

The Parochial (Parish) Church Council meets every two months, and below is a report on the most interesting bits from our recent meeting. If you have views on anything we discuss, or on what we should discuss, please speak to any of the PCC members. Anyone who is on the church electoral roll can stand for election to the PCC, which happens at the annual church meeting every April.

PCC Meeting 24th March 2011

Bible reading and prayer: Steve read Colossians 1:9-10. In our Christian lives we seek to know Christ better, so that we obey him more fully, which leads to knowing him better. Knowledge and obedience reinforce each other. We are to allow God to work powerfully in us, yet also to be active ourselves. See Colossians 1:29, "For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."

Minister's report: Steve is grateful for the leadership of the church, both staff and non-paid members of the church family, working hard and effectively. The PCC asked whether the staff are also getting enough rest and were reassured that they are. Steve had recently returned from the Senior Clergy Retreat and was encouraged; churches are driven by a passion for the glory of Christ, a passion that we must not lose.

Paul Hobbs: The PCC reviewed the art exhibition week, and are positive about the idea of inviting Paul again in maybe five years time.

Prayer: We discussed how to stimulate prayer in the church family, and how to teach people to pray. Ideas ranged from small to big and frivolous to serious - ask anyone on the PCC what they can remember, and please add your own. We noted that our church life rarely includes silence and contemplation. We would like to create a culture where people naturally and informally pray with each other.

Also... we approved the budget and information for the church annual meeting, we thanked God for increases in money given to the church, we agreed that the end of 2011 is the limit for exploring alternative uses for the Abbey church, and we were informed about Deanery and Diocesan open meetings regarding "Women in the Episcopate" on 11th June, 13th June, 16th June and 7th July.

Anna Bickerstaffe