

DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER

Churchwardens Measure 2001 Church Representation Rules 2020

The Bishop of Chichester, 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 provisions:

Application

1. The provisions made by this Instrument apply to each parish and deanery in the diocese of Chichester and to the Chichester Diocesan Synod.
2. This Instrument is supplemental to that made on 19 March 2020 by the Bishop of Chichester extending the time for holding annual meetings and elections in 2020 to 31 October 2020. That Instrument continues in force.
3. The purpose of this Instrument is to alter the procedure for parochial and synodical meetings in the diocese of Chichester by making provision for meetings to take place remotely by electronic means.
4. The provisions made by this Instrument are additional to, not in place of, the usual provisions for physical meetings. They are permissive, not mandatory, and it is for the person or persons responsible for the convening of a meeting to determine its procedure (including the manner in which it should be held).

Interpretation

5. In this Instrument –

“the Measure” means the Churchwardens Measure 2001;

“CRR” means the Church Representation Rules;

“meeting” means a meeting of parishioners, an annual parochial church meeting, a parochial church council meeting, a meeting of a deanery synod or a meeting of the diocesan synod as the context requires.

Meeting of parishioners to choose churchwardens, etc.

4. Sections 4 and 5 of the Measure shall apply with the modifications set out in the schedule to this Instrument.
5. A vote may be taken by such electronic or other method of voting as may be determined by the chair of the meeting.

Annual parochial church meeting and representatives of the laity

6. Rules M1, M2, M6, M7, M9 and M11 of the CRR shall apply with the modifications set out in the schedule of this Instrument.
7. A vote may be taken and resolution passed by such electronic or other method of voting as may be determined by the chair of the meeting.

Parochial church council meetings

8. Rules M23, M24, M25, M27 and M28 of the CRR shall apply with the modifications set out in the schedule to this Instrument.

9. A vote may be taken and resolution passed by such electronic or other method of voting as may be determined by the chair of the meeting.

Diocesan Synods and Deanery Synods

10. Rule 44 of the CRR (procedure of diocesan synods), rule 26 of the CRR (procedure of deanery synods), the Diocesan Rules for Deanery Synods and the Standing Orders of the Chichester Diocesan Synod shall apply with the modifications set out in the schedule to this Instrument.

11. The provisions made by this Instrument have effect in spite of any inconsistent provisions in the Standing Orders of the synods; and any such provisions are accordingly to be ignored.

12. A vote, whether of the whole synod or by Houses, may be taken by such electronic or other method of voting as may be determined

(i) insofar as concerns the Diocesan Synod, by the Bishop, the Chair of the House of Clergy and the Chair of the House of Laity acting jointly; and

(ii) insofar as concerns a deanery synod, by the Area Dean and Lay Chair acting jointly.

Schedule Modifications

1. A reference to a meeting includes a reference to a meeting which persons may attend, speak at, vote in, or otherwise participate in without all of the persons, or without any of the persons, being together in the same place.

2. A reference to a place where a meeting is held, or is to be held, includes a reference to more than one place, including electronic, digital or virtual locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.

3. A person is to be regarded as present at a meeting at any given time if the person is at that time able to hear and be heard, and where practicable see and be seen, by the other persons present.

4. A reference in this Instrument to being present at a meeting includes a reference to being present by electronic means, including by telephone conference, video conference, live webcast and live interactive streaming.

Signed this 14th day of August 2020

+Martin Cicestr:
The Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester