

At our Annual Parish Church Meeting on 23rd April, we need to elect 3 people to our Church Council to serve a 3 year term. Could God be calling you to this important role? Who could you be encouraging to serve in this way?

Why is the Parish Church Council important?

The PCC is responsible (with the vicar) for “promoting the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical”. In practise, the PCC is responsible for discerning the vision and direction for St. James’ by the Park, and making major decisions to help bring that vision to fruition.

The PCC is the legal governing body of a Church of England parish. As such, it also has various legal duties with regard to our buildings, finances, paid staff and safeguarding procedures. Although we expect members to take their responsibilities seriously, ***we don’t expect PCC members to be an expert in any or all of these areas!***

Who gets to be on the Parish Church Council?

The PCC is made up of:

- * the clergy
- * the elected Leadership Wardens
- * 9 other elected members of the congregation – three of whom are up for election this April
- * a youth rep, who is co-opted by the PCC
- * three ‘deanery synod reps’ (who represent us to other Anglican churches in Southampton)
- * a Treasurer, who is appointed by the PCC
- * some church staff also attend PCC meetings

What sort of people should stand for election to PCC?

Faith and character: None of us are perfect, but a PCC member should be able to say, “Follow me, as I follow Christ” – in other words, they should seek to be living a godly life, setting an example to others. The Bible says that a leader “must be worthy of respect, sincere” etc,

and demonstrate integrity of belief, which means “they must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith [summarised in the Creed] with a clear conscience.”

Vision and leadership: We need people who can grapple with big issues and help make tough choices, helping us continue to discern God’s vision and direction for our church.

Gifts and experience: None of us have all the gifts needed to lead a church, which is why the New Testament speaks of teams of leaders. We need a variety of gifts to make a rounded PCC. We need people who are willing to challenge our thinking, to contribute to discussions, preferably from a variety of backgrounds (age, gender, class, nationality etc).

Attitude: All of us have personal preferences for how a church should run, but PCC members need to put those aside to discern the corporate responsibilities the Lord is calling us to have as a community at this point in time. Members should be humble enough to learn from one another and serve the church.

Legalities: Candidates for election must be 16 or over. PCC members are considered ‘trustees’ by the Charity Commission, meaning that some criminal convictions bar people from holding this office. All PCC members must undergo Safeguarding vetting through DBS checks and Safeguarding training

What sort of things will the PCC be discussing?

Vision and Values: As we emerge from the pandemic, we prayerfully need to make key decisions about our future direction as a church. What sort of people is God calling us to become? What sort of activities is he calling us to do? How should the national Church of England vision be reflected in our parish?

Leadership: we need to think about how we can encourage more people into leadership.

Buildings: we hope to make significant progress working out options and plans for St James and the Parish Hall.

Finances: we need to keep a close eye on our income levels, making sure that we don’t spend more than we’ve got, and using what we have got wisely!

What is expected of a PCC member?

We usually have one Monday evening meeting per month, although this is sometimes replaced by a Saturday day-time meeting. Members are expected to prayerfully read through any papers related to the agenda before each meeting, and to contribute constructively to the discussion and decision-making process. Many PCC members also serve on at least one other group (eg looking in more detail at reaching young people, finances, safeguarding or mission partnerships). Members help ensure 2-way communication between PCC and the rest of the church happens, and can raise concerns when appropriate.

What next?

If you feel the Lord might be prompting you to stand, feel free to chat informally with existing PCC members or the church wardens or clergy to gain more understanding of the role. Ask others whether they would be willing to propose or second you. If you can think of someone else who would be a good PCC member, approach them, or suggest them to the wardens.

Key dates

Completed nomination forms should be returned to the church office by Thursday 20th April. The elections will take place at our Annual Parish Church Meeting on 23rd April. (You don’t need to be present to stand). The first meetings of the new PCC will be on Tuesday 9th May. We expect PCC members to be present at most of the meetings.

Nomination form for election to the PCC of St. James' by the Park, APCM 2023

I wish to put my name forward for election to:
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Shirley

Name of Candidate

(Block Capitals)

I confirm that I am over 16 *(please tick)*

No person shall be nominated unless they have signified their consent to serve, or there is in the opinion of the meeting sufficient evidence thereof. No person shall be nominated if they are disqualified from serving by the bishop under section 10(6) of the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measures 1977 and 1993, or if they are disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities Act 2011.

All PCC members will need to go through Safeguarding checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service

Note: A person is disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities Act if they have been convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty (unless any such conviction is legally regarded as spent), if they are an undischarged bankrupt, have made compositions or arrangements with any creditors from which they have not been discharged or have been removed from serving as a charity trustee, or been stopped from acting in a management position within a charity.

Signature of Candidate

(indicates willingness to stand)

NB - All proposers and seconders must be on the Electoral Roll

Proposer *(Block Capitals)*

Signature of Proposer

Secunder *(Block Capitals)*

Signature of Secunder

Candidates should also complete their personal declaration overleaf

Personal Declaration

We would like you to **write or email** a maximum of 150 words explaining why you feel led to stand for election to PCC, and why you want people to vote for you. It would be helpful if you could also email the office with a recent photograph. We can then circulate these to enable people to vote prayerfully and knowledgeably.

If you want to write your personal declaration, do it here.

(You can e-mail this response to theresa@stjamesbythepark.org)



Elections for the Parish Church Council (PCC) of St. James' by the Park

Is God calling you or someone you know to play a leadership role within our church?

