



**CHURCHWARDENS MEASURE 2001**  
**CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES**  
**DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER**

**ANNUAL MEETINGS, ELECTIONS ETC.**

The Bishop of Manchester, 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 provision made by this instrument applies to each parish in the diocese of Manchester and has effect from the date on which it is made until 31 December 2022 or until revoked if sooner.

**Interpretation**

2. In this instrument –

“the Measure” means the Churchwardens Measure 2001; and

“CRR” means the Church Representation Rules.

**Meeting of parishioners to choose churchwardens, etc.**

Section 5 of the Measure (concerning the meeting of the parishioners) shall apply with the following modifications.

3. A reference to the meeting of parishioners 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.
4. A reference to a place where the meeting of parishioners 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.
5. A person is to be regarded as present at the meeting of parishioners 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.
6. A vote may be taken by such method of voting as may be determined by the Chair of the meeting of parishioners.
7. The provision made by this Instrument has effect in spite of any inconsistent provision in the Measure; and any such provision is accordingly to be ignored.
8. A reference in this Instrument to being present at the meeting includes a reference to being present by electronic means, including by telephone conference, video conference, live webcast and live interactive streaming.

### **Annual parochial church meeting and representatives of the laity**

Rules M1-M11 inclusive of the CRR shall apply with the following modifications.

9. A reference to the annual parochial church 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.
10. A reference to a place where the annual parochial church 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.
11. A person is to be regarded as present at the annual parochial church 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.
12. A vote may be taken by such method of voting as may be determined by the Chair of the annual parochial church meeting.
13. The provision made by this Instrument has effect in spite of any inconsistent provision in the CRR; and any such provision is accordingly to be ignored.
14. A reference in this Instrument to being present at the meeting includes a reference to being present by electronic means, including by telephone conference, video conference, live webcast and live interactive streaming.

### **Special and extraordinary meetings**

For the avoidance of doubt, the modifications to the provisions of the CRR concerning the annual meeting (numbered 9 to 14 inclusive above) shall likewise apply to any special or extraordinary church meetings convened in accordance with Rules M13 and M14.

Date 16-2-21

Signature



## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

(This note does not form part of the instrument)

This instrument has been made by the bishop of the diocese in the light of the ongoing national situation relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19). The instrument is made under the bishop's powers contained in the Churchwardens Measure 2001 and the Church Representation Rules.

For 2021, the manner in which a meeting of parishioners to choose churchwardens is held is amended so as to permit parishes to hold this meeting virtually (instead of requiring all attendees to meet in person in a single venue). Similarly, the manner in which an annual meeting of parishioners (APCM) is held is also varied so as to permit virtual meetings.

Provision is also made to permit, if required, any special or extraordinary meetings to be held virtually.

Nothing in this instrument alters the requirement for such meetings to be held no later than 31 May 2021.

Churchwardens who were chosen in 2020 continue to hold office until 31 August 2021 unless their successors are admitted to office before that date.