

## **Coronavirus and APCM advice**

In the light of the announcement by the Prime Minister, it is now highly unlikely that parish annual meetings will be able to go ahead in the usual way.

Chief Legal Adviser to the Archbishops' Council and the General Synod has issued advice on APCMs and the elections of churchwardens, PCC members and lay deanery synod representatives.

It is important that a diocese is not left without lay members of deanery synods, as that would mean that a diocese could not elect candidates to the House of Laity of the General Synod later this year.

Writing to all Diocesan Registrars, Alexander McGregor, who is also the Joint Provincial Registrar said:

"At the time of writing, the Government has not advised that meetings should not take place. Nevertheless, as matters develop, it might not be possible or practicable for some or all parishes to hold their annual meetings by 31 May, as required by the Churchwardens Measure 2001 and the Church Representation Rules.

"If that is the case, the bishop should exercise the powers under section 10 of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 and CRR rule 78 to extend or alter the time for the holding of meetings and elections.

"If the bishop extends the time for the holding of elections to beyond the point at which current churchwardens or PCC members' terms of office will expire, consideration should also be given to extending the period of office of the current holders of those offices by the bishop making provision to that effect under section 10(1) of the Churchwardens Measure and CRR rule 78(2) (provision for any matter not provided for in the Measure or Rules)."