

Electoral Roll Notes

1. The only Churches at present in communion with the Church of England are other Anglican Churches and certain foreign Churches.
2. Membership of the electoral roll is also open to members in good standing of a Church not in communion with the Church of England which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity where those members are also prepared to declare themselves to be members of the Church of England.
3. Every six years a new roll is prepared and those on the previous roll are informed so that they can re-apply. If you are not resident in the parish but were on the roll as an habitual worshipper and have been prevented by sickness or absence or other essential reason from worshipping for the past six months, you may write 'would' before 'have habitually attended' on the form and add 'but was prevented from doing so because.....' and then state the reason.
4. If you have any problems over this form, please approach the clergy or lay people responsible for the parish, who will be pleased to help you.
5. In this form 'parish' means ecclesiastical parish.

What is the Church Electoral Roll?

Why have one?

It is your parish church's register of electors; it is the list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where the elections take place for:

- a) the parochial church council;
- b) the parish's representatives on the deanery synod.

Any person entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting may raise any question of parochial or general church interest.

Renewal of the electoral roll takes place in 2008 and every six years thereafter. In a year of renewal, no names are carried over from the old roll and everyone must make a new application to be included on the new roll.

What difference does it make?

By enrolling you become a voting member of the Church of England and so help to ensure that all the synodical councils of the Church - the parochial church council, the deanery synod, the diocesan synod, and the General Synod - are fully representative of its members.

Synodical government gives an opportunity for partnership between bishops, clergy and laity in the life of the Church:

First, the system is intended to enable church people at every level to be in touch with the Church as a whole and to play their part in decision-making. Secondly, the system is intended to ensure that the laity have their place in every aspect of church life, including its doctrine and services.