

APCM

Neil Richardson tries to explain what it is.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is a major event in the life of any Church of England parish.

- Everyone involved in the church is invited to attend;
- It is the occasion on which reports are made to the congregation by those who have been carrying out church responsibilities in the previous year;
- In particular, there is a PCC report including an examined financial statement;
- The meeting is also an occasion on which matters of importance to us may be discussed;
- Churchwardens are elected;
- People are invited to stand for election to various other posts, including the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and those on the Electoral Roll may vote when a post is contested by more than one candidate.

The APCM is the bedrock of Church of England democracy. Who is elected matters because they are responsible for spending the Church's money and making other decisions that really matter. But you need to be enrolled on the Church Electoral Roll before the meeting to make the best use of the opportunity.

At Holy Cross Church, we organise our governance into a selection of committees who are responsible for recommending policies and expenditures to the Parochial Church Council. On the next page you will find a list of the currently proposed Committees and their areas of responsibility.

The aim is to have as members of these committees a mixture of people, combining members of the PCC and other members of the congregation. This approach allows the PCC to engage a wide variety of people in discussions about the parish's policies and practises. This is good because everyone has a chance to contribute in their area of interest and gradually, members of the congregation gain confidence and expertise which equips them sooner or later to assume greater responsibilities.



This may give the impression of more and more talk, but in fact, the PCC agreed expenditure last year of £45,000 to renovate the Old Church and this year will spend another large sum on the driveway of the New Church. This spending has to be matched in a big way by raising income and the PCC is responsible for balancing the church budget and spending wisely. This is often challenging!

It isn't all boring discussion though. There are many times when our creativity is needed and a sense of humour always proves a valuable commodity.

You are warmly invited to join in and both take responsibility and enjoy the thinking processes which are needed to make wise choices.

The next APCM is on Thursday, 28th April, 2011 at 8pm in the New Church. You welcome to attend, and in fact, we need you to attend so that the future of Holy Cross is in safe hands.

The Parish of Greenford Magna

**PCC Committees 2011-2012
proposed areas of responsibility**

Committee	Areas of activity
EDUCATION	Crèche, Chris...Cross, Cross-Over and Cross-fire. Educational programme for adults, Lent Courses. Child protection issues. Confirmation programme.
SOCIAL	Oversight of annual events programme in and around the church and visits to places of interest designed to be pleasing and bring people together. Liaison with other organisations with local events to prevent clashes, Co-ordination of event catering.
WORSHIP	Worship issues generally, orders of Service, ceremonial matters, Common Worship issues, music in worship, servers, hymn and song books, worship as it affects all age groups, Readers and intercessors, special services, training for participants.
PASTORAL	Domestic issues such as Notice boards, welcoming ministry, paperwork for new people, (e.g. This is Holy Cross" leaflet) and on-going activities such as Bereavement visiting, Baptism partnership, Drop-in, transport to church issues, Keeping in touch with the housebound or long-term sick
BUILDINGS	Planning essential maintenance work, ensuring quinquennial inspection work is completed on time, planning the cleaning of the buildings and the mowing of the churchyard. Maintenance of diary and management of letting church property.
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	Maintenance of a fund- raising programme of events for the Church building including completing the Access Project and looking forward to significant expenditure in future, in partnership with established events and individual initiatives. Seeking grants from grant-making bodies for the project, paper fundraising activities
MAGNA	Production of an interesting and relevant parish magazine on a monthly basis.
STEWARDSHIP	Periodic programmes to increase membership of the Committed Giving Scheme. Annual renewal of the Committed Giving scheme. Regular presentations in church and parish publications to keep Stewardship in the mind of the established congregation and action to bring new people into the Giving Scheme as soon as possible in order to express our Christian vision and to ensure continuing financial long-term stability
WEBSITE	All content of the website are the responsibility of the Rector and Wardens with the Webmasters responsible for upkeep.
STANDING COMMITTEE	This committee is made up of PCC officers and elected members who meet between PCC meetings to consider issues and handle urgent business if required.

The PCC is the policy making body and must agree all items of expenditure, except emergencies when the Standing Committee may act. The committees may make recommendations to the PCC in advance of meetings.

In addition to this structure, anyone is welcome to come forward with an initiative to improve church life and we hope that new ideas will be forthcoming this coming year. Speak to the rector or a Churchwarden about your fresh approach.