

***Guildford Emmanuel,
St Francis and St Clare
(PCC Guildford EFC)***



PCC & Deanery Synod Guide

Step Up, Serve, Make a Difference!

Could you be a voice for Emmanuel,
St Francis and St Clare's Future?

Three Churches, One Parish

Kingdom building work

Serving on your Parish Parochial Church Council (PCC) as a Deanery Synod representative or PCC member is more than an administrative duty - it's a meaningful act of discipleship and service - it's kingdom building work.

These roles are vital in shaping the spiritual life, direction, and outreach of the church, and they offer an opportunity to grow in faith, leadership, and shared responsibility.



Shaping our Parish

1. Shape the Mission of the Parish

PCC members play an active role in shaping the direction and priorities of their churches and parish. From deciding on budgets and buildings, to supporting outreach and worship, PCCs help translate vision into action. It's a chance to make real decisions that impact the spiritual and practical life of the church and parish community.

2. Represent and Listen

Deanery Synod members act as the bridge between the local Church/Parish and the wider structures of the Church of England. They represent their parish at the deanery level and bring back insights and developments that can enrich local mission. It's a role that combines listening to your community and speaking up on their behalf.

3. Deepen Your Faith and Understanding

These PCC roles invite deeper engagement with the Church's teachings, policies, and challenges. Whether discussing local priorities or wider national issues, PCC and Deanery Synod members are invited to reflect theologically, act wisely, and grow in discipleship.

4. Encourage Collaboration and Change

Deanery Synod offers opportunities to connect with other parishes, share resources, and collaborate on missional initiatives. It's a space where fresh ideas can flourish, and where small Churches can gain strength through partnership.

5. Answer a Call to Serve

Ultimately, serving on the PCC is a form of ministry. It's a way to use your gifts - whether in finance, pastoral care, administration, or vision - to serve God's people. In a time when Churches face complex challenges and opportunities, faithful, prayerful lay leadership matters more than ever.

What do PCC members actually do?

The general functions of the PCC include:

- Support the vicar and leadership team in the vision, direction and priorities of the whole parish and each church
- Enable the church's mission, worship, outreach, and pastoral care
- Overseeing finance and building matters, ensuring wise stewardship
- Ensuring safeguarding and legal responsibilities are met
- Read reports, ask questions, and vote on decisions affecting the parish
- Bring the views, needs, and concerns of church members into the decision-making process
- Help with communication between the leadership and parish members
- Communicating and enacting decisions from Diocesan or Deanery Synods

Being a PCC member is part trustee, part advisor, part active volunteer. It's not just a management role - it's a ministry of service and leadership, helping to ensure the parish is healthy, sustainable, and focused on God's mission.

Who can stand?

To stand for election as a PCC or Deanery Synod member, you must:

- Be on the electoral roll for at least six months
- Be at least 16 years old for PCC, 18 for Deanery Synod
- Be a communicant (a regular recipient of Holy Communion)

In addition you:

- Are a committed Christian
- Are known and trusted by Church members
- Are actively involved in Church life, including Sunday services and mid-week activities
- Are willing to lead or serve in an area of ministry/operations and on one of the committees/teams
- Can attend PCC meetings (typically the 3rd Monday of the month)
- Are able to attend PCC away days (usually one Saturday a year)

Even if work or family commitments occasionally prevent regular attendance, your voice and gifts can still make a valuable contribution. Don't be discouraged from standing, we actively encourage a diverse group of people to stand.

Interested in serving?

If you feel led to stand, pray that God's will is done through the process. If not elected, your willingness to stand is still a gift to the church. If elected, know that you serve as a representative of your parish and church community, entrusted with listening, leading, and serving in humility.

Speak to:

**Thom Jee
Pelumi Adeyemi
James Herring**

A nomination form must be completed, requiring:

- The signature of the nominee
- Signatures from a proposer and seconder, both of whom must be on the electoral roll
- Give the completed form to a Churchwarden or Vicar/Minister
- If there are more candidates than vacancies, an election will be held at the SPCM
- If the number of candidates matches or is fewer than the number of vacancies, they may be elected unopposed
- PCC members typically serve up to a 3-year term (the minimum term because of the merger is 2 years)
- Deanery Synod members will be elected again in spring 2026. The minimum term is usually 3 years.