

## Leadership elections

*Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2018*

### Churchwardens

A churchwarden's role is very varied. It can be very rewarding and demanding. In our parish we have three churchwardens and they are elected by church members. They are key leaders and serve as officers of the Bishop.

The churchwarden should be someone who the congregation respects and who can take charge when needed. Rarely, a churchwarden may have to take a service at short notice, or deal with the press if some major issue occurs. More often, he or she needs to help the PCC to make the right decisions. And above all, Churchwardens should be prayerful, wise, leading by example and willing to be firm but gentle.

Churchwardens are responsible for keeping things in good order, collecting the offerings of the people and caring for the church's property. Churchwardens oversee the team of Sidespeople and Welcomers. They make a report each year to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and play a full part in the meetings of the PCC and Standing Committee. They ensure that proper preparation is made for all services and ensure arrangements are in place for any service they can't attend. They meet to pray regularly with the vicar.

Churchwardens also have important pastoral responsibilities in caring for the parish clergy and their families, in encouraging other church members in their Christian faith and in being a point of contact for the wider church.

Eligibility: Churchwardens must be baptised, be on the church electoral roll of the parish, be "actual communicants" (receive communion regularly), and be at least twenty-one years of age. Churchwardens are elected annually by a meeting of Parishioners and may serve for a maximum of six consecutive terms.

### Parochial Church Council Representatives

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible, with the incumbent, for the life and mission of the parish. The chief responsibilities of the PCC are in agreeing policies and the authorisation of projects that involve substantial sums of money.

The PCC is also legally responsible for all parish finance, the use of property and employment of staff. PCC members are charity trustees and this brings particular authority, power and accountability. PCC Representatives should be regular worshippers and be willing to offer their particular skills and experience in making a real difference. Understanding how church members

feel about issues is very valuable and so is the commitment to work in between meetings to make things happen successfully.

The clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers, Churchwardens and Deanery Synod Representatives are all ex-officio members of the PCC. In addition, twelve representatives are appointed by election. They are elected for a three-year term of office. There are currently five vacancies to be filled.

Eligibility: PCC Representatives must have been on the church electoral roll of the parish for at least six months at the time of the election, be actual communicants (receive communion regularly), and be at least sixteen years of age. Proposers and seconders must also be on the church electoral roll of the parish.

## Deanery Synod Representatives

The Deanery Synod is a tier of church government. The Parish of St Mary belongs to Islington Deanery and sends three elected representatives to the Islington Deanery Synod, in addition to the clergy.

Deaneries are consulted by the Diocese of London on matters of policy. Deanery Synod Representatives should be informed about the life of the parish and opportunities for the church's mission in the wider area.

Eligibility: Deanery Synod Representatives are elected for three-year terms at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. They must be on the church electoral roll of the parish, be actual communicants (receive communion regularly), and be at least eighteen years of age. Proposers and seconders must also be on the church electoral roll of the parish. There are currently three vacancies to be filled.

## Elections and Nominations

All candidates for election must be nominated and seconded. Sometimes people are reluctant to be nominated for a role if doing so means there will be an election. But there is nothing ungodly about elections! (See Acts 6.3, where the church community was asked to choose from their number seven people who were full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom and who were in good standing with the church.)

## Your responsibility as a member of St Mary's

Please pray for God's guidance. Who do you think should serve God and our church in these roles? Is God calling you to one of these ministries? If so, don't be afraid to invite someone to nominate you. You have a responsibility to think and pray about this, and for all who are involved. And finally, do make sure that your name is on our church electoral roll, or you won't be able to vote. Electoral Roll forms are contained in the "Becoming a church member" leaflets in the foyer; alternatively please see our Electoral Roll officer, to get one or to check whether you are on the Electoral Roll.

## This Year's Elections

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting this year will be held on Sunday 22 April 2018 at the main eleven o'clock service.

Please complete the nomination form and give it to a churchwarden or member of the clergy as soon as you can before the Annual Meeting.

Nominations for churchwardens may not be taken at the meeting itself.

## Nomination Form

I confirm that I am eligible and willing to serve as (please circle as appropriate):

- Churchwarden
- PCC Lay Representative
- Deanery Synod Representative

and if elected, I agree to serve.

Name (in capitals):

Signed:

Date:

Proposed by (name in capitals):

(signed):

Seconded by (name in capitals):

(signed):

The nominated person must also sign a Form of Declaration confirming that they are not disqualified from being a PCC Member.