St Andrew's Church, Sandon
PCC Meeting Minutes
Thursday 12th June 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 Alison Read.
2. Present: Alison Read, Janet Terry, Christine Mennie, Cathie Horne, Andy Horne, Cedric Calmeyer, Richard Cecil, Judy Cecil
   Apologies for Absence: Nick Bobeldijk, Lisa Wiseman, Colin Bryan.
3. Minutes of PCC Meeting of 1st May 2025 were proposed by Christine Mennie, seconded by Andy Horne and agreed by all.
4. Matters arising: none.
5. Notification of any other business: Handbells.
6. Finance (Nick sent a report) Income is down compared with last year, expenses up a little so expecting a deficit at year end. The Diocese offer a Parish giving advisor which we agreed the churchwardens will invite to Sandon. Noted that we cannot rely on the summer fête and Christmas fayre to make up the difference. **ACTION Richard**
7. Five marks of Mission: Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform, Treasure (Richard):
   Christine noted the congregation is ageing and sadly people are dying. Richard suggested it is a good time to look at mission. Time to consider our engagement with the Sandon community. Richard has read his great grandfather's book encouraging visiting in the parish. (He was Bishop of Exeter). Richard, Judy, Cathie and Andy have spoken to Hugh Dibbens and we agreed it is more complicated without clergy. We were reminded we had previously delivered offers of prayers around the parish, going out in groups after evensong. There was some discussion around selling raffle tickets house to house in the village and also engagement via the magazine, posters, notice boards and website. Cedric made some suggestions about the website.

   ACTION Wardens to draw up proposals

8. Churchwardens report:
    a. Sunday Communion services: Hugh will lead his twelfth monthly communion in August. After brief discussion Richard Cecil proposed, Christine Mennie seconded and all agreed to invite Hugh for a further 6 months and also for Christmas Day.
    At the Deanery Synod Bishop Guli noted that each benefice should offer communion each Sunday and that if we could not, we should contact Bishop Adam. **ACTION Richard will write**
    b. Fabric Report (Richard, Andy) Tower – Architect Chris Barker did a drone survey on 12th June and he will send his report. Nothing alarming was noticed. We await Chris's proposals. The work on the tower could be done with a cherry picker.
    Pax: The DAC correspondence advises a need for 2 faculties, one for transport to the V & A museum and assessment and then one for removal to the V & A if they remain willing to accept the pax. Richard Cecil proposed we apply for the 2 faculties, Cathie Horne seconded and all agreed.
    Next step will be a statement of significance and need. Churchwardens will lead a group to complete this. **ACTION Richard and Andy**
    c. Handbells: Grant givers have asked Mike Worboys to apply for a new grant this September/October following successful applications a while ago. Mike has a quote for refurbishment of the 19 bells of £3876 including Vat. Agreed to ask Mike to submit a grant application for 100% cost to get the handbells restored. Christine Mennie proposed, Alison Read seconded and all agreed subject to Diocesan List B permission, and that if cost exceeds the grant, we may have to look at fundraising. **ACTION Richard to contact Mike Worboys**
9. Deanery Synod Report: Bishop Guli responded to a motion to Deanery from Sandon about lay support for delivery of communion when clergy are stretched. Guli explained the rules around communion by extension, the very limited scope for use. Sick communion is accepted although a priest should preside sometimes in a care home. Other parishes spoke about working together. It seems Sandon too should look to sharing with several other parishes. Our advert has produced no applicants and ends soon. The general feeling of the meeting is for churchwardens to discuss future plans with Archdeacon Jonathan around working together and request for interim help.

10. Compass Churches Report (Alison) The shared Ascension Day service at Danbury was well supported. Previous Compass meetings have consisted mainly of news from the parishes. With a new Chair, Jacqui Jones, and 2 other newish clergy some re-thinking about the purpose of Compass churches was emerging. Judy Cecil has agreed to be lay chair in the absence of other offers. Parish reports would be sent out before meetings in future and hopefully a plan worked up to share training, good practice and coming together for some services and events. 3 pm on 20th July Songs of Praise at Danbury, possible Quiet Day in Nov ?at L Baddow
11. Authorised Local Preacher application for Judy Cecil: Andy Horne proposed Christine Mennie seconded and all agreed. **ACTION Judy**
12. Health & Safety and Fire Policies Annual review (Judy): Both reviewed and agreed. Risk Assessment and Fire Test/Evacuation are due July.
ACTION Andy and Richard
13. Safeguarding Report (Alison) Dashboard available soon. Nothing else to report.
14. Summer Fete on 19th July: Planning meetings have gone well.
15. Tea on the Green on 27th July: We are expecting the Salvation Army and Jessica Martin, Dean at Chelmsford Cathedral, will speak. The Choir have been asked to propose a long list of songs.
16. Future PCC Meeting Dates in church
PCC: Thursday 24th July at 7pm and Standing Committee 9th July at 4pm
Thursday 4th September at 7pm
Thursday 16th October at 7pm
17. Any Other Business: Cedric brought Parish Council news of 3 planning applications:
Warehouses at the A12/A130 junction has gone to appeal
Hammonds Farm had 13000 objections
Columba Park warehouses.
None are in the current local plan. Molrams Lane housing proposal has been withdrawn. Manor Farm housing proposal is still ongoing.
Offers to lead prayers to begin the next PCC meeting Cedric, then Andy.
18. The meeting closed with the Grace at 8:55 pm.