

## St Peter's Church

### The responsibilities attaching to membership of the PCC

At this first meeting of the PCC year the responsibilities attaching to membership have to be reviewed.

- 1 Under the Charities Act (1993) all PCC members are trustees responsible for all the PCC's financial activity (though without individual liability for any monies). St Peter's is fortunate in currently having funds totalling approximately over £1m.

It is the duty of PCC members to monitor all income, including giving, donations, legacies, wedding and funeral fees, magazine adverts and sales, fundraising and any other activities; likewise, with expenditure, notably the Common Fund, insurance, utilities, maintenance, staff salaries, fees and expenses. Most of this work is carried out by the treasury team (sidespersons, cashiers and counters, fundraisers, treasurer) and overseen by the Finance Committee. This Committee reports regularly to the PCC. Trustees should be satisfied that adequate safeguards against fraud or error are in place, and ask questions if in doubt.

The Parish Giving Scheme was adopted *nem con* by the PCC seven years ago. When PCC members join – as the hope is that they will – it is a sign to the congregation at large of a quite essential benefit accruing to St Peter's. For all concerned, the PGS is certainly the easiest, the most efficient and discreet, method of regular church giving. It proved invaluable during the period of the covid lockdown: those parishes who use it were protected financially, while others faced considerable difficulty.

- 2 'Fit and Proper Persons': Members of the PCC have all completed the process of signing the forms of declaration and thus responding to the requirement to comply with the 2010 legislation that requires churches (and other charities) that reclaim Gift Aid to be able to demonstrate that they and any church staff and volunteers who manage church funds are 'fit and proper persons'. All the forms are kept safe in my filing cabinet.
- 3 A slightly different issue is our requirement to conform to the GDPR rules. In that vein, you usually receive from me PCC papers which have been sent by me to myself and by 'bcc' to you. But it would be a help to know whether members of the PCC are in fact content that all should know their email addresses.

David Catchpole  
3 May 2023

With the responsibilities of PCC membership in mind, the Diocese has produced what is I think an excellent paper on the subject, well worth reading by even the most longstanding and experienced of PCC stalwarts. The link is:

<https://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/A-Guide-for-New-PCC-Members-revised-2017.pdf>