

**PROVISION MADE BY THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD UNDER RULE 78(5)(b) OF THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES and SECTION 10(1)(c) OF THE CHURCHWARDENS MEASURE 2001**

This Instrument is made on *26th August 2020* and has effect from the date on which it is made until 31st October 2020 or until revoked if sooner

**Remote working**

1. Section A of the Model Rules of Part 9 of the Church Representation Rules (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) and the Churchwardens Measure apply with the following modifications.
2. A reference to an Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to a Meeting of Parishioners of the Parish ('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.
3. 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. A notice convening such a meeting shall include details of all places at which a person may gain access to such a meeting including any necessary pass code. Where it is possible (having regard to all regulations and guidance regarding public assembly current at the time of the notice and at the time of the meeting) persons entitled to attend should be offered the opportunity of physical attendance but the notice should make clear that if circumstances dictate then the physical place may not be available but that the meeting would nonetheless go ahead; it is important therefore that conference call facilities should be available for anyone not having access to virtual face to face systems.
4. 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.
5. A vote may be taken by such electronic method of voting as may be determined by the chair. For the avoidance of doubt, where a parish has already voted to conduct elections by postal vote, they may continue to do so, or may decide in a meeting held under this Direction to use electronic voting instead; where a request is made for a vote by ballot papers the vote may be cast by email or other electronic method approved by the chair; where a parish is able to do so it may facilitate voting by a combination of methods including making a ballot box available for persons eligible to vote to cast their vote in person.

6. The provision made by this Instrument has effect in spite of any inconsistent provision in the CRR or rules for a Parish or the Churchwardens Measure 2001; and any such provision is accordingly to be ignored.
7. 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.

*+Michael Keith:*

SIGNATURE