

# Churchwarden Length of Service, Election, & Minister's Veto

## *Length of Service*

A churchwarden may serve for six successive periods (i.e. six years). If he or she was a churchwarden before 2002, the six periods run from 2002. He/she is disqualified from being chosen to serve for more than six successive periods. But he/she can take a gap of at least two years and stand again. Parishioners may resolve at the annual parochial church meeting that this section does not apply and that resolution can be revoked subsequently.

## *Election*

A person who wants be appointed as a churchwarden must first be elected by a meeting of the parishioners. That meeting consists of:-

- People on the church electoral roll of the parish; and
- People resident in the parish whose names are entered on the local government electors register by reason of that residence.

This emphasises the fact that churchwardens serve the whole parish and not just those who attend church.

Candidates must be nominated and seconded in writing by persons entitled to attend the meeting. The prospective churchwarden must sign a statement that he or she is willing to serve as a churchwarden and is not disqualified (see 2 above) and is willing to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service for a standard disclosure check. The nomination paper must be received by the minister before the commencement of the meeting at which churchwardens are to be elected.

## *Minister's Veto*

The nomination of a particular churchwarden may be vetoed by the minister.

- This may happen if it appears to the minister that the election of any person nominated "might give rise to serious difficulties between the minister and that person in the carrying out of their respect functions."
- The minister may, before the election is conducted, make a statement to the effect that any one churchwarden is to be elected by the meeting.
- One churchwarden is then appointed by the minister from among the persons nominated.
- The name of that person so appointed is announced by the minister before the election.
- The other churchwarden is then elected by the meeting.

If on the election of a churchwarden there is an equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting does not have a second or casting vote. Instead, the motion is to be treated as lost.

