

**GENERAL SYNOD  
THE PAYMENTS TO THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION  
TRUST ORDER 2003**

**Explanatory Memorandum by the Church Commissioners**

- 1 The Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust Order 2003 lays down the basis for the Church's financial contribution to the Churches Conservation Trust during the 9<sup>th</sup> funding period of the operation of Part III of the Pastoral Measure 1983 – that is, from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2006. The Church Commissioners have made the Order under section 53 of the 1983 Measure but it cannot come into operation until the General Synod has approved it. It has also to be laid before both Houses of Parliament and is subject to annulment.
- 2 The Order reflects arrangements provisionally agreed after negotiations with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport ("DCMS") on the basis explained in detail in GS 1472, of which the Synod took note at the November 2002 group of sessions. The Synod went on to approve the recommendation in GS 1472 for the payment by the Commissioners in the 9<sup>th</sup> funding period of a total of up to £4.4 million as the Church's 30% contribution to the financing of the Trust (based on the Trust's bid for £14.8m).
- 3 Since the Synod considered the issue last November, the DCMS has indicated that the State's 70% grant for the triennium will be £9m. On this basis the Church's 30% share will be £3,857,142, and the Trust's total budget from these two sources will be £12,857,142. This is 87% of the Trust's bid and only 2% greater than the figure for the 2000 – 2003 triennium. Clearly, this very limited increase will constrain the number of additional churches that can be vested in the Trust in the coming triennium.
- 4 The Order made by the Commissioners sets out the Church's total contribution, to be made partly from a one-third share of sale proceeds and partly from the Commissioners' general fund.
- 5 For the reasons explained in GS 1472, it is the intention that the Church's 30% contribution will be provided by the Commissioners as follows:-

From a one-third share of the net proceeds of sales of redundant churches and sites in the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2006 up to £300,000

From grants from the Commissioners' general fund and/or from any remaining balance of the one-third share of the net proceeds (as above) in such amounts as the Commissioners shall determine say £3,557,142

6 If the sum available from net sale proceeds is less than £300,000 the Commissioners will, if necessary, increase their grant to the extent required to make good the shortfall in order to honour the Church's commitment to the 30:70 funding partnership with the State. However, if net sale proceeds are buoyant, the one-third share will be available up to the full Church contribution of £3,857,142 and the Commissioners' contribution from their own funds will reduce correspondingly. This accords with the recommendations made in GS 1472, and the Order now before Synod will, if approved, provide the necessary authority.

7 The proposed arrangements are on the understanding that:-

- (1) the sums proposed to be provided by the State and the Commissioners are 'ceiling' figures only, to be disbursed as and when the Trust can show its need for more money; and
- (2) the Trust will maximise opportunities for generating income and direct giving by visitors and will avail itself of all possible financial assistance from other sources.

23rd January 2003

Howell Harris Hughes  
Secretary

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