

B10 EXTENDED EPISCOPAL MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

This section is based upon guidelines produced by the House of Bishops for the Implementation of The Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993. They are designed to enable all parties to work together in relation to the legislation authorising the ordination of women, respecting the integrity and conscience of those with differing views. There is a range of theology and practice about the ordination of women to the priesthood and these guidelines attempt to hold together this range of thinking and its expression in liturgy and pastoral care.

Parishes are given certain choices in relation to the ministry of women who are priests and can opt to pass one or both of the resolutions A and B contained in the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993.

Resolutions A and B

Parishes may wish to consider one or both of the resolutions contained in Clause 3 of the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993

Resolution A: *“That this Parochial Church Council would not accept a woman as the minister who presides at or celebrates the Holy Communion or pronounces the Absolution in the parish.”*

Resolution B: *“That this Parochial Church Council would not accept a woman as the incumbent or priest-in-charge of the benefice or as a team vicar for the benefice.”*

In any event, under Section 11 of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986, a PCC is required to meet within four weeks of being formally notified of a vacancy in the benefice and to decide, among other things, whether or not to pass resolutions A and B. If passed the resolutions remain in force unless and until they are rescinded.

Resolution C

In accordance with the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993, the diocese is required to make provision for extended episcopal ministry and pastoral care for those who are opposed to the ordination of women to the priesthood and find themselves unable to accept the ministry of the diocesan and suffragan bishops. If a parish has passed one or both resolutions A and B it may consider petitioning the diocesan bishop to the effect that appropriate episcopal duties in the parish should be carried out in accordance with the Act of Synod. This is referred to as “Resolution C” and needs to be reviewed at least once in every five years in accordance with Section 9(2) of the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993. The current procedure for this is set out in Annex A

Some aspects of this ministry may be provided by other bishops who live in or near the diocese, with the approval of the diocesan bishop. Where this is not possible or acceptable the diocesan bishop may request an extended episcopal ministry from the Bishop of Richborough, one of the two Provincial Episcopal Visitors (PEVs) commissioned by the Archbishop of the Province.

The Role of the Provincial Episcopal Visitor (PEV)

The role of the PEVs is defined in Sections 5(3) and (4) of the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod:

- *S.5(3) “Each Provincial Episcopal Visitor shall be commissioned by the Archbishop of the Province to carry out, or cause to be carried out, for any parish in the Province such episcopal duties, in addition to his other duties, as the Diocesan Bishop concerned may request. The Provincial Episcopal Visitor shall work with the Diocesan Bishop in enabling extended pastoral care and sacramental ministry to be provided.”*
- *S.5(4) “Each Provincial Episcopal Visitor shall act as a spokesman and adviser for those opposed, and shall assist the Archbishops in monitoring the operation of the Act of Synod.”*

The role of the PEV has developed since 1993 and has been clarified further in the Blackburn Report (*Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod – Report of a Working Party of the House of Bishops GS 1395*)

- *S.5.20 “Extended Episcopal Ministry does include a real concern about the temporalities as well as the spiritualities. They are all of a piece. For example, on questions of payment of the Quota, the PEV has an important part to play in encouraging a petitioning parish which has failed to pay all or some of its Quota to do so.”*

This diocese does not have an episcopal area system and therefore the Diocesan Bishop and the Bishop of Dunwich work across the whole diocese and are more than ready to exercise a sacramental ministry in all the parishes of the diocese, acknowledging that in some there is division and uncertainty. Where, however, this is not acceptable, the parish may petition for extended episcopal ministry by passing Resolution C under Section 7 of the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod provided that the PCC has already passed Resolutions A and B under Section 3 of the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993. If Resolution C is passed in accordance with regulations then the Diocesan Bishop is required to consult with the minister and PCC and consider how to respond appropriately to the petition. The following guidelines apply to such an arrangement:

Guidelines for parishes receiving extended episcopal ministry and pastoral care from the Provincial Episcopal Visitor

These guidelines apply to parishes which have petitioned for extended episcopal ministry and where the diocesan bishop has accepted the petition and requested such ministry from the Provincial Episcopal Visitor.

Episcopal Authority

The diocesan bishop is the Ordinary in all matters legal and juridical and therefore all clergy and parishes will work through the normal diocesan structures. The archdeacon is the person with oversight of administrative matters and works with clergy and PCCs in relation to the care of buildings and the conduct of parish business in general including finance.

Appointment process

Appointments of licensed clergy are normally handled by the bishops and archdeacons and the Bishop of Richborough will be automatically involved in relation to those parishes where episcopal duties according to the Act of Synod have been requested and agreed by the diocesan bishop. The normal practice in this diocese is to have a “section 12” consultation meeting which brings together all “interested parties” to discuss the “needs, condition and traditions” of the parish and come to a consensus about what is needed in a new parish priest. The PEV in this case is an interested party and will be invited to attend and will have a right to be present.

Institutions and Licensing Services

These are conducted by the Diocesan Bishop or the Bishop of Dunwich but the PEV will be invited to attend and take part in the service.

Confirmations

As part of his extended episcopal ministry the PEV will conduct confirmations and arrangements are normally made direct with him by the parish concerned, though it is helpful to be in touch with the diocesan bishop’s office as a matter of courtesy and so that these confirmation services can be listed and publicised in the same way as all others.

Ordination Services

The diocesan bishop will make arrangements for candidates who feel that they cannot be ordained by the diocesan or suffragan bishop.

Episcopal Reviews

These are carried out by the bishops and archdeacons in the diocese and any additional input from the PEV would be welcomed.

Pastoral Care

The Bishop of Richborough is available to offer extended episcopal and pastoral care to those who would prefer to approach him rather than one of the bishops in the diocese. The bishop can be contacted at: The Rt Revd Keith Newton, Richborough House, 6 Mellish Gardens, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BH Telephone number: 020 8505 7259

Pastoral Organisation

Pastoral organisation is dealt with by the bishops, archdeacons and rural deans of the diocese in conjunction with the appropriate pastoral committees. The PEV will be consulted in relation to any parishes for which he is providing extended episcopal ministry and he will receive all the papers relating to any pastoral re-organisation and schemes.

The Role of the Provincial Episcopal Visitor within the Diocese in general

The Bishop of Richborough, who is the Provincial Episcopal Visitor for this diocese, is a bishop in the Church of England and an assistant bishop in the Diocese of Canterbury. He is therefore welcome to minister within the diocese with the approval and support of the diocesan bishop and the Bishop’s Staff and he is involved at various levels in both formal and informal consultation.

Parishes other than those for which he is providing extended episcopal ministry and pastoral care may wish to invite him to lead or take part in services or be involved in

discussion and they are welcome to do so. It is helpful, as with any other invitations to bishops from outside the diocese if the diocesan bishop can be kept informed.

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ANNEX A

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE REVIEW OF A PCC PETITION (Resolution C)

The Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod requires the Parochial Church Council to review at least once in every period of five years the arrangements in force where a petition under the Act of Synod is in operation in that parish. The House of Bishops issues these guidelines to parishes for carrying out such a review.

Timetable for Review

1. Not later than six months before the end of each five year period the secretary of the Parochial Church Council ("the Council") should inform the Council that the review is required to be carried out and should put before the Council the suggested programme and timetable.

Consultation

2. Members of the electoral roll should be informed either by notice in the church magazine or by a notice on the church notice board that the review is to take place. These notices can be supplemented by an oral notice at services on several Sundays and/or by letter.
3. The secretary of the Council should also notify –
 - (a) the Diocesan Bishop;
 - (b) the Provincial Episcopal Visitor or such other bishop who has been assigned to carry out episcopal duties for the parish;that the review is taking place and the timetable envisaged.
4. The consultation with members of the electoral roll may take the form of the holding of a special parochial church meeting if not less than one third of the lay members of the Council so require in accordance with rule 22(1) of the Church Representation Rules. Provided always that if the annual parochial church meeting is due to be held within four weeks of the decision of the Council, the consultation may take place at that meeting.
5. Any members of the electoral roll who are unable to attend a parochial church meeting held in accordance with paragraph 4 above may send their views in writing to the secretary who should communicate those views to the Council.
6. If the Diocesan Bishop or the bishop carrying out episcopal duties for the parish sends the secretary his views in writing on the working of the arrangements, these should be copied and distributed to each member of the Council.

Meetings

7. If the Council decides to invite outside speakers to address either the meeting of parishioners or the Council the secretary should invite one speaker in favour and one opposed to the question. No decision should be taken on whether to retain or withdraw the petition at the meeting at which outside speakers are present.

Procedure for PCC meeting

8. The secretary of the Council should give members at least four weeks' notice of the time and place of the meeting at which the motion in respect of the review is to be considered.
9. For the avoidance of doubt, the Council meeting should be chaired by the Chairman or if he is not present by the lay Vice-Chairman or otherwise in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Appendix II to the Church Representation Rules. Neither the Archdeacon nor Rural Dean nor any other person who is not a member of the Council has the right to chair the Council.

Communication of Decision

10. When the decision on the review has been taken by the Council this should be communicated (together with any voting figures) to:
 - (a) the Diocesan bishop;
 - (b) the bishop who has responsibility for episcopal duties in the parish;
 - (c) the members of the electoral roll by notice on the church notice board.

Revised April 2003