



# ST WERBURGH'S CHORLTON

## Electoral Roll

### What is the Electoral Roll?

It is your parish church's register of electors. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC.

Being on the Electoral Roll does NOT make you a "member" of the Church; simply regarding St Werburgh's as your spiritual home does that. Indeed, a condition of joining the Roll is that you are already a "member" of a Church!

### Do I have to join?

You can of course be a full and active member of St Werburgh's Church without joining the Roll. Being on the Electoral Roll does not entail signing up to any additional commitments. However, it does help the Church show its strength. Representation on the governing bodies of the church depends on the number on the Electoral Roll, so it would be good if we can increase the numbers!

Joining the Roll is compulsory if you wish to:

- Stand for election to the PCC or other synodical council (such as the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synod)
- Attend the APCM and participate in votes
- Get married or baptise your children in St Werburgh's Church (if you live outside the parish)

### What does the Electoral Roll affect?

- The maximum number of PCC lay members. Representation on the governing bodies of the Church (PCC, Deanery Synod, Diocesan and General Synod).
- The Church of England is governed by a synodical system which joins with the Bishops to make decisions. Being on the Electoral Roll is the entry point and Christians share an individual responsibility to be part of the "Body of Christ" and to participate fully in our part of His Church. This 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. Also, the

system is intended to ensure that the laity have their place in every aspect of church life, including doctrine and services.

The Electoral Roll does NOT have a direct bearing in the way the Parish Share is assessed – it is based on estimated membership and socio-economic factors. The old accusation that the Parish Share was a sort of tax on the size of the Roll is no longer relevant.

## Do I qualify for the Roll?

To apply for the Electoral Roll you must meet ALL the following conditions:

- You must be aged 16 or over (though you can apply in the year you become 16 and your name will be entered once your birth date has passed).
- You must be baptised.
- You must be a member of the Church of England and EITHER live in the parish OR have attended a church in the parish regularly for at least 6 months.

The phrase “member of the Church of England” requires further explanation:

- Member of the Church of England  
Member of a Church in communion with the Church of England. The only Churches at present in communion with the Church of England are other Anglican Churches (excepting the so-called Anglican continuing Churches in North America) and some other foreign churches.
- Member of a Church not in communion with the Church of England but which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity; you must be prepared to also declare yourself a member of the Church of England. This category includes other Protestant denominations such as Moravian, Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist, as well as Roman Catholic, URC, Russian/Greek Orthodox etc.
- If you are a parish resident you do not have to actually attend the Church of which you consider yourself a member; but if you live outside the parish, the 6 months’ regular attendance at a church inside the parish is a requirement. If you know your postcode you can find out if you are resident in the parish by using this online tool. If still in doubt, there is a parish map in the display boards at the back of Church.

NOTE: you can be on the Electoral Roll of more than one Church, but you can only serve on the PCC of one Church at a time.

If you are not resident in the parish but were a habitual worshipper in the parish, 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' and then state the reason. If this is the case you can still use the online application form but add the reason for non-attendance as a note.

In these notes, 'parish' means ecclesiastical parish.

## Why join the Electoral Roll?

Joining the electoral roll is an important way of confirming your commitment to St Werburgh's community and to the vision of the church. But it also opens up the way for greater involvement in the life of the Church of England, at Deanery, Diocesan and national levels. By joining, you become entitled to participate in the government of the church and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, where the elections take place for:

- the parochial church council
- the parish's representatives on the deanery synod.

Any person entitled to attend the APCM (which is on Monday 22nd May 2022) may raise any question of parochial or general church interest.

In addition, those who live outside the Parish but are on the Electoral Roll enjoy all the rights and privileges that go with being resident in the village (for example, baptisms and weddings). However, if you live outside the Parish and want to come onto the Electoral Roll, you have to have been worshipping at St Werburgh's for a minimum period of 6 months.

Numbers are important in the present climate in which the Church of England needs to be aware of the commitment of its people. Church morale is affected by statistics and while it would be wrong to inflate the significance of the Roll it would be a missed opportunity to ignore it.

Joining the roll is an important statement of witness and a step along the path of discipleship. With your name on the electoral roll, the strength of the Church can be seen in our local area, and across the Diocese. If you're a regular at St Werburgh's, you should be on the electoral roll!

## I'm convinced – how do I join?

Application forms can be completed [here](#) or collected from the back of Church on a Sunday. Please note that only names and postcodes will appear on the published Roll. Submit online or put the completed forms in the box at the back of church labelled "Electoral Roll Forms". The deadline the current year can be found at [www.stwchorlton.org/apcm](http://www.stwchorlton.org/apcm).

## **My details have changed recently**

If you are a member of St Werburgh's Church and your contact details have recently changed, it would be helpful if you could notify us so that we can amend the membership database. Email: [hello@stwchorlton.org](mailto:hello@stwchorlton.org)

## **How can I find out the results of the Renewal?**

The Electoral Roll Officer gives a report at the APCM. Also, a copy of the new Roll is placed on display in the Church.

## **Data Privacy Notice**

Please click [here](#) for a Data Privacy Notice, issued in line with the new GDPR regulations, which explains how we handle your data, and your rights under the Regulations.