

# Birmingham Diocesan Trust – Guidance Note 1

## Background for Charity Trustees

1. PCCs are governed by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended by the Synodical Government Measure 1969 and the Church Representation Rules. A PCC is a charity, and a member of the PCC is a Charity Trustee.
2. Most PCC members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and you can find more information about governance on the Parish Resources website <https://www.parishresources.org.uk/>
3. PCCs are charities, whether registered or not, and as a PCC member you are in the position of a charity trustee. As a charity trustee of the PCC your main duties are set out in statute:
  - i) You must make sure that the PCC is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit. In simple terms this means that you should make sure that you are spending charity funds on the correct purposes. Failure to do so is a very serious matter, and in exceptional cases, can lead to personal liability -
  - ii) You must make sure that the PCC is complying with its legal responsibilities.
  - iii) You must act in the PCC's best interest and manage the PCC's resources responsibly. You must make sure that you are acting responsibly, reasonably and honestly. You may hear this referred to as the "duty of prudence" which is all about exercising sound judgement. This is particularly important when you are dealing with any assets that the PCC might have, whether this is cash, investment fund or a property.
4. This Charity Commission document may be helpful [The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do \(CC3\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)