

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT: THE OPPORTUNITY

We are a strong team, made up of a diverse group of people, with a whole range of experience and skills to share. God has called us together to serve the community.

We feel blessed to be drawn to take on this responsibility and be part of the process of guiding the direction of the ministry and mission of the church in our town.

We need and value every PCC member. We all have our own contribution to make.

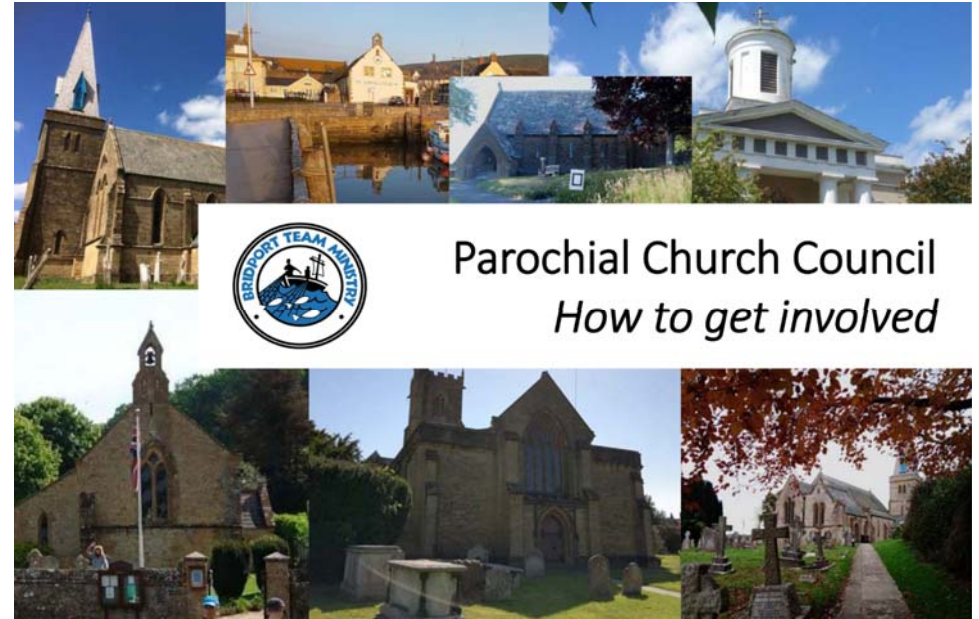
This is an exciting time. The church is adapting, meeting together and worship patterns are changing, how we collaborate is developing as we work much more closely across the parish to support each other and make a difference.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Every year we appoint people to serve on the PCC and the annual church meeting is coming up towards the end of May. Do you want to have a say, make a difference, and help to steer our parish forward?

Please, give prayerful consideration to becoming a PCC member and think about whether you, or someone you know at church, would like to be involved. There are lots of people to help if you have questions, and you would get training, a PCC Handbook and the support of your colleagues to help you get familiar with the role.

Speak to one of the clergy or a churchwarden to find out more and, whatever you decide, do come to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to find out about what we're doing.



The **Parish of Bridport** was formed when Allington, Walditch, Bothenhampton, Bridport & West Bay and Bradpole were united. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the governing body of the whole Parish of Bridport. Could you be a member?

What does the PCC do?

- Works with the Team Rector in **shared leadership** of the church.
- Promotes the **mission** of the church, in the parish.
- Takes responsibility for the **care and maintenance** of the six church buildings and churchyards.
- Looks after parish **finances**.
- Ensures **legal compliance** with charity law and employment of our paid workers.
- Links the parish to the **wider structure** of the church.

How does it work?

- We work as a team across the parish. ***We meet regularly (about 6 times a year)*** to manage our finances and buildings, our involvement in the wider community, our outreach and mission, spiritual development and pastoral care of the congregation, our patterns of worship and the social activities of the church.
- The PCC delegates some responsibilities to ***sub-committees*** which report back. This provides the opportunity for those with specialist knowledge or skills to work in a small group. Each PCC member will get involved in one or more of these groups, working across the parish and involving others who are not on the PCC but have the skills we need.

Who are the members?

Clergy, and lay members of the parish who are:

- ***Committed members of the congregation***, keen to make a difference.
- ***Representatives*** of all members on the Electoral Roll.
- Outward looking who want to ***demonstrate their faith*** in action.
- Willing to ***give their time*** to attend meetings and get actively involved.
- ***Respectful of other's views*** and able to debate proposals in an open, frank and courteous manner.
- Caring, good-humoured, ***team players***.

Lay Representatives are elected for a term of three years but may stand for re-election if they choose to do so.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT: THE COMMITMENT

Working with the Clergy

The clergy have been called by God to this parish. Theirs is a very public role, they come into our community to serve us; we enable them to work to the best of their calling by supporting them with ours.

You will need time if you take on this role

It's not just about attending meetings; you will be representing everybody on the Electoral Roll of the parish, not just your local church. You need to get to know the different buildings and styles of worship, meet the people and consider their needs. The PCC must be seen to do its job thoroughly and well, to gain the trust and confidence of the parish.

PCC members are Charity Trustees

You have a responsibility to ensure compliance with charity law and with church (ecclesiastical) law. This includes preparing and submitting an annual report of key achievements and financial statements to the Charity Commission and diocese.

Personal liability would only arise in the event of a failure to act in accordance with legal responsibilities as trustees, including the duty to show a reasonable degree of care in the administration of PCC affairs.

As a trustee and a senior representative of the parish, you will need an **Enhanced Clearance from the DBS** (Disclosure and Barring Services) before you take on the role. This complies with safer recruitment processes to help prevent unsuitable people working with vulnerable adults and children.

BUT IT'S VERY REWARDING TOO...