**STANDING FOR ELECTION TO OUR PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

**What the Parochial Church Council does**

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) is the governing body of our church. Its job is to cooperate with the vicar in caring for our whole parish and overseeing our church affairs: our mission, our staff, our finances and our buildings and grounds.

Members of the PCC work together to plan ahead, set our priorities and to help the vicar and our staff make sure that the church is properly run on a day to day basis. Every member is expected to take on an active role that they are suited to as well as taking part in PCC meetings.

**Who is on the PCC?**

The Vicar and Church Wardens are always on the PCC as are our curates. In addition, there are members elected by church members – we have twelve. Three or four of these elected members are also our representatives on our Berkhamsted area deanery synod. Our paid church staff also attend PCC meetings though they do not vote.

**Your role on the PCC – what’s expected**

* *Safeguarding*: new members subject to DSB check and safeguarding training is mandatory from the outset.
* *Regular attendance at PCC meetings:* currently 4-5 a year. They usually take place on Mondays and generally start at 7.30 pm, lasting about two hours.
* *Preparation for PCC meetings:* reading all the reports thoroughly in advance and talking to the relevant people beforehand if you need to canvas opinion or find out more.
* *Participation in the new members training session*. This will take place sometime in the month or so following your election.
* *Acting as a two-way channel of communication* between the PCC, church members and the parish: talking to people about things that are discussed at PCC – and bringing to the PCC’s attention matters of importance to church members and to the wider parish.
* *Taking a responsible role in some other aspect of church life*: perhaps on an action group, or helping with some of our regular activities. It is also a great support to the PCC if you sometimes offer to help when help is asked for!
* *If you are also a deanery synod representative:* participating in Deanery synod meetings (churches in Berkhamsted and Tring) and making sure there is a two-way channel of communication between our PCC and the Deanery synod.

**What support do new members get**?

* All PCC members are given a handbook which explains everything you need to know and gives guidance on how the PCC should operate.
* Initial training session for new members
* Short training sessions as part of PCC meetings which are an opportunity for us to develop as a group and get to know each other better.

**What are the rewards?**

PCC members have the satisfaction of knowing that they are doing an important and responsible job for the church. Once on the PCC you may find you get to know a lot more people and feel more committed because you are more aware everything that is going on.

**Parochial Church Council Membership**

**Elections**

There are some rules about who can stand for election to the PCC.

You must be on the electoral roll, and you must be over 16. If over 18, you must have been on the electoral roll for the last six months at least.

You also have to be an “actual communicant” which means you have received communion at least three times in the past year.

**Nomination**

You have to be nominated and seconded by two people who are entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). This means by people who are either on the electoral roll or are one of our clergy.

Nominations can be made in writing in advance. There are forms in the lobby or they can be emailed from the church office. People can also be nominated at the meeting. If you are standing for one of the Deanery synod places on the PCC there is a different nomination form.

**Will there be a vote?**

Usually the number of people standing for election to the PCC is the same as the number of vacancies, in which case the people who are standing are automatically agreed as PCC members. There will only be a vote if the number of people standing for election is greater than the number of vacancies. If this happens the voting takes place at the APCM.

**How long will I serve on the PCC**?

Members are elected for three years. After that you can stand for re-election for a further three years. So the maximum you can be on our PCC without a break is six years. Of course you can resign at any time if you want to.

**ELECTIONS TO THE PCC IN 2021**

This year we are looking for four new members:

Two to serve for three years

Two to serve for two years

One to serve for one year