

## **St John's Church, Southbourne with St Nicholas, West Thorney**

### **PCC member role and responsibilities**

The PCC is the main decision maker of the parish, and its powers and duties are defined by legislation. Legally, it is responsible, along with the incumbent, for promoting the whole mission of the church in the parish; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

It should consider matters concerning the Church of England, and communicate with the diocesan and deanery synods.

It appoints sidespersons.

The PCC has a voice, along with the incumbent, in deciding the forms of Service used by the church.

The PCC may make representations to the bishop on matters that affect the welfare of the parish.

The ethos of the PCC is to work together to extend Jesus' model of the Kingdom of God on earth by living out a lifestyle of love, truth, justice, mercy and forgiveness, according to his teaching. We are inspired by Christ's message, life and example through which God's unconditional love for all people is expressed. Our ethos is rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ and in His love, which compels us to serve others.

The role of the PCC member is to share with the Incumbent and other PCC members the privilege and responsibility of decision making, and promote the mission of the church in the parish.

### **Financial responsibilities**

Legally, the PCC is responsible for the finances of the parish. The PCC is a "body corporate" under law, and also a charity, so must comply with Charity Commission guidance and legislation.

The PCC members are trustees of the charity, but liabilities it incurs are enforceable against the PCC as a body corporate and not against individual members. The affairs of a PCC must be conducted, and the assets of a PCC must be held and applied, solely to promote the charitable purposes for which the PCC is established under the 1956 Measure, and not for other purposes (even if charitable) nor, a fortiori [even more strongly], for the private benefit of individuals, such as members of the PCC.

The members have a duty to:

1. protect the assets of the charity
2. show a reasonable degree of care and skill in the administration of the charity (eg by taking appropriate professional advice before buying or selling land or investments, and avoiding imprudent or speculative investments);
3. not to receive a financial benefit, whether directly or indirectly, from the trust
4. not to take advantage of knowledge, information or opportunities acquired by virtue of his or her position as trustee; and
5. not to put him- or herself in a position where his or her duty to the trust and his or her personal interests conflict.
6. The PCC also has ultimate responsibility for the care and maintenance of all church buildings and their contents. Although these responsibilities are executed by the churchwardens, all PCC members must share in the oversight.
7. The PCC is responsible for promoting Health and Safety.

8. When the member resigns or comes to the end of their tenure, they should notify the PCC secretary in writing.

### **Safeguarding**

The PCC and the incumbent have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in their church community. In terms of safeguarding, led by the incumbent the PCC will promote safer church and ensure safeguarding is taken seriously.

This involves:

adopting the House of Bishops "Promoting a safer church" safeguarding policy statement, as well as Diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidance

appointing a parish safeguarding officer

ensuring all church officers working with children, young adults and vulnerable adults are appropriately recruited, trained and aware of the guidance.

### **Promoting the spiritual life of the church**

PCC members should commit to serving the church by:

Supporting the incumbent, church wardens and other staff, including praying for the parish and the incumbent.

Supporting and praying for St John's church family

Promoting and praying for the outreach of the church to the parish.

Attending PCC meetings, and preparing by prayerfully reading the necessary documentation before each meeting.

Helping communicate with the wider church, while maintaining confidentiality where appropriate.

Being prepared to take responsibility for, or be involved with, one particular aspect of church life or project as they arise.

Sarah Maclennan

PCC Secretary

Approved by PCC July 2021