

ANNUAL MEETINGS, PCCS AND ALL THAT STUFF: A DUMMIES GUIDE!

Here's a simple guide to the weird and wonderful world of Annual Meetings and PCCs (Parochial Church Councils):

Churches need to elect people to share the running of each parish church with the Vicar. I have never known a more important time than our present situation for us all to work together. We need to consider prayerfully how we respond to the situation presented by the Coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath. Major decisions will need to be made about the future direction of our churches and how we resource our activities - the people required and the finances.

From March to May 2021 legal notices will appear about our Annual Meetings (to elect churchwardens) and our Annual Parochial Church Meetings to review the church's activities and finances in 2020, to elect members of PCCs, to and allow everyone on the church's electoral roll to ask questions about the church. Here is a simple explanation of the system:

Church Membership and the Electoral Roll. You become a member of Christ's church by placing your faith in Jesus Christ and being baptised. However, for administrative purposes, to be a member of one of our churches and participate in the annual meeting you need to be on the Church Electoral Roll. For this you need to be baptised, to be at least 16 years of age, if you live outside the parish to have habitually worshipped at the church, and sign a declaration that you are a member of the Church of England. Members of the Electoral Roll can attend and vote at the Annual Meeting, and be on the PCC. You can be on the Electoral Roll of more than one church. Forms are available in our churches and on-line.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners meets before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to elect two Churchwardens. Nominations for churchwardens must be made in writing before the meeting starts.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) has to meet by 31st May each year. Only those on the Electoral Roll, plus the clergy are entitled to attend (others may attend with the permission of the Vicar but can't vote). The Annual Parochial Church Meeting receives reports on the Electoral Roll, the activities of the PCC, the finances, the fabric of the church, and the activities of Deanery synod. It also elects PCC members, Deanery Synod members, and appoints an independent examiner for the accounts. Anyone at the APCM is entitled to ask a question about the PCC or general church matters.

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Church Wardens (two, elected annually) are senior lay officers in a parish with responsibilities of leadership and church property. They are assisted during church services by sides-persons, and are accountable to the Bishop.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the legal responsibility of '*cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.*' They are Trustees under charity law. The PCC manages the property and finance of the church and determines the nature of services. Members of PCC must be communicant members of the church (have received communion in the last year) and not be disqualified because of bankruptcy or safeguarding concerns. PCC members are usually elected for a three-year term.

	Long Buckby	Watford	West Haddon	Winwick
Church Wardens: Likely candidates 2021	Richard Howard ???	Ken Brand ???	Julie Morgan Sue Tringham	??? ???
PCC vacancies	Three (3yrs); Two (2 yrs)	Two (3yrs)	Two (3 yrs)	Two (3yrs); One (2yrs); One (1yr)
Deanery Synod vacancies	Two (2 yrs)	None	None	One

Nominations wanted

Church Wardens (legal requirement – two for each church, elected annually). Current church wardens will be considering whether they are willing to stand again. Please consider seriously and prayerfully if you should stand.

PCC vacancies:

Long Buckby: 3 vacancies for 3 years; 2 for 2 years; 1 for 1 year; 3 Deanery Synod vacancies for 3 years

West Haddon: 10 vacancies (annual election for all 10); 1 Deanery Synod vacancy.

Deanery Synod: parish reps across Brixworth Deanery meet together 3x year to consider issues of mutual interest. They have a right to be consulted on important matters of national church interest.

Please consider if you can serve the church by serving in one of the ways I've described.

Further information can be found at: