



**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011**  
**Diocese of Oxford**

**The Benefice of Buckingham; the Benefice of Lenborough; the Benefice of North Buckingham; the Benefice of Stowe; the Benefice of West Buckingham**

The Bishop of Oxford has asked us to prepare a draft Pastoral Scheme in respect of pastoral proposals affecting these benefices.

I attach a copy of the draft Scheme and a glossary of terms used. I am sending a copy to all the statutory interested parties, as the Mission and Pastoral Measure requires, and any others with an interest in the proposals.

Anyone may make representations **for** or **against** all or any part or parts of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) preferably by email or by post to the Church Commissioners at the following address no later than midnight on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020**.

Katie Lowe  
Church Commissioners  
Church House  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3AZ  
( email [katie.lowe@churchofengland.org](mailto:katie.lowe@churchofengland.org)) (tel 020 7898 1737)

If they have not acknowledged receipt of your representation before this date, please ring or e-mail them to ensure it has been received. For administrative purposes, a petition will be classed as a single representation and they will only correspond with the sender of the petition, if known, or otherwise the first signatory for whom they can identify an address – “the primary petitioner”.

If the Commissioners do not receive representations against the draft Scheme, they will make the Scheme and it will come into effect as it provides. A copy of the completed Scheme will be sent to you together with a note of its effective date.

If the Commissioners receive any representations against the draft Scheme, they will send them, and any representations supporting the draft Scheme, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors and the primary petitioner will then receive copies of the Commissioners’ correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations). They and individual petitioners may comment further. Copies of all of the representations received and associated correspondence will normally be published on the Commissioners’ website if the matter needs to be considered by them.

Those making representations should indicate whether they would like an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners regarding their representations in the event the Commissioners decide a hearing should be held. Their meetings are normally held at Church House, Westminster, but during the current circumstances they may need to be held virtually via ‘Zoom’. If a hearing is held, they will let you know the arrangements for

**Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GF**

**Direct line: 01865 208243 Switchboard: 01865 208200**

**Email: [pastoral.secretary@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:pastoral.secretary@oxford.anglican.org) Website: [www.oxford.anglican.org](http://www.oxford.anglican.org)**

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attending (in person or virtually) and details will also appear on their website. Otherwise, if a hearing is not to be held, the case will be considered in private and you will be informed accordingly.

When the Commissioners acknowledge representations they will let individual representors (and the primary petitioner) know the next few dates of their Committee's meetings. They will confirm the actual date of any hearing nearer the time. The Commissioners will decide if the draft Scheme should proceed when they consider all the representations on the basis of a paper prepared by their staff and any points raised at the meeting. If the Commissioners do so decide, any representor or petitioner against the draft Scheme may seek leave from the Privy Council to appeal against the decision.

You will be informed of the Commissioners' decision and the reasons for it.

Please see [www.churchofengland.org/consultation](http://www.churchofengland.org/consultation) for further information about the procedure.

**PCC Secretaries, incumbents/priests-in-charge/rural deans, persons taking services during the Notice Period and local planning authorities should refer to the relevant notes below for important additional information concerning them.**

Maggie Metaliaj  
Oxford Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee Secretary

## Notes

### 1. PCC Secretaries

The draft Scheme is sent to you to ensure that the PCC as a body is able to make a representation on the draft if it wishes.

**You are required as soon as possible to:**

- i) print and display the Notice(s) **(to avoid spread of Covid-19, please display single-sided)** at or near the main door of **every** parish church, chapel of ease or licensed place of worship in your parish; (whether or not they are currently open for individual prayer or services); if you are unable to print the Notice(s) please get in touch with me and I will make arrangements for copies to be sent to you for display;
- ii) make arrangements for the Announcement (see 2. below) to be made at as many services as possible at every parish church, chapel of ease or licensed place of worship in your parish where a service is held during the notice period (including any that are 'streamed').

**Please e-mail me at [pastoral.secretary@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:pastoral.secretary@oxford.anglican.org) or telephone me on 01865 208243 confirmation as soon as you have displayed the Notice(s) and made arrangements for the announcements to be made. Do not wait until the end of the notice period before confirming this.**

Although the following are not legal requirements, to ensure that as many of those who habitually attend public worship, as is practicable, are aware of the contents of the Notice, you are also encouraged to take (or make arrangements for), where possible, such of the following steps as is appropriate in your parish:

- i) arrange for copies of the Notice to be posted to members of the worshipping community who are shielding or self-isolating (in accordance with the general advice to parishes this should be by the postal service and not hand delivered);
- ii) insert the Notice in the parish magazine or newsletter;
- iii) use Facebook/social media posts;
- iv) send emails; and
- v) spread by word of mouth, including pastoral telephone calls.

**Please make a note of what you have been able to do regarding steps i) to v) above in case the consultation process is queried.**

If you are no longer the PCC Secretary, please pass this communication to the current Secretary and let me have a note of his or her name and email/postal address.

## 2. The Announcement

Anybody taking services (including those that are ‘streamed’) during the Notice Period should ensure that the following announcement is made.

***“A Notice giving the objects of proposed pastoral reorganisation affecting this parish has or will be displayed near the main door and on the Church of England website. The Notice includes the last date by which representations regarding the proposed reorganisation may be made to the Church Commissioners.”***

**PCC Secretaries – please note that it is essential that:**

- i) Notices are displayed; and
- ii) arrangements are made for Announcements.

## 3. Incumbents/priests-in-charge/rural deans

Please ensure that the required Notices are displayed and Announcements made.

If a PCC Secretary is not able to carry out these requirements, please could you arrange for these matters to be dealt with as soon as possible. Please also let me know if there has been a recent change of Secretary in any of the parishes.

## 4. Circulation List

Incumbents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The William Oliver Clinton Pearson-Gee</li> <li>• The Revd Rosamunde Mair Roberts</li> <li>• The Revd Paula Smith</li> <li>• The Revd Johannes Albert Taling</li> </ul>
Assistant Clergy/ those on Common Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Revd Jacqueline McClintock Dove</li> <li>• The Revd John Frederick King</li> </ul>
Patrons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambridge University</li> <li>• Christ Church College, Oxford</li> <li>• Gonville &amp; Caius College, Cambridge</li> <li>• Mr G Purefoy</li> <li>• Mr R L Randall</li> <li>• Mrs J M Williams</li> <li>• New College, Oxford</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxford Diocesan Board of Patronage</li> <li>• The Archdeacon of Buckingham</li> <li>• The Bishop of Oxford</li> <li>• The Church Society Trust</li> <li>• The Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey</li> <li>• The Executor of R J Dalziel Smith</li> <li>• The Governors of Stowe School</li> <li>• The Lord Chancellor</li> <li>• The personal representative of the late Mrs P M Macartney</li> <li>• The personal representative of the late Mrs S A J Doulton</li> </ul>
Adstock PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Beachampton PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Biddlesden PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Buckingham PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Hillesden PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Gawcott PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o First Churchwarden (<i>in lieu of the PCC Secretary</i>)</li> </ul>
North Buckingham PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Padbury PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o First Churchwarden (<i>in lieu of the PCC Secretary</i>)</li> </ul>
Radclive-cum-Chackmore PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Shalstone PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Stowe PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Tingewick PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Thornborough PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o First Churchwarden (<i>in lieu of the PCC Secretary</i>)</li> </ul>
Thornton with Nash PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Turweston PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o First Churchwarden (<i>in lieu of the PCC Secretary</i>)</li> </ul>
Water Stratford PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Westbury PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Whaddon PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/o PCC Secretary</li> </ul>
Archdeacon of Buckingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ven Guy Elsmore</li> </ul>
Area Dean of Buckingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Revd Rosamunde Mair Roberts</li> </ul>
Deanery Synod Lay Chair of Buckingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs Georgie Christopher</li> </ul>
Area Dean for Rural Mission & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Revd Valerie Plumb</li> </ul>
<b>For Information</b>	
Licensed Lay Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs Sandra Crosby</li> <li>• Mr. John Hamilton</li> <li>• Mr. Paul Mileham</li> <li>• Lady Vicky Southby</li> <li>• Mrs. Pauline Stanton-Saringer</li> <li>• Mrs. Margaret Culley</li> </ul>
Diocesan Registry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sara Leader</li> </ul>
The Bishop of Buckingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson</li> </ul>
Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Revd Canon Christopher Bull</li> </ul>
Stowe School Chaplain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Revd T. D Mullins</li> </ul>

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

*This draft Scheme provides for:*

- (1) the termination of the group ministry established in 1977;*
- (2) the dissolution of the three benefices of Buckingham; North Buckingham; and Stowe;*
- (3) the creation of three new benefices of (i) Buckingham; (ii) North Buckingham with Stowe; and (iii) Blackthorn Chase; and for*
  - o the appointments of the first incumbents of the new benefices;*
  - o their housing arrangements; and*
  - o the future patronage arrangements for the new benefices;*
- (4) the establishment of a new group ministry for the new benefice of Buckingham; the new benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe; the new benefice of Blackthorn Chase, the benefice of Lenborough and the benefice of West Buckingham;*

*all in the diocese of Oxford.*

**DRAFT**

**PASTORAL SCHEME**

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners (“the Commissioners”) this      day of      20      in pursuance of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 (“the 2011 Measure”), the Right Reverend Steven, Bishop of Oxford, having consented thereto.

**Termination of group ministry**

1. The group ministry which was established by a Scheme made by the Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 1968 on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 1977 for the then benefice of Buckingham, the benefice of North Buckingham, the then benefice of Lenborough, the then benefice of Nash with Thornton, Beachampton and Thornborough, the then benefice of Tingewick with Water Stratford, Radclive cum Chackmore and the then benefice of Westbury with Turweston, Shalstone and Biddlesden in the diocese of Oxford shall be terminated.

**Dissolution of benefices**

2. The benefice of Buckingham, the benefice of North Buckingham and the benefice of Stowe in the diocese of Oxford shall be dissolved

**Creation of new benefice of Buckingham**

3. (1) A new benefice which shall be named the “Benefice of Buckingham”, which shall be a rectory, shall be created in the diocese of Oxford, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Buckingham and the parish of Radclive cum Chackmore, which parishes shall continue distinct.

(2) The new benefice and its constituent parishes shall belong to the archdeaconry of Buckingham and the deanery of Buckingham.

(3) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend William Oliver Clinton Pearson-Gee holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 2 hereof he shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

(4) The parsonage house of the benefice of Buckingham (known as The Rectory, 8, Aris Way, Buckingham, MK18 1FX) shall without any conveyance or other assurance be vested in the incumbent of the new benefice in his corporate capacity as his official residence.

(5) Subject to clause 3(3) hereof the right of presentation to the new benefice shall on each occasion be exercised jointly by the Bishop of Oxford in his corporate capacity; and the Warden and Scholars of Saint Mary's College of Winchester in Oxford, commonly called New College.

#### **Creation of new benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe**

4. (1) A new benefice which shall be named the "Benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe", which shall be a rectory, shall be created in the diocese of Oxford, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of North Buckingham and the parish of Stowe, which parishes shall continue distinct.

(2) The new benefice and its constituent parishes shall belong to the archdeaconry of Buckingham and the deanery of Buckingham.

(3) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Johannes Albert Taling holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 2 hereof he shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

(4) The parsonage house of the benefice of North Buckingham (known as The Rectory, South Hall, Maids Moreton, Buckingham, MK18 1QD) shall without any conveyance or other assurance be vested in the incumbent of the new benefice in his corporate capacity as his official residence.

(5) Subject to clause 4(3) hereof, the right of presentation to the new benefice shall on each occasion be exercised jointly by the Church Society Trust, whose registered office is at Church Society, Ground Floor, Centre Block, Hille Business Estate, 132 Saint Albans Road, Watford, WD24 4AE; Oliver Abraham John Robarts, Esquire, of Fox and Hounds Farm, Lillingstone Dayrell, Buckingham MK18 5AP; and the Governors of Stowe School, care of the secretary, Stowe School, Stowe, Buckingham, MK18 5EH.

#### **Creation of new benefice of Blackthorn Chase**

5. (1) A new benefice which shall be named the "Benefice of Blackthorn Chase", which shall be a rectory, shall be created in the diocese of Oxford, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Beachampton, the parish of Thornborough, the parish of Thornton with Nash and the parish of Whaddon, which parishes shall continue distinct.

(2) The new benefice and its constituent parishes shall belong to the archdeaconry of Buckingham and the deanery of Buckingham.

(3) If immediate before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Jaqueline McClintock Dove holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 2 hereof she shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

(4) Subject to clause 5(3) the right of presentation to the new benefice shall on each occasion be exercised jointly by the archdeacon of the archdeaconry to which the new benefice shall from time to time belong; the Master and Fellows of

Gonville and Caius College in the University of Cambridge; and Ms Emily Railson of Home Farm, Thornton, Milton Keynes, MK17 0HB.

**Assistant curates: consequential provision**

6. (1) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend John Frederick King holds the office of assistant curate (however described) in the benefice of Buckingham he, in consequence of the dissolution of that benefice effected by the Scheme hold that office subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice of Blackthorn Chase.

(2) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation any other person holds an office of assistant curate (however described) in any of the benefices dissolved by this Scheme, she, he or they shall as consequence of the creation of the three new benefices effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in such of the new benefices as the Bishop shall direct.

**Establishment of group ministry**

7. (1) A group ministry to be known as "The Buckingham Group Ministry" shall be established for the new benefice of Buckingham created pursuant to clause 3(1) hereof, the new benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe created pursuant to clause 4(1) hereof, the new benefice of Blackthorn Chase created pursuant to clause 5(1) hereof, the benefice of West Buckingham and the benefice of Lenborough in the diocese of Oxford.

(2) If pursuant to clause 3(3) hereof the Reverend William Oliver Clinton Pearson-Gee becomes the first incumbent of the new benefice of Buckingham, or if pursuant to clause 4(3) hereof the Reverend Johannes Albert Taling becomes the first incumbent of the new benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe, or if pursuant to clause 5(3) hereof the Reverend Jaqueline McClintock Dove becomes the first incumbent of the new benefice of Blackthorn Chase or if immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Paula Smith is the incumbent of the benefice of West Buckingham, or the Reverend Rosamunde Mair Roberts is the incumbent of the benefice of Lenborough, he, she or they shall be the first person (or persons) to hold that benefice (or those benefices) as a benefice (or as benefices) in the group.

**Coming into operation of this Scheme**

8. If this Scheme is made by the Commissioners before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2021 it shall come into operation upon the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2021 but if this Scheme is made by the Commissioners after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2021 it shall come into operation upon the date of it being made by the Commissioners.

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

SIGNED by the )  
 )  
Right Reverend Steven, )  
 )  
Bishop of Oxford. )

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 benefices affected by these proposals are demographically diverse and present distinct pastoral and missional needs. These proposals have been prepared to enable appropriately focussed missional leadership to each area involved.**
- **The single-parish benefice of Stowe has undergone an extended period without its own priest. These proposals provide for the benefice to combine with the North Buckingham benefice to create a new benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe which will enable Stowe to once more have an incumbent to lead and care for the parish, as well as becoming part of a wider support system.**
- **These proposals also provide for the current Buckingham benefice to be divided in two to enable the incumbent of the new benefice of Buckingham, where Buckingham itself is essentially a “town parish”, to focus on what is an increasingly urban environment in the town. It is proposed that the parish of Radclive cum Chackmore, to the west of Buckingham, remain within the new benefice of Buckingham, on the understanding that that parish is enabled to remain distinct and is provided with adequate resources from within the Group Ministry to continue and enhance its rural mission.**
- **The remaining part of the existing Buckingham benefice will form a new benefice to the east of Buckingham, the Blackthorn Chase benefice, allowing a new incumbent to focus on the rural missional context which unites the four parishes involved.**
- **The proposal to resurrect the “Buckingham Group Ministry” comes from a desire by the “rural ring” of parishes surrounding the town of Buckingham to work together, in particular sharing expertise and**



**common purpose in rural mission, and forming a lay leadership team which will draw together lay worship leaders and lay missional leaders from all the rural benefices, to be deployed as needed around the Group.**

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.

## **1. The benefice of West Buckingham; and the benefice of Lenborough**

The only effect on these benefices is that they will no longer be part of the group ministry established by the 1977 Scheme but will instead be part of the new group ministry established by this one.

## **2. Status of churches etc**

This Scheme does not alter the existing status of any of the churches, chapels of ease or licensed places of worship in the affected parishes.

## **3. Assistant curates: consequential provision – clause 6(2)**

The above clause has been included to ensure that any person holding an office of assistant curate (however described) shall as consequence of the dissolution of the benefices effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the new benefices, 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.

## **4. Parsonage house for the proposed new benefice of Blackthorn Chase**

It is the diocesan intention that the property known as The Rectory, Chapel Lane, Thornborough, MK18 2DJ currently vested in the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance as part of its corporate portfolio, will be transferred into benefice ownership as the parsonage. This transaction cannot be provided for in the draft Pastoral Scheme under the 2011 Measure process and will need to be dealt with under the Church Property Measure 2018 legislation should the proposed Scheme take effect.

## **5. Group ministry**

Sharing of ministry within the group

The benefices within the group will retain their separate and distinct existence but each of the incumbents (and any priests-in-charge) will have authority to perform in the area of every benefice in the group all such offices and services as may be performed by the incumbent of that benefice. When acting outside his or her own benefice an incumbent must act in accordance with the directions of the incumbent concerned (and in giving such instructions an incumbent should follow the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests, made in conjunction with the Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure 2014, that any directions under Canon C8.2(a) relating to a parish which has passed a resolution under the House of Bishops' Declaration should not conflict with the nature of the conviction on this issue underlying the PCC's resolution). The incumbents also have a duty to assist each other so as to make the best possible provision for the cure of souls throughout the area of the group ministry. (S.35(1) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure.)

### Group Chapter

The incumbents (and any priests-in-charge) must meet together regularly as a chapter for the purpose of discussing and reaching a common mind on all matters of general concern or special interest to the group ministry and a chairman must be elected, normally for a term of three years. (S.35(4) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure.)

### Consultation on appointment of new incumbent

A patron of a group benefice must consult the other incumbents (and any priests-in-charge) in the group before seeking the approval of the parish representatives (as defined in s.11(7) of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986), and of the bishop, to the making to a priest of an offer of appointment. (Paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 to the Mission and Pastoral Measure.)

### Joint Councils

Any provision relating to the creation of a Joint Council under the Church Representation Rules will be effected after this Scheme comes into effect should the proposed Scheme take effect.

## Glossary of words commonly used in Pastoral Reorganisation

A fuller version is available in the Code of Recommended Practice to the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/pastoralandclosedchurches/mpm2011code.aspx>)

Archbishop	Senior bishop with authority over a Province. In England, either Canterbury or York.
Archdeacon	An office held by a senior member of clergy appointed by the bishop with an administrative responsibility over an archdeaconry. Some of their duties are laid down by law but in other respects vary according to diocesan practice: they include care for church property.
Archdeaconry	Sub-division of the diocese over which an archdeacon has administrative responsibility.
Benefice	An ecclesiastical office carrying certain duties. An incumbent's benefice is therefore not a geographical area (see parish) but the office to which the holder is appointed and may comprise one or more parishes. A benefice may be a rectory or vicarage and an incumbent is therefore either rector or vicar.
Bishop	In the Church of England the diocesan bishop is the central focus of organisation and ministry within a diocese. The Bishop is the chief pastor and authority and shares the cure of souls with all the incumbents of that diocese and is also the chief representative of the diocese in the work of the wider church. May be assisted by suffragan or assistant bishops.
Common Tenure	The basis on which all Church of England offices will eventually be held under the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure 2009. Existing holders of freehold offices may decide not to opt-in to Common Tenure but new office holders will be on Common Tenure.
Chapel of Ease	A consecrated church that it is not a parish church. Originally within a parish that had a parish church, for the ease of parishioners who could not attend the parish church.
Church Representation Rules	Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 but updated as a separate booklet. They contain the mechanism for the setting up of representative bodies in the Church of England from parochial church councils to the House of Laity of the General Synod.
Cure of Souls	'Cure' means 'care'. The bishop has the universal cure of souls in a diocese but, subject to this, the incumbent of a benefice (or team rector and team vicar(s) in a team ministry) has the exclusive cure of souls within his or her parish or parishes. The expression should not be confused with the more general phrase 'pastoral care'.
Deanery	A sub-division of an archdeaconry usually comprising between 10 and 20 parishes.
Declaration of closure for regular public worship	The act of closing a church for public worship under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.
Diocesan Board of Finance	A company constituted by the diocesan synod and regulated by the Companies Acts. A board of finance holds property for Church of England purposes, transacts business in that connection and acts as a committee of the diocesan synod. It normally also acts as the diocesan trust.
Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee	Statutory Committee established by the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. Its duty is to review the arrangement for pastoral supervision in the diocese and, as appropriate, to make recommendations to the bishop.
Diocese	One of 41 main territorial units of the Church of England over which a bishop has responsibility. Divided into archdeaconries, deaneries and parishes.
District Church Council	If a parish comprises two or more places of worship or churches then individual councils can be set up for the districts in which each place of worship or church is situated to exercise such functions as may be delegated by the parochial church council.
Glebe	Land or buildings vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance that either provides a rental income to help pay for stipends and clergy housing or provides housing for those involved in the cure of souls.
Group Council	Where a group ministry is established the parochial church councils of the individual parishes can form a group council to act in the area as a whole in such matters as the individual PCCs together decide.
Group Ministry	An arrangement, authorised by the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 whereby the clergy of two or more separate benefices can assist each other to make the best possible provision for the cure of souls in the area as a whole.
Incumbent	Holder of a benefice (which can be either a freehold or a Common Tenure office) – and can be either a rector or a vicar - with responsibility for the cure of souls. May be assisted by a curate, deacon, licensed lay worker, retired priest etc.
Interested Party	One of the statutory persons or bodies that the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee is required to consult in accordance with s.6 / 21 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.

## Glossary of words commonly used in Pastoral Reorganisation

Joint Parochial Church Council	Where a benefice comprises two or more parishes the parochial church councils of the individual parishes can form a joint parochial church council to act in the benefice as a whole in such matters as the individual PCCs together decide.
Leave to Appeal	Any person who makes a representation to the Commissioners against a pastoral scheme (but not a pastoral order) has a right to apply for leave to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council against a decision of the Commissioners to proceed notwithstanding that representation.
Members ('Other') of a Team Ministry	May be clerical or lay (see s.34 of Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011). They share the pastoral care of the area with the team rector and team vicars, but NOT the cure of souls.
Mission and Pastoral Committee	A Committee of the Commissioners' Board of Governors which makes decisions on representations on pastoral, houses and glebe matters. It is chaired by the Third Church Estates Commissioner.
Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011	The Measure of the General Synod which authorises changes in pastoral reorganisation. Designed to "make better provision for the cure of souls". Part of the law of the land and equivalent to an Act of Parliament.
Parish	The basic geographical unit over which an incumbent has cure of souls. There may be several parishes within the area of one benefice.
Parish Centre of Worship	An unconsecrated Place of Worship designated by the bishop under s.43 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 whereupon for most purposes (other than marriage) it is regarded as a parish church.
Parish Church	A consecrated building in a parish in which, subject to canon law, the statutory services must be held. Parishioners have a right to be married, baptised etc. in the parish church. S.41(2) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 requires that any building which is to become a parish church must be approved by the bishop, subject to the bishop having consulted both the Diocesan Pastoral Committee and the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
Parochial Church Council	Representative body of parishioners elected from those on the electoral roll in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Usually chaired by the incumbent.
Parsonage House	The official place of residence of an incumbent of a benefice. The house belongs to the incumbent in right of their office.
Pastoral Order	A document which effects changes in pastoral reorganisation made under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. Differs from a pastoral scheme mainly in that it deals with lesser matters.
Pastoral Scheme	A document which effects more complex or significant changes in pastoral reorganisation made under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.
Patron	The person or body owning an advowson (i.e. right to present a priest to a benefice) who may be a private individual or a corporation (ecclesiastical or lay).
Plurality	The holding of two or more benefices by one incumbent who then has the freehold of all the benefices. This can only be authorised by a scheme or order under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.
Priest in Charge	A priest (who has not been presented by the patrons and does not become the incumbent) given charge of a benefice to which the right of presentation has been suspended.
Representations	The Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 requires that any draft scheme or order be published and made available to the public. Any person can make written representations to the Commissioners either for or against what is proposed.
Team Council	In a team ministry a team council can be established, either under the authority of a scheme or under the Church Representation Rules. Such a council is similar to a joint parochial church council and provides a formal structure for all the parishes in the team to discuss matters of mutual concern.
Team Ministry	A special form of ministry whereby a team of clergy and possibly lay people share the pastoral care of the area of a benefice. Can only be established by a pastoral scheme.
Team Rector	The priest in a team ministry who heads the team and owns the property of the benefice but shares the cure of souls with the team vicars.
Team Vicar	A priest of incumbent status in a team ministry, other than the team rector, who shares the cure of souls with the team rector and other team vicars.



## **Please do not touch this Notice** (to avoid possible spread of Covid-19)

### **Notice**

#### **Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 Draft Pastoral Scheme**

11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The Oxford Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee has prepared a draft Pastoral Scheme for.

- (1) *the termination of the group ministry established in 1977;*  
(2) *the dissolution of the three benefices of Buckingham; North Buckingham; and Stowe;*  
(3) *the creation of three new benefices of (i) Buckingham; (ii) North Buckingham with Stowe; and (iii) Blackthorn Chase; and for*
- *the appointments of the first incumbents of the new benefices;*
  - *their housing arrangements; and*
  - *the future patronage arrangements for the new benefices;*
- (4) *the establishment of a new group ministry for the new benefice of Buckingham; the new benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe; the new benefice of Blackthorn Chase, the benefice of Lenborough and the benefice of West Buckingham;*
- all in the diocese of Oxford.*

The draft Scheme is on the Commissioners' website

[www.churchofengland.org/consultation](http://www.churchofengland.org/consultation) or you may obtain a copy from me. **Large print and/or audio copies are available on request.**

- Anyone may make representations **for** or **against** all or any part of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) preferably by email or by post to reach the Commissioners no later than midnight on **Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020**. **Please send your representation to (e-mail: [katie.lowe@churchofengland.org](mailto:katie.lowe@churchofengland.org)) or letter marked for the attention of Katie Lowe, Pastoral Division, Church Commissioners, Church House, Great Smith Street, LONDON SW1P 3AZ.**
- If they have not acknowledged receipt of your representation before this date, please ring 020 7898 1737 or e-mail them to ensure it has been received. For administrative purposes, a petition will be classed as a single representation and the Commissioners will only correspond with the sender of the petition, if known, or otherwise the first signatory for whom they can identify an address – “the primary petitioner”.
- When making a representation, please indicate the nature of your interest in the proposals (e.g. parishioner, member of parochial church council, etc) and whether you would like an opportunity to speak to their Committee regarding your representation if the Commissioners decide a hearing should be held regarding the case.

Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GF

Direct line: 01865 208243 Switchboard: 01865 208200

Email: [pastoral.secretary@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:pastoral.secretary@oxford.anglican.org) Website: [www.oxford.anglican.org](http://www.oxford.anglican.org)

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- If they receive representations against the draft Scheme, they will send them, and any representations supporting the draft Scheme, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors and the primary petitioner will then receive copies of the correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and will be told whether a hearing is to be held. They and individual petitioners may comment further to the Commissioners. Copies of all of the representations received and associated correspondence will normally be published on the Commissioners' website if the matter needs to be considered by them.
- If a hearing is held, anyone may attend the meeting of the Commissioners that considers the case and representors may have an opportunity to speak to their Committee. Otherwise, if a hearing is not to be held, the case will be considered in private and you will be informed accordingly.
- When they acknowledge representations the Commissioners will let individual representors (and the primary petitioner) know the next few dates of their Committee's meetings. They will confirm the actual date if a hearing is to be held nearer the time.
- The Commissioners' will decide if the draft Scheme should proceed when they consider all the representations on the basis of a paper prepared by the Commissioners' staff and any points raised at the meeting.
- The Commissioners will notify all representors of their decision and give a statement of the reasons for it.
- If they so decide, any representor or petitioner against the draft Scheme may seek leave from the Privy Council to appeal against the decision.
- Please see the Commissioners' website [www.churchofengland.org/consultation](http://www.churchofengland.org/consultation) for further information about the procedure.

Maggie Metaliaj  
Secretary  
Oxford Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee