

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 a 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...' 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 2002 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.

Collection of statistics on ethnic origin

(issued with application for enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll 2007)

At its meeting in November 1999, the General Synod passed the following motion following an initiative from the Diocese of Southwark.

'That this Synod:

- a) recognise the advantages of showing that the Church of England is a multi-ethnic church with multi-ethnic leadership at all levels: and
- b) call upon the Archbishops' Council to organise the collection of statistics at the time of the next general revision of the church electoral rolls (2002) on the ethnic origin of members on electoral rolls, members of church councils, churchwardens, deanery synod representatives and clergy throughout the dioceses of the Church of England.
- c) call further upon the Archbishops' Council to arrange the collection of the statistics by the procedure suggested in the Background Paper from the Diocese of Southwark'

The procedure referred to in paragraph c) is that the information would be collected by way of a detachable form included with the application form for enrolment on the church electoral roll at the time of the next preparation of the new electoral roll in 2002. The form can be found on the reverse of this note. It is set out in exactly the same way as the question on ethnic origins included in the national government 2001 census.

For the purpose of complying with the Data Protection Act 1998 the Archbishops' Council declares that this form will only be used to compile statistics on the ethnic origins of the electoral roll across the Church of England. It will not be used to identify the ethnic origin of any individual and your ethnic origin will not be marked against your name on the electoral roll. No other information will be compiled using this form. You need not write your name on this part of the form and are asked only to complete the relevant section. The form will then be detached, to protect your anonymity, and used only to compile the statistics. Statistics relating to membership of church councils, churchwardens, deanery synod representatives and clergy will be collected separately.

The Archbishops' Council hopes that you will be able to contribute to this important initiative by completing the form. Nevertheless you are under no obligation to do so and your application for enrolment is not dependent on its completion. If you have completed the form you may either pass it on with the electoral roll application form or detach it and submit the two forms separately to the electoral roll officer. Although the statistics of ethnic origin of church members were initially collected (at a national level) in the context of the preparation of the new electoral roll in 2002, the application form for enrolment on the church electoral roll to which this form is attached will continue to be valid for use at all times.

✂ Please cut along the dotted line ✂