

Leadership in the (new) Parish of Medstead and Four Marks

'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'
Jesus in John 13:34-35

Leadership in Church of England parishes comes from the vicar in collaboration with the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Our PCC members form collectively the trustees of the new (parish) charity, but perhaps more importantly, they will together with our vicar set the direction and vision for our parish, and provide governance and stewardship of our resources.

Our PCC will be made up of the clergy, 2 Churchwardens, 4 Deanery Synod Representatives, and 9 (somewhat confusing called) PCC members. Our PCC will also appoint an Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer whom, unless they are already members of the PCC, will attend but may not vote.

Our PCC will serve the whole parish, though it's hoped there will be a fairly distributed representation from both St. Andrew's and The Good Shepherd. We expect to be able to appoint one warden from each of our buildings. All PCC members will need to make themselves familiar with the services and ministry across our whole parish, and it's important that they see that the remit covers our parish and not just 'our' interests.

Our PCC will need men and women with a living relationship with God, who aspire to model the values of Christian leadership highlighted in scripture (see 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9) and who are actively seeking God's will for their life and for our life together. This is a high bar, but do notice the encouragement in 1 Timothy 3:13, *'Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.'*

It is expected that our PCC will work toward a Local Church Council, probably chaired by a churchwarden, working with an Assistant Warden for each building which will take responsibility for the day-to-day maintenance issues and advise PCC on local congregational issues.

The Roles and Responsibilities:

PCC:

Our PCC will in the first instance meet approximately six weekly, but working toward 6 -7 meetings a year. We will also hold at least one away day a year and periodically start the meetings with a meal together.

There will also be PCC teams (committees) and task groups (to be decided by PCC) which we will need PCC members to serve on.

Our agendas will always include the practical issues of finance, buildings, safeguarding, and health and safety, but all these issues are about creating environments within which we can worship our God, and share Him with others – that is ministry and mission – and so they will also include services, staff, events, and activities. Initially, there will be a number of foundational issues to address, such as, charity registration and new bank accounts.

Churchwarden:

Our two wardens will work alongside our vicar to ensure we are moving forwards in our vision, mission, and values. The churchwardens are the most senior officers in a parish church. The wardens have a legal responsibility for the building, property and the running of services but these tasks are delegated to the building team, our caretaker, and the service wardens.

It is expected that our wardens will meet weekly with our vicar, to pray, strategize, and decide where decisions on any immediate business need to be made.

This post is for one year, with the option of re-election.

***Assistant Warden:** We would like to appoint Assistant Wardens who would assist the wardens, especially with services and buildings – one for each building. These will not be PCC members or have a legal role, but serve in associate leadership locally. This post would be for one year with the option for re-election.*

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Deanery (diocesan and general synod) representatives are automatically members of PCC.

We are part of Alton Deanery and can elect four people for this role, who will represent us at deanery discussions and represent the deanery to us in our discussions. It is an important role in providing opportunities to collaborate with the wider church family, as well as a conduit for communication about deanery and diocesan issues. There are typically three meetings a year.

This post is for three years.

PCC members

Once nine people have been elected, the posts will be chosen by lot, three will serve for three years, three for two years, and three for one year, to enable future continuity. The lot will not distinguish between buildings. The current rule allows for members to be re-elected immediately after their term ends.

Note:

The legal framework for a PCC is found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-resources/church-representation-rules>

And the separate legal information about churchwardens here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/2001/1/contents>

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