

Joining the PCC



The PCC (Parochial Church Council) is a vital part of our leadership structure, but it is not the sole leadership body of the church. It shares, along with the Leadership Team, staff team and ministry leaders, in the responsibility for discerning what God is up to in the church and the best way to help the church fully engage with that. It has specific responsibility for the maintenance and development of the church buildings, finances, governance, health and safety, safeguarding and HR.

The PCC exists to:

1. Enable the church to play its part in God's mission to his world.
2. Co-operate with the minister in sharing leadership.
3. Ensure legal compliance with charity law and ecclesiastical law, in particular in the areas of finance, employment and appointments.
4. Care for the buildings and churchyard so that they may be best suited for the purpose of the church's ministry and mission.
5. Be a channel of consultation within the wider Church through its synodical structures on matters that affect the Church locally and nationally.

The PCC is a council made up of:

- Up to 12 elected representatives of the church
- The Vicar and other licenced clergy
- The two churchwardens
- Up to 5 elected representatives to the Deanery Synod.

One third of PCC members are elected annually and normally serve for a term of three years.

The PCC currently has five sub-groups which undertake strategic development in key areas and meet at least three times a year as part of the regular PCC schedule. They are chaired by PCC members who then also form part of the leadership team.

- Buildings – Maintenance
- Buildings – Development
- Finance
- Vision, Communication and Resourcing
- Staff Welfare & Development

Who can stand for election?

To stand for the PCC a person must have been on the church's electoral roll for at least six months prior to the meeting at which they are elected (unless they are under 18 years old) and have been an active member of the church during that time.

Further to the formal requirements, we believe that those seeking election should consider whether they have the relevant gifting and ministry passion. The PCC have identified areas of gifts and skills lacking in the current PCC and wish to encourage those with these gifts to prayerfully consider standing. We ask those seeking election to also consider whether they are able to commit to devoting sufficient time to exercise their role effectively (*see below*). We also believe that it is important that they are mature Christians and aligned to the Vision, Mission and Strategy of the church.

Time commitment

With the exception of Deanery Synod members (who are already considered to be taking an active role in representing our church at Deanery level), all PCC members will be expected to serve on one sub-group and take an active part in leading that area of the work of the church, in line with their gifts, skills and interests.

- Attend at least three of the five full PCC Meetings per year (2 hours each) plus 1-2 hours reading papers etc. and preparation for each.
- Participation in a sub-group. This includes joint meetings of all sub-groups together, which take place three times per year (2 hours each) plus time working on a particular area for which they are responsible (variable time commitment).
- Participate in the Annual PCC Awayday (one full day at a weekend).
- Attendance at the APCM - Annual Parochial Church Meeting – (2 hours).

Other expectations of PCC members

We recognise that life is challenging for us all and that we have competing demands on our time. However, membership of the PCC is an important role and there is rightly an expectation that PCC members will serve diligently and prayerfully. The following are the expectations of those serving on the PCC:

- prepare well for meetings in advance – pray and read paperwork.
- help two-way communication between PCC/Vicar and congregation – share news and developments, represent views and concerns.
- support, encourage and pray for staff, ministry leaders, mission initiatives and Connect group leaders.
- support and where possible attend whole church events.
- commit to a congregation and gather with it regularly.
- model what committed membership of the church looks like – serve in the life of the church, participate in a Connect group, give financially, pray with/for/as the church.

Resigning from the PCC

PCC membership is a voluntary role from which you can leave at any time. We recognise that circumstances change, however where possible we ask that you give at least 6 weeks notice and ideally serve until the next APCM.