

# A Letter from the Parochial Church Council

## BEING ON THE PCC . . . .

If you've ever wondered how our church is run, who does what or decides what, then here is the answer - it's the joint responsibility of the vicar and the parochial church council (PCC).

The PCC is made up of elected members from our church congregation and is rather like our church's governing body with the vicar as chairperson. We discuss matters of policy and make key decisions about most things relevant to the life of our church. Want to know more? Here are some facts:

- PCC members are elected at the Annual Parochial Council Meeting, coming up on **Sunday 16th May**.
- We currently meet every 2 months, usually on a Thursday evening.
- All meetings start with an opportunity to pray and worship together.
- Each meeting has an agenda prepared and circulated at least one week beforehand.
- Minutes are circulated to PCC members after each meeting and are also made available to the congregation, less any confidential matters.

Being a member of PCC is not at all onerous or time-consuming and it gives each member the opportunity to contribute to discussion and to decision making. If you would like to find out more about the PCC or are interested in joining, please have a chat with Cait our vicar, David and Dejan your churchwardens, or with Kate, PCC secretary.

### BEING A CHURCHWARDEN . . . .

Now that you've read about being a PCC member, what about the wardens? Churchwardens are elected annually at the Annual Vestry Meeting. Their term of office is one year only. They need to be re-elected every year and may serve for up to six consecutive years. After that time they must step down.

Churchwardens automatically become members of PCC. They work closely with the vicar to ensure the smooth day-to-day functioning of the parish.

Being a churchwarden can sometimes be time-consuming but also extremely rewarding. Their primary responsibility is the care and support of the vicar, being there to listen and to give advice. Other responsibilities will include the following:

- They should attend services regularly, and normally arrive in good time to support the sidespersons in welcoming people to church and to services.
- They provide feedback, as a 'critical friend', for the vicar.
- They must care for the congregation and encourage people in their Christian faith.
- On occasion, wardens will help to resolve disputes or disagreements amongst the congregation or with the parish priest.
- They should ensure that the service register and other registers are properly filled in.

If you would like to find out more about the role of a churchwarden, please have a chat with Cait our vicar, David and Dejan your churchwardens, or with Kate, PCC secretary.