



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

Election of Churchwardens: Notes

Churchwardens are elected annually by the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (a joint meeting of all those whose names are on the Church Electoral Roll and persons resident in the parish on the register of Local Government Electors).

Under the 2001 Churchwardens' Measure, there is a requirement that churchwardens serve for a period of no more than six consecutive years, followed by a break which must be for a minimum of one year. After a break of one or more years, a person will then be eligible for re-election as Churchwarden, for a further period amounting to no more than six consecutive years.

For many parishes, this arrangement will help to ensure that a wider range of people than in the past will be able to become familiar with the joys and responsibilities of serving as churchwarden.

Some parishes, however, may struggle to find people willing to stand for election. If this is relevant in your parish, it will be important this year to pass the following waiver resolution at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners prior to the actual election of Churchwardens (unless you have already adopted the waiver resolution, consequent upon the 2001 Churchwardens Measure):-

Ecclesiastical Parish of _____

'This meeting of parishioners agrees that Section 3 of the Churchwardens' Measure 2001 shall not apply in relation to this parish until such time as a further meeting of the parishioners may resolve otherwise'

The full text of Section 3 is printed below for your information. Please remember to include this on the Agenda of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, should the waiver resolution be relevant to your parish.

The 2001 Churchwardens' Measure : Section 3 Disqualification after six periods of office

3 ... A person shall be disqualified from being chosen for the office of churchwarden when that person has served as churchwarden of the same parish for six successive periods of office until the annual meeting of parishioners to elect churchwardens in the next year but one following the date on which that person vacated office at the end of last such period.

Provided that a meeting of the parishioners may by resolution decide that this section shall not apply in relation to the parish concerned.