

Bill No.5

Proposer: Mr Quentin Teggin

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Attendance at Easter Vestries can vary widely from parish to parish. In many parishes, particularly larger parishes, there are usually more than enough registered vestry members present to warrant an election for Select Vestry positions, with all 12 (or more) positions filled.

Unfortunately this is far from the case in some smaller parishes, with Easter Vestries having insufficient nominations to fill all Select Vestry positions. Under the constitution, positions remaining unfilled at the close of the Easter Vestry, cannot be filled at a later date.

It seems somewhat anomalous that Select Vestries are entrusted with co-opting registered vestry members to fill casual vacancies arising from the resignation or death of a Select Vestry member, but cannot co-opt to a position unfilled at Easter Vestry.

A Select Vestry may find itself a number of members short of full complement, despite there being registered vestry members willing to serve, but who were absent from Easter Vestry and had not expressed their willingness to serve in advance.

This proposal would afford a Select Vestry the same co-option powers they currently enjoy with respect to casual vacancies, in respect of positions unfilled at Easter Vestry.

The option to fill such positions will lie solely with the Select Vestry and they may or may not choose to exercise this option. They can also decide how many unfilled positions to address.

In that the Easter Vestry has entrusted the Select Vestry to manage the affairs of the parish, albeit at reduced numbers, and the decision to co-opt or not lies solely with the Select Vestry, the co-option of additional select vestry members simply serves to spread the workload and introduce different and potentially valuable perspectives and expertise to Select Vestry discussions.

Bishop, I propose that the Bill be given a second reading.