

The Role of a Parochial Church Council (PCC) member at St Andrew North Swindon

The PCC is the body that, with the vicar, steers the life of the church in its mission, witness and service in the parish. Its role is governed by church law (see details overleaf) and charity law, as PCC members are in effect trustees of the charity which is St Andrew's church. We meet roughly once every 2 months at 7pm for about 2 hours to discuss matters affecting the life of St Andrew's church including

- Sunday Services
- Opportunities for mission to our community
- Finances
- Building maintenance and development
- Matters affecting the wider church
- Safeguarding
- Health and safety and other legal requirements

To be a PCC member you need to be a regular worshipper and committed disciple of Jesus Christ, keen to promote the Gospel and the work of the church in the parish and beyond. You will want to contribute to the PCC's discussions, pray for its work, share in its responsibilities and play an active part in the church's life and witness. The PCC is in effect the leadership team of St Andrew's and members are expected to lead by example as well as by contributing their wisdom and ideas to discussions.

Being elected to the PCC

A person is eligible for election to the PCC by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting if:

- (a) his/her name has been on the Electoral Roll of the parish for at least the preceding six months (unless under the age of 18 at the date of the election);
- (b) he/she is an actual communicant (receiving Communion at least three times in the previous 12 months)

Election is possible after completing the appropriate form, and having it signed by 2 members of the Electoral roll (the proposer and seconder). If there are more nominations than places available there will be an election at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM)

Where either (a) or (b) above is not currently true it is possible to co-opt 2 members onto PCC, who become members of PCC until the next APCM, when they may then be elected if a) and b) are both now true. No form is completed in this case, but the PCC votes on the co-opted member(s) at one of its meetings.

Because of their responsibilities, PCC members will be expected to attend Safeguarding training. You cannot be a PCC member if convicted of a specified safeguarding offence or included in a barred list. You will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.



Laws governing the PCC

The PCC's role is governed by law (the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956) which says:

- (1) It shall be the duty of the minister and the parochial church council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.
- (2) The functions of parochial church councils shall include—
 - (a) co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
 - (b) the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question;
 - (c) making known and putting into effect any provision made by the diocesan synod or the deanery synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the council on any particular matter;
 - (d) giving advice to the diocesan synod and the deanery synod on any matter referred to the council;
 - (e) raising such matters as the council consider appropriate with the diocesan synod or deanery synod.
- (3) In the exercise of its functions the parochial church council shall take into consideration any expression of opinion by any parochial church meeting.

Full text of this Measure is available here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents>

The PCC is a charitable trust, so members are charitable trustees, and so all the provisions of charity law apply to their corporate responsibilities, financial management and decision making. This is true whether or not the charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners. You cannot be a PCC member if by law you are not permitted to be a trustee. Guidance on the legal position of PCC members is available here:

https://www.parishresources.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CofE_TrusteeBooklet-v3.pdf

The PCC relates to other bodies in the Church of England. The PCC receives matters raised by synods of the Church of England and can feed into synodical discussions. Although it is a separate legal entity, the PCC is bound by national church rules which have the force of law on matters such as worship, ministry, church buildings and property, safeguarding.

Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to be a member of St Andrew's PCC and speak to the Vicar or Churchwardens if you have any questions

