



# Refreshing your PCC for mission

Croydon Episcopal Area – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
See <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/News> for a pdf

**This workshop is all about fresh expressions of PCC. Meetings that have you on the edge of your chair with excitement.... Well, why not? And all you need are three, well, four things.**

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## 1: The need for a clear purpose

***A clearly articulated and owned ROLE, rather than a typical FUDGE***

*We need to ask 'Why?' questions about the PCC instead of 'How?' ones.*

### Background

Mark 3:13-19 – one example of a clear group purpose

### Three principles to follow

- 1 The PCC serves the church, so its agenda is driven by the **church's Christ-centred purpose and direction** – which of course the Council may define in the first place.
- 2 Council members **sign up to a clear PCC role** so that activity has a focus, business can be checked to see if this is the right body for it, and achievement can be assessed. Key points: [1] to seek God's will, [2] to work together, [3] to take action for the future.
- 3 This role is concerned with **leadership** more than representation, with **risk** more than with safety, and with **modelling discipleship** and decision-making for others.

### Practical applications

- We are to pray 'your will be done' rather than follow our own desires or wisdom.
- We are to think servant leadership to enable change rather than representation.
- We are to role-model the church's values rather than think 'reward' or 'status'.
- We are to be proactive in our thinking rather than waiting for something to happen.
- We are to welcome review for purpose and performance.

## 2: The need for a big agenda 'big' not 'long'!

### ***The community of Christ's CHURCH, rather than a charitable CLUB***

*We need to ask 'Why not?' questions about the Council instead of 'Why should?' ones.*

### **Background**

Colossians 1:9-14 – not a bad prayer for the year for a PCC

### **Three principles to follow**

- 1 PCC members devise and follow a **distinctively Christ-centred** agenda for the year, and so seek to unlearn what many are used to in normal secular meetings.
- 2 The PCC takes a **big-picture overview** of all of church life: worship, community, outreach, leadership and support, resisting every pressure to pull back into the safer territory of detail and, often, trivia.
- 3 **Mission** is not so much items on the agenda as the agenda itself, with all business seen in that context.

### **Practical applications**

- We are to be disciples not business executives in our meetings.
- We are to be people seeking God's future not living in our past.
- We are to take an overall perspective on each item instead of a departmental one.
- We are to have courage to stay in big-picture mode rather than revert to trivia.
- We are to have an attitude of trust for the small groups that handle detail.

## 3: The need for an effective team

### ***A team of godly PEOPLE, rather than the dates of business MEETINGS***

*We need to ask 'Who?' questions about the Council, instead of 'When?' ones.*

### **Background**

1 Timothy 3:8-13 – the importance of the person profile, yet we often ignore this

### **Three principles to follow**

- 1 The PCC is a clergy/lay **team** that exists 24/7, not just at meetings. Meetings become special events in the life of the team, means to enable the team to function, never ends in themselves.
- 2 The team is seeking to **achieve something for Christ together**, not to be a forum where groups aim for dominance or rubber-stamp others' decisions. This means the team itself needs leadership (a different role from chairing a meeting).

- 3 As Scripture teaches, **character** becomes a vital characteristic for the members, and **love** for the body as a whole. The expectation is for members to grow in **discipleship** through PCC service, so membership is a challenge for everyone.

### Practical applications

- We are to expect to be tested by the annual meeting for suitability for our role.
- We are to learn the art of team-working: love, humility, trust, vulnerability, listening, etc.
- We need to keep the PCC relatively small in number
- We are to recognise and respect the role of ‘team leader’.
- We are to work well under a ‘meeting enabler’.

## 4: The need for an agreed plan

### ***ACTION for the future, rather than repeated DELAY***

*We need to ask ‘What?’ questions about the PCC, instead of ‘Whether?’ ones.*

Your next action to take as a result of this session:

*Some of the resources on my **website** (which you may download and/or print out free of charge) may prove helpful background to sections of today. In the following list, A refers to the Articles pages and TN to the Training Notes ones. **<https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources>***

A24 Mission-shaped Church Councils *(on which today has been based, although the applications I have used have been a little different)*

- |        |   |      |                                     |
|--------|---|------|-------------------------------------|
| A5     | How to chair meetings                   | TN45 | Are you sure it's minutes you need? |
| A20    | Annual meetings can be different        | TN48 | Let's get purpose statements right  |
| A40/41 | Going deeper into meetings              | TN58 | Beware committees                   |
| TN8    | Major decisions: a new approach         | TN61 | Mapping out a meeting               |
| TN13   | A purpose statement for those who chair | TN71 | Seatings for meetings               |
| TN32   | What do you mean by vision?             | TN79 | 'One another' teams                 |
| TN38   | We've got news for us!                  | TN88 | Advice to a new committee member    |
| TN41   | What makes a group a team               | TN97 | How to minute a meeting             |

TN118 (due to be uploaded on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019) is titled 'Why, exactly, are we meeting?' on purpose.

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