



LEICESTER DIOCESAN REGISTRY

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REGISTRY UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2020

We hope that 2020 has started well for you and your parishes. We thought we'd give you the heads up about a number of recent changes and what more to expect in 2020...

Church Representation Rules

The Church Representation Rules have been streamlined to give PCCs more flexibility over the way they operate.

A [brief article](#) is available on the Diocesan website which provides a link to our one-page guide.

The [full set of Rules and an introduction](#) are now available on the Church of England website.

Changes to fees

Don't forget that there are now [new parochial fees](#), which were effective from 01 January 2020.

The faculty fee also increased from 1 January to £302. This fee will be payable on presentation of faculty petitions for memorials which fall outside of the Diocesan or Parish Churchyard Regulations, gravespace reservations and exhumations.

The fee for a Common Licence is still £200 but it may change from 01 April 2020 - we will keep you posted.

Changes to vacancy timetable

Another piece of legislation that came into force on 1 January, The Legislative Reform (Patronage of Benefices) Order 2019, brings changes to the timetable in a vacancy.

For parishes, it means that if you find yourselves with a vacancy process starting this year, rather than there being a 4-week period for the s11 meeting to be held (that's the meeting of the PCC where the parish representatives are chosen) and then a 6-week period for the s12 meeting to be held (that's the meeting between the PCC, the bishop and, if applicable, the patron), instead there is a general overall period of six months in which to hold those meetings.

Coming up!

Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2019

New rules which will make changes to the faculty application process and permit more works under Lists A and B will come into force on **01 April 2020** – more detail will follow nearer the time but here's a few pointers:

- if the nature of your application requires consultation with bodies like Historic England, the local planning authority, the Church Buildings Council, the Victorian Society *etc* the DAC are to assist parishes with this so that all necessary consultation are completed before it gives its final notification of advice;
- the DAC's notification will look a bit different as it will include:
 - a description of the works as they should be described in the faculty petition;
 - a list of the bodies which have been consulted (see above); and
 - its principal reasons for recommending the proposals for approval/not objecting.
- the period of grant for which an Archdeacon's licence for temporary minor re-ordering can be granted will increase from 15 to 24 months;
- all maintenance of church buildings, and repairs that do not affect the fabric or historic material will come under List A; and
- new matters will be permitted under Lists A and B!

Marriage registers

You may well have read in the Church Times last year that The Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc.) Act 2019 was passed in May 2019 and contains provisions affecting marriage registration.

No one knows exactly when the Regulations are likely to be introduced – they will have to be laid before both Houses of Parliament before they can become law. The earliest we have heard is this Spring and a provisional training date has been fixed at St Martin's House on 29 April.

In a nutshell, these changes will:

- move away from the paper-based system to an electronic marriage register; and
- introduce a system whereby parties sign a single marriage document (and so replacing marriage registers and certificates issued at the time of the wedding), which will contain all the information to be entered into the new electronic marriage register.

As an added benefit, the marriage document will be in a form that will enable each party's mother's names to be included in the registration, as well as, or in place of, their fathers' names.

We've produced a guidance note which brings together what we know of the proposed new process – do get in touch if you would like a copy.

Registry Guidance notes

We've produced some brief guidance notes on subjects which many of you ask us at the Registry – do email us if you would like copies of any of the following, and let us know if there are any other subjects upon which you may find a note of help:

- Banns and marriage licences
- Changes to marriage registration
- CRR changes
- Gravespace reservations
- How to close a churchyard
- Local authority responsibility for maintenance of close churchyards
- Memorial petitions
- Public notices and certificates of publication

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