St Andrew's Church, Sandon
PCC Meeting Minutes
Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7 pm
in the St Andrew's Room

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

1. Opening prayers were led by Cathie Horne.
2. Present: Richard Cecil (Chair), Andy Horne, Cathie Horne, Alison Read, Christine Mennie, Colin Bryan, Nick Bobeldijk, Judy Cecil and Cedric Calmeyer (Parish Council)
   Apologies for Absence: Lisa Wiseman and Janet Terry
3. Minutes of PCC Meeting of 27th November 2025. Proposed by Andy Horne, seconded by Christine Mennie and all agreed.
4. Matters arising:
   Bereavement Journey: agreed Judy will arrange for all those interested in helping to meet and view the material and decide whether to proceed. **Action Judy**
   Discussion around a way to join with the local community to replace Soup & Sandwich. Agreed Richard will speak to Charlotte at the Crown about a possible coffee morning/afternoon/breakfast. Coffee maybe weekly, breakfast monthly.
   Action Richard
5. Notification of any other business: none.
6. Parish Council: Cedric Calmeyer reported:
   Planning: Chamberlains Farm, Sporhams Lane 4 houses and replace old farmhouse approved, new entrance gate refused.
   Roundabout on A414 for Manor farm development approved.
   Traveller site for 2 caravans and dayroom on Butts Green Road approved.
   Columba Park warehouses on Speakman's land approved.
   Some discussion about our responses. Thanks to Cedric.
7. Finance: Nick Bobeldijk reported on the end of year report and accounts, noting a small surplus of about £3000 even though several committed givers have passed away. CAF bank account opened and some funds transferred, but Nick has since found out that their long-term deposit accounts for small amounts have been withdrawn. Cash and cheques paid in are cheaper with CAF. Gain from change to CAF is not as good as we thought. Suggest keep both accounts for now. Richard and Cedric suggested a look at Metro bank. **Action Nick**

We need to check if Gift Aid is offered on the Card machine. Nick to report on annual total received via card machine to ensure any extra cost involved is worthwhile. Richard and Andy will meet Michelle Cottis from Chelmsford Diocese next week to request help with funding and raise this issue. **Action Nick, Richard, Andy**

Approval of annual accounts: Proposed by Andy Horne, seconded by Christien Mennie and all agreed.

Proposed by Richard Cecil, seconded by Nick Bobeldijk and all agreed to give £100 to Christians Together in Chelmsford (CTiC). **Action Nick**

Authorisation of standing orders and direct debits: Proposed by Nick Bobeldijk, seconded by Alison Read and agreed by all.

8. Deanery Synod report sent with agenda. Note Deanery Day 28th February and 100 days of prayer starting 18th February (Ash Wednesday to Pentecost) followed later in the year with 100 days of conversation concerning sustaining ministry in the diocese. Discussion around Sandon joining with the 100 days of prayer and Judy to circulate link to diocesan synod report. Maybe prayer points on weekly email. **Action Wardens**
9. Safeguarding Report Alison had nothing to report.
10. Churchwardens report:
    a. New Priest interview resulted in both parishes agreeing to appoint but applicant deciding not to come but to stay in present position. Applicant inferred that the proposed job role is not viable as 0.5 priest appointment. Why do we want a priest? Some discussion.
    Andy and Richard will speak to Archdeacon and Area Dean soon and will request reduction in parish share to reflect continuing vacancy, help with cover for immediate future and response to why we need a priest and also about 100 days of prayer/conversation. Discussion around provision of communion on first Sundays. Richard remembered using grant funding to pay for a children's worker and asked could we do something similar now.
    b. Tower: Andy reported a faculty has been applied for and still waiting for response. Tarpaulin is covering top of tower as a temporary measure. Funding is available for the work needed.
    c. Pax: Faculty applied for to transport pax to V&A and waiting response.
    d. New cremated remains area: nothing further yet.

e. Lent Course/Ash Wednesday: Suggest Bible Project inspired seven session course for Lent based on bible teaching for 'Wilderness' on Tuesdays after communion but also seven Sundays in Lent, using readings, sermon/discussion and video.
Carol Ball will lead Ash Wednesday service at 3pm.

f. Holy Week and Easter: Suggest Palm Sunday starts on the Green and includes a congregational reading of the Passion; Tuesday 31st March stations of cross; Maundy Thursday ?meal; Good Friday ? encourage attendance at CTiC service in the High Street; Easter 6am service followed by breakfast; Andy and Richard will ask Archdeacon for advice or maybe ask Keith Anderson to lead an Easter communion. **Action Wardens**

11. Debrief Christmas and look at forthcoming events:
Well attended Carols, Crib, Crown and 25th December. Handbells enjoyed a good starter session in pub. Continue with handbell group when warmer.

Quiz in Village Hall on 24th January 2026.

12. Remembrance wreath: British Legion wreath is plastic. Agreed ask Lesley to make an alternative for us and continue to give the Remembrance Sunday collection to the British Legion. **Action Judy**

13. Future PCC Meeting Dates

a. Thursday 26th February 2026 at 7pm in church
b. Thursday 26th March to prepare for APCM
c. APCM provisionally 12th April after 10am service

14. Any Other Business: Parish Information for Archdeacon and Area Dean. Please look at the document and offer any further comments by Sunday 18th January to Richard or Andy. **Action All**
Andy will lead opening prayers at the next PCC.

15. Meeting closed with prayer and the Grace at 9.15pm.