brand-new event on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>. Admire the extensive grounds of 'The Shrubbery' and a beautiful cottage garden which are only a short stroll away from The Cats pub.

Next, it is the popular annual Danbury and Little Baddow event on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June, with numerous gardens opening and a fayre on the village green. On the same day, there is also a new event in Burnham-on-Crouch where 10 gardens within walking distance of one another will be opening to visitors.

The Little Waltham Open Gardens event on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June includes a classic car show and is a great day out for all the family with plenty to see. The last event is in South Woodham Ferrers on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

For more details, opening times and ticket information, please go to [www.farleighhospice.org/gardens](http://www.farleighhospice.org/gardens).



**'Have Your Say' on Farleigh's**



### future strategic plan

Farleigh Hospice provides compassionate support to people affected by life-limiting illnesses who need palliative or end-of-life care. From support in the home to care at its Inpatient Unit, bereavement counselling to wellbeing therapies, Farleigh works to ensure that no one has to face the challenges of serious illness or grief alone. The charity makes no charge for any of its services.

Farleigh is developing its Strategic Plan for 2026–2029 and is keen to hear local people's thoughts about hospice care. It is holding a public consultation until

holding a public consultation until August 2025 called 'Have Your Say' to find out what matters most across mid Essex.

To take part in the short questionnaire, please visit [www.farleighhospice.org/haveyoursay](http://www.farleighhospice.org/haveyoursay) or request a paper copy by calling 01245 457351. Copies will also be available at your local Farleigh Hospice store.

*Heather Baldwin*

## Annual Church Meetings

At the Annual meetings, APCM, held on 27<sup>th</sup> April, Richard Cecil and Andy Horne were re-elected as Church Wardens. Colin Bryan was elected for a further 3 years on the PCC.

And several reports were noted

## Our Church is open!

The church is open for quiet contemplation and prayer every day from about 8:30am to 5:00pm (exact times will vary).

and received. The report can be seen on the church website. At the first PCC meeting after the APCM Lisa Wiseman was co-opted as a PCC member. She had been unable to attend the APCM.

*Judy Cecil  
PCC Secretary*



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## Gordon & Barbara Billage write

We recently attended one of the monthly church services at Howe Green Chapel as visitors, which we enjoyed. We normally attend church at Tile Kiln Church, near Galleywood, where we have been members for 60 years. Sunday afternoons are usually taken up with visiting a relative in a nearby care home, so we aren't normally free to attend at Howe Green. After the service I got chatting to Richard Cecil who had been telling us during the service that he had just returned from India. As you will see from the following article, India holds a special place in my heart, especially as my son & his family were located at Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu for 5 years as missionaries, whom we were able to visit several times. The inevitable outcome from this discussion was that Richard, as editor of this magazine, asked if I would write an article for the next edition – hence this write up. We hope to be able to attend the Chapel again at some time when there is a break to our routine.

Barbara & I moved to Howe Green in 2015 from our previous home of 33 years at Galleywood, having retired from my business after 50 years working for the same company, located in latter years at Springfield Lyons on the outskirts of Chelmsford. Having

sold my stake in the business my wife and I felt led by the Lord to invest a good proportion of the proceeds in founding a charity to support Christian based work around the world. Both of us have always had an interest in Missionary work since our teenage years and supported many throughout our married lives but never having had the opportunity to visit the various projects in person, other than when we were on holiday in the vicinity or when I was serving Queen & country during my time abroad.


We gathered a number of friends and family together as trustees with similar interests to administer the charity and now provide support for around 40 different projects in the UK and across four continents from Ecuador in the west, Indonesia in the east, Romania in the north and Zambia in the south. The majority of our support focussed on India and Africa (mainly Kenya & Zambia).

Our support ranges across relief for the poor and needy, health & welfare, relief in stricken areas, education and vocational training, but is restricted to projects under Christian leadership and supervision. We only partner with projects that we have personal

knowledge of amongst the trustees and undertake to visit wherever possible every three years or so to ensure that funds are being applied in the correct manner and that circumstances meet reasonable levels of care for those that we seek to help. We seek to ensure that good codes of conduct are in place at each location, especially where children and vulnerable people are involved.

Barbara and I were able to visit Zambia in 2023, together with our eldest son Mark to introduce him to the projects that we had been liaising with as he has now taken over from me as chairman, and

were able to visit around a dozen locations via various means of transport but mainly by small 6 seater planes and motor vehicles of different shapes and sizes. Road transport in Zambia, especially in the bush, is mainly on unmade dirt roads. Our younger son Ian has also taken on the role of Treasurer. As we are now in our mid 80's we are likely to be standing down as trustees in the not-too-distant future but in the meantime remain involved as long as our strength allows us to. Many of those that we have partnered with over the years have become personal friends and we know that it will be a wrench for us to withdraw.



### Churchyard Tidy

Please help keep our churchyard tidy.

We have Saturday Mornings once a month to work together

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August

We begin work at 10am and finish at 12 noon.

Refreshments supplied to keep us going.

Hope to see you

The Churchyard working party was never seen again

## Easter Day



Why would anyone set their alarm for 4:45 am on Easter morning? To join the Sunrise service in Sandon churchyard at 5:45. I arrived on a beautiful spring morning to join 6 other committed Christians and a dog. As the service progressed the birds began to sing their dawn chorus. They seem to be competing with us as we sang 'Thine be the glory' and without a doubt they won hands down. It was very cold, but I was lucky as the dog decided to sit on my feet for the whole service.

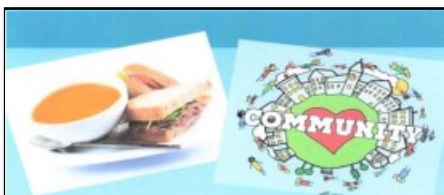
After the service we went into the SAR to warm up and partake of a lovely breakfast of hot sausages, and fruit loaf (made by Claire) and marmalade downed with tea and coffee. We were then joined by a father and son passing through the churchyard.

At about 9:15 the bellringers and congregation started to arrive and as I was sidesman, it was my pleasurable task to welcome everyone. The Archdeacon Jonathan Croucher arrived to take the service and he began by lighting the Easter Candle from the fire (lit, after a couple of attempts) by Nick Bobeldijk. What a happy group entered the dark church to bring light and joy to welcome the risen Lord.

After the excellent and uplifting service given by Jonathan we retired to the SAR for refreshments. No one seemed to want to go home! I am sure they felt as I did, that it had been a very special and wonderful morning knowing that 'He is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia.'

*Christine Mennie*





## Soup & Sandwich Lunch at St Andrew's Church

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month  
Next Lunch is 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
**No lunch in July or August.**  
Meet again on 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Join us for lunch for fellowship  
(and food of course!!)  
We would love to see you.  
No cost but,  
donations gratefully received

Time: 12:00 noon – 1:30pm  
Contact: Judy Cecil for more  
details on 01245 224747

## Butts Green Garden Centre & Café

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**Tiny Tots  
Pre School**

We meet in  
the St  
Andrew's  
Room on  
the second  
Wednesday  
of the month

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm so come  
along.  
Further information  
Contact: Alison 01245 474858 or  
e-mail: [tots@sandon-church.info](mailto:tots@sandon-church.info)

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## Good quote

A certain bishop had a fondness for using Bible quotations whenever he visited a function. When he arrived to open a new Maternity Home the organisers thought: "Now we have him stumped." However, after a few well-chosen words, the bishop smiled and said: "I know you are waiting for a quotation, so here it is: 'We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed!'"

## Tea on the Green

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July  
3pm to 5pm



At 3 pm there will be tea or  
coffee and cake.  
At 4 pm we will be joined by the  
Chelmsford Salvation Army  
Band for Songs of Praise.  
The new Dean of the Cathedral,  
The Very Revd Dr Jessica  
Martin will speak to us.  
Do join us and make sure you  
bring a chair.

## Church Services

## St. Andrew's, Sandon

*Services currently planned online via Zoom are shown in italics.*

Also, we hope to say Morning Prayer in church at 8:30 am each morning Sunday to Thursday ie 5 mornings per week.

### June

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Easter 7</b>	
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist <i>Revd Hugh Dibbens</i>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Carol Ball</i>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Pentecost</b>	
	10:00 am	Worship Together
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Mark Pape</i>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity</b>	
	10:00 am	Agape Meal
	3:00 pm	Worship at Howe Green URC
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Carol Ball</i>
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 1</b>	
	10:00 am	Morning Worship
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Mark Pape</i>
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 2</b>	
	10:00 am	Songs of Praise

### July

<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Carol Ball</i>
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 3</b>	
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist <i>Revd Hugh Dibbens</i>
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Mark Pape</i>
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 4</b>	
	10:00 am	Worship Together
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Carol Ball</i>

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**August**  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**

8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Trinity 5</b>	
10:00 am	Agape Meal
3:00 pm	Worship at Howe Green URC
9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Keith Anderson</i>
8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Trinity 6</b>	
10:00 am	Morning Worship
3:00 pm	Tea on the Green
9:30 am	Morning Worship
8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
8:30 am	Morning Prayer
2:00 pm	Wedding of Chloe & Scott <i>Revd Rose Braisby</i>
<b>Trinity 7</b>	
10:00 am	Sung Eucharist <i>Revd Hugh Dibbens</i>
9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Carol Ball</i>
8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Trinity 8</b>	
10:00 am	Worship Together
9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Keith Anderson</i>
8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Trinity 9</b>	
10:00 am	Agape Meal
3:00 pm	Worship at Howe Green URC
9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Carol Ball</i>
8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Trinity 10</b>	
10:00 am	Morning Worship
9:30 am	Said Communion <i>Revd Keith Anderson</i>
8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
8:30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Trinity 11</b>	
10:00 am	Songs of Praise

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, Lk 5:17-26

The Pharisees had come to Jesus' home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...

So many came to hear Jesus speak that they filled his house... and the streets outside.



Four men brought their paralysed friend to Jesus for healing

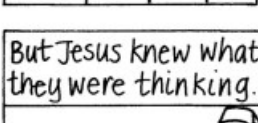


But the crowd wouldn't let them get close



so they climbed up to the roof and took off some tiles.

They lowered their friend down, right in front of Jesus



Jesus was so impressed by their faith, he said to the paralysed man



Your sins are forgiven.

The Pharisees were shocked!



Only God can forgive sins...so this fellow is insulting God!

But Jesus knew what they were thinking.



Why are you thinking such wrong thoughts?

Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'?



But I want you to know that I do have the authority to forgive sins...



Get up, take your mat and go home!



He got up, picked up his mat and walked home, praising God



The crowd was amazed...



We have never seen anything like this!

## St Andrew's, Sandon

[www.sandon-church.info](http://www.sandon-church.info)

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Richard Cecil

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Claire Jefferies

Distribution Manager Alison Read

Copy for September's magazine by 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025 please.  
[magazine@sandon-church.info](mailto:magazine@sandon-church.info)



We commend to God's care at their burial

24<sup>th</sup> March

Brenda Patricia Moyse

1<sup>st</sup> April

Margaret Fisher (Ashes)

16<sup>th</sup> April

John Acton Jennings (Ashes)

## Howe Green URC



May has seen us celebrating our 152<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary with Trevor Andrews. How the years fly! We had a lovely Easter service when we were joined by friends from Southend Christian fellowship, and were able to pray for those we knew who needed to feel God's guiding hand. We have also been able to share with friends and neighbours in our coffee mornings.

Our forthcoming services are:

June 15<sup>th</sup>

July 20<sup>th</sup>

August 17<sup>th</sup> all at 3 pm

We will also be having our Strawberry tea on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 3 pm and would love to see you there. *Jane Clark*

## WI Report

Danellia Crick entered with beautiful buckets of roses, tulips, and lovely pink carnations. She proceeded to bring in round tubs adorned with laurel leaves tied around them.

This was a lovely treat made possible by a grant from the Essex Federation.

"Jerusalem" was sung with the sun pouring in through the windows, creating a warm



atmosphere. After a few items of business were shared, we were introduced by our president, Kay Lodge, to Danellia Crick, who would be demonstrating how to make a flower cupcake for our meeting. It was clear that Danellia was a professional, as she masterfully arranged the flowers with such ease. Within a matter of minutes, she had finished,



and now it was our turn.

Each member who wished to participate either made a cupcake display or a small arrangement in a teacup. This was a great idea, especially since one of the categories for our spring show is an arrangement in a teacup. The hustle and bustle of members exchanging ideas and flowers was an enjoyable way to spend the afternoon. Each person congratulated the other on their arrangements. The teacups looked exquisite and were perfect for a side table, while the cupcakes made for a delightful display on any coffee table. It was another craft learned at Sandon WI. After tea and delicious cake, members were asked to nominate individuals to join the committee. Let's hope a few new members want to be part of making our WI the best it can be!

*Julie Johnstone*



## The Path Through The Woods

The path through the woods, the sunniest of days,  
I know not where I am destined, bound.  
I know not how the gravelled path lays,  
It's twists and turns its rocky ups, its downs;  
The trees now bursting into verdant green  
Slowly cov'ring winters drab-brown dead.  
Hawthorn, blackthorn blossoms fill the scene  
When I am transfixed by what's ahead.

There standing still as it held my gaze  
A young fox standing proud in uncut grass.  
It's coat caught bright in the sunlight's rays  
Stood still, its image held there in my grasp;  
We studied each for what seemed much time,  
But minutes I fear, a far better guess  
And he having studied this poor mankind,  
Turned in the uncut grass to resume his quest.

Over gravelled stone the sandy path entwined,  
The call of blue tits echo from every bough,  
The unclouded azure blue sky a sign  
Of Spring's sunrays April can endow.  
The woodland, filled with Winters windy rage  
Decaying there for insects' new homes.  
New life arising from trees old age,  
Nature's bounty from strong winds have blown.

A brief glimpse, nothing more than that at best  
A butterfly, yellow bright on the sunlit grass  
Hovering, darting in search of food I guess,  
A brief moment captured in my minds glass.

The path it speaks, lead on down deepened drops  
'Cross tree root steps, 'cross now dry gravel brooks.  
The path can see its end over sand and rock  
Where I travel with care with every look;  
I will have of my walk to tell, to speak,  
To remember in sunny days and bleak  
And to the path return some day not long,  
To catch sight of fox and hear blue tits song.

*Richard Simmonds, 11<sup>th</sup> April 25*



## Close The Gate

*Christine Knight, Brenda Moyse's daughter reflects on Brenda*

'Close the Gate' may seem a strange title for my tribute to Mum, but by the time I get to the end you will see why.

If I had to sum Mum up in just a few words, I would say that she was loving, kind and fiercely independent. That love and kindness is reflected in the number of people here today, so thank you all for coming to celebrate Mum's life. Speaking on behalf of Peter, Hazel (Christine's siblings) and myself, I think I am right in saying that we have all had the occasional disagreement with Mum over the years, but there has never been a minute when we ever questioned her unconditional love and that has been a huge privilege, giving us an inner strength to go out into the world.

As far as her independence is concerned, that can be summed up in one phrase – her bicycle. It gave her the freedom to go where she wanted without having to rely on other people or be confined by public transport. In fact, bicycles have played a huge part in her life one way or another. It was how she met Dad, when he and a

friend came through the village on their bikes, saw two young ladies sitting under the oak tree on the village green (the other being Joan Kennedy whom some of you will remember), They got chatting and that was the start of their relationship. By all accounts, they spent many hours cycling together before they got married, and I remember Mum telling me how one day they cycled to Southend, got caught in a thunderstorm on the way back and arrived home soaking wet. When we were young, cycling was our main form of transport, either individually or as a family. As many of you know Mum was widowed in her mid-forties which necessitated a return to work and her trusty steed really came into its own, taking her back and forth to Chelmsford every day for over ten years. When she retired, her bicycle certainly did not retire with her. It still came out several times a week – either to go shopping, to visit friends and family or to go to her weekly art class. In fact, it was not until a couple of years ago that she finally put her bike away for the last time.

I never think of Mum as being a 'damsel in distress' but on more than one occasion a 'knight in shining armour' came to her rescue when she had trouble with her bike. Perhaps when the chain came off and she struggled to

replace it and at least once she and her bike were given a lift home when she had a puncture. On another occasion she was walking home with a Christmas tree balanced on the bike when someone stopped, told her to put the tree in his van and he would take it home for her. She then wondered if she had done the right thing and whether she would see the tree again but when she got home, it was in the front garden and her faith in human nature was restored. Mum was very unassuming, but when pushed had an opinion on most things. She had a good memory too and when we had our Christmas quizzes she was nearly always first or second or on the winning team.

We will all miss Mum in different ways. For my part, I will miss showing her things I have made, knowing that she would always

appreciate the skill, time and effort that I had put into it. I will miss our shared enthusiasm for plants and gardening, our trips to garden centres and the occasional garden visit. I will even miss helping her with her garden, or perhaps more accurately recently, her helping me with her garden.

Until recently when we visited, she would inevitably come to the gate to say goodbye and watch until we were out of sight. However, over the last few months, more and more she would say, 'I won't come to the gate, I'll wave goodbye from the window, but make sure you close the gate as you go.' When I visited her in hospital one afternoon, I told her I was leaving and said 'goodbye.' Her reply was, 'Bye love, make sure you close the gate as you go.'



*(Continued on page 24)*

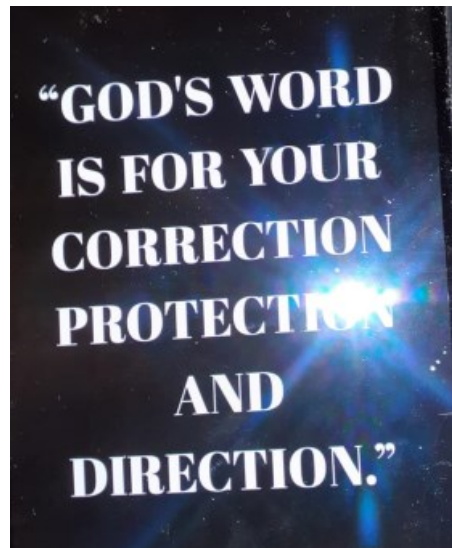
(Continued from page 23)

I told that story to Hazel and we agreed we should include it this afternoon. So, it just leaves me to say, 'Goodbye Mum. We will close the gate as we go, we will look after each other and we will make sure your legacy of love continues through your grandchildren, your great grandchildren and beyond.'

*This was delivered at Brenda's funeral on 24th March, her 74th wedding anniversary*

On Easter day I learned that Brenda used to teach at Sunday school many years ago. We loved Brenda and still miss her in church.

*Richard Cecil*



## No Words

No words were spoken between the pair  
Knowing smiles - they said it all.  
A quiet table he had asked,  
Pushed discreetly by the wall.

They spoke in soft polite tones,  
A wish to blend with those around.  
Her hand, he touched, an outward show,  
Only he heard her heart resound.

They left, leaving little signs of them;  
Two dirtied cups, an untouched cake,  
But those who sat nearby their chairs  
Thought it the end of an affair;  
They had not read the signs the couple made,  
Had not heard her heart ring out  
Or the words 'I love you' pass and  
fade.

*Richard Simmonds  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2025*

## Visitors to our Home

We had a Ukrainian family staying with us from September until the end of April. They are very pleased to have found a rented ground floor flat in Chelmer Village and their 7-year-old daughter a place at the local Barnes Farm school.

Life in Ukraine for O, N and A had become very difficult and dangerous. They lived in Zaporizhzhia in the East, very close to the front line of fighting with Russian forces on the Dnipro River. O and N were both working and had saved up as much money as they could for the move. They acquired visas and needed to travel to Warsaw for final permission before flying to Stansted.

When they arrived in September, they spoke little English and we did not really know what to expect. As it turned out they are a lovely family, traumatised by events but determined to try to make new lives in UK.

They settled into Sandon and O found work with a cleaning firm and N at a restaurant. A was very soon accepted at East Hanningfield school. A miracle that the school had one free place and that was in the right year group. The school were so kind

making her welcome, providing uniform and encouraging her, using google translate on a tablet computer to help with the language.

When we made an initial visit A was so pleased to see children playing on the school field, she announced she would like to go there. School in Ukraine had only been online because of Covid and then the war, so quite a new opportunity for her.

Some of the parents arranged a delivery of food for the family especially sourcing Eastern European products from Ukraine, Lithuania and Poland and O, N and A were overwhelmed. Sadly, A was upset fairly easily when anything went wrong and that did considerably disrupt the household sometimes.

We arranged insurance so that O could drive one of our cars which gave them freedom to get out and about.

At first, we often ate together, either we or N cooking and sharing different styles of cuisine. When O began to work, we had to get organised to transport A to school, sometimes we took her, sometimes she shared a lift with a friend and then O and N bought an electric bike with a back seat

for A, so that N could do the school run herself.

A loved trampolining and using a scooter donated by our neighbour, often going to the skate park with O. She is full of life and makes friends easily.

As time went on, we did less together and they looked for more independence. They were hoping to find local accommodation they could afford.

In April, their flat came on the market and was spotted by the Chelmsford Council Ukraine support team. We took them to visit and they knew it would be ideal so everyone involved worked to make the tenancy happen. Papers were signed, funding sorted and money transferred. They moved in having visited the wonderful Farleigh hospice warehouse in Maldon, where they bought some furniture, and after some shopping for other essentials. We helped them move their fridge-freezer from our house in a borrowed van and they have quickly settled into their new home.

They are delighted to be there and remain grateful that the UK government made the visas possible.

We experienced many times of delight having them stay with us but also sometimes when we began to wonder what we had done! It is a challenge sharing your space with a family from another culture who speak a different language. *Judy Cecil*

### ***St John the Baptist Church, Danbury***

*2025 Monthly lunchtime concerts in the church Fridays at 12.15pm*

*13<sup>th</sup> June*

*The Cardea Trio with music for flute, cello and harpsichord*

*11<sup>th</sup> July*

*Colchester Saxophone Quartet*

*8<sup>th</sup> August*

*Jeffery Wilson and Christopher Weston with cool lunchtime jazz*

*Lunch will be available from 11:45 am or bring your own. Entry is free*



## **Good Friday and Easter Day, Malta 2025**

a World War II

Heading away for the Easter break this year, we set off to discover Holy Week in Malta. Signing up for a Good Friday Tour, we discovered that Good Friday is one of the most solemn and yet impressive days in the Maltese calendar, where towns and villages across the island commemorate the Passion, crucifixion and death of Jesus. We began by visiting the beautiful Roman Catholic Church of St Andrew's in Luqa. Built between 1664 and 1665, the design was inspired by St. Johns



Co-Cathedral in the capital Valetta, but sadly during World War II was nearly destroyed due to its location close to the Airport. It was rebuilt to its former glory over the next decade 1945-55. The church displayed several enormous exhibits including statues of Jesus' last days, which would be leaving the church later for a street pageant. Moving 'across the road' we found

shelter decorated for the feast before

Good Friday, the Last Supper, in great detail,



along with a reconstruction of Jesus's tomb in another tiny room. Returning above ground we found ourselves in a café hosting an impressive display of tabletop terracotta

statues of the Stations of the Cross, made by a local artist.

We were told he made one and the town were so moved they rapidly raised money for the rest!



For the evening, we attended the Good Friday parade in the town of Zebbrug, where we watched participants in elaborate costumes in a pageant with more than 700 participants and statues combined.

Whilst we thought it might last an hour or maybe two, we realised after 4+ hours there was still more to follow! However, our guide said





it was time to return home and we headed back, tired but fulfilled!

To complete the experience, on Easter day we

saw the Easter Sunday procession of the Risen Christ, with bearers carrying a statue to show Christ has Risen, while the brass band and crowds celebrated alongside! Quite the show.

A moving experience, surrounded by an island steeped in history and the endless beautiful buildings made of the local limestone.

*Alison (and Neil) Read*

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## Saint Andrew's Parish Church Contacts

Rector	Vacancy	
Church Wardens	Richard Cecil**	224747
	Andy Horne**	475279
PCC Secretary	Judy Cecil**	224747
PCC Treasurer	Nick Bobeldijk <sup>+</sup>	471756
Safeguarding Officer	Alison Read*	474858
Electoral Roll	Liz Bobeldijk	471756
Bell Ringing	Mike Worboys	224612
Tiny Tots	Alison Read*	474858
Flower Arranging	Lesley Worboys	224612
Organist	Cathie Horne*	475279
Choir	Gill Haddington	529305
Magazine Editor	Richard Cecil**	224747
Parochial Church Council Members	as * above and Colin Bryan <sup>+</sup> , Christine Mennie <sup>+</sup> , Janet Terry <sup>+</sup> and Lisa Wiseman (please see p10)	

Authorised to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion

As <sup>+</sup> above and David Farrar, Valerie Grimwood, Gill Hodge and Michael Puffett

## Regular Events see pages 18 & 19 for full details of worship.

Sundays	10:00 am	Morning Worship/Communion
Tuesdays	9:30 am 7:45 pm	Morning Worship/Communion Ringing Practice
Wednesday (Zoom) sandon-church.info	8:30 pm	Night Prayer
Thursday (Zoom) compasschurches.org.uk	8:30 am	Compass Churches Morning Prayer
Thursday	3:00 pm	Choir Practice

Zoom services links can be found at the websites just prior to the service.

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## Rhubarb Meringue Pie

### Base

150g chilled chopped butter,  
175g plain flour,  
50g icing sugar,  
1 dessertspoon ground ginger

Put these ingredients into a food processor and whizz until it resembles breadcrumbs. Press into the base and sides of a 23 cms flan dish.

If you don't have a food processor just use your fingertips to rub it all together.

Put into the fridge for 30 minutes and then bake in the oven at 200°C for about 20 mins until golden brown.

Remove and allow to cool.

To assemble pour the filling into the flan dish and put the meringue on top making sure to bring the meringue completely to the sides. This seals the filling into the base. Use a spoon to form peaks in the meringue.

Bake at 175°C for about 20 minutes until the meringue is lightly brown.

This recipe was given to me by Su Whinney. Some will remember her. She lived in Sandon for about 50 years till early 2013.

*Narelle Arnold*

### Filling

700g rhubarb cut into 2.5 cms pieces,  
grated rind and the juice of one orange,  
75g sugar.

Bring slowly to the boil, cover and cook very gently until just soft but not mushy.  
Allow to cool.

### Meringue

Whisk 4 egg whites until it forms soft peaks when the whisk is lifted out.  
Add 225g caster sugar gradually and continue to whisk.

## St Andrew's Church Sandon

### Summer Fete

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July

12 noon – 3pm In the Churchyard

**COME AND JOIN THE FUN.**



Stalls Include.

Grand Draw

Dog Show

Tombolas

Plants

Bric A Brac

Puzzles/Books

Children's Corner

BBQ

Cakes

Refreshments

Cubs And Scouts





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