

PCC Tonight – How we try to run our PCC meetings.

In 2017 some members of the PCC attended a course entitled 'PCC Tonight' to improve our own meetings. Following that evening suggestions were made and accepted by the then current PCC, what follows is an information guide for anyone who may be interested in becoming a PCC member.

- 1. The purpose of the PCC is five-fold: to enable the church to play its part in God's mission to his world; to co-operate with the vicar in sharing leadership; to ensure legal compliance with charity and church law; care for the building and land, and be a channel of communication within the wider church.**
2. A PCC listens and debates in order to seek and hear God's wisdom even when things become complicated.
3. When there is disagreement, or when hard decisions need to be made, we need to remember that this is part of the Christian work of discernment.
4. The important thing is to keep God right at the centre and trust that he is powerful enough to lead. To keep the focus on Christ we place a candle in the centre to remind us why we are here.
5. The PCC is there for God, the church and, most importantly, for the parish.
6. A good PCC is not inward focused, backward looking, downcast, downbeat or downtrodden, it should instead be a place of grace, forgiveness, prayer, wisdom and hope.
7. A good PCC strives to be constructive, co-operative and cheerful, looking up to God, looking out to the world, looking forward faithfully and looking after others with integrity and humility.

The Agenda:

1. The agenda should be clear and items timed. Important items are placed first on the agenda immediately following Matters Arising, which relates only to items discussed at the previous meeting.
2. AOB items should be submitted to the PCC secretary beforehand and if they need discussion should be placed on a future agenda.
3. Finance should always be on the agenda.

The PCC Meeting:

1. Get to know one another.
2. Begin and end on time. 90 minutes was suggested as a reasonable meeting length but it is up to us to decide.
3. PCC members should always send apologies in advance if they cannot attend; this is not just a courtesy but it also helps the PCC secretary and the chair to plan ahead.
4. PCC members should read all documents sent in advance of the meeting including the Minutes, to make the best use of time and to improve effective discussion. If there are any PCC members who have difficulty reading and/or printing out the papers the PCC secretary should be informed and an alternate way be found.
5. PCC members are asked to listen carefully and speak sensitively – seek to understand and seek to be understood.
6. All discussion should be through the chair, conversations between individuals are distracting and disturb the flow.
7. Contribute to the debate if you have something to say; good conflict focuses on issues placed on the table and diverse views, well-articulated, generate different viewpoints.
8. We try to review every meeting by asking two questions. What has worked well? What can we do to improve the meeting?