

Annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) 2023-24.

The PCC is composed of members of the clergy licensed to the parish and Twenty Seven members of the laity. To explain the composition: posts allow for 18 members of the laity, including two representatives of the daughter churches. There are also four ex-officio Deanery Synod representatives posts, and the Secretary and the Treasurer. However, at this time, only 12 of a possible 18 posts are filled, and three of the four Deanery Synod Representatives posts were filled, so there have been some vacancies and we are hoping to encourage more people to stand. In addition to these posts, the Director of Music and the Youth Worker have been co-opted onto the Council,

The prime purposes of the PCC are to cooperate with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, considering matters of religious or public interest and acting as a link between the parish and the deanery and diocesan synods. The PCC fulfils this function principally through its committees, which are composed both of members of the PCC and other members of the church.

In addition to a short meeting following the annual meetings, the PCC had five regular meetings since the previous APCM, at which it received reports and proposals from the subcommittees and committee reports from St James' Swards End and St John's Little Walden, as well as dealing with matters relevant to the whole PCC.

The council has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Some of the matters on which the PCC has focussed over the past year, have been:

- Regular reports on the state of the church's finances
- Regular Reviewing and approving upcoming children and youth events
- Repairs to the electrical systems following a lightning strike, and recovery of the cost of these repairs
- Review of the times and natures of various Church services
- The adoption of prayers collected as "Prayers of Love and Faith"
- The appointment process and recruitment of a new Team Administrator
- Review of Safeguarding Policy and implementation
- Reviewing the future of lighting in St Marys
- Reviewing the future of the organ in St Marys
- Beginning to address potential for building improvements in st John's, Little Walden

- 2024 budget and approval of financial accounts 2023

Anna Martin
PCC Secretary