

May 2024

## Churchwardens

### 1. **Background to the item at Synod**

The proposal that Synod consider the role of churchwardens comes from the Trigg Minor and Bodmin Deanery Synod.

Their original request was for a motion that might proceed to General Synod with a request to change the rules around churchwardens, in particular to abolish the requirement for a parish to have two churchwardens and that the responsibilities could be shared by members of the Parochial Church Council.

The rules around churchwardens are held in several places, the office is described in Canon Law - Canon E1 of the Church of England, [LINK HERE](#) and in the Churchwardens Measure 2001 [LINK HERE](#).

Because of the legal complexities of the original proposal, and because of work already being undertaken and recently undertaken in General Synod, the Standing Committee of Diocesan Synod, with the agreement of the proposers from Trigg Minor & Bodmin, have decided to make space for a wider conversation about the role of churchwarden, about how to support and promote the work of churchwardens and in particular whether there are things that we can do locally within the diocese or our own parishes.

### 2. **Background reading**

An excellent Leader Article about churchwardens appeared in the Church Times on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 [LINK HERE](#). The Church Times website is a subscription site - but you should be able to view a certain number of free articles without making a payment - any problems with this please let us know at Church House and we will try to make other arrangements.

### 3. **Hearing from Churchwardens**

We will hear from Churchwardens at synod, but it would be great if those of you who are or have been wardens, or the wardens from your parish, could also take part. Please encourage them to come along to Newquay in person or to join online to contribute.

### 4. **Not just more talk**

We want to do more than just generate “hot air” about the subject. If we come up with practical suggestions for one another or our parishes, for our clergy, or for Church House, that will be great. Do please ask your churchwardens what would help them in their important work.

There may well be suggestions for legislative change that emerge from the discussion, it is certainly possible for such proposals to pass from a Diocesan Synod up to General Synod.

### 5. **A request**

Finally, do please pray for our churchwardens in the Diocese of Truro. Give thanks to God for their ministry and work, for their service and faithfulness, and pray that they may rightly and duly serve God’s church in their calling.