

The Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

**THE 2015 VISITATION
and
ADMISSION of CHURCHWARDENS**



with

**The Archdeacon of Newark
The Venerable David Picken**

and

**The Archdeacon of Nottingham
The Venerable Sarah Clark**

Theme

Communities of Grace

May 2015

So what is a Churchwarden?

The office of Churchwarden is an ancient one, whose rights and responsibilities have been modified by statute. Churchwardens are not only the elected representatives of the laity in the parish, but also officers of the Bishop. They are admitted to office by the Archdeacon on behalf of the Bishop at the Archdeacon's Visitation. That's why you are here!

Churchwardens are charged with co-operating with the incumbent and PCC in the promotion of mission and ministry. They represent the laity and have a duty to inform the Bishop or Archdeacon if there are serious problems in the parish.

Duties

The duties of Churchwardens are specifically set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Canon E1 of the Canons of the Church of England:-

- *'The churchwardens when admitted are officers of the Ordinary (the Bishop). They shall discharge such duties as are by law and custom assigned to them: they shall be foremost in representing the laity and in co-operating with the incumbent; they shall use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them. They shall also maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service.'*

- *'In the churchwardens is vested the property in the plate, ornaments and other moveable goods of the church, and they shall keep an inventory thereof which they shall revise from time to time as occasion may require. On going out of office they shall duly deliver to their successors any goods of the church remaining in their hands together with the said inventory, which shall be checked by their successors.'*

Useful documents

The present rules governing the appointment and responsibilities of churchwardens are contained in:



- Churchwardens' Measure 2006
- Church Representation Rules (2001 Edition) - Rules 13 and 14
- The Canons of the Church of England (in particular Canons E1, E2, F13, F15 and F17)

The appointment of churchwardens is governed by the Churchwardens' Measure 2001, which was passed by the General Synod.

Useful websites include:

<http://www.churchwardens.com/> for information about the roles and duties of a churchwarden

<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/> for general advice

<http://www.clergyassoc.co.uk/content/churchwardens.htm> - "Churchwardens in a Nutshell" has information about roles/duties, vacancy procedures, grants and building maintenance.

CHURCH POLITICS EXPLAINED USING CHESS PIECES



BISHOP:
MOVES DIAGONALLY.
COMES INTO PLAY
EVERY NOW AND
THEN FOR
CONFIRMATIONS
ETC



VICAR:
FOR EVERY
STEP FORWARD
TAKES TWO
TO THE SIDE.
LOOKS A BIT
LIKE A HORSE



**CHURCH
FIXTURES AND
FITTINGS:**
MAY NOT BE
MOVED
WITHOUT
A FACULTY



**ORDINARY
CHURCHGOER:**
LOTS OF THEM,
MOVE SLOWLY
IN ONE
DIRECTION.
FAIRLY
DISPENSABLE



CHURCHWARDEN:
MOST
POWERFUL
PIECE.
CAN ATTACK
IN ANY
DIRECTION



**THIS PIECE
IS THE ONE WE
ARE TRYING
TO PROTECT.
I FORGET WHAT
IT IS CALLED**

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Please stand as the ministers enter

THE WELCOME

THE PREPARATION

The Lord be with you
and also with you.
Let us worship God

HYMN

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favor
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.**

A COLLECT

Loving God,
you made us your children in baptism:
pour out your Spirit upon us, your people,
in this Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.
Build up in us your gifts of faith, hope, and love,
that we may grow in faith and in numbers,
proclaim the hope that is in us,
and love you in serving our neighbours;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sit

THE READING
1 Peter 1:23-2:6
A Lay Chair

You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures for ever.' That word is the good news that was announced to you.

² Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

THE ARCHDEACON'S CHARGE

stand

HYMN

**The splendour of the king
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice**

Chorus

**How great is our God! Sing with me
How great is our God! And all will see
How great, how great is our God!**

**And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End
The Godhead, three in one
Father, Spirit, Son
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb**

Chorus

**Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God!**

Chorus

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NOTICES

*Please ensure you hand in your invitation card to record your attendance. **The Visitation Newsletter** is provided courtesy of Ecclesiastical plc*

THE PRESENTATION & ADMISSION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Churchwardens stand

The Archdeacon addresses the wardens

Do you believe that God has called you to serve as Churchwarden of your parish?

I believe that God has called me

Will you trust in God for strength to fulfil the task to which he has called you?

By the help of God, I will

Will you give yourself in love to serve the people of your parish, the members of your congregation and the bishop of our diocese?

By the help of God, I will

The Registrar describes the role of Churchwarden:

Churchwardens are officers of the Bishop and lay leaders of the parish. Your role, by Canon Law, is to be foremost in representing the laity and in co-operating with the incumbent; by example and precept to encourage parishioners in the practice of true religion; and to promote peace and unity among them.

With the help of God, and in collaboration with all the baptised, you are called to holiness of life, to be persons of integrity, recognising your accountability for the tasks entrusted to you.

You have particular responsibilities for the fabric and furnishings of your parish church. You must ensure that alterations and repairs are only done by authorisation through Faculty.

You should ensure that the inventory of the church's land and property is kept up to date, and, where there is a churchyard, see that it is properly maintained. Churchwardens, I therefore ask you to make your declaration, before God and his Church.

Churchwardens:

I do solemnly and sincerely declare before God and his people that I will faithfully and diligently discharge the duties of my office as

Churchwarden in the parish in which I have been duly elected, according to the best of my skill and knowledge calling at all times on the strength that God gives me.

Archdeacon:

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.

Amen.

In accordance with Canon Law and the declaration you have made, I now admit each of you to the office of Churchwarden for your parish and its people. May God bless you in your work for him.

The rest of the congregation now stand and the Archdeacon addresses them:

Clergy and people of these parishes, will you support your churchwardens, pray for and care for them in their ministry as they enable you in yours?

With God's help we will

The whole congregation say together:

**God of power,
through your Spirit you promote
peace and reconciliation,
partnership and encouragement.**

In our work together:

**may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
the gifts of your Spirit equip us,
to serve and worship you
now and always.**

Amen.

Archdeacon:

Here are our Churchwardens,
servants of Christ,
of his people
and his world.

Welcome them with joy
and treat them with love and respect.

**We are members together of the Body of Christ,
we are children of the same heavenly Father,
we are inheritors together of the Kingdom of God.
We greet each other in the name of the Lord.**

Stand

Hymn

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
A Lay Chair and Area Dean

To include:

Almighty God,
you have given your Holy Spirit to the Church to lead us into all truth:
bless these Deaneries with the Spirit's grace and presence:
**keep us steadfast in faith,
and united in hope,
that in all we think, and say, and decide, and do
we may manifest your glory
and prepare the way of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Be present, O most merciful God,
and guide us through these times of change;
**that your church,
in this fleeting world of time and change,
may rest on your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*.... ending with **The Lord's Prayer***

Looking for the coming of the Kingdom, let us pray with confidence as
our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

HYMN

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. *Refrain*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*

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*During this hymn the offering will be taken for **the Archdeacons' Discretionary Fund** supporting clergy and ordinands in specific need.*

THE BLESSING

The ministers depart

All are welcome to stay for refreshment and conversation immediately following the service. With thanks to the Parish volunteers for serving us.

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The Promise of His Glory

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