



The Benefice of Pontefract Parish of St Giles with St Mary's

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

The election of churchwardens is governed by the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

As part of that Measure (CRR 2020 section 3. p.118), churchwardens are disqualified from holding office after six periods of office. However, after 'resting' for two years, a person may be re-appointed to hold the office again.

The same Measure additionally allows the *Meeting of Parishioners* 'by resolution to decide that this section shall not apply in relation to the parish concerned'. It also states that 'any such resolution may be revoked by a subsequent meeting of the parishioners' (CRR 2020 section 3 page 118). In other words, should this rule be changed, then it can be 'unchanged' in a subsequent year. Nothing is set in stone!

Why might a church consider invoking a resolution to set down the 6-year rule?

Churches can struggle to get churchwardens, especially churches with 4! An individual having served 6 successive periods and wishing still to offer themselves would not be prevented from serving beyond this time. At present this is the case as the rule would be applied. Passing the resolution allows for flexibility; it does not prevent any other individual from seeking election to the office of warden, as churchwardens are appointed every year.

Isn't it good to ring the changes and have different wardens?

Continuity and change are important in the role of wardens, in order to provide both stability and experience, as well as fresh perspectives. Setting aside the 6-year rule still allows for both, as wardens are appointed annually. It just provides 'leeway' should an existing warden be willing to stand longer than 6 successive periods.

If the resolution is passed when would it become operative?

At the next APCM, so 2021.

The draft resolution which would need a proposer, a seconder and a majority vote would be as follows:

'At a meeting of the parishioners on October 4th 2020, a resolution was passed which rescinds the disqualification (section 3 of the Churchwardens Measure 2001) that makes church wardens subject to disqualification after six periods of office and therefore not eligible to stand for election as churchwarden until the next year but one. It is noted that the resolution may be revoked by a subsequent 'meeting of the parishioners'.

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

In favour:

Against: