

GENERAL SYNOD

**DIOCESE OF LEEDS (WEST YORKSHIRE & THE DALES):
PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAMES OF THE SUFFRAGAN SEES OF
KNARESBOROUGH AND PONTEFRACT TO RIPON AND WAKEFIELD**

Report from the Dioceses Commission

1. In July 2013 the General Synod approved The Bradford, Ripon & Leeds and Wakefield Reorganisation Scheme (GS 1898) by an overwhelming majority. The Scheme dissolved those three dioceses and created the new Diocese of Leeds (also known as the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales). Following approval by Her Majesty in Council in October 2013, the new diocese became a legal reality on 20 April 2014, and was formally inaugurated in York Minster on 8 June.

2. It was an integral part of the package proposed by the Dioceses Commission that the new diocese would be sub-divided into five archdeaonries (as provided in the Scheme) which would be not only be more in sync with units of secular governance but also co-terminous with episcopal areas. This was designed to enhance the Church's mission in the region: the Commission's thinking is set out in the documentation that was submitted to General Synod for its debate in July 2013¹. The five episcopal areas were intended to be:
 - Bradford (newly created as a suffragan See) – *archdeaonry of Bradford*
 - Huddersfield (a new See) - *archdeaonry of Halifax*
 - Leeds – under direct care of the diocesan - *archdeaonry of Leeds*
 - Ripon (the renamed See of Knaresborough) – *archdeaonry of Richmond & Craven*
 - Wakefield (the renamed See of Pontefract) - *archdeaonry of Pontefract*

3. A suffragan see cannot be given the same name as a diocesan see, but since the cities of Ripon and Wakefield, by dint of the Scheme, are no longer diocesan sees, it made mission sense to move the suffragan sees of Knaresborough and Pontefract to these two cathedral cities. (On the same principle, Bradford is one of the two newly created suffragan Sees).

4. The Scheme could not itself make provision for the renaming of the existing suffragan sees of Knaresborough and Pontefract (although amendments made by the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2014 would now make this possible for

¹ See in particular Chapter 2 of *Moving towards a new diocese for West Yorkshire and the Dales* [GS 1049A] and Chapter 4 of *The New Diocese and the Mission of the Church* [GS 1049B].

future such schemes). It has therefore been necessary to utilise the existing provisions of S.11 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 which provide for Her Majesty in Council to change the name of a diocesan or suffragan see on receipt of a petition from the bishop of the diocese concerned.

5. As required by S.11(2) of the 2007 Measure, the Dioceses Commission has been consulted by the Bishop of Leeds on the proposals. For the reasons previously advanced by the Commission and summarised above, the Commission strongly supports the Bishop's proposals.
6. The Bishop has obtained the approval of the Diocesan Synod. Should the General Synod also give its approval, the Bishop of Leeds would then be able to forward the attached Petition to Her Majesty in Council.

(signed)

MICHAEL CLARKE

Chair

The Dioceses Commission

4 December 2014

**THE HUMBLE PETITION TO HER MAJESTY IN COUNCIL OF
THE RIGHT REVEREND NICHOLAS BAINES
LORD BISHOP OF LEEDS UNDER SECTION 11 OF
THE DIOCESES, PASTORAL AND MISSION MEASURE 2007**

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY

WHEREAS

1. The towns of Knaresborough and Pontefract were appointed the sees of suffragan bishops by Orders in Council dated, respectively, 20th November 1905 and 27th October 1930
2. The suffragan sees of Knaresborough and of Pontefract have become suffragan sees of the diocese of Leeds pursuant to the Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield Reorganisation Scheme 2013
3. It is thought desirable to change the name of the suffragan see of Knaresborough to Ripon and the name of the suffragan see of Pontefract to Wakefield
4. The Dioceses Commission has been consulted as to the proposed changes of name and the approval of the diocesan synod of the diocese of Leeds has been obtained
5. This petition, together with a report thereon from the Dioceses Commission, has been laid before and approved by the General Synod

NOW THEREFORE WE, NICHOLAS, BY DIVINE PERMISSION LORD BISHOP OF LEEDS, do humbly petition Your Majesty in Council in exercise of the power contained in section 11(1) of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 to change the name of the suffragan see of Knaresborough to Ripon and the name of the suffragan see of Pontefract to Wakefield

GIVEN under our hand and episcopal seal

this day of 2015