

St Andrew's Church, Sandon
PCC Meeting Minutes
Thursday 16th January 2025 at 7.30pm
in the St Andrew's Room



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

1. Opening prayers were led by Nick Bobeldijk
2. Present: David Farrar, Christine Mennie, Alison Read, Nick Bobeldijk, Richard Cecil, Janet Terry, Andy Horne, Cathie Horne, Judy Cecil
Apologies for Absence: Colin Bryan. James Colbeck was not present
3. Minutes of the PCC Meeting of 12th December 2024 as a true record were proposed by Cathie Horne, seconded by Alison Read and agreed by all present.
4. Matters Arising: actions as on previous minutes. Item 2: Judy has written to thank John Gruby for his time as PCC member; item 7: Nick has moved funds as agreed and paid for organ tuning about £180; Christmas Fayre raised £2230.46; Stevyns and Perry charity money has been distributed; churchwardens have put information about church costs near the wallbox and on the tap'n'go device to encourage increased giving; item 8: Nick has paid CTiC £100 donation.
5. Notification of any other business. Big Garden Birdwatch. Eco contact person for link with diocese eco team. Akindele. Food hygiene inspection. Cycle rack donations.
6. Parish Council (James Colbeck). No report as James not present.
7. Finance
 - a. Nick reported a fairly good income for 2024, a little down from 2023. About £500 was earned via the tap'n'go machine since the beginning of October – agreed it is worth having. Alison suggested tips for tap'n'go giving could be made available on and/or near the machine, eg tip for gift aid. Nick highlighted a letter from Chelmsford Diocese reporting that an expected shortfall for 2024 of £1m was actually £3m and therefore very concerning. They requested extra payments from the parishes. We also noted that when a House for Duty priest is appointed it will cost us an extra £10k in parish share. (2024 £22.7k compared with £32.8k with appointment). Richard proposed we give £5k (Nick confirms there is £46k in the bank, £12k restricted so £30k available reserves), Judy seconded. Janet suggested an amendment to £3k and after some discussion we voted to give £3k. For the motion 6, Abstentions 2, Against 0. ACTION Nick pay £3k
But also agreed we write to the Diocese asking how to respond to our community when asked what happened to all the assets which used to provide income? Judy to write to the diocese CEO, Michaela Southworth. ACTION Judy
 - b. Giving plans – Richard and Andy have included a new message in the weekly email, Richard will write an article for the next magazine and there is a new message on the tap'n'go. Agreed that we need to make people aware of the costs of running the church and encourage a review of everyone's giving.
8. Planning for new Electoral Roll and APCM. Nick will put up the notice in February of the new roll. Everyone needs to re-apply. Nick will give Andy some appropriate words for the weekly email. ACTION Nick and All
Reports for inclusion for the March PCC please. Judy will remind everyone involved by email. Alison reminded us that anyone new wishing to stand for the PCC should be aware that they will need to do safeguarding training. ACTION Judy

9. Plans for a new priest: the Parish Profile is ready and available on the church website. The Archdeacon's letter was noted that a free advert on the diocesan website is fine but may not bring an applicant and that an advert can then go later in the Church Times at a cost of £900. Richard proposed, Andy seconded and all agreed that we try diocese first, and not Church Times yet. ACTION Judy
10. Friends of Sandon Church meeting is on Wednesday 22nd January at 7pm in SAR. This is to discuss and vote on dissolution of the Friends. Richard asked if there was a PCC view to take to the meeting concerning:
 - a. What happens to the remaining Friends funds, (it is likely to go to the PCC in a fund reserved for fabric?)
 - b. How the PCC inform Friends members how the funds are spent. Richard proposed the PCC ask the Friends to request members agree to share their data with the PCC for that purpose. Seconded by Dave Farrar and all in favour. ACTION Richard
11. Plans for Lent and Easter 2025 as in attached table. Tuesday communion services are covered by clergy up to Easter. One Tuesday after Easter will be Morning Prayer. The Lent course will be for 5 weeks based on 'Loved and Liked' from Gloucester Diocese. Maundy Thursday will include a meal together and appropriate readings, followed by stripping the altar and washing up. Then there will be the Watch.
12. Fabric Report (Richard, Andy)
 - a. Richard has responded to DAC questions about the pax.
 - b. Richard to ask advice of the DAC regarding tower pointing. ACTION Richard
 - c. Noted there is a new plaque, (with no permission), near to the tree in memory of Daniel Mann. Agreed plaque should be removed to the vestry before it sets a precedent for further problems with diocesan churchyard rules.
13. Safeguarding Report. (Previous minutes 9). Alison has considered the alternative safeguarding poster suggested at deanery synod but suggested and all agreed to stay with our present poster. Nothing further to report
14. Future PCC Meeting Dates in church
Thursday 6th March at 7.30pm
Sunday 27th April after 10am service for Annual Meetings
15. Any Other Business:
Big Garden birdwatch Judy and Christine will be in the churchyard on 25th January; Diocese have requested an eco-link person and Judy will ask Lesley Worboys; Akindele a young man who came into church on Tuesday, works nights locally but lives away in Luton. Andy proposed, Cathie seconded and all agreed we give him access to the SAR via the key box; ACTION Richard
Agreed we request donations for the cycle rack via a box in church and via a magazine article. ACTION Richard
Food hygiene inspection completed with Claire and Richard present. Thanks to Christine for cleaning the kitchen and Judy removing out of date items. Advice given re kitchen cleaning cloths, cleaning products, handwashing and some other matters. Offers to lead prayers to begin the next PCC meeting - Andy
16. The meeting closed with the Grace