

The Old Deanery
Wells
Somerset
BA5 2UG

T: 01749 685109

E: Nick.May@bathwells.anglican.org

20 March 2020

To: All PCC Secretaries (by email where possible)
Copies to: Archdeacons
Area Deans
Lay Deans
Deanery Synod Secretaries

Dear PCC Secretary

Annual Parochial Church Meeting-extension of deadline

In view of the national situation relating to Coronavirus, Bishop Peter has made the attached Instrument which extends the period for holding the APCM to 31 October 2020. The Instrument has been made on the advice of Chief Legal Adviser to the Archbishops' Council and the General Synod.

The time for holding a meeting of parishioners to choose churchwardens is also extended to 31 October 2020.

There are a number of consequences to extending these deadlines, which are set out in full in the "Explanatory Note" at the end of the Instrument. These include that current office holders (churchwardens, deanery synod representatives and PCC members) will remain in office longer than they would otherwise do so. Please can I encourage you to ensure that the members of your PCC and your Incumbent are made aware of these changes.

The time for transacting the other business of the APCM is also extended to 31 October 2020.

The term of office of current representatives of the laity on deanery synods is extended to 30 November 2020. As a result, it will be the current members of the house of laity of deanery synods who will comprise the electorate for the House of Laity of the General Synod in elections which are still scheduled to take place later this year.

If your APCM and meeting of parishioners have already taken place, the position is as follows:

- Newly elected PCC members took office from the date of the APCM.

www.bathandwells.org.uk

- Newly elected deanery synod members will not take office until 1 December 2020.
- Newly elected Churchwardens will only take up the role of Churchwarden after they have been admitted to office. The outgoing wardens retain office until their successors are admitted as officers of the bishop. This normally takes place at the Visitations, which have been postponed. This means that we would ask those of you already in office as Churchwardens to continue until such time as new wardens can be admitted to office. If this is not possible then please be in touch with your Archdeacon.

Further guidance on dealing with the coronavirus can be found on the diocesan website:
<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/supporting-parishes/ministry-support-vacancies/coronavirus-guidance-and-resources/coronavirus-faqs/>

Thank you for your co-operation in these fast moving and uncertain times. If you have any queries about these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me or Peter Evans at the Diocesan Office.

Yours sincerely

Nick May
Diocesan Secretary

