



An Introduction to the PCC at Trinity Cheltenham

This short paper aims to explain what the PCC is and how it works, both as a help to existing members, and as an introduction to those newly appointed.

Trinity operates within a legal framework common to all Anglican churches. We are governed by Church rules which also fulfill the requirements of a Registered Charity. The PCC brings together the Lead Pastor ('Incumbent'), other licensed ministers, elected Churchwardens, some key staff and 12 people elected by the church family to share in overseeing the governance and administration of the life of the church.

The main responsibilities of the PCC

- Co-operate with the Incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the church, at a pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical level.
- To discuss and agree the strategy and policy of the church (within its statutory powers), in collaboration with the Incumbent and other Leaders.
- Act as a communication link between the church family and the wider diocese. *'Summarised from the Canonical Government Measure 1956'*

The PCC receives reports and confers on matters relating to the whole life, ministry, worship, evangelism, service and resources of the church; and as members we are committed to praying for all the above regularly. All major decisions and issues affecting the life of the church - pastoral, missional, ministerial, organisational, legal or financial - are brought into the PCC for prayer, discussion and where necessary, ratification or other decision.

Due to the nature and size of Trinity some of the ways of working found in more 'traditional' Parish Churches have been developed for our context. The PCC at Trinity focuses primarily on our governance and delegates operational leadership and day-to-day decision making to the Senior Leadership Team, Staff members, Life Group Leaders and Ministry Heads under their authorization to enable the smooth running of a large church. The Senior Leadership Team is formally constituted as the Standing Committee of the PCC and authorized to undertake actions on its behalf. The PCC can also form specific working groups to undertake areas of work; at the moment, we have one for 'Finance' and one for 'Buildings'.

Good governance is neither just 'ticking boxes' nor is it trying to get into the operational management of day-to-day church life. The PCC prayerfully focuses on the 'bigger picture' of helping to ensure that everything we do is aligning with God's mission purposes and that we are being as effective as possible in pursuing our vision priorities. Members of the PCC also offer their experience and wisdom to undertake responsibility for ensuring there are proper arrangements in place for the practical organisation of all aspects of church life. This oversight includes: the management of our finances, how we employ and support staff and volunteers, ensuring all safeguarding arrangements are in place, the management of church buildings and assets and the way we handle data and record-keeping.

The Constitution and working arrangements of the PCC

The PCC is made up of: Team Rector, Team Vicars, any other Licensed Clergy, 2 Church Wardens, co-opted members (currently: Finance Manager – serving as Treasurer) 12 members elected at the Annual Church Meeting in April (in rolling blocks of 4 for 3 years) and 4 Deanery Synod representatives.

The PCC meets at least four times a year. In order for the PCC to be a decision-making body, there must be a quorum, which consists of 50% + 1 of the PCC. The business of the PCC in the case of a vote is decided by simple majority.

Serving as an elected member of the PCC

In order to fulfill this important role and responsibility, there are certain expectations of PCC members and those seeking nomination:

- They are committed to seeking God's wisdom through prayer and an openness to God's word and His Spirit.
- They are aligned with the Vision and Values of Trinity, and loyal to its Leadership. • They are likely to have been members of the church for at least a year and show interest in and engagement with the people and life of the church.
- They are members of a Life Group (or equivalent), active in serving the church family, and regular financial givers.
- They are likely to have experience of active participation in large meetings. • They are committed to bringing their best to the PCC role e.g. in prayer, in preparation, in listening, in speaking, in considering views and interests other than their own, in working collaboratively for the common good.
- They are people who seek to grow in faith and in having Kingdom priorities and expectations; and they encourage others to do the same.

Serving as a Churchwarden

Two Churchwardens are elected at the Annual Meeting, and are officially appointed to the role by the Bishop through the Archdeacon's Visitation service (they are able to stand for re-election each year for a maximum of six years. The key responsibilities are:

- Pastoral - to share in the duty of care for congregation, staff and leadership; to support the incumbent and his team through regular personal contact, in relationships of trust, prayer and wise counsel
- Mission - to contribute to the development of vision & overall mission strategy • Practical - to share in responsibility for ensuring there are proper arrangements in place for the overall organisation of church life; and in the event of a vacancy, take on special responsibilities on behalf of the church, liaising with the Bishop as required.

Serving as a member of the Cheltenham Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod is a gathering of representatives from all the Anglican churches in the Cheltenham Deanery (a subset of Gloucester Diocese). Trinity elects four representatives at the Annual Meeting and they also serve on our PCC. The Synod meets four times a year to reflect on

the mission of God in this community, to develop shared initiatives and to act as channels of communication back to local churches.