



Parochial Church Council

An overview of the P.C.C. and information on standing for election

St Mary Magdalene, Ashton on Mersey with Sale West Community Church

The Parochial Church Council

GENERAL

The P.C.C. meets about **ten times a year**, usually on a Monday night between 8.00pm and 9.30pm. Occasionally, the P.C.C. meet for an extra meeting or a half-day away.

The P.C.C. discusses matters of church interest and most of the discussion is in some way related to the worship, witness and work of the church. These issues can be anything from the maintenance of the church buildings, finances, through to the actual programme of evangelism and integration of new members into the church. The P.C.C. can, at times, be great fun. At other times we are stretched beyond our own strength and find all our resources in God alone.

LEGAL

The P.C.C. is one of the statutory ways in which church members work together and alongside their vicar in the organisation and mission of the parish church. St Paul writes to the early church to say “you , together, are Christ’s body, but each of you is a different part of it.” The worship and mission of the church is the responsibility of all of its members together.

The powers of the P.C.C. have been defined in law. The P.C.C. is therefore a legal body which must look after its business with care and precision. Whilst the vicar and church wardens have the ownership of the church property, its care, maintenance and insurance are the duties of the P.C.C. It is also responsible for the financial affairs of the church and should relate to the whole church body with regard to this. The P.C.C. also needs to be consulted on a number of matters affecting parish life, including the worship.

The P.C.C. relates to the Deanery Synod of Bowdon, and five of our P.C.C. are members of that Synod. The Synod meets several times a year and discusses issues that are related to the area and also issues from the Diocesan Synod and the General Synod of the Church of England.

The P.C.C. is **elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** and each person stands for one year. P.C.C. members must be on the electoral roll of the church which is the “membership” of the church. The P.C.C. also elects a treasurer and an additional member of what is called the “standing committee” as well as some members of other committees such as finance committee. The standing committee comprises of the vicar, treasurer, two wardens, and an elected member; this committee can make decisions and take action between P.C.C. meetings.

BIBLICAL

P.C.C. members might find it helpful to look at some of the New Testament verses on church leadership:

- **Acts 6: 1-6** (full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, full of faith)
- **Timothy 3: 1-7** (above reproach, temperate, self-controlled, not quarrelsome...)
- **Titus 1: 5-9** (not overbearing or quick-tempered, holy and disciplined...)
- **1 Peter 5: 1-4** (willing and eager to serve and not lording it over others...)

We would pray that a member of the P.C.C. would have a commitment to God, a commitment to the church and a commitment to other members of the P.C.C. Obviously confidentiality is an important part of allowing people to talk openly and freely. At times we do need to make decisions and take some issues to a vote and we ask people to be sensitive and understanding to those who have voted differently to themselves.

Further questions can be addressed to Steve Rankin 973 5118

It may sound as if only St Paul could fit the right description of a P.C.C. member! So let us be reassured with his words “who is equal to such a task?” not that we are competent to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant 2 Corinthians 2:16 - 3:6. We do believe that all of our thoughts, actions and decisions should be guided by God the Holy Spirit as we focus on God’s son, Jesus Christ, in our worship and reverence and obedience to God the Father, as revealed in the Scriptures.

LEGAL NOTES

- You need to be at least 16 years of age
- You must be on the Electoral Roll for at least 6 months if you are over 18
- You must be a communicant
- You must be nominated and seconded by other members of the Electoral Roll
- Voting takes place at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

WHAT DO WE DO?

- We talk and we pray
- Our main aim is to work with God
- We discuss the growth of the church, Sundays, Midweek activities
- We care for our buildings, Church and Church Centre
- We manage the church finances

WHO IS ON THE PCC?

- We need prayerful people who take the matters for discussion to God
- We need informed people, prepared to think about the items on each agenda
- We need listening people who take time to hear each other and God