



Annual Parochial Church Meetings and Meetings of Parishioners for 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can we hold parish and deanery meetings electronically (via Zoom or similar)?

No. The Archdeacons have decided that it is best for meetings to be held in person with the appropriate safety precautions in place. It is possible to livestream the meeting to avoid observers being in the same room as the meeting; however, only those physically present at the meeting may vote, regardless of eligibility.

2. Who should decide on when and how to hold meetings?

It is usually for the minister to convene parish meetings. The ‘minister’ is the Incumbent or Priest-in-Charge, or a Team Vicar with special responsibility for parish meetings. If there is a vacancy and no Priest-in-Charge is yet appointed, the APCM is called by the vice-chair of the PCC and the meeting of parishioners is called by the Churchwardens. In any case, Bishop Christopher asks that decision-makers consult with colleagues on the Parochial Church Council wherever practicable.

The decision about whether to hold a Deanery Synod meeting by electronic means rests with the joint chairs of the Deanery Synod.

3. What happens to elected representatives of the laity on PCCs?

At each APCM, at least some of the elected representatives of the laity on each PCC retire. These retirements will take place when the 2022 APCM is held. Until that time, the elected representatives of the laity remain in office.

4. What about our Charity Commission requirements?

Financial statements and annual reports are primarily the responsibility of the PCC. The view of the Diocese is that parishes should not delay making any filings with the Charity Commission in order to await the APCM. Parishes should keep records of decisions taken using the flexibility provided by Bishop Christopher’s decision.

5. What happens to Churchwardens?

Churchwardens should be admitted as soon as possible after they are chosen. This will be done by an Archdeacon in a special service called a Visitation. The Archdeacons (through the Archdeacons’ PAs) will advise on the procedure for Churchwarden admission and co-ordination of Visitations.

If there is a delay in a Churchwarden being admitted at a visitation, the Churchwarden-elect may sit on the PCC in the period between their election and their admission.

January 2022