St Andrew's Church, Sandon
PCC Meeting minutes
Thursday 27th November 2025 at 7 pm
in the St Andrew's Room

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

1. Opening prayers: Nick Bobeldijk led prayers including for David Farrar and Peter Elwell who are unwell.
2. Present: Andy Horne, Richard Cecil (chairing), Nick Bobeldijk, Cedric Calmeyer, Christine Mennie, Cathie Horne, Alison Read, Judy Cecil, Lisa Wiseman
   Apologies for Absence: Janet Terry, Colin Bryan
3. Minutes of PCC Meeting of 16th October 2025 were agreed, Standing Committee of 2nd November noted, and meeting with Boreham PCC on 10th November noted. Proposed by Andy Horne, seconded by Lisa Wiseman and all agreed.
4. Matters arising: Denise has new phone number and we will try to contact her, Bereavement Journey: agreed a small group will trial the course in the new year and then decide whether to invite Sandon community to a later course.
   Judy will circulate link for online training dates.
5. Notification of any other business. Thoughts re plastic wreath for next November: **Judy will add to next agenda**; Soup & sandwich; New priest
6. New priest: there will be an interview in December. Richard will be away so PCC to appoint a second rep. Nick Bobeldijk and Christine Mennie are willing. Nick offered to step aside as Christine has previous experience. Proposed by Nick Bobeldijk, seconded by Cathie Horne and all agreed that Christine Mennie will join Andy Horne for the interview.
   Richard asked if there were any thoughts from PCC for interview questions. Please send ideas to Andy or Christine. Richard wanted to ensure Andy and Christine have freedom to say no if appropriate. Andy requested prayer for the interview.
   Action: All for prayer and Judy email Rene/Archdeacon.
7. Parish Council: Cedric Calmeyer reported that all the significant planning applications have gone to appeal and there is no news yet. (Warehousing at A130/A12 junction, warehousing on A414 behind Speakmans, Hammonds Farm, Stable block and traveller site on Butts Green,) Molrams lane/Park & Ride application withdrawn. Christmas tree will arrive in early December and will need decorating. Andy agreed to gather team, maybe Guy and others. Richard thanked Cedric.

8. Finance: £1872 raised at the Christmas Fayre. In 2024 we had raised £45k to date, but only 40K this year but costs are down too. Looking to a small surplus of about £1600 at year end. There is £56.5k in the bank, including £20k restricted funds. Nick will send interim accounts for Judy to send to PCC.
    a. New bank account: Nick reported that an application has gone to CAF bank.
    b. Parish share: Thanks from the diocese noted. Richard expressed thanks to everyone who gives in this parish. Agreed thank you message to go on weekly email with diocese thank you video again. **Action Andy and Richard**
    c. Stevyns and Perry fund distribution: standing committee has met and discussed this year's distribution of funds. Interest this year is £281. If to 3 people, then £90 each, or if for 4 then £70 each. Judy will email the standing committee with details. Proposed by Andy Horne, seconded by Alison Read and agreed by all. **Action Judy, others to distribute money**
    d. Peal board (£280 + VAT): bell ringing team rang a successful peal recently. Mike Worboys requested a peal board be hung. Mike has funds available and the work will need a diocesan list B approval.
    Proposed by Richard Cecil that we agree to apply for list B approval for a peal board in the ringing chamber, seconded by Nick Bobeldijk and all agreed. **Judy will let Mike Worboys know. Richard apply for faculty**
9. Churchwardens report:
    a. Tower: Andy reported that Chris Barker's specification went out to tender and there were 3 responses from Burridge, Rivett and Hilton. Rivett was late and very brief. Others were both about £4500 + vat. Diocese requires £10m insurance cover so there will be a small extra cost. Friends funds are available of about £8k and we can reclaim vat. Hilton is a local business. Proposal from Andy Horne to apply for a faculty for the specified work preferring Hilton as the contractor as the lower of the 2 timely quotes, ensuring insurance cover of £10m. Seconded by Christine Mennie and all agreed. **Richard to apply for a faculty and Andy to email Chris Barker.**
    b. Pax: faculty is progressing with the public consultation ongoing.

c. Hand bells: a team is practising for Beer & Carols.

Judy to write to Mike Worboys

to thank him for his grant application and success. There is some money (£644) still available maybe for music and/or music stands.

d. Pascal candle stand: wooden pedestal to be used as basis for a new stand. Andy has spoken to Sandon school about making a candle holder but they cannot help. **Richard will ask Neil Arnold** about turning a wooden holder.

e. New cremated remains area: as discussed at 16th October meeting. A design will be needed. Agreed a group come to the February meeting with ideas. Research and photo other churches designs and check the diocesan rules Wooden rails on present area need attention. Richard, Andy, Christine,

Christine ask Lesley Worboys

?Ask others – Ruth, Christine Fletcher

f. Revd Hugh Dibbens: Richard reported that Hugh has agreed to come for January and February. Maybe a new priest soon after that?

Richard will speak to the Archdeacon

noting mixed reaction. Maybe time for change.
How do we provide a Sunday communion?

g. Richard has made a trailer to be towed behind Andy's car for a mower to come to church to chop the autumn leaves.

10. Richard and Andy have arranged for a craft/needlework group to use the SAR from 10 am to 2 pm on Thursdays. They will make a donation to more than cover costs. PCC in agreement.

11. Safeguarding Report: Alison reported that the bell ringers are renewing safeguarding training recently and in the New Year. Richard thanked Alison for her safeguarding leadership.

12. Forthcoming worship:

    Christmas plans: Christmas tree lighting 6pm and Carol Service on 21st at 6:30 pm

    Beer and Carols 23rd 7 pm, Crib Service 24th 4 pm,
    Christmas Communion 25th 10 am

    Other plans: Quiz in Village Hall on 24th January 2026
    Church face-book page: Judy will ask Claire to put Christmas services on. Nick will look at website events page. Noted Greenwood Court carols 14th Dec 4 pm. Visitors are welcome.

13. Future PCC Meeting Dates

    a. Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7 pm in church
    b. Thursday 26th February 2026 at 7 pm in church?

14. Any Other Business: Soup & Sandwich suspended.
    Other items addressed above.

15. Meeting closed with the Grace at 20:45.