*It is time to revise the Electoral Roll for the parish in readiness for the Annual General Meeting:-*

**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.

**Do I have to join?**

You can of course be a full and active member of the Parish of ABE 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 in one of our churches (if you live outside the parish) without any other qualifying connection

#### What does the Electoral Roll affect?

* The maximum number of PCC lay members. For a large parish like ABE, if the Roll is not representative this means that the PCC is too small for the workload involved, putting heavy strain on the 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.

#### 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.

#### Why join the Electoral Roll?

Joining the electoral roll is an important way of confirming your commitment to the ABE community and to the vision of the church.

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 any of the churches in our parish, you should be on the electoral roll!

#### I’m convinced – how do I join?

Application forms can be in the welcome areas of any of our churches or at the Parish Office. Fill in your full name and address (as legibly as possible!), and tick the appropriate boxes. It would assist us greatly if you would also complete the optional ‘Contact Details’ section for our records, particularly email addresses.  Please note that only names and postcodes will appear on the published Roll. Hand the completed forms to one of the churchwardens.

#### I can’t remember if I have joined already?

A full printout of the current Roll is available in each church and at the parish office. If you are already on the Roll then you do not need to apply again (this year).