

DIOCESE OF EXETER.

Synodical Government - 1970.

I hereby certify that the number of persons to be
elected to the Deanery House of Laity from the
Parish of Ringmore & Kington is 2.....

Signed Francis Hicks :.....

Hon. Secretary,
Exeter Diocesan Conference.

St Mary's Archdeacon
28 Southernhay East.
Exeter

To all Secretaries of
Parochial Church Councils.

SYNOD OF THE DEANERY OF WOODLEIGH

Minutes of the second meeting of the Synod, held in Charleton Village Hall on 1st December 1970.

PRESENT: The Rural Dean (The Rev. R.C. Westall) in the Chair.

Mr. S.J. Coombes (Lay Co-Chairman).

The Rev. H.B. Reed (Hon. Treasurer).

Commander W.K. Cornish-Bowden (Hon. Secretary).

The Rev. A.D. Teage (Hon. Assistant Secretary).

Clergy : The Revs. W.L. Ackroyd, R. Ashton Durant, B.H. Bishop, J. Delve, H. Gordon Jones, J.P. Hoskins, T.J. Jones, J. Lloyd, J.K. Milburn, Prebendary G.H.K. Pedley, The Revs. J.B.T. Phillips, C.C. Shaw, W.S. Tyler, and A. Wood.

Laity : Mesdames E. Bardens, M. Blake, T. Bryan-Brown, W.E.I. Coombes, F.I. Ellis, A.E. Field, L. Foale, F. Jefferson, A.F.F. Milward, H.M. Reeves, M.E. Taylor, P.M. Teage, C.G. Tyler, E.C. Warren, B.M. Westall, and R. Wilkins.

The Misses B. Hallat, M. Hare, C. Hodder, and M. Ilbert.

Messrs.: R. Angell, H. Bardens, T.H. Brooking, D. Earwaker, A.C. Hamlin, F.F. Horton, A.C. Luscombe, H. Palmer, Dr. J.H. Skellon, Messrs. J.H. Taylor, W.D. Walters, and W.J. Walters-Symons.

APOLOGIES were received from Mesdames. A. Wood and W. Spencer, The Misses K.M. Adams, and J. Warne, The Revs. R.C.R. Adkins and R.A. Baughan, Vice Admiral Sir Lancelot Peile, Messrs. J. Bowden, R. Pears, and E.G. Waycott.

1. The Minutes of the first meeting of the Synod, held on 9th June 1970, were taken as read, and signed.

2. Arising from the Minutes. Mr. Hamlin referred to the election of three Lay members of the Diocesan Synod by ballot subsequent to the meeting, after the Deanery Synod had already at their meeting elected their representatives. He complained that in this way the Diocesan Registrar had over-ruled a decision of the Deanery Synod in an unconstitutional manner.

3. Election of an Honorary Treasurer. It was proposed by Miss Ilbert, seconded by Mr. Earwaker, and carried unanimously that the Acting Honorary Treasurer, the Rev. H.B. Reed, be elected Honorary Treasurer.

When he accepted the appointment the Rev. H.B. Reed announced that the total amount collected in the Deanery towards Pakistan Disaster Relief was £165.

4. Future Meetings. It was proposed by the Rev. A.D. Teage, seconded by the Rev. T.J. Jones, and carried, that the Standing Committee be asked to arrange for future meetings to be held in Charleton Village Hall.

5. Address by Dr. Margaret Hewitt. In introducing the speaker the Rural Dean said it was the earnest wish of those present that the Deanery Synod should be effective and that they hoped Dr. Hewitt would be able to tell them how this could best be done.

6. Dr. Hewitt declared that in her view the Deanery Synod was the key to the whole system of Synodical Government. In the first instance Deanery Synods should think ahead to the problems which would undoubtedly be referred to them, and formulate their views after informed discussion.

7. Among the first problems to be faced would be:

(i). Education. What stake does the Church wish to retain, having regard to the economics of the problem?

(ii). Ordination of Women in the Church of England. Joint discussion by both Houses is most important, and the subject should be approached dispassionately.

(iii). Admission to Communion. This should be considered in the context of intercommunion, and thought should be given to admission to the Sacrament within the Church of persons who had been baptised only, and not confirmed.

8. As an example of other matters which should be considered is the attitude to be adopted by the Synod towards money contributions which might be channelled through the British Council of Churches to the World Council of Churches and thence to subversive organisations overseas which were actively promoting violence towards legally constituted Governments.

9. Deanery Synods should not hesitate to express their opinions to Diocesan Synods on such matters. Diocesan Synods would then refer them back to other Deanery Synods for discussion.

10. The Speaker suggested that an item which might appear regularly on Deanery Synod agenda is "Report from Representatives on the proceedings of the Diocesan Synod".

11. The following points were raised during the discussion which followed:

The Rev. F.E. Davies suggested that the Standing Committee might compile and circulate a bibliography for the guidance of Members.

Prebendary G.H.K. Pedley urged the desirability of public meetings for Churchpeople of the Deanery, as there are big issues to be discussed, for example: (a) Education, and the place of Religion in it, (b) the moral collapse of our times; he specifically referred to legal abortion.

Mr Donald Earwaker suggested that on economic grounds the Church should pull out of higher education and concentrate its energies on younger children, i.e. those under 11. In reply, Dr. Hewitt said she considered that enthusiasm within the Church for education was essential, but admitted that we might, reluctantly, be forced to do this. She thought the age of 11 too low, however; later teenagers have curiosity about religion even up to University, and it might be better value for money to attempt to meet their needs.

Mr. A.C. Hamlin asked the Speaker what was her conception of how the Laity should direct their energies through the various Synods. Dr. Hewitt thought that over a period of time lay members would get to know what subjects were appropriate. Examples were: abortion, subjects of interest to teachers, industrial missions. Many subjects are non-theological. Frank exchange of views between Clergy and Laity is essential.

The Rural Dean asked Dr. Hewitt her opinion of sub-committees, and she was quite emphatically opposed to them on the grounds that all Members of the Synod should be equally involved in all discussion. Synods should be self-aware and should not depend upon working parties.

The Rev. J. Dolve inquired how often the Deanery Synod should meet, and what preparation was necessary. Dr. Hewitt thought that if there were no pressing problems then study groups might be permissible, but she thought the full Synod should meet not less often than once a Quarter, but preferably in alternate months.

The Lay Co-Chairman, Mr. S.J. Coombes, called for a vote of thanks to the Speaker, and this was warmly accorded.

The Rural Dean in closing the Meeting reminded Members that when the provisional agenda is issued six weeks before Meetings of the Synod members are invited to send items for discussion to the Hon. Secretary. He urged all Members to take note of this.

EXETER DIOCESAN SYNOD

CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES

NEW DEVELOPMENTS, 1974

INTRODUCTORY

1. This leaflet is intended for parishes. The Church Representation Rules have now been in operation for four years, and it has been found necessary to make some changes, none of them of major importance. These notes explain the changes made in so far as they are likely to affect parishes.
2. It is however emphasised that a full account of all the changes is not given here, and situations could conceivably arise where further information was necessary. Incumbents, secretaries of parochial church councils and electoral roll officers should have the revised version of the Church Representation Rules in their possession. These are obtainable, price 40p., from the Church House Bookshop, Church House, Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3BN. For those who want further information on the implications of the changes and also on changes in other aspects of Church and parish government, a new and substantially revised edition of "The Layman and His Church" by Michael Elliott-Binns will be available from the Church House Bookshop in February or March, price about 80p.

FORMS

3. The changes in the Rules include a new and much simpler application form for entry on church electoral rolls and amendments to the notices for the revision of the church electoral roll and the notice for the annual meeting.
4. It has been ascertained that there are considerable stocks of the present application form available, and it has been decided in the interests of economy of Church money at the centre and in the parishes and also in the interests of economy of paper at a time of world shortage, that the new form should not be printed until present stocks are diminished or exhausted.

5. The new application form reads as follows:-

"I am baptised and am a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it. I am seventeen years or over and am either resident in the parish or have habitually attended public worship there for at least the past six months.

I apply for entry on the church electoral roll of the parish of

Then there are rules for guidance on filling up the form.

(Appendix 1 to the Rules)

6. Existing forms are still appropriate provided paragraphs (iii) and (vi) are struck out. Directions to this effect will be included on all sets of application forms to be sold in the future. Alternatively parishes can of course make their own copies.
7. It is proposed to reprint the revised forms of notice of revision of church electoral roll and of notices of annual meeting, and also the church electoral roll certificate, a non-statutory form that also requires amendment. Dioceses might wish to purchase these in bulk.

Notice of revision of roll - price	per copy	per 100
Notice of annual meeting - price	per copy	per 100
Church electoral roll certificate - price	per copy	per 100

Cont'd/over

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLLS

8. The phrase "church electoral roll" is used in the Rules instead of "electoral roll" to avoid confusion with the local government register of electors.
9. The simplification of the form of application for church electoral rolls has been made possible by changes in the qualifications required. In future an applicant will continue to have to declare that he is baptised and a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it. The only Churches in communion at the present time are those of the Anglican Communion, the Churches of South India, North India and Pakistan, and certain other foreign Churches such as the Old Catholic Churches. It is no longer necessary for an applicant to declare that he is not a member of any other religious body which is not in communion with the Church of England. (Rule 1 (2)).
10. Before 1974 a person was entitled to have his name entered on two church electoral rolls if the parochial church councils of both parishes agreed. Now a person may have his name entered on any number of rolls, if he is qualified, and no consents are necessary. He may stand for election to any of the parochial church councils, but if he wishes to stand for the deanery or any higher synod he must choose one roll only for the purpose of qualification (Rule 1 (2)). When returns are made to diocese and deanery of the numbers on the rolls, it is no longer necessary to make a separate return of the number of those whose names are on more than one roll (Rule 4).
11. In 1972 new Church electoral rolls came into operation, and there will be new rolls every six years thereafter. Two changes have been made in the procedure for establishing new rolls, but these will not arise until 1978. One change is largely a matter of clarification and the other requires notification to be given at services on at least two Sundays. (Rule 2(4) and (5)).

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS AND DEANERY SYNODS

12. There are no changes of substance in the procedure for annual meetings or for elections held at them. There are however changes in the qualifications of persons standing for election to the parochial church council or the deanery synod.
13. Such persons must have their names on the roll and be eighteen or older. Representatives on the parochial church council must be actual communicant members of the Church of England or a Church in communion with it. An actual communicant member must have communicated at least three times in the twelve months preceding his election or appointment either at a Church of England service or at a service of a Church in communion with the Church of England. Thus an Englishman returning from Canada or a Canadian coming to England can both rely on attendances either in England or in Canada. An actual communicant member of the Church of England must be confirmed or ready and desirous of being confirmed, and similarly such a member of another Church must be of communicant status according to the rules of that Church. Representatives on the deanery synod must be actual communicant members of the Church of England, and it is not sufficient for them to be members of a Church in communion with the Church of England. An explanation of which Churches are in communion with the Church of England is given in paragraph 9 and an explanation of the position of persons whose names are on more than one roll is given in paragraph 10. (Rules 9(1) and 44(1)).
14. There are two other changes in the provisions about membership of the parochial church council. First, it is made clear that an annual meeting may decide whether any of the readers should be ex-officio members and, if so, which. (Rule 12(1)). Secondly, persons who are ex-officio members because they are elected to the deanery synod are to hold office from the date when they are elected until 31st May of the year when their successors are elected. There is thus a short period between election and taking up office in the deanery synod when both the old and the new members are on the Parochial Church Council (Rule 14 (2)).

15. When there are two or more churches or buildings licensed for public worship in a parish the annual meeting has been able to make a scheme as provided by Rule 16 either for the election of representatives of the laity to the parochial church council so as to ensure the due representation of each congregation or for the election of district church councils for any building other than a parish church. It is now provided that a scheme may cover both these purposes and not one only. It is also provided that there may in future be a district church council for a parish church as well as for other buildings. Such a district church council will be additional to the parochial church council which is representative of the parish as a whole.
16. A member or officer of any body under the Rules who resigns must do so to the secretary and his resignation dates from the reception of the notice unless another date is stated in it (Rule 40).
17. Finally, an emergency meeting of the parochial church council requires three clear days' notice, not three days'; that is, there must be an interval of three days excluding the date of the issue of the notice and the date of the meeting (Appendix II paragraph 8).