

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ROLES TO BE FILLED AT ALL SAINTS & ST JAMES ANNUAL MEETING (APCM)

Here is a brief summary if you are thinking of nominating someone or standing yourself

What exactly is a PCC?

PCC stands for 'Parochial Church Council'. The principal function of the PCC is the 'co-operation with the minister (Vicar) in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.' It is a shared ministry between clergy and lay people, as the PCC 'consult(s) together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish'. There are 12 lay reps on the PCC, who serve for three years, starting from the Annual Meeting.

What is a Deanery Synod?'

Synod' simply means an assembly or meeting. Every diocese is divided into local administrative areas known as Deaneries, usually consisting of several parishes. It is the task of the Area Dean to convene a meeting (Deanery Synod) of elected lay people and clergy from the parishes. Each parish has a number of representatives depending on size (in our case 4), who are elected for a three year term.

What does a Deanery Synod do?

The aim of the deanery is to be a local network of churches, inspiring, influencing and leading mission and ministry. The Deanery Synod elects members of the Diocesan and national General Synods, and can raise matters of concern for consideration for those bodies. It is currently preparing a Mission and Ministry Plan for the deanery affecting all the parishes, so it is important that we are fully represented during this time of change.

What is a Churchwarden?

Churchwardens are elected by the Meeting of Parishioners each year and, once sworn in, are the bishop's lay officers in a parish. It is a volunteer role, and Churchwardens are vital to the health and wellbeing of a church community. The role of a Churchwarden is a statutory one, with ancient origins. The rights and responsibilities are laid down in ecclesiastical law under the Churchwardens Measure 2001. Their first and direct responsibility is to the Bishop, usually via the Archdeacon. Together with the parish priest, they are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of a parish. NB: "responsible for" doesn't mean doing it all themselves!

The role is very varied, but generally involves matters to do with church life, governance, buildings and worship. Churchwardens work closely with Archdeacons and their offices.

Churchwardens:

- care for and support the parish priest, and are people to whom the incumbent can turn to for advice and support
- try to ensure that the incumbent is relieved of superfluous administrative, and other, tasks provide feedback, as a 'critical friend', for the parish priest
- care for the congregation and encourage people in their Christian faith
- help to resolve disputes or disagreements amongst the congregation or with the parish priest, or with the local community
- when any concerns arise, they should consult the Area Dean and/or Archdeacon.
- have a set of keys for the church

- attend services regularly, and normally arrive in good time to support the welcome group, be present for any refreshments, and assist in tidying up after services.

At All Saints

There were, until a just few years ago 3 Church Wardens (a combination of Wardens and Deputy Wardens). More recently All Saints has struggled to appoint any at all, perhaps through a perception that the role is onerous.

Below is a summary of the Warden role as it is shaped specifically at All Saints, it would be great to see a pair of wardens at All Saints once more. We can accept a nomination of a pair who are prepared to work together.

The way in which churchwardens exercise their office varies from parish to parish. At All Saints' they are part of a large team including:

- The Warden and Deputy Warden of St James with whom to share the above responsibility for the parish as a whole
- The Benefice Administrator who puts together duty rotas for services and for whom the wardens act as a point of contact, especially when the vicar is away.
- The Verger who gets the church building ready for services, looks after day-to-day care of the building – including arranging cleaning – and has responsibility for opening and closing the building during the week, and being around for contractors to gain access etc.
- The sides-team leaders who, on a rota, lead the sides team at 10.45am services. The wardens may be sides-team leaders as well but because of this team it frees the wardens up to not be required to be on duty at every service.

If you would like more information about how the parish and its churches are run you can talk to the Vicar, Fiona Mayer-Jones, or the current Church Warden, Peter Andrew.