

St Andrew's Church, Sandon
PCC Meeting Minutes
Thursday 1st May 2025 at 7pm
in the St Andrew's Room



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

1. Opening prayers were led by Christine Mennie.
2. Present: Christine Mennie, Janet Terry, Cathie Horne, Andy Horne, Lisa Wiseman, Richard Cecil, Nick Bobeldijk, Judy Cecil, Alison Read, Colin Bryan.
Apologies for Absence: None
3. Archdeacon Jonathan was present to update us about plans for a new priest.
The position of House for Duty (HfD) had been advertised on the Diocesan website with closing date 13th May. There have been no expressions of interest so far. HfD posts have been difficult to fill, although there was success for one post in the Colchester area recently. He advised us to advertise in the Church Times and to share the advert with Boreham to share the cost of £900 - £1000. Until we do that, we have not fully explored the possibility of a HfD priest. He also agreed any posts were difficult to fill. We trust in a faithful God who will provide the right person in time. The Archdeacon has spoken to Boreham who are happy to proceed with this plan. If no interest in 4 weeks, we may then look to working with Boreham to advertise for a 0.5 full time equivalent post to be shared between Sandon and Boreham.
Richard Cecil proposed, Christine Mennie seconded and all agreed to allocate up to £550 for an advert in Church Times to be shared with Boreham, if there is no response to the Diocesan advert. Noted that one role may be filled but not the other in which case the advert might be able to roll over for another 4 weeks. The Archdeacon will make contact with Boreham. Noted too that we are grateful to Revds Hugh Dibbens, Carol Ball, Mark Pape and Keith Anderson who are helping us during the vacancy. Jonathan Croucher then left.
4. Appointment of Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary
Andy Horne proposed, Nick Bobeldijk seconded and all agreed that Richard Cecil would be Vice-Chair. Judy Cecil proposed, Christine Mennie seconded and all agreed that Andy Horne would be deputy vice-chair.
Richard Cecil proposed, Cathie Horne seconded and all agreed that Nick Bobeldijk

would be Treasurer.

Janet Terry proposed, Colin Bryan seconded and all agreed that Judy Cecil would be Secretary. Richard, Andy, Nick and Judy were willing to serve.

Richard explained that Lisa Wiseman was unable to be at the APCM for election to the PCC. Her nomination form has been signed by Richard and by Gill Hodge.

Richard proposed, Cathie Horne seconded and all agreed to co-opt Lisa to the PCC.

5. Minutes of PCC Meeting of 6th March 2025 were agreed with minor amendment.
Proposed by Andy Horne, seconded by Colin Bryan.

6. Matters arising:

Judy noted that James Colbeck has resigned from the Parish Council and so will no longer be their representative on the PCC. Either Alan Kalbfell, Cedric Calmeyer or Darren Chaplin will attend in future.

7. Notification of any other business:

Possible wedding in December; Use of bread rather than wafers at communion.

8. Finance: Nick reported substantial loss of Parish Giving scheme (PGS) income recently, as 2 donors have withdrawn who were giving about £6k over the year. General donations also down. Expenses have also reduced a little, maybe £1500 over the year. Alison suggested we let the congregation know to see if they can help. Proposed Andy to add a request to use the PGS scheme to the weekly email for a few weeks giving web address for sign up. Alison also reminded us to use Easy Fundraising when we can.

9. Five marks of Mission: Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform, Treasure

- a. Plans for Churchyard evangelism: Richard suggested that we try to engage more with people who visit the churchyard to tend graves or just sit. He and Judy will aim to be around on Wednesday afternoons to chat, offer tea/coffee, prayer. Also encourage everyone when they are coming into church or churchyard to chat with visitors and make them very welcome.

10. Churchwardens report:

- a. Fabric Report Tower: Andy reported that the PCC has £8500 donation from the Friends to spend on work on the tower. Richard and Andy spoke to architect Chris Barker (CB) this week, who made recommendations which seemed realistic concerning the tower dome, tile replacement and render repair and possible silicon spray for sealing. Also some pointing on the

tower. A survey can be done by drone or abseiling. CB will suggest someone to carry out the work.

Proposal from the churchwardens, seconded by Alison Read and agreed by all that we accept CB's recommendations as in his report and press on with the work, also including re-fixing the lightning conductor.

Richard suggested there had been misunderstanding about the work needed as David Whymark (previous architect) may have been over zealous in suggesting work in his quinquennial report making the tower work seem more expensive than it would actually be. There was some discussion around dampness in the bell chamber.

- b. Pax and DAC report. The DAC report will be circulated by the secretary. The DAC will arrange work of restoration and possible museum involvement.in care for the pax

- 11. Safeguarding Report. Annual review: Alison Read had circulated a report and there had been an annual report in the APCM papers. Alison said that the standing committee will look at the safeguarding checklist. The Annual Review of safeguarding policy was presented, agreed and churchwardens signed ready for display. The safeguarding website based dashboard is coming soon and will help us to keep all documentation together.

- 12. Future PCC Meeting Dates in church

PCC:

Thursday 12th June 7pm and Standing Committee probably 21st May at 2pm

Thursday 24th July 7pm

- 13. Any Other Business

Request for a wedding on December 6th 2025. Agreed this will not clash with the Christmas Fayre which will be on November 15th 2025.

Suggestion to use home-baked loaf of bread instead of wafers for communion; some discussion and decision for no change for now.

Offers to lead prayers to begin the next PCC meeting: Alison will lead.

- 14. Closed with the Grace at 9.25pm