

St Andrew's Church, Sandon
PCC Meeting Minutes
Thursday 6th March 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 Andy Horne.
2. Present: Richard Cecil, Andy Horne, Christine Mennie, Janet Terry, Judy Cecil, David Farrar, Nick Bobeldijk
Apologies for Absence: Alison Read, James Colbeck, Cathie Horne, Colin Bryan
3. Minutes of PCC Meeting of 16th January 2025 were accepted as a true record.
Proposed by Christine Mennie, seconded by Andy Horne and agreed by all.
4. Matters arising: Janet Underwood has agreed to be our Eco link person with Chelmsford diocese; Richard will aim to include an article about 'Giving' in the June magazine; Friends of Sandon Church voted for dissolution at the meeting in January and David Farrar gave a cheque for £8632 to Nick for the PCC, to be used for fabric repair; a cycle rack donation box is in church and receiving contributions.
5. Notification of any other business: Home Communion, a ringing day in July, Richard as a Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) speaker.
6. Parish Council: James Colbeck has sent his apologies. No report.
7. Finance: Nick reported that he has the examined annual accounts returned from Jeremy Watson. David Farrar proposed, Judy Cecil seconded and all agreed to adopt the accounts for the annual meeting.
Current state of accounts: income down £2000 over the first 2 months of 2025. There was no quiz in early 2025 (£900 raised in 2024) and some withdrawal from Parish Giving Scheme. Expenses are as expected. Plan for a quiz later in the year.

ACTION Richard and Andy

Charitable Giving for 2025: Nick asked about continuing to give to Marsabit diocese, Christian Aid and Made for More or make some change? We have a Tearfund speaker coming in June. Christine Mennie proposed, David Farrar seconded that we continue to support the same charities and all agreed. Richard will speak about Made for More one Sunday. Richard thanked Nick for preparation of the accounts.

ACTION Richard

8. Planning for APCM: A new electoral roll is being prepared; Achievements and Performance was agreed by all with minor amendments; the Fabric report was agreed with minor amendments; the Deanery report was agreed. Judy will make forms available for application to be churchwardens and PCC members.

ACTION Churchwardens and Judy

9. Plans for a new priest: Richard reported that no advert for a House for Duty priest has appeared on the diocesan website. The Archdeacon has decided not to advertise for now. Agreed we would wait until Easter when Archdeacon Jonathan is taking a service in Sandon and take that opportunity to speak to him.
10. Pastoral Care: Judy suggested use of a sermon slot one Sunday morning to consider the scriptural basis of caring, a time for thanking people who offer care to others and a time to discuss some aspects of training and pastoral care policy and advice.

ACTION Judy

11. Plans for Lent and Easter 2025: Easter banner Judy will order one.

ACTION Judy

Sunrise service: agreed we will have a service of the word, followed by breakfast and then Easter Communion at 10am led by Archdeacon Jonathan.

ACTION Worship Planning group

12. Fabric Report: Richard and Andy met with 3 members of the DAC on 20th February to consider the Sandon Pax. One suggestion was to keep it in the niche at the front right of the North Aisle, suitably protected. Suzanne Meade, DAC secretary, will approach the Church Building Council, about grants which are likely to be available. Maybe the British Museum would be interested, Chelmsford Museum are keen for it to be conserved. We await the DAC report. Richard has contacted our insurers. The DAC looked at the Tower to advise about works which may be needed to the tower roof. They seemed unsure whether much work is needed. Repair to open joints on the tower and inspection of the louvres was thought to be needed. Suggestion made to open up more of louvres to prevent damp, (and also make bells more easily heard in the village!). Protective bars between tower top crenellations were not thought a good plan. DAC members suggested we may be wise to engage a different architect. We await their report. (Richard spoke to Suzanne on 8th March and she confirmed that the report is written and awaiting approval of the DAC committee.)
13. Safeguarding Report: Alison had sent an annual report which was proposed by Andy Horne, seconded by David Farrar and agreed by all.
14. Food Hygiene: Claire Jefferies had attended a food hygiene inspection with Richard. We have an up-to-date food hygiene training record. It was agreed to use paper towels for handwashing in the toilet. Judy will buy hand 3 x sanitiser for church use.

ACTION Claire and Judy

15. Future PCC Meeting Dates in church
Annual Meetings Sunday 27th April after 10am service
PCC Thursday 1st May with Standing Committee Sunday 27th April about noon.
16. Any Other Business
Home Communion: It was agreed a record of Home Communion is kept in the service book. Agreed that two people go together to give Home Communion.
Bell ringing event on 12th July: There will be 90+ people coming and help will be welcome with catering. Agreed we offer to include a request in the weekly email

ACTION Andy

Richard is a speaker for MAF. He has been asked to speak on some Sundays.

Agreed the PCC support that but not too often.

Telling and Teaching are the first two marks of mission and should be our priority, as Hugh Dibbens preached on 2nd March. Agreed this be an agenda item for the PCC.

ACTION Judy

The PCC agreed to support a group from St Andrew's to go to North Avenue URC at 3pm on 1st June and 7th Sept Sunday afternoons to lead worship.

Christine offered to lead prayers to begin the next PCC meeting.

17. The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.25.