**St Andrew's Church, Sandon**
**Minutes**
**Thursday 26th March 2026 in the St Andrew's Room**

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

1. Opening prayers were led by Nick.
2. Present: Richard Cecil, Andy Horne, Alison Read, Nick Bobeldijk, Janet Terry, Lisa Wiseman, Cathie Horne, Judy Cecil and Cedric Calmeyer Parish Council (PC)
   Apologies: Christine Mennie and Colin Bryan.
3. Minutes of PCC Meeting of 26th February 2026 were proposed by Nick Bobeldijk, seconded by Alison Read and all agreed.
4. Matters arising:
   Original thurible stand has been given to Ascension with All Saints, Maltese Road.
   Richard's ALP renewal is progressing.
5. Notification of any other business: Shoebox collection in October, Date for Harvest with lunch, Digger in churchyard, Bereavement Journey, Electoral roll.
6. Parish Council: Cedric reported that land behind Sandon School goes to planning for final approval in May with a new design of houses to suit Chelmsford council. Land to North of Blind Lane off Mayes Lane has an application for caravans, day room and hard standing and a change from agricultural to residential use and awaits council decision.
   The village sign is refurbished and re-erected and looks good. Cedric is still trying to speak to the diocese about the PC lease. Suggested he visits diocesan office to find property person.
7. Finance: Nick reported shortfall £2700 compared with £900 at this point in 2025. Income £300 down but mission contribution paid early, parish share paid upfront and churchyard expenses paid this January not December 2025. Cashflow OK. About £35000 reserves. Deficit maybe £1700 for 2026. At last PCC Richard suggested we request a lower figure for parish share. Contact with the diocese brought notice of 50% reduction in share in July because of our 2-year vacancy. No appointment expected so share will be lower over the year. Diocese agreed reduction now to spread cost more evenly over 2026.
   Nick is ready to claim gift aid for giving via the card machine.
   About £500 left from handbells grant so the group plan to buy some music stands.
8. Safeguarding Report: Alison sent out notes concerning safer recruitment and other available training. She showed her record of training document and recommended the safer recruitment training for all members of PCC. **ACTION PCC**
   Policy/Working Documents for approval: Data Protection, Equal Opportunities
   Nick Bobeldijk proposed, Andy Horne seconded and all agreed to accept Data Protection document. Some discussion about where to store data. Maybe on the church website in a password protected area. Needs further thought. Alison Read proposed, Andy Horne seconded and all agreed to accept the Equal opportunities document, with 2-year review for both documents. Judy will bring suggested Code of conduct to next PCC. **ACTION Judy**
9. Churchwardens report:
   a. Electoral Roll and APCM Notices are displayed. Reviewed roll is at present 44 people, with 22 of them resident in the parish and 22 outside.
      Judy will provide nomination forms for Deanery Synod, PCC, Church wardens on 29th March
      Reports for APCM:
      i. Annual Report: Janet Terry proposed, Andy Horne seconded and all agreed with addition of Friends closure and Night prayer.
      ii. Finance Report: noted we received about £8k from Friends for tower renovation and to note we still hold Stevyns and Perry charity funds. Janet Terry proposed,

Andy Horne seconded and all agreed with these minor additions. Thanks to Nick for his preparation of accounts.

iii. Fabric Report: Judy Cecil proposed, Nick Bobeldijk seconded and all agreed. Noted that tower tarpaulin is ripped but no water ingress. Andy Hilton is to start work on the tower Monday 30th March.
The Pax is going on 23rd April to V & A museum.
Swift boxes faculty submission is made and 4 boxes are being made.

iv. Safeguarding Report: Andy Horne proposed, Cathie Horne seconded and all agreed.

v. Deanery Report: Andy Horne proposed, Alison Read seconded and all agreed.

vi. Compass Churches Report: Richard Cecil proposed, Andy Horne seconded and all agreed.

b. Mission Action Plan (MAP)

i. Mission Opportunities fund grant: Churchwardens have spoken to Christine Horton at Boreham about a possible shared grant. Hugh Dibbens took communion last Tuesday and talked about MAP for Sandon.

ii. Afternoon Tea on 2nd or 4th Sundays in April, May and June: Prefer 4th Sunday from 3 - 5pm. All agreed for Christine to press on with this. **ACTION Christine**

iii. Delivery of prayer letters and prayer for roads: March went well and prayers were said on 22nd March. Richard and Judy went to a 'Prayer walking' workshop and Andy, Cathie and they will have morning prayer on the appropriate Sandon roads once each week.

c. Fabric

i. Cremated remains plaques faculty applied for to change style. Await news.

ii. New cremated area planning group: Existing area needs repair. Wood is rotten. Eric Wiseman could advise. Plans for new area later.

iii. Swifts in tower already covered above.

d. Easter: Thursday meal gathered little interest, so will not happen this year.
Easter morning: 7 am service, 8 am breakfast, 10 am service. Andy will bring sausages Judy will provide other food. **ACTION Andy, Judy**

10. Future PCC Meeting Dates

a. APCM 19th April after 10 am service

b. Thursday 7th May at 7 pm in church

11. Any Other Business: Harvest on Sunday 27th September and ask Gillian and Gill about a Harvest Lunch. Collect shoeboxes during service on 25th October. Invite Scouts.
Bereavement Journey plan for 7-week course starting 23rd April.
Handbells are practising for performance at Fête.
Digger will be considered after the Fête to dig out the soil heap and spread it around the churchyard. Richard will hire a digger and Cedric will help.

12. The meeting closed with the Grace at 9:10 pm.