

Serving in the voluntary leadership of Trinity Cheltenham

Trinity operates within a legal framework common to all Anglican churches. We are governed by Church rules which also fulfill the requirements of being Registered as a Charity. The Parochial Church Council brings together the Lead Pastor ('Incumbent'), other licensed ministers, two elected Churchwardens and 12 members 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

- Pray and seek God for Trinity.
- Support the Lead Pastor and other leaders in 'promoting the whole mission of the church' - pastoral, evangelistic, in community and working with other churches.
- Agree the overall operational strategy, policies and financial plans of the church (within its statutory powers), including employing staff and oversight of volunteers
- Act as a key link between the church family and the wider diocese.

All major decisions and strategic 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. Due to the nature and size of Trinity, the PCC focuses primarily on sharing with the Lead Pastor in overall governance and the 'bigger picture' of aligning everything we do with God's mission purpose for Trinity and key vision priorities. Operational leadership and day-to-day decisions are delegated to the Leadership Team, Staff members, Life Group Leaders and Ministry leaders. The Senior Leadership Team is also formally constituted as the Standing Committee of the PCC and authorized to undertake actions on its behalf in-between meetings.

Ensuring good governance is not about 'ticking boxes' or getting into the detail of day-to-day church life. Members of the PCC bring spiritual wisdom, practical experience and gifts to help us discern, develop and oversee a healthy and fruitful framework for the practical organisation of church life. This includes communications, budgets and management of finances, employment practices, safeguarding, management of church buildings and assets, handling data and record-keeping. The PCC forms specific working groups to undertake areas of work, for example, 'Finance' and 'Buildings', as necessary.

The PCC also liaises closely with the Directors (Trustees) of the Trinity Cheltenham Trust which separately owns and manages Trinity house and Fusion.

The PCC meets four or five times a year – there must be a quorum of at least 50% of members present. It is legally constituted as a 'corporate body' meaning decisions are made in the name of the whole PCC and individual members are not personally liable.

Serving as a Churchwarden

Our two Churchwardens are elected at the Annual Meeting by church members (they can serve for a maximum of six years) and then officially appointed to the role by the Bishop. As key leaders in our church family, they have several key responsibilities:

- Pastoral - to share with the Lead Pastor and senior leaders in the duty of care for congregation, staff and volunteers through regular personal contact, prayer and wise counsel
- Mission - to serve with the senior leadership team in the development of vision & overall mission strategy for Trinity
- Practical - in the event of a vacancy for Lead Pastor, take on special responsibilities on behalf of the church in 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 The Gloucester Diocese).

- Trinity elects four representatives to the Synod 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 across the town to develop shared initiatives and to act as channels of communication between local churches and the diocese.

In order to fulfil these roles and responsibilities, there are some important expectations for anyone considering standing for election to the PCC:

- Committed to seeking God's wisdom through prayer and an openness to God's word and His Spirit.
- Aligned with the vision and values of Trinity, and comfortable in working with and supporting the leadership.
- Established members of the church who are engaged with the people and life of the church – usually a member of a Life Group, active in serving and a regular financial givers.
- Experience of active participation in teams and operations for an organisation, business or community group.
- Ideally, practical or professional skills, knowledge and experience in relevant areas such as finance, communications, HR, premises etc
- Committed and able to bring their best in prayer, preparation, listening and working collaboratively for the common good of our church family.
- People with Kingdom priorities and expectations – able to encourage others to share the same.