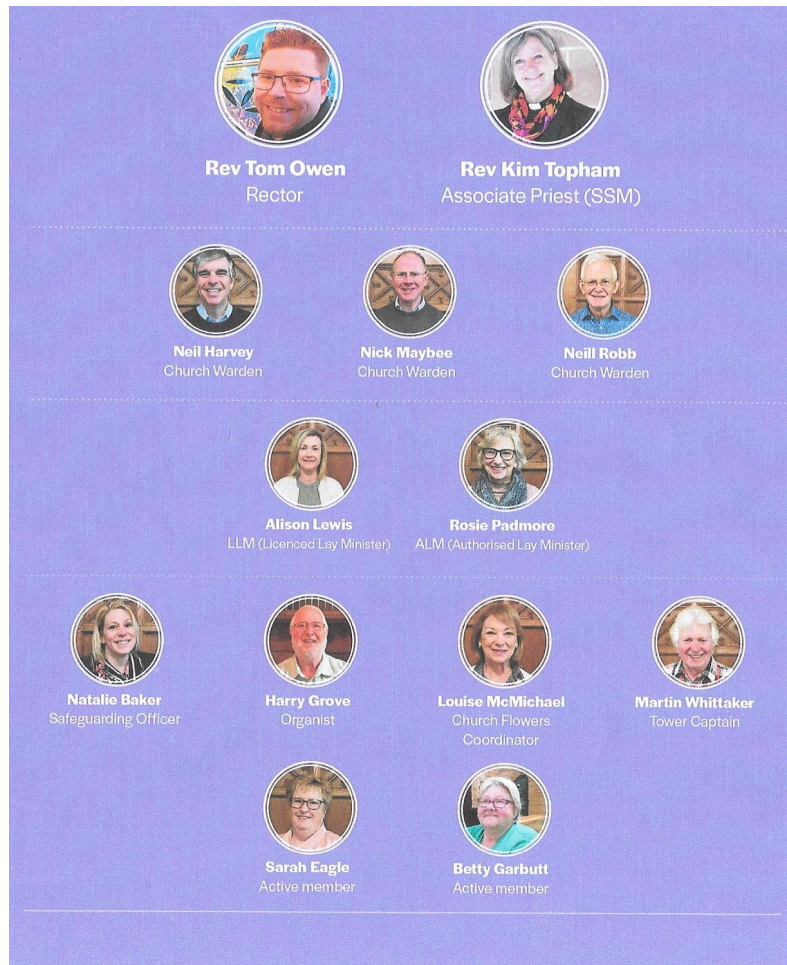


Parochial Church Council Report 2025



The “Who’s Who” on the PCC ~ produced by Rosie Padmore

The meetings of the PCC were led by Rev. Kim Topham for the majority of the year, until the appointment of Rev. Tom Owen as Rector of the Benefice*.

The P.C.C. 2024/25 consisted of the persons shown above.

Meetings for the year took place on_

Sunday 3rd March ~ AGM - at Church

Thursday 7th March ~ Combined meeting of Benefice PCCs - at St. Saviour

Thursday 20th June ~ at Church

Tuesday 10th Sept. ~ on Zoom - a single item agenda

(change to the constitution of Interview Panel)

Thursday 26th Sept. ~ at Church

Monday 18th Nov. ~ at Church

Thursday 13th Feb ~ at Church *

The Annual Vestry Meeting and AGM are scheduled to be held on

Sunday 2nd March ~ at Church

Having suffered the unexpected and tragic loss of our Treasurer, Jon Prior, and said goodbye to Anne Harris and Rosemarie Buchan after their many years of dedicated service as Wardens, we were pleased to welcome both Neil Harvey and Nick Maybee into the role of Church Wardens to accompany Warden Neill Robb in looking after the church and its proceedings.

Nick took upon himself the additional role of Treasurer.

Their new eyes have brought a fresh approach to our perennial concerns and they have updated many of our documents and working practices.

The church's 'Terrier' register (2008) - the record of what we have and hold - has received a comprehensive review (2025).

Also, following the advice of the Diocese, several minor funds and bequests have been wound-up and such sums amalgamated into general funding.

One of our major tasks this past year was to join with the PCC of St. John and St. Saviour, Hagley, to be advised by the Archdeacon (Nikki Groarke) and the Rural Dean (Andrew Sillis) on the selection and appointment of a new Rector for the Joint Benefice of our parishes.

An interviewing panel of representatives from all areas was formed to assess the candidates who responded to the comprehensive document produced by our team to advertise the vacancy and to make their selection.

(But then, who wouldn't want to come to Clent and Hagley ?).

We are pleased to say that Rev. Tom Owen was successful and the whole PCC attended his induction ceremony, held at St. John, Hagley, in which members of Clent PCC officiated.

He chaired his first PCC meeting early this February.

Safeguarding issues, headed by Natalie Baker who is the parish's Safeguarding Officer, are raised and reviewed at every meeting and the Council is kept abreast of our compliance with contemporary regulations on a corporate and a personal basis.

Martin Whitaker brings bell-ringing matters to our attention, including membership of the WDCRA and liability insurance, training and Safeguarding compliance. He also reports-back to us about teams from other towers visiting to ring at Clent and about various training events which are hosted here. He is also very active in developing our Hand-bell ringing team and conducts their excellent performances at our Festival celebrations.

The PCC keeps a careful eye on our financial affairs, monitoring our investments and making applications to the Church Lands Charity for funding for projects of improvement (together with their attendant applications for 'Faculty' permissions from the Diocese). It then supervises such projects making sure that proper professional advice has been sought and followed.

In our recent oversight of finances the PCC is much indebted to Mark Taylor, our Independent Examiner, who has been generous in his advice and support to our new team.

Members are free to bring their creativity to suggestions and voice their own ideas as to the direction of future projects which will develop the work and mission outreach of St. Leonard, ensuring that we remain a vibrant, welcoming and developing church, though remaining true to our traditional, rural character.