

Dear Incumbents, Churchwardens, and PCC Secretaries

On 3 August I wrote to the clergy:

***APCMs and Annual Accounts***

*There is advice on how you can hold an APCM in the autumn. However, unless you know that you will have very small numbers, you would probably not be able to do so within the current rules on social distancing and indoor gatherings. I am, therefore, going to sign an order permitting parishes to increase the current extension to a full year. If you held your APCM before lockdown, that is fine. Similarly, if you are able to hold one safely in the autumn, good for you. In those cases, your archdeacon can authorise the incumbent to admit newly elected churchwardens. The full-year extension will be available for those who need it: this is unusual, but it has been done for many local council elections, and for this year's General Synod elections.*

*If you are not holding an APCM this year, but need to submit your accounts to the Charity Commission, you can find advice [here](#).*

I now attach the order bringing this into effect.

This does not mean that you cannot hold an APCM this year, or that if you have held one it is invalid. It simply permits you to postpone until next spring if that seems to you and your PCC the best course of action.

If you can conveniently meet within the covid-19 guidelines applicable at the time of meeting, that is fine. Please do so (and let your Archdeacon know, so he can make arrangements for your newly elected or re-elected churchwardens to be sworn in).

The order extends the terms of office of churchwardens and PCC members, effectively by a full year. That does not mean they have to serve an extra year if they do not wish to. Resignation is an option, and the PCC can then co-opt extra members if needed, or appoint a deputy or acting warden to serve until next year's elections.

In the case of PCCs whose whole membership is re-elected each year there could be complications, but if they are willing to continue I am happy to authorise that.

With all good wishes

+ Donald

11 September 2020