

How the Parochial Church Council (PCC) Works

The PCC is the body that is legally empowered to make decisions on behalf of the Church. In order to make sure that all decisions work towards the overall Mission of the Church, the PCC also – and most importantly – needs to continually discern the Vision for the Church.

The PCC has three different types of sub-committee:

The **Standing Committee** is empowered by law to conduct PCC business in between meetings of the full Church Council. It also acts, when required, as the financial planning group. Its members are the Church Officers plus three ordinary member of the PCC.

Working Groups review particular aspects of the Church and make recommendations for change and development. In general, the PCC passes relevant non-urgent matters to these groups because it is easier to identify and consider detailed issues in a smaller group than the full council. The two groups are:

- Liturgy Group
- Church Centre Group

The Groups are made up of PCC members and others from the church who are involved in the respective areas.

Several **Forums** plan and carry out the day-to-day activities of the church. Where appropriate, they may pass recommendations for change to the Working Groups or the PCC. The remit of a Forum may cross the boundaries between areas. Each Forum has Terms of Reference, Aims and Objectives agreed by the PCC. Usually, one of the Church Wardens is a member of each Forum. Each Forum also has PCC Members in its composition. Liaison may occur between these groups. Forums may be established, merged, re-scoped and disbanded as appropriate to the needs of the time.

The PCC as a whole discerns the Vision of the church. It takes decisions that cannot be made at the lower levels and considers matters that impact on the work of more than one Forum. The PCC organises and develops key areas of the Church's work, within the overall direction decided by the PCC to fulfil the Vision. A separate Children's & Youth Work Policy Group is deemed appropriate due to the nature of this work at St. Mark's.

The PCC will meets regularly, except in the month in which the Annual Parochial Church Meeting is held and in August. Standing Committee meets as required – normally about 2-weeks before each PCC Meeting. Forums will meet regularly (at least once each term) as deemed most appropriate for the business to be conducted.

The PCC is made up of the vicar, the Church Wardens (2), the Deanery Synod Representatives (2) and 9 elected members. Three members are elected each year for a three-year term.

Copies of PCC minutes are held in a ring-binder in the Church Office for reference by church members.

For further details see *Practical Church Management: A Guide for Every Parish* – there is a copy in the Church Office.