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2020 Annual Parish Meetings

10 September 2020

Earlier this year Bishop Keith extended the deadline for holding your annual parish meeting until 31st October 2020.

In late July we issued the advice we had at that time:

<https://www.chester.anglican.org/news/annual-parochial-church-meeting.php>

Holding Annual Meetings online

This week the Bishop of Chester has made an instrument (see link below) to allow parish meetings to take place online from now until 31st October, in order to improve safety and accessibility of annual parish meetings in this emergency period.

If you wish, you may hold your meetings this year online or in a hybrid (some people meeting in person, others online) format. This is your PCC's choice. If you would normally expect numbers at your annual parish meetings that you can safely accommodate in your building there may be no need for any change, even if your numbers are restricted. However, if you would expect more than you can safely accommodate, or if you know of people who wish to attend but cannot safely attend in person, you may wish to offer this option. Meetings must be in accordance with the latest Government guidance.

If you choose to use an online or hybrid format, please note the following:

- The rules on participation in annual parish meetings have not changed, therefore everybody must be able equally to hear the business of the meeting and be heard when they speak. In practice this means that an interactive platform (e.g. Zoom) may be used, while e.g. Facebook Live may not.
- You will need to consider how votes are to be taken and recorded. Votes at annual meetings are normally taken by show of hands, which will present few problems on a video platform. Anybody present may require a recorded vote, normally on signed papers: you will need to consider to use text, chat or other function for this purpose if you need to. Note that a recorded vote at annual parish meetings is not a secret ballot.
- The PCC must provide for the annual parochial meeting copies of its annual report, and of the electoral roll. Where some people are participating online you will need to find ways of making these available online, by email, or in advance paper copy.

- Where meetings are held online you should consider where and how signed paperwork will be required. Nominations for churchwardens must be made in writing and in advance of the Annual Meeting (but this may be done by email). Declarations of Trustee eligibility for newly-elected PCC members should be filled in and signed in hard copy, but this may be done after the meetings if necessary.
- There is no provision for proxy voting at annual parish meetings. Postal voting by those not present at the meeting is not possible unless a previous annual meeting has passed a resolution to allow it.

If you need further advice about any of this, please contact your archdeacon or the Diocesan Secretary.

2020 Visitations

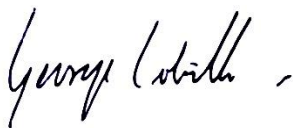
We will be arranging archdeacons' visitations for the admission on churchwardens elected during 2020. It is likely that these will take place online except for churchwardens who are unable to access that format. Watch out for further details.

New Deanery Synods

2020 is the year for the election of new deanery synods. Please note that this year the newly-elected deanery synod will not come into existence until 1st December 2020. Until then the previous deanery synod members remain in post.

2021 Annual Meetings

You should hold your 2021 annual parish meetings at the usual time, on any date from 1st January to 31st May 2021. For those elected for a one year term in 2020 it may therefore be a short "year". Remember that whatever the date of the APCM your annual PCC reports are reports for the previous calendar year.



George Colville
Diocesan Secretary

[Download the Bishop of Chester's provision for online meetings up to 31 October](#)