

Annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) 2017-18.

The PCC is composed of members of the clergy licensed to the parish and currently 26 members of the laity, including two representatives of the daughter churches. 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 5 regular meetings since the previous APCM, at which it received reports from the Deanery Synod and 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, in approximate chronological order, have been:

- Regular reports on the state of the church's finances
- Building project
 - Flooring work and new furniture for storage, shelving and a servery
 - Plumbing and drainage for the servery and WC
 - Excavation work in the churchyard
 - Planning for further stages of the project
- The Chelmsford Diocese School for Disciples PCC Toolkit
- The role and appointment of a Compliance Officer
- Review of Safeguarding Policy and implementation
- An organ scholarship scheme in memory of Michael Swindlehurst
- The Arts Society Church Record of St Mary's
- The work of the Stort Valley Schools Trust
- Reflections on Advent, Christmas and Epiphany services
- Investigation of the condition of the chancel roof
- 2018 budget
- Approval of financial accounts 2017

Most of these activities are reviewed in more detail in the Annual Review, which includes reports from all the PCC sub-committees.

Lisa Brook
PCC Secretary