

The Parochial Church Council : 2005

These notes give you some information about the workings of the Parochial Church Council. They will help you consider who to nominate, or whether to accept nomination, for election to the PCC.

Who are Members of the PCC?

The Vicar, any Curate or licensed lay workers.

People who are on the Parish Electoral Roll and also come into one or more of the following categories :-

- ◆ Churchwardens.
- ◆ Readers licensed to the Parish (if the ACM so decides).
- ◆ Lay members of the Deanery, and Diocesan Synod.
- ◆ Elected representatives of the laity.
- ◆ Co-opted members as decided by the PCC, not exceeding 20% of the number of elected lay members.

Who is Eligible for Nomination?

To stand for election to the PCC. a person needs to be :-

- ◆ on the electoral roll.
- ◆ at least 16 years old.
- ◆ an actual communicant.

Any Other Essential Criteria?

In addition it is desirable that they be :-

- ◆ a Christ-follower and known to other church family members.
- ◆ committed to the central features of Christ Church including our Vision, Five Year Plan and Distinctive Values.
- ◆ regular in Sunday attendance at one or more of our main weekly services and membership of one of our bible study groups.
- ◆ available to attend the majority of PCC meetings (10 per year) as well as two Away Days.
- ◆ willing to serve on one of the Church Action Teams that meet between 3-10 times a year. Currently there are nine: evangelism, mission, children, youth, pastoral, discipleship, stewardship, operations and worship. Our Action Teams help facilitate the fulfillment of our Five Year Plan.

What are the General Functions of the PCC?

Primarily the function of the PCC is to promote by example the whole mission of the Church - evangelistic, pastoral, social and ecumenical, by taking responsibility for the decision making process, and planning the wise use of her spiritual, physical and financial resources.

It also meets to consider matters concerning the wider Church of England or any other matters of moral or social interest.

In relation to the Deanery, Diocesan and General Synod of the Church of England, the PCC meets to discuss and put into effect any provision made by these Synods, and to give advice to them on any matter referred to the Council. The minutes of PCC meetings are displayed on the Church notice board.

Procedures for Election to the PCC

Christ Church has chosen to use the system whereby one third of the Council stand for re-selection each year. Members serve for three years, although those filling casual vacancies serve for a lesser period.

Nominations are received and voted on to fill vacancies by the Church members at the Annual Church Meeting. It is expected that retiring members, including retiring representatives on Deanery Synod, do not stand for re-selection for one year after the end of their term.

Churchwardens are normally appointed to serve for 5 years, beside the yearly endorsement by the Annual Church Meeting.

Members of the PCC share in the pastoral responsibility of the Church Family. They are both representatives of the Church and examples to it, depending not on human resources but on the Lord for their strength and wisdom. Therefore it is important that they keep in touch with the congregation, and bring to PCC meetings an awareness of other's views and feelings.

If you are asked to stand and feel able to accept nomination according to these criteria, thank you. Pray that God's will may be done through the process of elections. If you are not elected in the end, thank you for standing, and please pray and support those who have been selected.