Sandon
A Brief History

Please take one - £1



There are signs of occupation in the area dating back to the Roman era. Before 1066, it was held by Guthmund. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book, commissioned in December 1085 by William the Conqueror. During the civil war, the parish supported the Commonwealth. The church has existed since 1080 and been adapted repeatedly. Cardinal Wolsey, one time Lord of the Manor, added the unique tower and porch in 1520.
The church stands in an immaculate churchyard with a green on the east side, and without the A12 on one side and power lines on the other would be a perfect village scene.

Sandon Church and Village Time Line

1086 Sandon is mentioned in the Doomsday book of 1086 as Benedsteda with a population of just eleven people.

The current Chancel and Nave were built soon after in 1100s.

Around 1350 The North Aisle was added to the church.

Around 1520 Tower and Porch were added. They may have been designed by Girlano Trevise, who worked on Hampton Court in London.

More information in the Tower section.

1887 Rare Spanish Oak planted on the green for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.
It grew to become a main landmark of the village and covered much of the village green before it fell in 2001 due to strong winds after a fungal infection.

This booklet was inspired and significantly designed by Max Clubb in 2026.

1904 Church Restoration was carried out by Wykeham Chancellor and a buttress was found in the wall which is now in the North Aisle.

Gablefields development of 26 houses was built around 1980 on the site of Gable Farm, followed by the The Lintons in the 1990s.

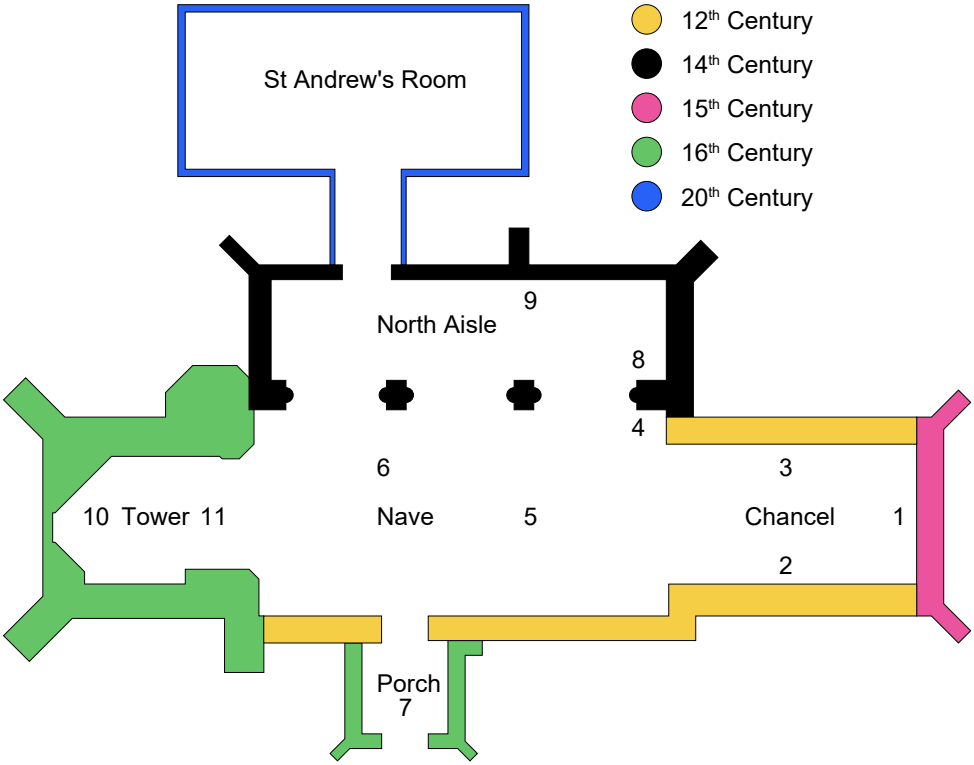
The St Andrew's Room was also built in 1993.

1960 - 69 The village school Closed. It had stood next to the village green for a century.
The churches old silver, chalice and flagons were also stolen (much of it seventeenth century) in February 1969 and never returned.

2021 Cracks were discovered in four of the bells which were then repaired.
The bells were rung again for the first time on 14th April 2022.

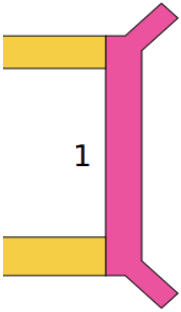
Sandon Church Plan

This Map is simplified and shows only the major changes in the Church.

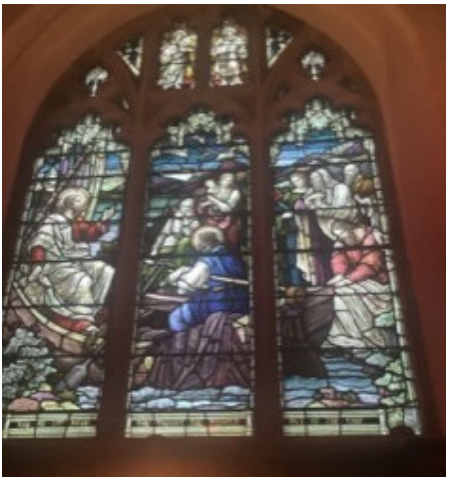


Please see the following pages for the key to the numbered items.

Key to the Church Plan



Location 1



The East window is built in memory of Stanley Callingham who died following WW1 and is buried in the churchyard.

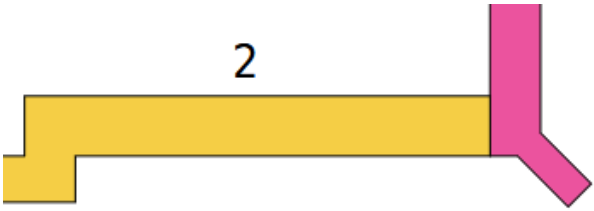


The Altar table is Jacobean (from around 1620).



The Altar rails were made in 1890 by the local Blacksmith.

Location 2





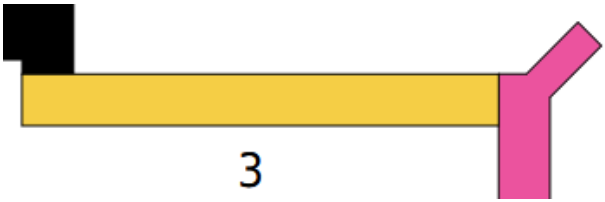
The right choir stall was built in memory of a man named John Perry in 1936 and the door behind is probably 17th Century.



This window on the south side was most recently added with a panel in the bottom right to mark the millennium. It was designed by Daphne Tovey.

Various pieces of glass including shields for St Gregory, Doreward (likely modern) and Darcy (15th/16th century and restored later).

Location 3





This choir stall on the left dates from around 1800.



This window was created in memory of Stanley Callingham's father, Frank Callingham who died a year or so after his son and is also buried in the churchyard.

Location 4





The octagonal 15th Century pulpit, with its original stem and foot was initially painted red, green and gold.
The pulpit had several layers of varnish until this was removed when the pulpit was cleaned in 1935.



Location 5

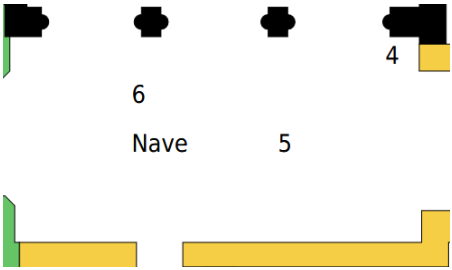
The Piscina here is 13th Century

This part of the church was built in the twelfth century except for the wall behind the altar, which was rebuilt in the 15th Century. The Arch is 13th Century and the ceiling is 15th Century.



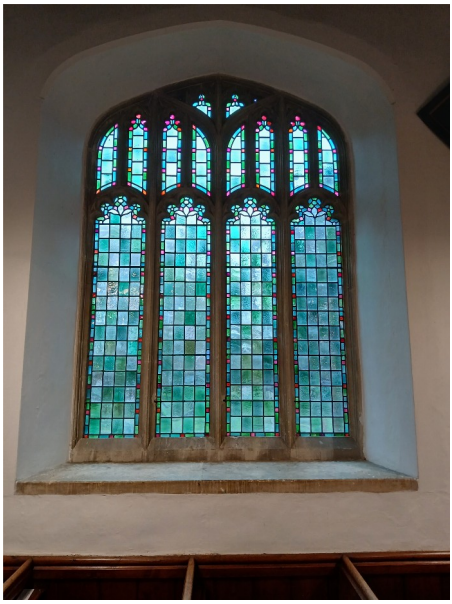


Location 5 continued



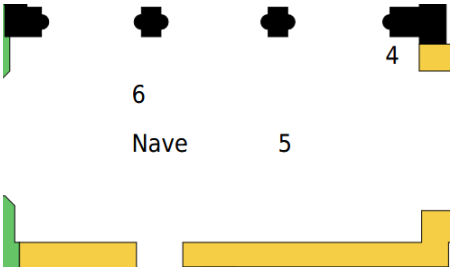


The fir roof was rebuilt in 1878 (except for one truss from the original 15th Century hammer beam roof).



All bar splays are modern, i.e. the part in between the arch and the glass.

Location 6





The 16th century font is octagonal, and the wooden cover was added in 1935 in memory of the wife of the then vicar, John Williams.
The Hebrew reads, “He who finds a wife finds something good.” Possibly based on Proverbs 18:22.

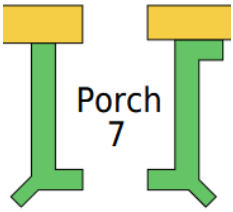




Here there is a modern window frame in place of a partly destroyed 13th century window.

Location 7





The 16th century Porch was built after the tower, possibly designed by Girlano Trevise, who worked on Hampton Court. The Alcove, above the doorway, would have held a small statue, if the church was Catholic, but not so due to Wolsey's control.

Location 8





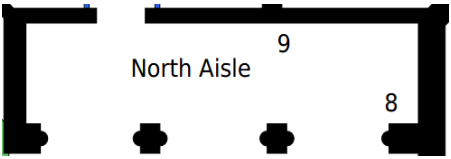
12th Century pillar piscina found in the wall in 1904 restoration with hatchet work is like that in Canterbury Cathedral.



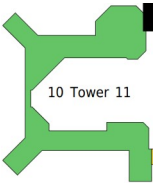
The aumbry, where consecrated bread and wine are kept had the door embellished with gold foil by Dorothy Burras c 2000.
The flower stand given in memory of Henry Harvey is now used as a pascal candle stand and there is an example of the stations of the cross given in memory of Frank Eagling.

Location 9









Location 10

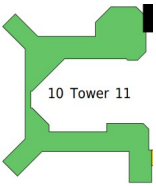


Internationally recognised artist Lynton Lamb, who moved to a cottage in Woodhill Road, Sandon in 1940, painted the painting of St Andrew (1972) and the aumbry door (1968) in the North Aisle. The Lintons (a road in Sandon) is named after him.

The west window of the north aisle is an 18th century window in an earlier opening.

The Organ was built in 1912 and moved to its current location in 1955. It was then restored in 1981.

Location 11



A 15th century door, from the north wall opening, is hung in the organ loft.

The 16th Century tower may have been designed by Girlano Trevise, who worked on Hampton Court in London.
The tower is built with crosses of St Andrew, and the top is designed to look like a cardinal's hat.
The west window of the tower, pictured by John Salmon, is a wonderful example of stained glass.



Details of the Bells

The bells were refurbished and retuned in 2021/2 by AJ Nicholson and Son.

Bell	Dia	Wt	Note	Date	Founder
Tenor	387/16”	9-2- 9	G	1908	James Barwell, Birmingham
Fifth	347/16”	7-0-23	A	1784	Chapman & Mears, Whitechapel
Fourth	321/16”	5-3- 9	B	1854	Charles & George Mears, Whitechapel
Third	3013/16”	4-3-25	C	1653	John Hodson & William Whitmore, London
Second	285/16”	4-1-11	D	1653	John Hodson & William Whitmore, London
Treble	283/16”	5-0- 5	E	1951	Gillett & Johnston, Croydon

Originally the church had five bells dating back to 1653. A major restoration took place in 1908 when the tenor was recast and all the bells were re-hung. In 1951 an additional bell, being the treble, was added. More recently, in early 2022, a major overhaul and redesign of the whole installation was undertaken (with funds raised by the parishioners and grants). Cracks were discovered and then repaired, in four of the bells, which were then tuned and once work was completed, the bells were then rung for the first time on 14 April 2022.

The Churchyard

The Churchyard
The Churchyard became full in Medieval Times and so the ground had to be reused for burials. Most important figures, such as Important Landowners and Rectors were buried underneath the church itself. While earlier monuments exist inside the church, the oldest grave in the churchyard is of William Beckett, who died in 1713, which sits in just in front of the Chancel, walking along the path.



Stanley B Callingham
Callingham was a lieutenant in the Norfolk Regiments who arrived in the Western Front just sixteen days before WW1 ended in 1918. He was stationed at the Canal de l'Escaut and died following injuries sustained from a bomb which blew up near to him in January 1919. A plaque dedicated to him sits in the chancel and he is buried in the churchyard just outside the chancel alongside his father.



William Ratcliffe
Ratcliffe worked claypits off Woodhill Road and converted the clay into bricks off Brick Kiln Road, originally known as Graces Cross Road. He built the four brick cottages on the Village Green and lived on Peasons Farm (where Gablefields now sits).



Lynton Lamb
Local Artist who, as well as the already mentioned works inside the church, illustrated over fifty books and designed the binding of the bible used during Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. He is buried near the western edge of the churchyard (the part bordering the rectory).



The Trees
Most of the trees in the churchyard were planted in the 1960s, however two yew trees planted in the 1850s still stand by the Rasch Vault. Elm trees were planted on three sides of the church in the seventeenth century, but these had all gone by the 1960s.

