

The PCC of Christ Church Downend

The **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** plays a key leadership role at Christ Church. It has responsibility for overseeing the general running of the Church, actively encouraging its ministry and overseeing its finances. Christ Church's PCC consists of the Clergy; 2 Churchwardens; Deanery Synod Reps; and up to 15 Lay Members. Under charity law PCC members are legal trustees of Christ Church, and partner with others in leadership in mission.

All members, except the clergy must be nominated and elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) before they can serve on the PCC. There are also various sub groups appointed by the PCC, with responsibility for the oversight of Vision, Finance and Buildings. These groups deal with issues that arise between meetings and report back to the PCC at every meeting. The PCC normally meets every two months

PCC members at Christ Church are elected annually. **Churchwardens** are also elected annually, and are encouraged to serve for at least 2 years consecutively. **Deanery Synod Representatives** are elected for three years at a time. The PCC **Secretary** and the **Treasurer** are appointed from within the PCC or from the general church membership. All Parochial Church Councillors are required to be on the **church electoral roll**.

What are the duties of PCC members?

We assume that all PCC members will want to play a full and enthusiastic part in the life of our church. Therefore we would expect a PCC member to:

- seek to maintain a living faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour;
- embrace Christ Church's vision & values;
- support the mission of Christ Church generously through the Giving4Life scheme;
- be a regular worshipper, both on Sundays and other days as appropriate,
- participate in teaching, training, Home groups or discipleship triplets and other courses as appropriate;

- pray regularly for the people and the mission of Christ Church.
- maintain appropriate confidentiality

In addition we look for leadership from our PCC members in the following ways:

A commitment to prepare for, prioritise and attend the six PCC meetings scheduled during the year

A willingness to play an active part in the PCC's business, vision and decision making and to form a positive link with a key area of the church's ministry. This might for instance include – youth, children, mission or worship ministries; Safeguarding; Giving4Life team; Health and safety role; Building4Life team.

A willingness to uphold the decisions of the PCC (i.e. to share a collective responsibility) and to play a role in communicating them to the wider church family

To keep themselves well informed about the views of church members, and the issues that concern them

To develop an awareness of issues affecting the wider church, particularly in the Deanery and the Diocese.

What do the Churchwardens do?

A Churchwarden is a lay official in an Anglican parish. Churchwardens have a duty to represent the laity and work in close partnership with the vicar. They are expected to lead the parishioners by setting a good example and by modeling and encouraging unity and cooperation. Churchwardens are legally responsible for all the property and movable goods belonging to a parish church. They have a duty under ecclesiastical law to keep an up to date terrier (written record) of the property and an inventory of the valuables, and to produce these lists for inspection at a visitation by the Archdeacon. The day-to-day maintenance of church buildings and contents is delegated to the churchwardens, who need good organisation and delegation skills to be effective in their roles.

At Christ Church, the Churchwardens also play a key strategic role, working with the clergy and other leaders in guiding the church forward

The contribution the churchwardens make to all aspects of Christ Church's life, both material and spiritual, is of vital significance. To be Churchwarden is to undertake a demanding, all embracing, rewarding and very important job.

How can I become a member of the PCC?

1. Pray for discernment
2. Read the duties of a PCC Member (overleaf)
3. Discuss your interest with others and seek their judgment
4. Make sure you are on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church (forms available at the back of church or from the parish office. Roll membership may be checked on the list kept at the back of the church)
5. Find two people to nominate you (they too must be on the Electoral Roll) and complete a nomination form in advance of the APCM
6. Await the verdict of the church membership through the APCM election process!
7. Be prepared to work hard and enjoy being part of a creative team seeking to be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in discerning God's priorities for Christ Church and the people we serve.



THE PCC EXPLAINED

*'Jesus said: I have come that they might have life,
and life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10)*