



## Sub-warden

In the Church of Wales, a sub-warden is a key lay officer in a church, sharing responsibility with the incumbent (vicar) for the day-to-day running and well-being of the church. There are two types of sub-warden, a people's warden who is elected by the congregation at the annual vestry meeting and a priest's warden who is chosen by the Vicar to support them. They both play a vital role in church life, governance, building maintenance, and worship and work together closely with the Mission Area Wardens.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

#### **Representing the Laity:**

Wardens are seen as the primary representatives of the laity within the Church, acting as a bridge between the congregation and the clergy.

#### **Cooperation with the Incumbent:**

They work closely with the Church priest (incumbent) to manage the Church, including pastoral care, administration, and ensuring the smooth running of services.

#### **Church Property:**

They are responsible for the church building and its contents, including maintaining an inventory and ensuring proper records of property transactions.

#### **Worship and Order:**

Wardens help maintain order and decency during services, organise sidespersons, and may be involved in leading worship.

#### **Governance:**

They are automatically members of the Church Committee, contributing to the Church's plans and decisions.

#### **Pastoral Care:**

They can offer pastoral support to the clergy and congregation, fostering unity and peace within the community.

#### **Financial Oversight:**

They may be involved in financial matters, including ensuring the Church meets its obligations and potentially acting as a treasurer.

#### **Building Maintenance:**

They ensure the church building is well-maintained, including overseeing repairs and ensuring necessary legal processes (faculties) are followed.

#### **Communication and Support:**

They communicate with the congregation, relaying their views and concerns to the clergy and supporting new members.

#### **Historical Significance:**

Wardens have ancient origins, originally serving as officers of the bishop and overseeing the church and its property.

In essence, Wardens are vital leaders and administrators within the Church, working to support the clergy, care for the church community and its property, and represent the voice of the laity.