



Cathedral Guidance: Community Rolls

A. Overview

1. Section 6 of the Cathedrals Measure 2021 (the **2021 Measure**) sets out the new requirements for both cathedrals with a parish¹ and those without a parish in relation to community rolls.
2. The 2021 Measure requires a cathedral without a parish to maintain a roll of those persons who would, if the cathedral had a parish, be eligible to be included on its church electoral roll². This means that the calculation of the number of representatives the cathedral has on the deanery synod, which is based on the number of people on the cathedral's community roll³, will exclude those who are not eligible for inclusion in a church electoral roll of a parish.
3. In addition, the 2021 Measure provides for cathedrals, whether or not they have a parish, to maintain a separate roll of those in the cathedral community who are not eligible for inclusion on a church electoral roll of a parish. This reflects the reality that cathedral communities are common to many cathedrals, regardless of whether they operate within a parish setting.

B. New requirements under the 2021 Measure

Cathedrals without a parish

1. The Constitution of a cathedral which is not a parish church must provide for the formation and maintenance of a roll of the members of the cathedral's community who fulfil the requirements set out in s.6(1) of the 2021 Measure (the **Parish Equivalent Roll**). The requirements in s.6(1) mirror the requirements for a person to be included in the church electoral roll of a parish⁴. The Parish Equivalent Roll for cathedrals without a parish will be used by the diocesan synod to make a scheme for a cathedral which is not a parish church which provides for its representation on a deanery synod⁵.
2. The Constitution must also permit the formation and maintenance of a roll of the members of the cathedral's community who are not eligible to be included in the Parish Equivalent Roll, but who are members of the cathedral community (the **Community**

¹ Often referred to as "parish church cathedrals".

² Without the option for residency in the parish as the cathedral has no parish.

³ The definition of "community roll" in Church Representation Rule 83(6) will be the roll described in s.6(1) of the 2021 Measure, once the 2021 Measure comes into force for your cathedral.

⁴ Without the option for residency in the parish as the cathedral has no parish.

⁵ See Rule 23(1)(b) of the Church Representation Rules 2020, as amended by Para 13 of Schedule 4 to the 2021 Measure.

Roll). Maintaining a Community Roll could enable your cathedral to engage more widely with those in the cathedral’s local community.

3. For these purposes, “cathedral community” is defined in s.45(1) of the 2021 Measure as:
 - (a) persons over the age of 16 years who worship regularly in the cathedral or who are engaged in work or service connected with the cathedral in a regular capacity; and
 - (b) such other persons as the Statutes may specify as members of the cathedral community.
4. In practice, this means that each cathedral without a parish **MUST** have a Parish Equivalent Roll and **MAY** have a Community Roll.

Cathedrals with a parish

5. The Constitution of a cathedral which is also a parish church must permit the formation and maintenance of a Community Roll of the members of the cathedral community who are not eligible to be included in the church electoral roll of the parish but who are members of the cathedral community⁶.
6. In practice, this means that each cathedral with a parish **MUST** maintain a church electoral roll for the parish and **MAY** have a Community Roll.

Electorate if any Chapter members are to be elected

7. If your cathedral’s Constitution provides for the election of any Chapter members, the electorate for such elections is⁷:
 - a) In a cathedral without a parish: those persons on the Parish Equivalent Roll and the Community Roll (where there is one).
 - b) In a cathedral with a parish those persons on the church electoral roll of the parish and the Community Roll (where there is one).

C. Other points to note

- I. When considering whether your cathedral should maintain a Community Roll in addition to a church electoral roll of a parish or Parish Equivalent Roll, Chapters should consider the purposes of their Community Roll and the role those on it may be given. This is because a Community Roll could have a wider role than forming part of the electorate if your cathedral elects some non-executive Chapter members. For example, the Community Roll could form the electorate to elect members of a community committee if the cathedral wishes to have one.

⁶ See the definition of cathedral community set out in Part B paragraph 3 above.

⁷ Para 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 2021 Measure

2. You must ensure that the compilation and maintenance of your Community Roll, as well as your Parish Equivalent Roll, complies with data protection and privacy laws and so specialist legal advice may need to be sought.

Appendix

s.6 Cathedrals Measure 2021

6 Constitution: provision for community rolls

- (1) In the case of a cathedral which is not a parish church, the constitution must require the formation and maintenance of a roll which contains the name of each person—
 - (a) who is baptised,
 - (b) who is aged 16 or over,
 - (c) who has made one of the following two declarations, and
 - (d) whose application for enrolment for the purposes of this subsection has been granted.
- (2) The first declaration is that the person—
 - (a) is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, and
 - (b) has habitually attended public worship at the cathedral during the preceding six months.
- (3) The second declaration is that the person—
 - (a) is a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity,
 - (b) is also a member of the Church of England, and
 - (c) has habitually attended public worship at the cathedral during the preceding six months.
- (4) In the case of a cathedral which is not a parish church, the constitution must permit the formation and maintenance of a roll which contains the name of each person—
 - (a) who is not eligible for inclusion on the roll maintained for the purposes of subsection (1), but
 - (b) who is a member of the cathedral community, and
 - (c) whose application for enrolment for the purposes of this subsection has been granted.
- (5) In the case of a cathedral which is, or part of which is, a parish church, the constitution must permit the formation and maintenance of a roll which contains the name of each person—
 - (a) who is not eligible for inclusion on the church electoral roll of the parish, but
 - (b) who is a member of the cathedral community, and
 - (c) whose application for enrolment for the purposes of this subsection has been granted.