

THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER
The Right Revd James Langstaff



CHURCHWARDENS MEASURE 2001
CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

ANNUAL MEETINGS, ELECTIONS ETC. IN 2020

The Bishop of Rochester, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 10 of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 and rule 78 of the Church Representation Rules, makes the following provision

Application

1. The provision made by this instrument applies to each parish in the diocese of Rochester.

Interpretation

2. In this instrument –

“the Measure” means the Churchwardens Measure 2001; and

“CRR” means the Church Representation Rules.

Meeting of parishioners to choose churchwardens, etc.

3. The time for holding a meeting of parishioners to choose churchwardens in the year 2020 is extended so that the churchwardens are to be chosen not later than 31 October 2020.
4. In consequence –
 - (1) the time to be appointed by the bishop for the admission of churchwardens is to be a date not later than 31 January 2021;
 - (2) subject to sections 6A (suspension), 7 (resignation) and 8 (vacation of office) of the Measure, the term of office of a churchwarden chosen in the year 2019 continues until 31 January 2021 unless that person (if chosen again as churchwarden in 2020) or that person’s successor is admitted to office by that date (in which case, the term of office ends on the date of the admission).

Annual parochial church meeting and representatives of the laity

5. The period for holding the annual parochial church meeting ("APCM") in the year 2020 is extended to 31 October 2020 (and accordingly, the time for electing parochial representatives of the laity to the deanery synod and to the parochial church council, and for transacting the other business of the meeting, is extended to that date).
6. In consequence –
 - (1) a person who on the day on which this instrument is made is a parochial representative of the laity on a deanery synod continues to hold that office, and continues to hold office as a member of the parochial church council under CRR rule M15(1)(i), until 30 November 2020 (and accordingly, that person's successor holds office from 1 December 2020);
 - (2) a person who on the day on which this instrument is made is a parochial representative of the laity on the parochial church council, and whose term of office was due to end at the conclusion of the APCM in 2020, continues to hold office until the conclusion of any APCM for 2020 that is held after 31 May in accordance with paragraph 5;
 - (3) the secretary of each deanery synod must, despite the election of parochial representatives of the laity to that synod not having taken place, give the diocesan electoral registration officer the information specified in CRR rule 20(1)(a) and (b) no later than 1 July 2020.
7. Paragraph 6(1) and (2) are subject to the provisions of CRR Part 7 (Disqualification etc.).

Date 19th Nov, 2020

Signature

+ James Ruffin

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note does not form part of the instrument)

This instrument has been made by the bishop of the diocese in the light of the national situation relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19). The instrument is made under the bishop's powers contained in the Churchwardens Measure 2001 and the Church Representation Rules.

For 2020, the time for holding a meeting of parishioners to choose churchwardens is extended until 31 October (instead of 31 May). Similarly, the period for holding an annual meeting of parishioners (APCM) is extended to 31 October.

Churchwardens who were chosen in 2019 continue to hold office until 31 January 2021 unless their successors are admitted to office before that. If a churchwarden is serving the sixth successive period of office, that sixth successive period is extended so that disqualification under section 3 of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 (disqualification after six periods of office) arises only at the end of that extended period.

The term of office of current representatives of the laity on deanery synods is extended until 30 November. As a result, it will be the current members of the houses of laity of deanery synods who will comprise the electorate for the House of Laity of the General Synod in elections to the General Synod this year.

The term of office of representatives of the laity on parochial church councils is also extended. A representative of the laity whose term of office was due to expire this year will expire but where the APCM is deferred under the provisions of this instrument, the representative's term of office will expire only at the end of the deferred APCM.

If, before the instrument is made by the bishop, a parish has already held its annual meeting of parishioners and APCM for 2020, the effect of the instrument is as follows:

- the churchwardens chosen in 2019 remain in office, and the churchwardens chosen in 2020 will take up office when they are admitted to office (which could be as late as 31 January 2021);
- the previously elected representatives of the laity on the deanery synod (i.e. those elected in 2017 or to fill casual vacancies since the 2017 elections) continue in office until 30 November 2020 (rather than 30 June, as would otherwise have been the case) and the newly elected representatives of the laity on the deanery synod (i.e. those elected in 2020) will not take up office until 1 December 2020 (rather than 1 July);
- newly elected representatives of the laity on the PCC will already have taken up office immediately at the conclusion of the 2020 APCM.

Secretaries of deanery synods must, as already required by the Church Representation Rules, give the diocesan electoral registration officer the information specified in rule 20(1)(a) and (b) (i.e. name and addresses of members of house of clergy and house of laity etc. of deanery synod) by 1 July 2020. That will, as a result of the extension of their terms of office, involve the secretary of the deanery synod giving the diocesan electoral registration officer the names of the existing members of the house of laity (i.e. those elected in 2017 or subsequently to fill casual vacancies).