

**Church Commissioners**

**Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee**

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011**

**Benefices of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; Dent with Cowgill; and  
Firbank, Howgill and Killington (Diocese of Carlisle)**

**Note by Katie Lowe**

**Summary**

(i) Following the publication of a draft Pastoral Scheme including provision for:

- uniting the benefices of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; Dent with Cowgill and Firbank, Howgill and Killington: the united benefice to be named “The benefice of Western Dales;
- uniting the parishes of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; and Firbank, Howgill and Killington: the united parish to be named “Sedbergh and Lune”;
- the church of St Andrew, Sedbergh to be the parish church of the new parish of Sedbergh and Lune; and
- the churches of St Mark, Cautley, St John the Baptist, Garsdale, St John the Evangelist, Firbank, Holy Trinity, Howgill, All Saints, Killington and St John the Evangelist, Cowgill to cease to be parish churches (which would leave only the church of St Andrew, Dent as a parish church of the parish of Dent with Cowgill).

we received eight representations against (one of which was subsequently confirmed to be only a letter of comment).

- (ii) Most of the representors are concerned about the proposed change in status of six of the eight parish churches becoming chapels of ease, particularly those at Cautley, Garsdale and Cowgill. Their main concern is that this would mean that these churches would no longer automatically be licensed for weddings. There are also concerns about the consultation process and the name of the proposed new benefice.
- (iii) The Bishop emphasises that the proposals originated locally, from the priest in the benefices, and that the PCCs were fully consulted by the priest and the Mission and Pastoral Committee. The Bishop also says that he would be happy for every church to remain as a parish church, rather than six of them become chapels of ease.
- (iv) The main issues for the Committee are:
- (i) Should the six churches designated to become chapels of ease continue as parish churches? Should the draft Scheme be amended to provide for this?

- (ii) Has the consultation process fulfilled the statutory requirements? Has it been otherwise satisfactory?
- (iii) Should the name of the benefice be changed or, if members are otherwise inclined to allow the draft Scheme to proceed, is this a matter which should be left for further local consultation and amendment by a Bishop's Pastoral Order, if desired?
- (iv) Do the diocesan proposals make better provision for the cure of souls in the Diocese as a whole and have regard to the traditions, needs and characteristics of the individual parishes?
- (v) Do the proposals have due regard to the furtherance of the mission of the Church of England?

### **Recommendation**

The Committee is invited to consider the representations and the issues set out in this report and, in the light of these, whether or not the draft Scheme should proceed, either as drafted or, using its powers under section 10(3) of the Measure, whether an amended scheme should proceed.

## Background

1. In January 2020 a draft Scheme was published providing for:

- uniting the benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; the benefice of Dent with Cowgill and the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington; and naming the new benefice “Western Dales”;
- uniting the parish of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; and the parish of Firbank, Howgill and Killington; the united parish to be named “Sedbergh and Lune”
- the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice;
- for his parsonage house to be that of the benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale;
- for the transfer of the parsonage house of the benefice of Dent with Cowgill to the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes;
- for the disposal of the parsonage house of the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington;
- for the church of St Andrew, Sedbergh to be the parish church of the new parish of Sedbergh and Lune;
- for the churches of St Mark, Cautley, St John the Baptist, Garsdale, St John the Evangelist, Firbank, Holy Trinity, Howgill, All Saints, Killington and St John the Evangelist, Cowgill all to become chapels of ease (which would leave the church of St Andrew, Dent as the only parish church in the parish of Dent with Cowgill); and
- for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice.

2. The draft Scheme carried the following “diocesan rationale”:

***“The proposals are consistent with the creation of Mission Communities as one of the primary recommendations of the county Strategy for Ministry which has been discussed and agreed by Synods across Cumbria. This proposal is to unite the benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale, the benefice of Dent with Cowgill and the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington into one new benefice as part of a Mission Community which is supported by an administrative structure that is small enough to be local but large enough to be sustainable. The Mission Community needs to be sustainable in the future, and so consideration has been given on the employment of the resources of the clergy, with priority being given to pastoral and liturgical functions. The parishes and clergy involved believe that this new benefice structure will provide the right pastoral organisation to enable their ongoing mission.”***

3. We received eight representations against the draft Scheme, from:

- Ms Rosemary Lord, a Churchwarden at St John the Baptist, Garsdale;
- Dr David Wright, a parishioner, former member of the PCC and one of the 24 Sidesmen of Dent;
- Dr Russell Ellwood, a regular attender at Garsdale Parish Church;
- Mrs Marion Smith, a member of the community in Garsdale and
- Dr Janet Skublics, Chairmen of Dent with Cowgill PCC;
- The Clerk to the 24 Sidesmen of Dent;

- Ms Maureen Hinch and Ms Judith Bush, Churchwardens at St Mark's Church, Cautley; and
- Mr William Mawdsley, Churchwarden at Garsdale.

The Cautley churchwardens subsequently confirmed that their letter should be regarded as one of comment and was not a representation against the draft Scheme.

4. Attached are:

- Annex A: A copy of the draft Scheme;
- Annex B: A scaled map of the area;
- Annex C: Correspondence with the Bishop regarding the representations;
- Annex D: Parish information forms for the three parishes within the benefices;
- Annex R: Copies of the representations; and
- Annex S: Supplementary comments.

### **Summary of the main points in the representations against the draft Scheme**

- Most of the representors are concerned about the proposed change in status of six of the current eight parish churches to become chapels of ease, particularly those at Cautley, Garsdale and Cowgill. Their main concern is that this would mean that these churches would no longer automatically be licensed for weddings. They say that Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are events which are important in bringing communities together and that church weddings would be discouraged if they had to be held five or six miles away at the parish churches or needed special licences. Several say that the Bishop has said that he would license the proposed chapels of ease for marriages but are concerned that he has not made this commitment in writing, or that it has not been included in the draft Scheme. The *churchwardens of Cautley* have accepted the incumbent-designate's assurance on this point and say that their letter should not, therefore, be considered as a representation against the draft Scheme.
- Ms. Lord* is also concerned that the proposed change in status would make it much easier to close St John the Baptist, Garsdale in the future, and *Dr Ellwood* says that to downgrade the church will only serve to exclude more people from participating in church events.
- Dr Ellwood* also asks if the change of designation will have any financial implications and whether members would retain the same degree of financial independence that they currently hold. *Mrs Smith* says that as a community in Garsdale, they have for a long time enjoyed ecumenical rapport, attending each other's services and supporting each other's functions, long before the present strong encouragement to do so. She asks whether they can rely on the monies raised by Anglicans being retained for the purposes of supporting St John's. She says if this is not the case, they must be frank with the Garsdale Methodists, who may not feel the same

enthusiasm if they know their contribution will be shared with Sedbergh Church while they are still struggling to maintain their own. *Mr Mawdsley* says that there was no mention of churchwardens in the draft proposal and asks whether chapels of ease would retain their churchwardens.

8. Three of the representors also express concern about the consultation process. *Dr Ellwood* says that the timeframe for objections was inadequate and that greater efforts should be made to canvass the opinions of the people in the locality. He asks for a further three months to allow time for those living in the Dale to be made aware of the proposal and to give them chance to respond, as the notification to individuals was poor, and questions how anyone can comment if they do not know. *Mrs Smith* also says that she and her husband are concerned that the notice given for the planned changes is too short. *Ms Lord* says the smaller churches were not informed that the formation of the much larger benefice, to include Dent, Cowgill and the Lune parishes, would mean a change in the status of the individual parish churches. In fact, at the combined PCC meeting of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale, held on June 3rd, 2019, they were told that "The integrity of each of the combined parishes will be maintained. This measure is not intended to strip any parish of its autonomy".
9. *Dr Wright* says that while accepting the inevitability of the Scheme, he believes it is essential to maintain the identity of the Church of England. He says it is proposed to call the new benefice the "Benefice of Western Dales" and to create a new "Western Dales Special Patronage Board". He says that the name "Western Dales" has the potential to cause confusion, as there already exists a Western Dales Mission Community (WDMC) which comprises the Church of England, Methodist and United Reformed Churches. He says there is already confusion between the WDMC and the proposed benefice with a number of participants (including clergy) treating them as the same thing. He believes there needs to be absolute clarity that the WDMC and the united benefice are distinct and separate entities. To this end he says the naming of the entities should be distinct.
10. He points out that in a recent meeting of clergy from elsewhere, it was noted that comments were made about the "blended religion" being followed in Cumbria. He says that if the Church of England wishes to retain its congregations it must remain just that, the Church of England.

### **The Bishop's views**

11. The Bishop of Carlisle says that the Scheme was proposed locally at the initiative of the Reverend Andrew McMullon, the current priest-in-charge of the three existing benefices. He says the PCCs were fully consulted by the incumbent and the Mission and Pastoral Committee.
12. He says that the proposed change of status from parish church to chapels of ease was one of the matters consulted on from the outset, but he would also be happy for all the churches to remain as parish churches, but with two joint PCCs.
13. The Bishop says that the plan was always to keep two wardens per church, with Deputy Churchwardens being appointed for those becoming chapels-of-ease.

14. He says that the proposed name of the new benefice came locally, and that as geographically the area is called the Western Dales, it was felt that it made sense to call the new benefice Western Dales.
15. The Bishop reiterates that the proposals originated with the incumbent from a desire to reduce the number of PCCs meetings in order to focus more on mission and ministry, also responding to the challenges of finding office holders for the PCCs etc. He says the Scheme is seen as reducing the administrative burden on the incumbent and giving him more time for mission and ministry.
16. The Bishop points out that this is a deeply rural area with many of the church buildings in remote locations with congregations declining and ageing. He says that Mission Community is the only way forward, with churches working across denominational barriers to grow a church for the future. He says they have recently appointed an ordained pioneer minister jointly paid for by Anglicans/Methodists/URC, and that the Diocese is investing heavily in this benefice. The role of the pioneer is to grow and develop new expressions of church that are part of the Mission Community and disciple people in new and contemporary ways.

### **The sifting group's decision**

17. The case has been examined by the Committee's case sifting representatives who recommended that it should not be afforded a public hearing. The sifting representatives asked for further information about whether any other views on the name of the proposed new benefice had been received by the DMPC at the local consultation stage and whether the Bishop would be prepared to consider a change of name if there was a widespread demand for this.

### **Supplementary views of representors against the draft Scheme**

18. *Dr Janet Skublics*, Chairman of Dent with Cowgill PCC, does not feel the Bishop has responded adequately to their concerns. She says the last five years have seen different ecumenical initiatives in response to the shortage of priests and dwindling congregations, but she does not think there is much in the way of enthusiastic support for the Western Dales Mission Community.
19. She says that the Reverend Andrew McMullon put forward the draft scheme for the United Benefice of the Western Dales, with one parish and PCC, because of the shortage of priests, as at the time he was the only full time priest, assisted by a licensed lay reader, another priest (who has Parkinson's) and an NSM, now in her late seventies, which left him with the impossible task of attending multiple PCC meetings. She says that Dent with Cowgill opposed having one PCC for the new Benefice and is to be allowed to continue with its own PCC and parish. Since 2017, the PCC has been lay led and has only four meetings a year, with agendas and minutes being circulated to Mr McMullon, who attends as an observer from time to time.
20. Dr Skublics says the PCC is disappointed it has not been given the support needed after their last incumbent was moved to Appleby and says that although a parish profile and job description for the appointment of a curate or house for duty priest

was prepared in 2017, no advertisement was placed. She points out that the recently appointed Pioneer Minister, although she will be resident in Dent Vicarage, will not be a parish priest, as her role will be to grow the church outside the parish system, although they have seen no evidence from the Diocese of how this is to operate.

21. Dr Skublics reiterates that reducing all churches, with the exception of St Andrew's Sedbergh and St Andrew's Dent, to 'chapels of ease' has implications for holding weddings and she now understands that amendments to Canon 39 no longer make this necessary and that they can continue as parish churches and appoint their own churchwardens.
22. Dr Skublics says the PCC agrees with Dr David Wright's concerns regarding furthering the mission of the Church (Church of England) in their area. She says they are naturally cautious of promised amendments, given how many times the goal posts have been moved during the last 3 years. She adds that they have continued to pay their parish share throughout this period and their churches and church communities are an integral and important part of the life of this dale.

### **Supplementary views of the Bishop**

23. The Bishop confirmed that no other disagreement about the name of the proposed new benefice had been expressed at the local consultation stage but said that he would be prepared to consider a change of name by Bishop's Pastoral Order if necessary.

### **Information for the Committee**

24. Amending Canon 39, which took effect in 2019, has changed the requirement for services "every Sunday in every parish church" to one for "services in at least one church in each benefice" and in this respect has reduced the distinction between parish churches and chapels of ease.
25. In response to the representations, the Archdeacon and Priest-in-charge had discussed the representations with representors and the outcome of this was that the Archdeacon intended to recommend to the DMPC and Bishop that an amended draft Scheme should be published omitting the provision for six of the existing parish churches to become chapels of ease. However, as reported in Paper MPCP(20)23, a policy decision has been taken that draft Schemes should not be published during the current Covid-19 restrictions for the time being. This would likely delay the implementation of an amended draft Scheme until at least September and there would also be a possibility that some of the representations, particularly that against the proposed benefice name, would be sustained and so still need to be considered by the Committee in the Autumn.
26. The DMPC and priest-in-charge would like the current draft Scheme, or one amended in response to the representations, to be implemented as soon as possible. In order to progress the matter, it has therefore been decided to ask the Committee to consider the representations against the original draft Scheme. One option for the Committee would be to use its power under s.10(3) of the Measure to

amend the draft Scheme in the way intended by the Archdeacon (subject to the agreement of the Bishop and DMPC and such further consultation as the Commissioners thinks fit). Should the Committee decide to allow the draft scheme to proceed as it stands, or with amendment, it is likely, provided no application was made for leave to appeal, that a Scheme could be made in July.

## Issues

27. The main issues for the Committee are:

- (a) Should the six churches designated to become chapels of ease continue as parish churches? Should the draft Scheme be amended to provide for this?
- (b) Has the consultation process fulfilled the statutory requirements? Has it been otherwise satisfactory?
- (c) Should the name of the benefice be changed or, if members are otherwise inclined to allow the draft Scheme to proceed, is this a matter which should be left for further local consultation and amendment by a Bishop's Pastoral Order if desired?
- (d) Do the diocesan proposals make better provision for the cure of souls in the Diocese as a whole and have regard to the traditions, needs and characteristics of the individual parishes?
- (e) Do the proposals have due regard to the furtherance of the mission of the Church of England?

## Recommendation

28. The Committee is invited to consider the representations and the issues set out in this report and, in the light of these, whether or not the draft Scheme should proceed, either as drafted or, using its powers under section 10(3) of the Measure, whether an amended scheme should proceed.



(Signed) Katie Lowe

Church House  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3AZ

29th April 2020



## Annex A

### SUMMARY OF MAIN PROVISIONS OF DRAFT SCHEME (NOT PART OF THE DRAFT SCHEME)

*This draft Scheme provides for:*

- *the union of the benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; the benefice of Dent with Cowgill and the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington;*
  - *the union of the parish of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; and the parish of Firbank, Howgill and Killington*
  - *the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice;*
  - *his parsonage house to be that of the benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale;*
  - *for the transfer of the parsonage house of the benefice of Dent with Cowgill to the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes;*
  - *for the disposal of the parsonage house of the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington;*
  - *the church of St Andrew, Sedbergh to be the parish church of the new parish of Sedbergh and Lune*
  - *the churches of St Mark, Cautley, St John the Baptist, Garsdale, St John the Evangelist, Firbank, Holy Trinity, Howgill, All Saints, Killington and St John the Evangelist, Cowgill shall all become chapels of ease; and*
  - *the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice;*
- all within the diocese of Carlisle.*

### DRAFT

#### PASTORAL SCHEME

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners this            day of 202    in pursuance of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 ("the 2011 Measure", the Right Reverend James, Bishop of Carlisle, having consented thereto.

#### **Union of benefices and certain parishes**

1.    (1)    The benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale, the benefice of Dent with Cowgill and the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington in the diocese of Carlisle shall be united to create a new benefice which shall be named "The Benefice of Western Dales".

      (2)    The parish of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale and the parish of Firbank, Howgill and Killington shall also be united to create a new parish which shall be named "The Parish of Sedbergh and Lune".

      (3)    The area of the new benefice shall comprise the new parish of Sedbergh and Lune and the parish of Dent with Cowgill, which parishes shall continue distinct.

## **Churches**

2. (1) The church of Saint Andrew, Sedbergh, being one of the parish churches of the parish of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale, shall be the parish church of the new parish of Sedbergh and Lune.

(2) (1) The church of Saint Mark, Cautley and the church of Saint John the Baptist, Garsdale, being parish churches of the parish of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; and the church of Saint John the Evangelist, Firbank, the church of Holy Trinity, Howgill and the church of All Saints, Killington being parish churches of the parish of Firbank, Howgill and Killington, shall upon the date on which this Scheme comes into operation, cease to be parish churches.

(2) The marriage register books appertaining to the churches of Saint Mark, Cautley; Saint John the Baptist, Garsdale; Saint John the Evangelist, Firbank; Holy Trinity, Howgill; and All Saints, Killington shall be dealt with in accordance with section 62 of the Marriage Act 1949 and, subject to any provisions of the Parochial Registers and Records Measure 1978 that apply thereto and any directions thereunder, any other register books and records of those churches which remain in parochial custody shall be transferred to the parish church of Saint Andrew, Sedbergh within the new parish of Sedbergh and Lune.

(3) (1) The church of Saint John the Evangelist, Cowgill, being a parish church of the parish of Dent with Cowgill, shall, upon the date on which this Scheme comes into operation, cease to be a parish church.

(2) The marriage register books appertaining to the church of Saint John the Evangelist, Cowgill shall be dealt with in accordance with section 62 of the Marriage Act 1949 and, subject to any provisions of the Parochial Registers and Records Measure 1978 that apply thereto and any directions thereunder, any other register books and records of that church which remain in parochial custody shall be transferred to the parish church of Saint Andrew, Dent in the parish of Dent with Cowgill.

## **Archdeaconry and deanery**

3. The new benefice and its constituent parishes shall belong to the archdeaconry of Westmorland and Furness and the deanery of Kendal.

## **Designation of first incumbent**

4. If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Andrew Brian McMullon holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 1(1) hereof he shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

## **Assistant curates: consequential provision**

5. If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation any person holds an office of assistant curate (however described) in any of the benefices referred to in clause 1(1) hereof he, she or they shall as consequence of the union of benefices and of certain parishes effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice of Western Dales and/or the new parish of Sedbergh and Lune as the Bishop shall direct.

## **Representation of the laity**

6. The Bishop may by Instrument under his hand make provision for ensuring that the congregation of every church or place of worship in the new parish of Sedbergh

and Lune will have its own elected representatives of the laity on the parochial church council of that parish.

#### **Place of residence**

7. The parsonage house of the benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale (known as 20, Winfield Road, Sedbergh LA10 5AZ) shall be the place of residence of the incumbent of the new benefice.

#### **Transfer of parsonage house**

8. The parsonage house of the benefice of Dent with Cowgill (known as The Vicarage, Flintergill, Dent, Sedbergh, LA10 5QR), together with the site and appurtenances thereof and the grounds usually occupied and enjoyed therewith, shall without any conveyance or other assurance be transferred to the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes.

#### **Disposal of parsonage house**

9. The parsonage house of the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington (known as 5 Highfield Road, Sedbergh, LA10 5DH), together with the site and appurtenances thereof and the grounds usually occupied and enjoyed therewith, shall without any conveyance or other assurance be transferred to the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance for disposal in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8 of Schedule 3 to the 2011 Measure.

#### **Patronage**

10. Subject to clause 4 hereof, the patronage of the new benefice shall be vested in a special patronage board (to be known as "The Western Dales Special Patronage Board") constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule hereto.

#### **Coming into operation of this Scheme**

11. This Scheme shall come into operation upon the first day of the month following the date of it being made by the Church Commissioners.

### **SCHEDULE TO THE SCHEME**

#### **Constitution of the Western Dales Special Patronage Board**

The patronage board referred to in clause 10 of this Scheme shall consist of:-

- (1) the Bishop of Carlisle in his corporate capacity, who shall be chairman of the board and shall have one vote as a member of the board and a casting vote as chairman;
- (2) the Master, Fellows and Scholars of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity within the Town and University of Cambridge and of King Henry the Eighth's foundation, who shall have one vote;
- (3) the 24 Sidesmen of Dent, care of Clerk to the Trustees, East View, Beech Hill, Dent, LA10 5QN, who shall have one vote.

In witness of which this Scheme has been duly executed as a deed by the Church Commissioners.

SIGNED by the )  
 )  
Right Reverend James, )  
 )  
Bishop of Carlisle. )

Executed as a Deed by the Church Commissioners for England  
acting by two authorised signatories:

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Signature of Authorised Signatory

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Signature of Authorised Signatory

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**Notes by the Diocesan office (not forming part of the draft Scheme)**

The rationale behind the diocesan proposals is as follows:

**The proposals are consistent with the creation of Mission Communities as one of the primary recommendations of the county Strategy for Ministry which has been discussed and agreed by Synods across Cumbria. This proposal is to unite the benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale, the benefice of Dent with Cowgill and the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington into one new benefice as part of a Mission Community which is supported by an administrative structure that is small enough to be local but large enough to be sustainable. The Mission Community needs to be sustainable in the future, and so consideration has been given on the employment of the resources of the clergy, with priority being given to pastoral and liturgical functions. The parishes and clergy involved believe that this new benefice structure will provide the right pastoral organisation to enable their ongoing mission.**

Publication of this draft Scheme has been approved by the Church Commissioners but does not mean that they have taken a view on the merits of the diocesan case.

If they receive representations against the draft Scheme, the Commissioners will send all representations, both for and against, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors will then receive copies of the Commissioners' correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and they may comment further in writing to the Commissioners in light of the diocesan response if they so wish.

If there are no representations against the draft Scheme, the Commissioners will make the Scheme and arrange for it to be brought into effect.

### **Assistant curates: consequential provision – clause 5**

1. The above clause has been included to ensure that any person holding an office of assistant curate (however described) shall as consequence of the union of the benefices and certain parishes effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice of Western Dales and/or the new parish of Sedbergh and Lune as the Bishop shall direct. Although there is currently no such unnamed office holder in post, this clause is included in case any such office holder is appointed before this Scheme comes into operation.

### **The Reverend Christine Brown**

2. The Reverend Christine Brown currently has permission to officiate in the benefice of Dent with Cowgill. It is the Bishop's intention for Ms Brown to be given permission to officiate in the proposed benefice of the Western Dales.

### **Churches within the parish of Dent with Cowgill**

3. This Scheme does not alter the existing status of the church of St Andrew, Dent; it remains the parish church of the parish of Dent with Cowgill.
4. The Scheme includes provision for the parish church of St John the Evangelist, Cowgill to become a chapel of ease. Banns of marriage may not be called nor marriages solemnized in the church from the date on which the Scheme comes into operation (unless the building is subsequently licensed under Section 20 of the Marriage Act 1949).

### **Churches within the proposed new parish of Sedbergh and Lune**

5. This Scheme provides for the church of St Andrew, Sedbergh to be the parish church of the new parish of Sedbergh and Lune.
6. It also includes provision for the parish churches of Saint Mark, Cautley; Saint John the Baptist, Garsdale; Saint John the Evangelist, Firbank; Holy Trinity, Howgill; and All Saints, Killington to become chapels of ease. Banns of marriage may not be called nor marriages solemnized in these churches from the date on which the Scheme comes into operation (unless these building are subsequently licensed under Section 20 of the Marriage Act 1949).

## **Representation of the laity**

7. The Mission and Pastoral Measure stipulates that any provision for the representation of the laity shall cease to have effect not later than five years from the date on which this Scheme comes into effect. It would, however, be possible under the Church Representation Rules to make a similar provision for an unlimited period. It is only possible to include a clause for the representation of the laity for the new parish of Sedbergh and Lune. However, as the parish of Dent with Cowgill is an existing parish a similar arrangement could be made under the Church Representation Rules process only.

## **Patronage**

8. The Lord Chancellor, one of the patrons of the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington, has agreed to transfer his patronage to the Bishop in exchange for the patronage of the benefice of Dalton-in-Furness and Ireleth-with-Askam. This transfer of patronage is being completed by the Diocesan Registrar under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure process. It is not legally possible for the Lord Chancellor to be part of a patronage board and this transfer of patronage enables the new benefice of Western Dales to have a special patronage board.

## **Joint Parochial Church Council**

9. The proposals included a clause for a joint Parochial Church Council (PCC). As of the 1 January 2020 it is no longer possible for a joint PCC to be established. A provision called a "Joint Council" has superseded the joint PCC and this provision has been brought about by the Church Representation and Ministers Measure 2019, which may only be established under the Church Representation Rules, and deals with matters that may be delegated to it by the PCCs concerned.

## **Parsonage house of the benefice of Dent with Cowgill**

10. It is the diocesan intention to recruit a Pioneer Minister for the proposed benefice of Western Dales and this minister will reside in this property.



EXISTING BENEFICES AND PARISHES

- Firbank, Howgill and Killington
- Sedbergh Cautley and Garsdale
- Dent with Cowgill

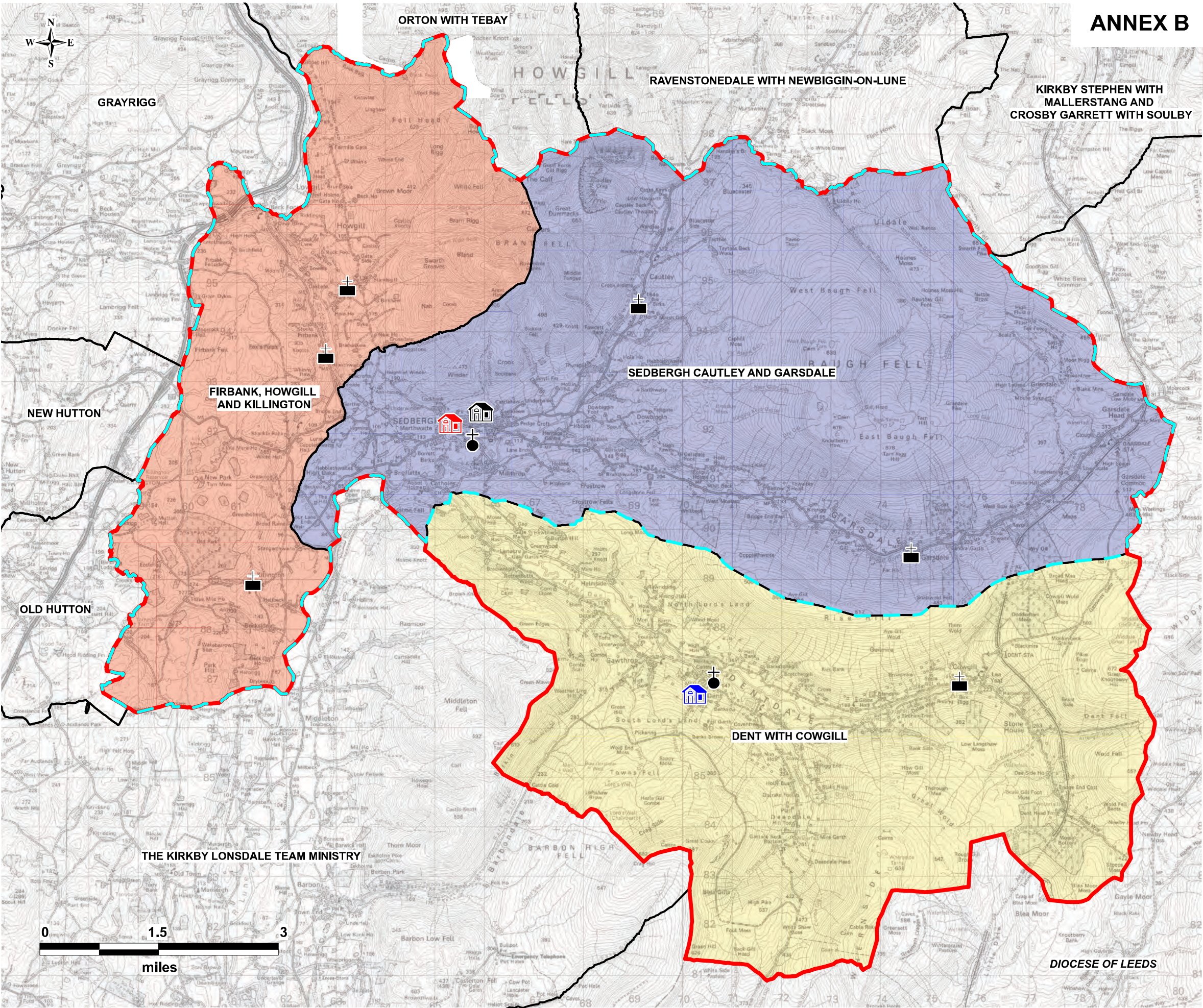
PROPOSED BENEFICE

- Western Dales

PROPOSED PARISH

- Sedbergh and Lune

- Parish churches
- Proposed Chapel-of-ease
- Parsonage house
- Parsonage house to be transferred for disposal
- Parsonage house to be transferred to diocese for diocesan purposes







The Rt Revd James Newcome  
Bishop of Carlisle  
Bishop's House  
Ambleside Road  
Keswick  
CA12 4DD

Katie Lowe  
Pastoral Case Advisor

Our ref: NB7/206

2 April 2020

Dear Bishop

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011  
Benefices of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; Dent with Cowgill; and  
Firbank, Howgill and Killington  
Proposed Pastoral Scheme**

Following the publication of the draft Pastoral Scheme providing for:

- *the union of the benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; the benefice of Dent with Cowgill and the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington;*
- *the union of the parish of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; and the parish of Firbank, Howgill and Killington*
- *the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice;*
- *his parsonage house to be that of the benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale;*
- *for the transfer of the parsonage house of the benefice of Dent with Cowgill to the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes;*
- *for the disposal of the parsonage house of the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington;*
- *the church of St Andrew, Sedbergh to be the parish church of the new parish of Sedbergh and Lune*
- *the churches of St Mark, Cautley, St John the Baptist, Garsdale, St John the Evangelist, Firbank, Holy Trinity, Howgill, All Saints, Killington and St John the Evangelist, Cowgill to become chapels of ease; and*
- *the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice*

we received eight representations against, from:

- Ms Rosemary Lord, a Churchwarden at St John the Baptist, Garsdale
- Dr David Wright, a parishioner, former member of the PCC and one of the 24 Sidesmen of Dent
- Dr Russell Ellwood, a regular attender at Garsdale Parish Church
- Mrs Marion Smith, a member of the community in Garsdale; and

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Website: [www.ccpastoral.org](http://www.ccpastoral.org)  
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- Dr Janet Skublics, Chairmen of Dent with Cowgill PCC
- The Clerk to the 24 Sidesmen of Dent
- Ms Maureen Hinch and Ms Judith Bush, Churchwardens at St Mark's Church, Cautley; and
- Mr William Mawdsley, Churchwarden at Garsdale.

The Cautley churchwardens subsequently confirmed that their letter should be regarded as one of comment and was not a representation against the draft scheme.

Copies of all the correspondence received are enclosed.

The draft Scheme carried the following footnote as part of the 'diocesan rationale':

*The proposals are consistent with the creation of Mission Communities as one of the primary recommendations of the county Strategy for Ministry which has been discussed and agreed by Synods across Cumbria. This proposal is to unite the benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale, the benefice of Dent with Cowgill and the benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington into one new benefice as part of a Mission Community which is supported by an administrative structure that is small enough to be local but large enough to be sustainable. The Mission Community needs to be sustainable in the future, and so consideration has been given on the employment of the resources of the clergy, with priority being given to pastoral and liturgical functions. The parishes and clergy involved believe that this new benefice structure will provide the right pastoral organisation to enable their ongoing mission.*

### **Summary of the main points in the representations against the draft Scheme**

Most of the representors are concerned about the proposed change in status of six of the current eight parish churches to become chapels of ease, particularly those at Cautley, Garsdale and Cowgill. Their main concern is that this would mean that these churches would no longer automatically be licensed for weddings. They say that Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are events which are important in bringing communities together and that church weddings would be discouraged if they had to be held five or six miles away at the parish churches or needed special licences. Several say that you have said that you would licence the proposed chapels of ease for marriages but are concerned that you have not made this commitment in writing or that it has not been included in the draft scheme. The churchwardens of Cautley have accepted the incumbent designate's assurance on this point and say that their letter should not therefore be considered as a representation against the draft scheme.

Ms Lord is also concerned that the proposed change in status would make it much easier to close St John the Baptist, Garsdale in the future and Dr Ellwood says that to downgrade the church will only serve to exclude more people from participating in church events.

Dr Ellwood also asks if the change of designation will have any financial implications and asks whether its members would retain the same degree of financial independence that they currently hold. Mrs Smith says that as a

community in Garsdale they have for a long time enjoyed ecumenical rapport, attending each other's services and supporting each other's functions long before the present strong encouragement to do so. She asks whether they can rely on the monies raised by the Anglicans being retained for the purposes of supporting St John's. She says if this is not the case, they must be frank with the Garsdale Methodists who may not feel the same enthusiasm if they know their contribution will be shared with the Sedbergh Church, while they are still struggling to maintain their own. Mr Mawdsley says that there is no mention of churchwardens in the draft proposal and asks whether they would retain their churchwardens as chapels of ease.

Three of the representors also express concern about the consultation process. Dr Ellwood says that the time frame for objections was inadequate and that greater efforts should be made to canvass the opinions of the people in the locality. He asks for a further three months to allow time for those living in the Dale to be made aware of the proposal and to give them chance to respond as the notification to individuals was poor and questions how anyone can comment if they do not know. Mrs Smith also says that she and her husband are concerned that the notice given for the planned changes is too short. Ms Lord says the smaller churches were not informed that the formation of the much larger benefice, to include Dent, Cowgill and the Lune parishes, would mean a change in the status of the individual parish Churches. In fact, at the combined PCC meeting of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale, held on June 3rd, 2019, they were told that "The integrity of each of the combined parishes will be maintained. This measure is not intended to strip any parish of its autonomy".

Dr Wright says that while accepting the inevitability of the Scheme he believes it is essential to maintain the identity of the Church of England. He says it is proposed to call the new benefice the "Benefice of the Western Dales" and to create a new "Western Dales Special Patronage Board". He says that the name "Western Dales" has the potential to cause confusion as there already exists a Western Dales Mission Community (WDMC) which comprises the Church of England, Methodist and United Reformed Churches. He says there is already confusion between the WDMC and the proposed benefice with a number of participants (including clergy) treating them as the same thing. He believes there needs to be absolute clarity that the WDMC and the united benefice are distinct and separate entities. To this end he says the naming of the entities should be distinct.

He points out that in a recent meeting of clergy from elsewhere it was noted that comments were made about the "blended religion" being followed in Cumbria. He says that if the Church of England wishes to retain its congregations it must remain just that, the Church of England.

If you wish the Scheme to proceed as drafted notwithstanding the representations against it, it will be necessary for our Mission and Pastoral Committee to consider the matter. In that case, I should be grateful for your comments on the representation in general and on the following points: -

1. What were the main considerations behind the proposal to unite these three benefices and the parishes of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; and Firbank, Howgill and Killington and for the parish churches of Saint Mark, Cautley, Saint John the Baptist, Garsdale, Saint John the Evangelist, Firbank, Holy

Trinity, Howgill, All Saints, Killington, and Saint John the Evangelist, Cowgill to cease to be parish churches? Does this proposal derive from a deanery plan or Diocesan initiative or was it put forward locally?

2. Please set out the consultation process followed. In particular, please comment on the view that many in the Dale are not aware of the proposals or that the PCCs were not made aware of the proposed change to the status of churches.
3. Was the proposed change of status from parish church to chapels of ease one of the matters consulted on from the outset or did it emerge as a result of the local consultations?
4. As you will be aware a change in the Canons last summer and in particular amending Canon 39 changed the requirement for services “every Sunday in every parish church” to one for “services in at least one church in each benefice” which in this respect has reduced the distinction between parish churches and chapels of ease. Would you be willing to consider keeping all the churches involved in this reorganisation as parish churches and not changing the status of any to chapel of ease?
5. Was the proposed change of status also intended to reduce the number of churchwardens required (*two for each parish church unless the scheme provides otherwise*)? If so, would you wish the draft Scheme to be amended in this respect even if all the churches remained parish churches?
6. Please comment on the view that the proposed name of the new benefice would cause confusion with the Western Dales Mission Community. Were you aware of this conflict and were any alternative names for the new benefice suggested during the consultation process? Would you be willing to consider changing the name of the proposed benefice by a Bishop’s Pastoral Order if the Scheme as drafted was made, subject to further consideration with the parishes involved?
7. How would the draft Scheme further the mission of the Church in this area?
8. Are there any other factors which the Commissioners should be aware of in their consideration of these representations?

In considering what information to include in your reply, I should be grateful if you would bear in mind that the Commissioners are now required to consider the representation under the quasi-judicial process laid down by the 2011 Measure. A legal challenge may arise from the Commissioners’ decision if, among other things, it is based materially on incorrect information. In some cases, this might necessitate the withdrawal of the Scheme. Of necessity, the Commissioners rely on others to provide the information to assist their deliberations and to this end I should be grateful for your help.

I am hoping that this matter can be discussed at the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 meeting of our Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee. If the matter is to be discussed at that meeting, we will need to receive your response by 17<sup>th</sup> April please. This is to allow time for this letter and your reply to be considered by our Sifting Panel, to determine whether the representors and diocesan

representatives should be offered an opportunity to make oral representations to the Committee, and for them to be sent to the representors, for them to make any further comments and, if necessary, for you to respond. As you know we also ask representors if they wish to speak to their representations to the Committee.

If oral representations were to be heard, there would also be an opportunity for you or a diocesan representative to speak in favour of the proposals. The diocesan representative may be any appropriate person (e.g. the Chairman or a member or the Secretary of the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee or an Archdeacon) but should not be the Diocesan Registrar or other legal representative. We do not wish the Mission and Pastoral Measure process to take on the characteristics of an adversarial tribunal and have advised the representors that they too should not be legally represented.

Our normal practice is, as you probably know for oral representations to be made at a public hearing. In the present circumstances that is, of course, not possible but it may be possible for representors and diocesan representatives to make presentations and answer questions by video conferencing. That would depend in each case on the practicability of whether all those concerned were contactable on line and able to participate in a video conference. It would be helpful therefore if you would confirm whether you or your representative(s) would be able to participate in this way. Otherwise, if a hearing is not to be held, the case will be considered in private and you will be informed accordingly.

Please note that while the Committee is able to discuss cases by video conference it is not able to take decisions remotely. Decisions would have to be made by a subsequent correspondence procedure and there would therefore be a further two or three weeks after the 6th May meeting date before they could be announced.

We would normally expect the representations to be considered at the earliest opportunity but please let me know if you are unable to meet the timetable for the 6<sup>th</sup> May meeting or wish to give the matter further consideration or undertake further local consultations before replying. Once we have informed the representors of the meeting date (which we will do when sending them a copy of your reply) we would hope not to have to defer it. However, all parties will have the right to ask us to defer the matter to a subsequent meeting if justifiable reasons arise. The two following meeting dates for the Committee are 15th, 16th or 17th June and 22nd July.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Venerable Vernon Ross for his information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Lowe'.

Katie Lowe

Encs

The Bishop of Carlisle  
The Right Reverend James Newcome  
Bishop's House, Ambleside Road  
Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DD

9 April 2020

Your ref NB7/206

Dear Ms Lowe

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011**  
**Benefices of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; Dent with Cowgill; and Firbank,**  
**Howgill and Killington**  
**Proposed Pastoral Scheme**

Thank you for your letter. Here are our responses to your various questions:

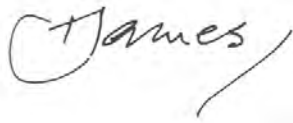
1. The scheme was proposed locally at the Initiative of Rev Andrew McMullon, the Vicar.
2. The PCCs were fully consulted by the Incumbent and the Mission and pastoral committee.
3. Chapels of ease were mentioned from an early stage however we are happy to suggest that every church remains as a parish church, but with two joint PCCs.
4. As 3.
5. No, the plan was always to keep two church wardens per church.
6. The name came locally, as geographically the area is called the western dales and it was felt this makes sense.
7. It came from the Incumbent, a desire to reduce the number of PCC meetings in order to focus more on mission and ministry, with the challenges of finding office holders for the PCCs etc. This was seen as reducing the administrative burden on the Incumbent and giving the Incumbent more time for mission and ministry.
8. This is a deeply rural Benefice, many of the church buildings are in remote locations, congregations are declining and ageing. Mission Community is the only way forward, with churches working across denominational barriers to grow a church for the future. We have recently appointed an ordained Pioneer minister jointly paid by Anglicans/Methodists/URC. The Diocese is investing heavily in this Benefice, and the role of the Pioneer is to grow and develop new expressions of

church that are part of the Mission Community and will disciple people in new and contemporary ways.

I do hope that these answers provide you with all the information you need. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything further you would like to know.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Rt Reverend James Newcome

c.c. The Venerable Vernon Ross  
Mr Derek Hurton, Diocesan Secretary  
Ms Roseleen Lane, DAC and Pastoral Secretary

It is important that the information provided on this form is accurate as the Church Commissioners may rely on such information in their consideration of representations and their decision could be open to legal challenge if any facts upon which they have relied are found to be incorrect.

Please email the completed form(s) to: [pastoral@churchofengland.org](mailto:pastoral@churchofengland.org)

<b>BENEFICE</b>	United Benefice of the Western Dales(Proposed)		
<b>Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge</b> (Date of institution/licensing)	The Reverend Andrew Brian McMullon - <b>22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013</b>		
<b>Patron(s)</b>	Trinity College, Cambridge		
<b>Parsonage house</b> (address)	20 Winfield Road, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AZ		
<b>PARISH</b>	United Parish of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale		
Population of parish (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	Sedbergh: 2,765                      Cautley: 191                      Garsdale: 202 (2011 Census figures)		
Churches and sittings (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	<b>St Andrew's, Sedbergh PC 1130</b>	<b>St Mark's, Cautley PC 1847</b>	<b>St John the Evangelist, Garsdale PC 1861</b>
<b>Church services and numbers attending</b> (See Note 2 overleaf)	Sundays <i>Time: 8am &amp; 10.30am</i> <i>Service: BCP HC &amp; CW HC</i> <i>Numbers: 8 &amp; 50</i>	Sundays <i>Time: 9.30am or 2pm</i> <i>Service: CW MP or HC or Taize</i> <i>Numbers: 6-12</i>	Sundays <i>Time: 10am or 2pm</i> <i>Service: MP or HC (Ecumenical)</i> <i>Numbers: 12-18</i>
Example:  1st Sunday 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	<b>Weekdays (Wed)</b> <i>Time: 11.15am</i> <i>Service: BCP HC</i> <i>Numbers: 6</i>	<b>Weekdays (N/A)</b> <i>Time</i> <i>Service</i> <i>Numbers</i>	<b>Weekdays (N/A)</b> <i>Time</i> <i>Service</i> <i>Numbers</i>
<b>Electoral roll</b> (for the last five years – the most recent first)	<b>2020: 134; 2019: 135; 2018: 136 2017: 134 2016: 140</b>		
<b>Staff/lay assistance</b> (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	One Incumbent; One Reader, Two retired assistant priests (PTO) One newly appointed, ordained 'Pioneer Minister' an ecumenical post serving the whole of the Western Dales Mission Community/ United Benefice		
<b>Churchmanship and characteristics of that churchmanship</b>	Central Churchmanship across the whole of these parishes and congregations and in the proposed United Benefice.		If there is more than one church in the parish please indicate any difference in the churchmanship in the individual churches
<b>Please indicate whether there is a PCC Resolution under Paragraph 20 of the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests (if so, please explain the exact nature of the alternative arrangements made, and the reasons for requesting the same).</b>	YES NO NOT VOTED  Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders			
Other parochial and/or community buildings	None. Other community hall facilities are available in all three centres.		<i>Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use</i>
Other denominations	We work closely with the Methodists in the Mission Community		
Sociological make-up of <b>parish</b> (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural. Small Market town. Large Independent school (own Chaplain)		
<b>Shopping and other local facilities</b> (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	Relatively thriving Main Street (inc Fruit & Veg Grocer, Butcher, Spar) in Sedbergh – helped by business from the school. Doctor. Dentist. Several Pubs and Restaurants. Post Office. Mobile bank.		
<b>Bus services</b> (please give brief details of any daily bus service around the parish and/or to the nearest town/village centre and their relevance in enabling attendance at church services)	Western Dales Bus Services (volunteer drivers) operate various services weekdays and Saturdays (not Sun) from Sedbergh to Dent (and Dent Station – rail to Leeds and Carlisle), Garsdale, Hawes, Kendal (and Mainline rail), Kirkby Stephen and Brough		

	<b>POPULATION</b>	
1	Is the population increasing or decreasing and, if so, to what extent and over what period? (In case of doubt about population figures, the local authority may be able to help.)	Generally stable. Thriving farming community. Public School put a significant amount into the local economy.
2	How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?	Mainly centred in Sedbergh. Farming community scattered. Some small hamlets.
	<b>PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.</b>	
3	Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?	Less than 5%
4	To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?	Less than 5%
5	Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.	Not really.
6	Do a significant number of parishioners attend other Anglican churches in the area? If so, give details (eg for reasons of convenience or because the same congregation attends different churches in rotation).	Small numbers, perhaps 10%, attend from neighbouring parish of Lune when there are no services that day.
7	Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.	Methodist Church – but we are all in the same Mission Community and work together increasingly.
	<b>CHURCH SCHOOLS</b>	
8	Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.	No
9	Approximately how many pupils are there?	n/a
10	From which area are they drawn?	n/a
11	Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.	n/a
12	Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.	Sedbergh County Primary & Settlebeck County Secondary. Sedbergh School (independent)
	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	
13	What is the parish share, and to what extent does the PCC meet the working expenses of the clergy or lay workers?	Parish Share currently 80% of £65k Expenses met in full
14	Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.	Patron Funds for Incumbents Expenses.

**ARE THERE ANY OTHER FACTUAL POINTS WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS TO UNDERSTAND THE CHARACTER OF THE PARISH BETTER ?**

These churches have been working together successfully in the Mission Community of the Western Dales (Anglican, Methodist and URC, with RC support) for 5 years – and have a long history of good ecumenical relations prior to this.

**PLEASE: (i) INDICATE THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT, OR OTHERWISE, OF THE PCC FOR THE PROPOSALS/DRAFT SCHEME (OR ORDER); AND/OR (ii) PLEASE SHOW THE VOTING FIGURES (IF A VOTE WAS TAKEN)**

	For	Against	Abstentions
On the local formal consultations:	15	0	
On the published draft Scheme:	15	0	

Note: In the Sedbergh PCC votes on the Draft Scheme were unanimously in favour. Representations were only made (by a number of Garsdale and Cautley residents) against the Chapel of Ease issue AFTER the issue had been explained, discussed and approved on the PCC.

Completed by    Revd Andy McMullon (Acting Priest-in-Charge)                      Date    28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

<b>Note 1:</b>	Please describe by dedication etc. and state whether the building is a parish church, chapel of ease or other place of worship (eg mission hall etc.)
<b>Note 2:</b>	Please state (1) the frequency of church services, (2) the time, (3) the type and/or name of the service (e.g. Holy Communion, Sung Eucharist, Morning Prayer etc.), (4) the service book used and (5) the average congregation for each service.



# PARISH INFORMATION FORM

P100

It is important that the information provided on this form is accurate as the Church Commissioners may rely on such information in their consideration of representations and their decision could be open to legal challenge if any facts upon which they have relied are found to be incorrect.

Please email the completed form(s) to: [pastoral@churchofengland.org](mailto:pastoral@churchofengland.org)

<b>BENEFICE</b>	United Benefice of the Western Dales(Proposed)		
<b>Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge</b> (Date of institution/licensing)	The Reverend Andrew Brian McMullon <b>Acting P-in-C since Feb 2017</b>		
<b>Patron(s)</b>	24 Sidesmen of Dent ( <i>an ancient charitable foundation of Dent property owners</i> )		
<b>Parsonage house</b> (address)	20 Winfield Road, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AZ		
<b>PARISH</b>	Dent with Cowgill		
<b>Population of parish</b> (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	Dent: 785 (2011 Census figures)		
<b>Churches and sittings</b> (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	<b>St Andrew's Dent PC</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> C, rebuilt 1417	<b>St John the Evangelist Cowgill PC</b> 1837	
<b>Church services and numbers attending</b> (See Note 2 overleaf)  Example: <u>1st Sunday</u> 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	<u>Sundays</u> <u>Time:</u> 10.30am <u>Service:</u> CW HC <u>Numbers:</u> 20  <u>Weekdays (N/A)</u> <u>Time</u> <u>Service</u> <u>Numbers</u>	<u>Sundays fortnightly + festivals</u> <u>Time:</u> 9.30am or 2pm <u>Service:</u> CW MP or HC or SW <u>Numbers:</u> 6-12  <u>Weekdays (N/A)</u> <u>Time</u> <u>Service</u> <u>Numbers</u>	<u>Sundays</u> <u>Time:</u> <u>Service:</u> <u>Numbers:</u>  <u>Weekdays (N/A)</u> <u>Time</u> <u>Service</u> <u>Numbers</u>
<b>Electoral roll</b> (for the last five years – the most recent first)	<b>2020:</b> 60 <i>Unable at short notice to get all the figures – but these have not been growing congregations over the last 5 years.</i>		
<b>Staff/lay assistance</b> (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	One Incumbent; One Reader, Two retired assistant priests (PTO) One newly appointed, ordained 'Pioneer Minister' an ecumenical post serving the whole of the Western Dales Mission Community/ United Benefice		
<b>Churchmanship and characteristics of that churchmanship</b>	Central Churchmanship across the whole of these parishes and congregations and the proposed United Benefice.	<i>If there is more than one church in the parish please indicate any difference in the churchmanship in the individual churches</i>	
<b>Please indicate whether there is a PCC Resolution under Paragraph 20 of the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests (if so, please explain the exact nature of the alternative arrangements made, and the reasons for requesting the same).</b>	<div style="text-align: right;">YES NO NOT VOTED</div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div>		
<b>Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders</b>	Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests		
<b>Other parochial and/or community buildings</b>	Sedgwick Rooms for community use – hall in the Church School	<i>Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use</i>	
<b>Other denominations</b>	Work closely with Dent Methodists in the Mission Community		
<b>Sociological make-up of parish</b> (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural. Small Hamlets with no facilities. Scattered farming community – many farms with younger generations. Significant proportion of retirement/second homes.		
<b>Shopping and other local facilities</b> (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	Small local shops (others Fruit & Veg Grocer, Butcher, Spar) in Sedbergh(5 miles away). Two Pubs and several café/bistro establishments. Post Office. Mobile bank. Popular Camping and Caravanning site.		
<b>Bus services</b> (please give brief details of any daily bus service around the parish and/or to the nearest town/village centre and their relevance in enabling attendance at church services)	Western Dales Bus Services (volunteer drivers) operate various services weekdays and Saturdays (not Sun) from Sedbergh to Dent (and Dent Station – rail to Leeds and Carlisle), Garsdale, Hawes, Kendal (and Mainline rail), Kirkby Stephen and Brough		

	<b>POPULATION</b>	
1	<i>Is the population increasing or decreasing and, if so, to what extent and over what period? (In case of doubt about population figures, the local authority may be able to help.)</i>	Generally stable. Retirement and second homes. Thriving farming community.
2	<i>How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?</i>	Mainly centred in Dent. Farming community scattered. Cowgill is a small and scattered hamlet.
	<b>PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.</b>	
3	<i>Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?</i>	Less than 1%
4	<i>To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?</i>	Less than 1%
5	<i>Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.</i>	Some visitors the Caravan and Camping site in the spring and summer months.
6	<i>Do a significant number of parishioners attend other Anglican churches in the area? If so, give details (eg for reasons of convenience or because the same congregation attends different churches in rotation).</i>	No – except on special occasions in the Mission Community.
7	<i>Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.</i>	Methodist Church – but we are all in the same Mission Community and work together increasingly.
	<b>CHURCH SCHOOLS</b>	
8	<i>Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.</i>	Yes. The acting P-in-C is a Foundation Governor
9	<i>Approximately how many pupils are there?</i>	25
10	<i>From which area are they drawn?</i>	Dent with Cowgill Parish – a few from Sedbergh
11	<i>Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.</i>	The PCC often meets in the Sedgwick Rooms attached to the school hall.
12	<i>Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.</i>	After Primary students attend Secondary schools in Sedbergh, Kirkby Lonsdale or Kendal.
	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	
13	<i>What is the parish share, and to what extent does the PCC meet the working expenses of the clergy or lay workers?</i>	Parish Share currently 100% of £20k Expenses met in full
14	<i>Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.</i>	None
<b>ARE THERE ANY OTHER FACTUAL POINTS WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS TO UNDERSTAND THE CHARACTER OF THE PARISH BETTER ?</b>		
These churches have been working together successfully in the Mission Community of the Western Dales (Anglican, Methodist and URC, with RC support) for 5 years – and have a long history of good ecumenical relations prior to this.		

PLEASE: (i) INDICATE THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT, OR OTHERWISE, OF THE PCC FOR THE PROPOSALS/DRAFT SCHEME (OR ORDER); AND/OR (ii) PLEASE SHOW THE VOTING FIGURES (IF A VOTE WAS TAKEN)			
	For	Against	Abstentions
On the local formal consultations:	17	2	0
On the published draft Scheme:	16	0	3

Note: The only contentious issue in the Draft Scheme was the Chapel of Ease status for Cowgill Church. If Cowgill retains Parish Church Status then any against/abstentions would, I think, fall away.

Completed by    Revd Andy McMullon (Acting Priest-in-Charge)                      Date    28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

<b>Note 1:</b>	Please describe by dedication etc. and state whether the building is a parish church, chapel of ease or other place of worship (eg mission hall etc.)
<b>Note 2:</b>	Please state (1) the frequency of church services, (2) the time, (3) the type and/or name of the service (e.g. Holy Communion, Sung Eucharist, Morning Prayer etc.), (4) the service book used and (5) the average congregation for each service.

# PARISH INFORMATION FORM

# P100

It is important that the information provided on this form is accurate as the Church Commissioners may rely on such information in their consideration of representations and their decision could be open to legal challenge if any facts upon which they have relied are found to be incorrect.

Please email the completed form(s) to: [pastoral@churchofengland.org](mailto:pastoral@churchofengland.org)

<b>BENEFICE</b>	United Benefice of the Western Dales(Proposed)		
<b>Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge</b> (Date of institution/licensing)	The Reverend Andrew Brian McMullon – 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2015		
<b>Patron(s)</b>	The Lord Chancellor – transfer to The Bishop of Carlisle agreed.		
<b>Parsonage house</b> (address)	20 Winfield Road, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AZ		
<b>PARISH</b>	Working together as the Lune Parishes of Firbank, Howgill and Killington		
<b>Population of parish</b> (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	Firbank, Howgill and Killington: 585 (estimated from 2011 Census figures as this parish is not counted separately from LA10 which includes Sedbergh and Dent)		
<b>Churches and sittings</b> (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	<b>St John the Evangelist, Firbank PC 1842</b>	<b>Holy Trinity, Howgill PC 1838</b>	<b>All Saints, Killington PC 14<sup>th</sup> C. Tower 1711</b>
<b>Church services and numbers attending</b> (See Note 2 overleaf)  Example:  <u>1st Sunday</u> 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	<u>Sundays (once per month)</u> <u>Time:</u> 2pm <u>Service:</u> CW HC (+ Festivals) <u>Numbers:</u> 5 (+ 20)  <u>Weekdays (N/A)</u> <u>Time</u> <u>Service</u> <u>Numbers</u>	<u>Sundays (once per month)</u> <u>Time:</u> 2pm <u>Service:</u> CW HC (+ Festivals) <u>Numbers:</u> 10 (+ 50)  <u>Weekdays (N/A)</u> <u>Time</u> <u>Service</u> <u>Numbers</u>	<u>Sundays (once per month)</u> <u>Time:</u> 2pm <u>Service:</u> CW HC (+ Festivals) <u>Numbers:</u> 10 (+ 50)  <u>Weekdays (N/A)</u> <u>Time</u> <u>Service</u> <u>Numbers</u>
<b>Electoral roll</b> (for the last five years – the most recent first)	2020: 46 Unable at short notice to get all the figures – but this is not a growing congregation over the last 5 years.		
<b>Staff/lay assistance</b> (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	One Priest-in-Charge; One Reader and two retired assistant priests (PTO) One newly appointed, ordained 'Pioneer Minister' an ecumenical post serving the whole of the Western Dales Mission Community/ United Benefice		
<b>Churchmanship and characteristics of that churchmanship</b>	Central Churchmanship across the whole of these parishes and congregations and in the proposed United Benefice.		If there is more than one church in the parish please indicate any difference in the churchmanship in the individual churches
<b>Please indicate whether there is a PCC Resolution under Paragraph 20 of the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests (if so, please explain the exact nature of the alternative arrangements made, and the reasons for requesting the same).</b>	<div style="text-align: right;">YES NO NOT VOTED</div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div>		
<b>Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders</b>	Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests		
<b>Other parochial and/or community buildings</b>	None. Village halls can be used in all three centres.	Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use	
<b>Other denominations</b>	No other Church buildings. We work closely with others in the Mission Community		
<b>Sociological make-up of parish</b> (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural. Small Hamlets with no facilities. Scattered farming community – many farms with younger generations. Significant proportion of retirement/second homes.		
<b>Shopping and other local facilities</b> (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	No facilities in the parish. Everything is in Sedbergh, Kirkby or Kendal. Doctor & Dentist in Sedbergh.		
<b>Bus services</b> (please give brief details of any daily bus service around the parish and/or to the nearest town/village centre and their relevance in enabling attendance at church services)	Western Dales Bus Services (volunteer drivers) operate various services weekdays and Saturdays (not Sun) from Sedbergh to Dent (and Dent Station – rail to Leeds and Carlisle), Garsdale, Hawes, Kendal (and Mainline rail), Kirkby Stephen and Brough		

<b>POPULATION</b>	
1	<i>Is the population increasing or decreasing and, if so, to what extent and over what period? (In case of doubt about population figures, the local authority may be able to help.)</i>
2	<i>How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?</i>
<b>PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.</b>	
3	<i>Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?</i>
4	<i>To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?</i>
5	<i>Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.</i>
6	<i>Do a significant number of parishioners attend other Anglican churches in the area? If so, give details (eg for reasons of convenience or because the same congregation attends different churches in rotation).</i>
7	<i>Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.</i>
<b>CHURCH SCHOOLS</b>	
8	<i>Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.</i>
9	<i>Approximately how many pupils are there?</i>
10	<i>From which area are they drawn?</i>
11	<i>Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.</i>
12	<i>Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.</i>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	
13	<i>What is the parish share, and to what extent does the PCC meet the working expenses of the clergy or lay workers?</i>
14	<i>Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.</i>
<b>ARE THERE ANY OTHER FACTUAL POINTS WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS TO UNDERSTAND THE CHARACTER OF THE PARISH BETTER ?</b>	
These churches have been working together successfully in the Mission Community of the Western Dales (Anglican, Methodist and URC, with RC support) for 5 years – and have a long history of good ecumenical relations prior to this.	

PLEASE: (i) INDICATE THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT, OR OTHERWISE, OF THE PCC FOR THE PROPOSALS/DRAFT SCHEME (OR ORDER); AND/OR (ii) PLEASE SHOW THE VOTING FIGURES (IF A VOTE WAS TAKEN)			
	For	Against	Abstentions
On the local formal consultations:	14	0	0
On the published draft Scheme:	12	0	0

Note: In the Lune joint PCC votes on the Draft Scheme were unanimously in favour. The only contentious issue elsewhere in the Draft Scheme was the Chapel of Ease status of former Parish Churches but in Lune at least people did not find this a problem and no representations against the Scheme were made.

Completed by    Revd Andy McMullon    (Acting Priest-in-Charge)                      Date    28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

<b>Note 1:</b>	Please describe by dedication etc. and state whether the building is a parish church, chapel of ease or other place of worship (eg mission hall etc.)
<b>Note 2:</b>	Please state (1) the frequency of church services, (2) the time, (3) the type and/or name of the service (e.g. Holy Communion, Sung Eucharist, Morning Prayer etc.), (4) the service book used and (5) the average congregation for each service.

## Annex R

### **Benefices of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale; Dent with Cowgill; and Firbank, Howgill and Killington**

#### **Representations received**

- Ms Rosemary Lord, a Churchwarden at St John the Baptist, Garsdale
  - Dr David Wright, a parishioner, former member of the PCC and one of the 24 Sidesmen of Dent
  - Dr Russell Ellwood, a regular attender at Garsdale Parish Church
  - Mrs Marion Smith, a member of the community in Garsdale; and
  - Dr Janet Skublics, Chairmen of Dent with Cowgill PCC
  - The Clerk to the 24 Sidesmen of Dent
  - Ms Maureen Hinch and Ms Judith Bush, Churchwardens at St Mark's Church, Cautley; and
  - Mr William Mawdsley, Churchwarden at Garsdale.
- 

Sent: 26 February 2020 21:05

To: Katie Lowe

Subject: Benefices of Sedbergh etc., Draft Scheme.

We have been part of the United Benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale for many years and have retained our status as separate parrishes within that benefice with all that that entails for conducting marriages, burials and baptisms.

We were not informed that the formation of the much larger benefice, to include Dent, Cowgill and the Lune parrishes, would mean a change in the status of the individual parrish Churches.

In fact, at the combined PCC meeting of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale, held on June 3rd, 2019, when we accepted the formation of the much larger United benefice, we were told that " The integrity of each of the combined parrishes will be maintained. This measure is not intended to strip any parrish of its autonomy ".

So, why now do we have the proposal to change these parrish Churches into Chapels of Ease ?

I feel that each of these "small" Churches should have had this information given to them earlier, so that they could consider how these major changes would affect them and the rural communities which they serve.

I am concerned that by taking away our status as parrish Churches, it will be much easier to close us down in the future.

Rosemary Lord.

Churchwarden, St. John the Baptist, Garsdale.

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**From:** David Wright

**Sent:** 25 February 2020 15:34

**To:** Katie Lowe

**Subject:** Draft Pastoral Scheme - Sedbergh, Dent, Fairbank etc

I write in my capacity as a parishioner, a former member of the PCC and as an existing member of the 24 Sidesmen of Dent (the Patrons of Dent) to comment on the Mission and Pastoral Measure in respect of the creation of a United Benefice of the above parishes.

Whilst accepting the inevitability of such a measure I believe that it is essential to maintain the identity of the Church of England.

It is proposed to call the new benefice the 'Benefice of the Western Dales' and to create a new 'Western Dales Special Patronage Board'. The use of the name 'Western Dales' has the potential to cause confusion as there already exists a 'Western Dales Mission Community'. Thus there will be in future 3 church organisations using the term 'Western Dales'.

The Western Dales Mission Community (WDMC) comprises the Church of England, Methodist and United Reformed Churches. There is already confusion between the WDMC and the proposed benefice with a number of participants (including clergy) treating them as the same thing, the basis being that all three churches are indeed the same thing.

There needs to be absolute clarity that the WDMC and the united benefice are distinct and separate entities. To this end the naming of the entities should be distinct.

In a recent meeting of clergy from elsewhere it was noted that comments were made about the 'blended religion' being followed in Cumbria. If the Church of England wishes to retain its congregations it must remain just that, the Church of England.

David Wright

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**From:** Russell Ellwood  
**Sent:** 23 February 2020 11:51  
**To:** Katie Lowe  
**Subject:** Garsdale Parish Church

Dear Ms Lowe,

I wish to raise my concerns regarding the proposed changes to Garsdale Parish Church. I understand it is being considered for conversion to a Chapel of Ease. I am a regular attender at Garsdale Parish Church and am aware of the high value this church has to the two hundred souls who live in the Dale. To see it downgraded in this manner will only serve to exclude more people from participating in church events. My concerns in detail are as follows.

Firstly the time frame for objections is woefully inadequate. I only became aware of the proposal today and the closing date is in five days time. I would ask that a further three months is given to allow time for those living in the dale to be made aware of the proposal and to give them chance to respond.

Secondly the notification to individuals is also poor. How can anyone comment if they do not know ? I would advise that you make much greater efforts to canvass the opinions of the people in the locality. Surely that is only fair and equitable ?

Thirdly could you advise me if the change of designation will have any financial implications for Garsdale Parish Church. Will its members retain the same degree of financial independence that they currently hold ?

Finally I understand that marriages will not ordinarily be allowed at Garsdale once it is a Chapel of Ease but that the bishop has promised verbally they may be allowed. Is it possible to produce a written statement allowing for the continuance of marriages to be held at Garsdale should it be made a Chapel of Ease ? This would certainly help in avoiding the alienation of the local population.

Yours sincerely,

Dr R W Ellwood

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**From:** Longmoss  
**Sent:** 28 February 2020 12:36  
**To:** Katie Lowe  
**Subject:** Garsdale St John the Evangelist Chapel of Ease

My husband and I are concerned that the notice given for the planned changes to St John's is too short. As a community we in Garsdale have for a long time enjoyed ecumenical rapport, attending each other's services and supporting each other's functions long before the present strong encouragement to do so. Can we rely on the monies raised by the Anglicans being retained for the purposes of supporting St John's, for if not, we must be frank with the Garsdale Methodists who may not feel the same enthusiasm if they know their contribution will be shared with the Sedbergh church, while they are still struggling to maintain their own.

A further question is – why we would have to ask permission to conduct weddings in our church? Weddings these days seem to be held just where anybody wishes, in hotels, gardens, even beaches. We are trying to attract people back to worship in church, not make difficulties.

The current congregation of St John's is aging. The journey to St Andrew's in winter conditions is a further challenge, the Methodist chapels offer a warm welcome. They too may have similar problems to face in the future but local worship is a precious thing and there is a feeling of unease rather than ease about the proposed changes.

Sincerely

Marion Smith

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For the attention of Mrs Katie Lowe  
Church Commissioners  
Church House  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3AZ



10<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Mrs Lowe

**Re Mission and Pastoral Measures Scheme 2011  
Diocese of Carlisle  
Benefice of Sedbergh. Cautley and Garsdale: Dent with Cowgill.**

I refer in particular to Paragraph 1 item 3 and Paragraph 2 item 3 of the Draft scheme we received recently.

Considerable concern has been expressed by parishioners who regularly attend St John's Cowgill re the church's new status as a 'chapel of ease' which means that they can no longer celebrate weddings in their church in the future as has been the case to date.

We have been assured that the Bishop will license those churches designated 'Chapels of Ease' for continued use for weddings. We have nothing in writing concerning this apart from emails and it certainly does not appear in the Mission and Pastoral Measures draft. Given the considerable upheaval and adjustments we as a parish have had to make following the loss of our former incumbent, we do not want to be in the position of agreeing to the new pastoral scheme and finding out after the event that lacking any official document concerning future marriages, they can no longer be held in St John's Cowgill. Each church has its own church community and each community attaches great importance to being able to come together for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals as well as other services.

This point has also been raised by the 24 Sidesmen of Dent who are Patrons of the Parish of St Andrew's Dent with St John's Cowgill.

Dr Janet Skublics

Chairman of Dent with Cowgill PCC

CC The Venerable Vernon Ross  
Revd Andrew McMullon

Mrs Katie Lowe  
Church Commissioners  
Church House  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3AZ

21<sup>st</sup> February 2020

Dear Mrs Lowe

**Re: Mission and Pastoral Measures 2011**

**Diocese of Carlisle**

**Benefice of Sedbergh. Cautley and Garsdale; Dent with Cowgill; and Firbank, Howgill and Killington**

Thank you for the Draft Pastoral Scheme.

As the clerk to the Twenty Four Sidesmen of Dent, a member of Dent with Cowgill PCC and as one of the Patrons (the 24 Sidesmen of Dent) I write on their behalf regarding the paragraphs **CHURCHES within the parish of Dent with Cowgill numbers 3 and 4 in particular 3. the scheme does not..... And 4 the scheme includes.....**(penultimate pages of the Draft Documents)

In number 4 the draft states Banns of marriage may not be called.... .... (unless the building is subsequently licensed under Section 20 of the Marriage Act 1949.) I understand from the Rev Andrew McMullon, present vicar of St Andrews Church Sedbergh, that that the Bishop has agreed that all small country parishes in the proposed United Benefice will be licensed for weddings.....but we have not seen this in writing from the Bishop.

The PCC and the 24 Sidesmen were happy to accept this but our concern is that if we accept the draft then there is no legal reason why this should happen so we ask if that can be inserted. We have no objection when a church like Cowgill becomes a chapel of ease and the Parish Register being housed in the Parish Church i.e. St Andrew's Church Dent but we are very unhappy if according to the document weddings cannot as things stand be held in the local church which is some 6 miles from Dent. It is also the centre of a very active community as there are no other buildings in the area where large groups can meet and is proposing considerable work to adapt the church to community use by adding water, toilets, kitchen and removing some pews. It would be a great loss to that community if weddings could not take place without a special license.

I am unable to attend to make this representation at present.

Yours sincerely  
Clerk to the 24 Sidesmen of Dent

Mrs Maureen Hinch. Churchwarden. St Mark's Church, Cautley

10 February 2020

Dear Mrs Lowe

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 –Diocese of Carlisle

Benefices of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale

We are in receipt of the above document and would like to make the following observations.

**Churches within the proposed new parish of Sedbergh and Lune. – Point 6**

With reference to **Point 6** we notice that we are to become a Chapel of Ease and we have no objection to this. However, we do still wish to be able to read Banns and carry out wedding ceremonies in the church as we do at present . We have been assured by our Bishop James of Carlisle that we can be licensed for the solemnisation of marriages and would very much like this to be confirmed.

We look forward to hearing from you

Very sincerely

Maureen Hinch and Judith Bush

Churchwardens

St Mark's Church Cautley.

**From:** William Mawdsley  
**Sent:** 24 February 2020 00:11  
**To:** Katie Lowe  
**Subject:** Benefice of the Western Dales.

Dear Mrs Lowe,

I am writing with regards to the draft Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, Diocese of Carlisle.

It is proposed that the church of St John the Baptist, Garsdale, will become a "Chapel of Ease". I understand the reasoning for this, but I am concerned that we will no longer be allowed to have banns read or marriages conducted. Our local couples usually marry at St Johns and we wish to retain this facility. The Bishop has said that we will still be able to have this facility, but we have had nothing in writing with regards to this. All the proposed "Chapels of Ease" in this benefice are 5-6 miles from Sedbergh, and at the centre of rural communities.

There is no mention of churchwardens in the draft proposal. Will we retain our churchwardens as "Chapels of Ease"?

Many Thanks

W. Mawdsley. (Churchwarden, Garsdale)

## **Supplementary comments**

Mrs Katie Lowe  
Church Commissioners  
Church House  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3AZ

21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Mrs Lowe,

Thank for your helpful summary of all the points raised by representatives of the churches involved in the new pastoral scheme, together with the Bishop's response to these points.

In short I do not feel that the Bishop has responded adequately to our concerns. The last five years have seen different ecumenical initiatives in response to the shortage of priests and dwindling congregations. In 2015 the Western Dales Mission Community was launched involving, Anglicans, Methodists, URC and the Salvation Army. A survey carried out 2 years later, did not imply enthusiastic support for this idea. We feel that this is still the case.

The current appointment of a Pioneer minister is a joint appointment made and funded by the URC, Methodist and Anglican churches of the Western Dales. We have been told that although resident in Dent Vicarage the newly appointed priest will not be a parish priest. Her role will be to grow the church outside the parish system, but we have seen no evidence from the Diocese of how this is to operate. Although having had a meeting with the Bishop in Dent before the idea of a Pioneer Minister was promulgated, we still felt that we were not being given the support needed after our last incumbent was moved to Appleby some three years ago.

We were told that somebody would be appointed in due course. In 2017 we were asked to put together a parish profile and job description with the assistance of Rev Canon Gary Wemyss for the appointment of a curate or house for duty priest. An advertisement was due to be placed in the autumn of that year.

No advertisement was placed.

Re Item 1 and 2

In 2018 Revd Andrew McMullon put forward a draft scheme for the United Benefice of the Western Dales, the reason being the shortage of priests. At the time he was the only full time priest, assisted by Mrs Judith Bush, a licensed lay reader, Revd Canon Gary Wemyss (who has Parkinson's) and the NSM, Revd Christine Brown now in her late seventies. This left him with the impossible task of attending multiple PCC meetings. We expressed our opposition to having one PCC for the new Benefice. That objection was accepted and we were to be allowed to continue with our own PCC, with the proposal that there be 2 parishes, Sedburgh with Garsdale, Cautley and the Lune Valley churches' parish and Dent with Cowgill parish. The Dent with Cowgill PCC has been lay led since 2017, with agendas and minutes being circulated to Revd Andrew McMullon, who attends as an observer from time to time. We have recently reduced our PCC meetings down to 4 p.a. from at least 6

p.a. to be more efficient and accommodate the meetings necessary to running the proposed new benefice.

Re Items 3 and 4

In 2019 we were presented with a draft document for the new Benefice of the Western Dales consisting of two parishes as above, but reducing all churches with the exception of St Andrew's Sedbergh and St Andrew's Dent to 'chapels of ease'. This had implications for holding weddings in the newly designated 'chapels of ease'. We objected and were told that the bishop would license these chapels for weddings. We now find that amendments to Canon 39, no longer make this necessary and these churches can continue to be referred to as parish churches and appoint their own churchwardens.

Lastly I am in agreement with Dr David Wright's concerns (items 6 and 7) re furthering the mission of the Church (Church of England) in our area. In our dale we have always been supportive of our local Methodists, through joint services and including them in planning our yearly calendar. The last 3 years have been difficult for our two churches and congregations. We are grateful that our pattern of services has continued (in a very slimmed down way for St John's Cowgill), but we have had limited pastoral care due to the shortage of priestly ministry for a scattered rural area. We look forward to welcoming the newly appointed Pioneer minister to our area and parish, but have been informed by Revd Andrew McMullon that she will not be our priest, her remit is for the wider community of the soon to be created Benefice of the Western Dales.

We are naturally cautious of promised amendments, given how many times the goal posts have been moved during the last 3 years. I would also like to add that we have continued to pay our parish share throughout this period. Our churches and church communities are an integral and important part of the life of this dale.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Janet Skublics

Chairman of Dent with Cowgill PCC