

# St Werburgh's Church Council



Thank you so much for your interest in standing for election to the WCC. We are so very grateful for your time, effort, and everything else you bring. Werb's wouldn't be the same without you! Here is some more information about the WCC and what it entails that we hope will be of help as you prayerfully consider whether this is a way in which God is calling you to serve at this time.

St Werburgh's Church Council is our Werb's equivalent of a Parish Church Council (PCC). It is not exactly a PCC, as St Werburgh's Church is a Bishop's Mission Order church (for the city of Derby) rather than a parish church. The Diocese of Exeter has some information on what a PCC is and does:

<https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/church-officer-resources/>

## Role of the WCC

The WCC will:

- Listen to Jesus
- Oversee life at Werb's
- Build relationships with the staff
- Keep us on vision
- Accountability
- Make decisions and take action
- Take on the role of trustees of the charity

## Trustees

As Werb's is a charity, all WCC members also become charity Trustees. This includes shared financial, legal, human resources and buildings responsibility. As all churches are charities that work with children and vulnerable adults, there is also a Safeguarding responsibility. There is a useful guide to what a Trustee is here:

<https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/governance/getting-started-in-governance/trustees>

Given the legal, financial and safeguarding aspects of becoming a trustee, there are legal requirements for eligibility for becoming a member of the WCC. In summary, these are:

- Be a member of Werb's
- Be at least 18 years old
- No previous disqualifications as trustee
- No unspent convictions from a specific list

For more information, please see the Government information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trustee-board-people-and-skills>

## **Oversee life at Werb's**

At Werb's we have a VISION to build an authentic community, which is Christ centered, that plays its part in transforming the city and beyond. Our VALUES are: Grace, Gratitude, Generosity, Gathers and Grows.

One of the roles of the WCC is to ensure accountability, particularly regarding keeping Werb's on vision and demonstrating our values in all we do. There are many ways in which the WCC may oversee life at Werb's and ensure accountability. This includes:

- Building relationships with the staff
- Making decisions
- Taking action where appropriate
- Being involved in life at Werb's, for example by serving on another team
- Prayer
- Discussion at WCC meetings

## **Listen to Jesus**

Most importantly, at the heart of our vision and everything we do is that we are Christ-centred as individuals and as a community. We ask that our WCC members endeavour to fix their eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Separately and together we pray that God would guide us in everything, that His will would be done.

## **Practical aspects**

### **Meetings**

The WCC meets nine times per year. These meetings are in person at Werb's, 8pm on the second Monday of every month (except April, August and December, when there is no meeting).

On the occasions that decisions are required in between usual meetings then this will usually be undertaken by email.

### **Specific roles**

Each WCC member chooses by agreement with one another to "champion" a particular area at Werb's. Some of these are bespoke specific roles, for example Safeguarding or Finance [Treasurer]. The others mostly have one or more members of staff working within that area, such as Children and Youth, or Worship and Production. There is flexibility as to how each WCC chooses to champion that area and staff member. As a baseline, a regular meeting to get to know them, support them and pray for them is encouraged.

## **What we hope for from our WCC members:**

- Confidentiality
- Any conflicts of interest to be declared
- To use your voice and to speak up: Proverbs 15:22 'Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed'. If you disagree with something, please say so (calmly, and with compassion, kindness, respect and empathy).
- We want to disagree well, especially in meetings. Then once a decision has been made, we ask that all WCC members be loyal publicly both to that decision and to the WCC team
- Commitment to what we believe God is building in and through us
- Prayer
- Wisdom
- Accountability
- Vision
- A willingness to take action

## **The Process**

Thank you for your interest, and in getting this far! If you would like to know more, please let us know and we'll make arrangements for you to chat to someone. If you'd like to proceed then please complete the attached form, have it countersigned by Werb's members who are happy to nominate you for this role, and please return it by the date given.

Voting is anonymous and online in the few days prior to the Annual General Meeting. You will be informed of the result prior to the AGM. The church will be informed of the new WCC members at the AGM.

New WCC members will need to undergo an enhanced DBS check, to complete paperwork to become a trustee, and undertake some online Safeguarding training (unless already completed for a different volunteer role at Werb's).

Thank you once again for considering whether to stand for election for the WCC. We are so grateful for your interest and prayerful consideration as to whether this is a way in which God is calling you to serve at this time. Please let us know if there are any adjustments we can make in order to assist with any additional needs.

We look forward to hearing from you.