St Andrew's, Sandon
Policy on Marriage, Re-Marriage and Civil Ceremony

Having due regard to the Church of England Marriage Measure 2008, and subsequent discussions at General Synod, the PCC adopted the following policy, also to be consistent with Church of England policy concerning same-sex couples, that applied at the time of revision, ie 18th September 2023.

1) It is the Church's policy to marry couples in all cases where neither party has married before, subject to one of the parties satisfying one of the following qualifying conditions: -
   a) that one of the parties was baptised in the parish or is a person whose confirmation has been entered in the register book of confirmation for any church or chapel in the parish;
   b) that one of the parties has at any time had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for a period of not less than six months;
   c) that one of the parties has at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for a period of not less than six months;
   d) a parent of one of the parties has during the lifetime of that party had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for a period of not less than six months or habitually attended public worship in the parish for that period;
   e) a parent or grandparent of one of the parties has been married in the parish.

2) This church is willing to remarry divorced people whose ex-spouses are living providing:-
   a) one of the parties satisfies the requirements of 1) above and neither party is twice divorced;
   b) there is no public scandal;
   c) the primary fault for the breakdown of the previous marriage does not lie with the spouse now presenting for re-marriage;
   d) any dependent children of the earlier marriage are being appropriately cared for;
   e) both partners to the new marriage understand that their union is to be life-long;
   f) this will only be where the person(s) seeking remarriage, either is(are) the innocent party in the break up of the marriage(s), or shows evidence of deep repentance for their part of the divorce and can demonstrate that there is no possibility of reconciliation and remarriage with their former spouse(s); and
   g) the above conditions can be demonstrated to a minister, prepared to solemnise the marriage, or to the incumbent at the time.

3) It is the policy of the Church to grant to any who ask for genuine reasons a service of Prayer after Civil Ceremony.

4) The Church will offer a Thanksgiving for Marriage, where:
   a) the original marriage could have taken place in the Church; or
   b) the marriage could take place in the Church at this time; and
   c) at a time in recognition of the marriage itself or for example at multiples of 5 years after the marriage or other significant times.

Adopted by the PCC on 17th June 2009 and revised on 18th September 2023

Reviewed at the PCC meeting on 4th September 2025 with additions:

Please refer to Wedding and Funeral Fees policy for fees for Bells, Organist, Choir and Recorded Music.
Please refer to Diocesan website or Churchwardens for statutory fees for weddings.

For review again on or before by 3rd October 2026.