

## C2 ELECTORAL ROLL

### General

The provisions relating to the church electoral roll are set out in full at CRR 1-5. There must be a church electoral roll in every parish. This roll is the basis of the system for the representation of the laity in the Parochial Church Councils and the synods of the Church of England.

### Qualifications

*A lay person is entitled to have his or her name on the Roll if he or she:*

- (1) is baptised; and*
- (2) is aged 16 or more; and*
- (3)(a) is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, and is resident in the parish; or*
  - (b) is a member of the Church of England, or of a Church in communion with it, and although not resident in the parish has habitually attended public worship in the parish during a period of six months prior to enrolment; or*
  - (c) is a member in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is prepared to describe himself or herself to be a member of the Church of England and has habitually attended public worship in the parish during a period of six months prior to enrolment.*
- (4) has signed an application form.*

Those who become sixteen during the next twelve months may complete an application form, and become eligible to be enrolled on the roll on their sixteenth birthday.

It is possible for a person to be on more than one electoral roll. Further details are to be found at CRR 1(4).

### Revision and preparation

A new roll is to be prepared every six years. This last happened in 2007. Towards the end of the preceding year Churchgates House will notify all parishes of the procedures to be followed. The full position is set out at CRR 2(4)-(7).

Except in a year when a new roll is prepared, the roll must be revised annually. Notice is to be given of the revision and the time limits for its completion are to be observed. The revised roll is then to be published. The full position is set out at CRR 2(1)-(3).

Enrolment and removal from the roll take place at other times, as and when required, save in the period immediately before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

### Electoral Roll Officer

The PCC must appoint a church electoral roll officer to act under its direction for the purpose of carrying out its functions with regard to the electoral roll. This person will

normally be a member of the PCC, but not necessarily the same as the PCC secretary.

### **Benefits of Membership**

Membership on the electoral roll entitles a person to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to vote there in the elections to the Parochial Church Council and to the Deanery Synod. A member age 16 or more may stand for election to the PCC and a member aged 18 or more may stand for election to the Deanery Synod.

### **Consequences for Synodical Representation**

The total number on a parish's electoral roll is used in assessing the parish's entitlement to lay seats on the Deanery Synod. The total number on the rolls of all the parishes in a deanery is used in assessing that deanery's entitlement to seats in the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod. The total number on all the rolls in the diocese is used in assessing the diocese's entitlement to seats in the House of Laity of the General Synod.

### **Certification of Numbers on Rolls**

The requirement for notification to the secretary to the Diocesan Synod is currently dealt with by giving the number on the annual parish returns which give details of any newly elected wardens, etc. There is no need to send a separate notification to the Diocesan Office.

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