



The Diocese of Southwark

The Venerable Simon Gates
Archdeacon of Lambeth

The Venerable John Kiddle
Archdeacon of Wandsworth

The Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett
Archdeacon of Croydon

The Venerable Moira Astin
Archdeacon of Reigate

The Venerable Dr Jane Steen
Archdeacon of Southwark

The Venerable Alastair Cutting
Archdeacon of Lewisham &
Greenwich

31 July 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The deadline for these meetings is currently 31st October 2020. You will remember that Bishop Christopher signed a legal instrument to make this possible. You can find that information via these two links:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/news/press-releases/2020/bulletin-no-1-monday-23-march>

[https://southwark.anglican.org/downloads/Bishop's%20Instrument%20\(APCMs,%20Wardens%20etc\).pdf](https://southwark.anglican.org/downloads/Bishop's%20Instrument%20(APCMs,%20Wardens%20etc).pdf)

Many of you are now asking about these meetings in the light of the current situation. We realise that we, and you, need to consider how they are held, how notice is given, how the electoral role is revised and so on. For this reason, the Bishop is taking advice about a further legal instrument. This could permit meetings to take place virtually, or with a mixture of physical and virtual participation. It may also be possible to allow the 2020 meetings to be rolled over to the 2021 ones. You will understand that these things need to be thought through and that we wish to give advice in conjunction with the national church. As soon as a decision is made, it will be communicated. In the meantime, you may wish to delay making annual meeting arrangements until September.

We are very aware that many of you have churchwardens who wish to resign. If that is so, you may wish to appoint acting wardens who can be properly elected when the Annual Meeting of Parishioners occurs. Some parishes have already decided to do this. Please tell the archdeacons' PAs if you have appointed such wardens so that information can be sent to them, and not the previous churchwardens. If the annual meeting deadline is rolled over to the 2021 deadline, you may wish to have an informal annual congregational meeting, in person or by electronic means, in the autumn.

As you know, churchwardens normally resign by writing to the Bishop. Please ensure that this happens and cc your archdeacon' PA.

Please be assured that the Bishop wishes to give parishes permission to do what is best for them. We are aware that this letter is something of an interim communication and that parishes have been under enormous stress throughout the pandemic. We very much hope that this letter is helpful and that you will find an opportunity for rest and refreshment over the summer, despite the uncertainty with which we live.

With our thanks and prayers,

Alan Kidd

Simon Gate

Moira Astin



Jane Steen

Alastair Cutting

The Archdeacons of the Diocese