

Church Representation Rules: Wimbledon Team

1 New Church Representation Rules: With effect from 1 January 2020, the Church of England has brought into force new church representation rules that govern how PCC and District church councils operate.

2 Rules for parish governance: Part 2 of the rules state that the default position is that the Model Rules set out in Part 9 apply to each parish

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/church-representation-rules/church-representation-rules-online-part-9>

The introduction to the rules does say that one of the aims of the 'Simplification Task Group' of the Archbishops' Council that drafted these new rules was that parishes should be given much greater flexibility over their constitutional arrangements so that they could operate in the way that was most effective for the mission, life and work of the local church.

3 Modification of default rules: The default rules for parish governance can be modified. There are certain rules that cannot be varied such as the number of laity on the PCC must outnumber clergy.

4 Reason and timeline for proposing to seek approval of scheme modifying Part 9 of the Church Representation Rules:

The coming in to force of the new Church Representation Rules gives an opportunity to build on the Part 9 rules in a way that will help the Wimbledon Team look to the future, recognising the valued diversity within the parish in each of the four churches.

5 Annual review

This document will be reviewed by the PCC once a year. Any amendments can be proposed by the PCC but amendments to be approved by the next APM].

5 Tabulated summary of Part 9

Rules M1 to M36 are the rules that apply by default.

Rule number	Topic	Proposed change	Comments
Section A: Annual Parochial Church Meeting			
M1	Annual meeting: timing and attendance	No change	Note the period for the APCM now extended to 31 May
M2	Convening meeting	No change	
M3	New Parish: special meeting	Not applicable	
M4	Proceedings and elections: chair	No change	
M5	Business: reports etc.	No change	
M6	Business: elections and appointments	No change	
M7	Business: miscellaneous	No change	
M8	Qualifications of persons to be elected	No change	In March 2022 the Rules were changed so the default in the Church of England is unlimited terms for deanery synod reps unless the APCM resolves to limit the terms
M9	Conduct of an election	No change	
M10	Adoption of STV system	No change	Default is to have majority voting, not to have single transferable voting
M11	Postal voting	No change.	CRR permit hybrid (mix of virtual and in-person) meetings and for those attending 'virtually' they can vote 'virtually' after heard the discussion.
M12	Result of election	No change	
M13	Special meeting: a type of parochial church meeting called by the minister in certain circumstances		
M14	Extraordinary meeting: a type of parochial church meeting called by the archdeacon in certain circumstances		

Section B: Parochial Church Council			
M15	Members	Modify so that each of the 4 churches has 4 of its members on the PCC (usually being the 2 deputy/district wardens and 2 others, usually but not necessarily deanery synod rep); in addition to those 16 will be two parish wardens (one from St Mary's and one from one, by rotation, of the other churches); and in addition to those 18 will be three 'ex officio' members of the PCC, the Parish secretary and Parish treasurer and Parish insurance officer (21 laity). PCC also includes licensed clergy including any assistant curates (as at 4 Sept 2021:6).	M15(1) a, b, e, g, j (being 4x2). Note: Readers are not licensed clergy so PCC papers to Readers for information only, unless they are attending PCC in another capacity eg elected member or Deanery Synod rep or elected by annual church meeting under M15 (1)(h). Also SPAs are not members of PCC unless attending in another capacity eg elected member or Deanery Synod rep. Note: the maximum number of Deanery Synod reps that the Diocese permits Wimbledon Team as a whole to supply to Deanery Synod, and therefore are entitled to be PCC members, is so high (42) that if the theoretical maximum was taken, it would make the PCC quorum requirements under the CRR unworkable
M16	Term of office: representatives of the laity	Modify (7) no one usually to hold office for a continuous period of more than six years and (8) until ceased to hold office for 2 years not to be eligible for election again	
M17	Term of office: other cases	No change	
M18	Casual vacancies	No change	
M19	Chair and vice-chair	No change	Vice-chair will usually be a Parish Warden. In DCC incumbent not necessarily the chair
M20	Secretary and treasurer	Secretary and treasurer are usually elected members of PCC (who are then appointed to that office by the PCC at its first meeting), but could	Parish treasurer should not at the same time also hold the role of treasurer for one of the individual churches

		be co-opted members of PCC (and not included in the 4 elected from each church)	
M21	Electoral roll officer	No change	
M22	Independent examiner	No change	
M23	Meetings: time and place	modify (1) so that at least 4 a year	Place of meeting under CRR need not be a physical location
M24	Attendance	No change	
M25	Notice	No change	
M26	Meetings: chair	No change	
M27	Procedure	Modify so that as well as one-third of members to be present to be a quorum and majority laity present to be a quorum, must be at least one person from each church to be a quorate meeting (that one person could be either laity or clergy). However, if after such an inquorate meeting due notice is given of a reconvened meeting the reconvened meeting shall be quorate if one-third of members are present and majority laity are present (and the requirement to have a person from each church shall not apply to the reconvened meeting.)	Currently if 21 laity and 6 clergy, one third of 27 requires 9 to be quorate
M28	Minutes	No change	
M29	Business by correspondence	No change	Note use of this provision under (3) to be reported to next mtg of PCC
M30	Audit of financial statements	No change	
M31	Standing committee	Under (2) this will usually be (in addition to the Rector) 2 Parish Wardens and Parish Secretary and Parish Treasurer, but modify so if	

		there is a church or churches not represented on the standing committee, the standing committee could also, and in so far as reasonably practical should, co-opt another member(s) of the PCC from the otherwise unrepresented church(es)	
M32	Other committees	Modify (1) so each church has option to request an observer can attend such PCC sub-committee if that church does not have the specialist skills/expertise to supply a suitably qualified committee member	
M33	Extraordinary meetings	No change	
M34	Election of representatives of laity	Election of deputy churchwardens who discharge the functions of churchwardens for their church to take place at the local church meeting and then be confirmed at the APCM	These deputy church wardens in the Wimbledon Parish are called church wardens
M35	District church council	For discussion locally as to what that church would like to put forward for approval by the APCM as its rules (or after 2022, as amendments to its rules), being the rules for its governance including election of laity to the DCC	Note each of the 4 churches can have different rules for its district church council, so long as there are rules about who chairs the council and who is a member by virtue of their office (ex officio)

Note: Churchwardens Measure 2001: section 3 states that (unless the church meeting has decided otherwise) a churchwarden should have two years out of office after serving for six years.