St Andrew's Church, Sandon
PCC Meeting Minutes
Thursday 24th July 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 Cedric.
2. Present: Alan Kalbfell, till item 7, and Cedric Calmeyer, both from the Parish Council (PC), Nick Bobeldijk, Christine Mennie, Cathie Horne, Andy Horne, Colin Bryan, Richard Cecil Judy Cecil, Alison Read and Lisa Wiseman.
   Apologies for Absence: Janet Terry
3. Minutes of PCC Meeting of 12th June 2025 were agreed as a true record, proposed by Cathie Horne, seconded by Christine Mennie and agreed by all.
4. Matters arising: None
5. Notification of any other business. Note Christmas Fayre is on 22nd Nov 2025, Bereavement course, Shoeboxes.
6. Parish Council: Alan Kalbfell, Cedric Calmeyer: Richard welcomed Alan and Cedric. Litter picking: PC have handheld pickers and yellow tabards. They already cover the village, but Gablefields, The Lintons, Howe Green, Butts Green and Mayes Lane would benefit. Judy will speak to Ruth Savarymuttu who was interested.

   Action Judy

   Planning applications for several large developments in the parish are still awaiting results.
   Lisa raised the issue of speed limit signs, some have fallen down, some covered by greenery. Cedric recommended using the County Council's website for reporting. Alison asked about a smiley face sign. Cedric reported that PC cannot do that and Highways charge about £20k. There is a wider plan for more 20 mph limits, possibly Brick Kiln Road, Woodhill Road but in the longer term. Noted there was a footpath to the A414 but not now to the Park & Ride. Cedric reminded us that the next copy date for Topics is 3rd November 2025.
7. Finance: Nick reported some concern re income. Giving to church is down, mainly through Parish Giving Scheme, (down by 22%, that is around £5.5k over 12 months). Total income is down 18%. Expenses are stable. Summer fete income of about £1500 is good and compares with 2024.

£1600 ‘deficit’ over year so far compared with £2700 ‘profit’ for same period in 2024. 2024 year end ‘profit’ was about £5k. Nick will send figures to Judy for circulation.

Action Nick and Judy

8. Five marks of Mission: Richard led some discussion around mission and a prayer letter, an example of which had been circulated. Christine noted many new people in the village so it is a good opportunity. General agreement that it is a good time to restart. Alison was supportive and thought it good to have a picture of the church which people could keep.
   Delivery: separate from magazine for more impact; maybe prayer before each delivery; drop through letter box or door knock? produced various views. Article in magazine to publicise and explain and also on website. Perhaps mention in prayer diary. Suggestion to form a group to discuss. plan and bring back to PCC. Christine, Cathie, Lisa, Judy and invite other volunteers in church notices. Also include Prayer Diary review.

   Action Richard/Andy in notices then CM, CH, LW and JC with others

9. Churchwardens report
   Fabric report: Tower – await Chris Barker report after drone investigation and exploration of tower dome. Expecting to use cherry picker, not scaffolding for some pointing.
   Pax – Suzannah Mead, DAC secretary, suggested a faculty is needed to transfer the Pax to the V & A for assessment for conservation (Also another to gift it at later date). Richard has completed the form and sent to the DAC which met recently. Now awaiting their report.
   Handbells. Mike Worboys is hoping to arrange refurbishment with a grant. Richard awaits advice from the DAC secretary whether this is a List A matter.
   Hedges – 1st September general permission to cut, but path side of Hall Lane maybe a danger to pedestrians, so agreed to ask Ian Jefferies to trim it.

   Action Richard ask Ian

   Revd. Tony Cant, assistant area dean, visited to support Richard and Andy.
   Revd. Hugh Dibbens has agreed to lead 1st Sunday communion for further 6 months with a focus on ‘Prayerful Evangelism’.
   Church wardens have received an email from the Archdeacon after there were no applications for the House for Duty job. He recommends we should revisit the appointment of a 0.5 priest role shared with Boreham, and if PCC agree then Revd.

Andy Griffiths will facilitate discussions. Richard Cecil proposed, Andy Horne seconded and all agreed to Archdeacon Jonathan's proposal to meet Boreham with Revd Andy Griffiths facilitating looking for 0.5 post shared between Sandon and Boreham. Richard also talked about the length of the vacancy, over a year, also innovation in services. Maybe opportunity to revisit our pattern of worship with the Area Dean.

Alison recognised the work put in by Richard and Andy especially in preaching.

Action Richard write to Archdeacon Jonathan

10. Autumn Planning:

Sunday 14th September Education Sunday. Andy and Cathie away.

Sunday 21st September 10am. Bishop Rob Martin will offer communion.

Sunday 28th September Harvest service and lunch to follow at 12 noon.

Gill Hodge and Gillian Speakman are planning lunch.

Collect food for foodbank and Invite the Scouts.

Sunday 2nd November Time to Remember Service at 4pm.

Sunday 9th November 10am Remembrance Invite Scouts via Kirk Annetts

Action Judy invite Scouts Harvest and Remembrance

Sunday 30th November St Andrew's. Agreed no evening service.

Cheese and wine after service and invite guests: PC, scouts, bell ringers, flower arrangers

Advent Bible study on Tuesday mornings after communion (18 Nov till 16 Dec)

Agreed to run the Pilgrim Course focussing on the Lord's Prayer.

Action Judy bring booklet and find videos

11. Safeguarding Report. Alison's report had been sent out. Safeguarding training completed by 2 more PCC members.

Alison has logged into the Dashboard. There are 3 levels. We are close to achieving Level 1 and need to gather some information for level 2. Agreed Alison has been safely recruited into her role as Parish Safeguarding officer.

Alison and Judy will gather some policies and procedures from the National Guidelines in preparation and also arrange for people who are offering pastoral care to meet to run through policies. Work in progress. Alison will add Judy as additional user of dashboard. Everyone agreed a big thank you to Alison.

Action Alison and Judy

12. Deanery Synod: Richard reported that Bishop Guli attended Deanery Synod and re-iterated the national rules on communion by extension (almost never appropriate or possible) and communion for the sick which is used frequently. There was good news from a large number of parishes who share Rev Dan Pierce. Perhaps sharing with several parishes could work for us. Some parishes in vacancy seem to have more clergy help than Sandon.
13. Summer Fête: Jesus Deck/Prayer corner. Went well although it rained.
14. Tea on the Green on 27th July.
15. Future PCC Meeting Dates in church
    Thursday 4th September at 7pm. TBC Standing Committee 24th August at 9am.
    Thursday 16th October at 7pm
16. Any Other Business:
    Bereavement Journey: as an offer to help people recently or long time bereaved. Agreed Judy will gather information and plan for January 2026.
    Shoe boxes: Agreed not to hold a special service. Publicise use of online giving on weekly sheet and agree to receive boxes for moving on maybe via Danbury Mission.
    Other churches: Richard led a short discussion about engaging with neighbouring churches of other denominations. Agreed no action.
17. Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.25pm