

Church Commissioners

Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011

Benefices of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring; and Bride Valley

(Diocese of Salisbury)

Note by Matthew Crowe

Summary

- (i) The draft Pastoral Scheme providing for: (i) the union of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring and the benefice of Bride Valley (their constituent parishes to remain distinct); for the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice and for her parsonage house to be that of the benefice of Bride Valley; for the transfer to the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes of the parsonage house of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring; and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice received **eight representations against, one in favour, and three letters of comment**.
- (ii) Those against the draft Scheme are primarily concerned with the ability of an incumbent to effectively cover the area of the proposed new benefice, the financial implications of the proposed new structure, and the rationale behind the proposals.
- (iii) The representation in favour and letters of comment also raise questions about future ministry deployment in the area.
- (iv) The Bishop of Salisbury explains that the draft Scheme arose out of deanery plans, and in the context of surrounding pastoral reorganisation, the Abbotsbury benefice has been somewhat left in limbo between two deaneries. The Bishop sets out the ministry deployment in the area, including commitment to a continuing house for duty assistant priest in the benefice, as well as other support, both lay and ordained.

The sifting groups' decision

- (v) The case has been examined by the Committee's case sifting representatives who recommended that the matter should not be afforded a public hearing as the issues were clear from the correspondence and they did not think the Committee would gain additional information or that a hearing was necessary for reasons of fairness.

Issues for the Committee

- (vi) Does the proposed new benefice present a manageable workload for an incumbent, in the context set out by the Bishop? Will the envisaged ministry team for the proposed benefice be sufficient?
- (vii) Are the financial concerns expressed in the objections of such weight that the proposals should be rejected?

- (viii) Would the draft scheme further the mission of the Church of England and make better provision for the cure of souls in the diocese?

Recommendation

- (ix) The Committee is invited to consider the representations and the issues set out in this report and whether the draft Scheme should proceed.

Background

1. The draft Pastoral Scheme providing for: the union of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring and the benefice of Bride Valley (their constituent parishes to remain distinct); the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice and for her parsonage house to be that of the benefice of Bride Valley; the transfer to the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes of the parsonage house of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring; and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice received **eight representations against, one in favour, and three letters of comment.**
2. The Parish Information Forms supplied by the parishes show the populations and electoral rolls of the parishes affected by these proposals:

Benefice of Bride Valley

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Electoral Roll</u>
Burton Bradstock and Chilcombe	950	76
Littlebredy	85	24
Litton Cheney	349	35
Long Bredy	290	23
Puncknowle	470	8
Shipton Gorge	380	49
Swyre	90	12
TOTAL	2614	227

Benfice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Electoral Roll</u>
Abbotsbury	490	14
Langton Herring	150	21
Portesham	680	42
TOTAL	1320	77

3. The DBF has also provided the following information regarding parish share payments:-

Share Request & Contribution 2021-2023

Name	Year	Request	Contribution	% of request
Burton Bradstock & Chilcombe	2023	28,437.03	14,147.40	50%
	2022	27,608.77	27,470.76	100%
	2021	26,294.06	26,161.20	100%
Little Bredy	2023	5,619.29	5,591.19	100%
	2022	5,455.62	5,428.34	100%
	2021	5,195.83	5,170.00	100%
Litton Cheney	2023	17,856.56	8,883.66	50%
	2022	17,336.46	17,249.76	100%
	2021	16,510.92	16,428.00	100%
Long Bredy	2023	6,102.52	3,036.00	50%
	2022	5,924.78	5,895.12	100%
	2021	5,642.65	5,613.60	100%
Puncknowle	2023	6,415.47	3,191.70	50%
	2022	6,228.62	6,197.52	100%
	2021	5,932.02	5,901.60	100%
Shipton Gorge	2023	8,762.60	4,359.42	50%
	2022	8,507.38	8,464.80	100%
	2021	8,102.27	8,060.40	100%

Swyre	2023	2,816.55	1,401.24	50%
	2022	2,734.51	2,720.88	100%
	2021	2,604.30	2,590.80	100%

Share Name	Year	Request	Contributions	% of request
Abbotsbury	2023	7,989.43	-	0%
	2022	7,756.73	5,127.20	66%
	2021	7,387.36	5,000.00	68%
Langton Herring	2023	5,007.20	2,491.08	50%
	2022	4,861.36	4,837.08	100%
	2021	4,629.87	4,605.60	100%
Portesham	2023	13,143.90	5,000.00	38%
	2022	12,761.07	10,000.00	78%
	2021	12,153.40	12,153.40	100%

4. The draft Scheme carried the following diocesan rationale:

“Due to its rural nature the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring has not been a good fit in Weymouth and Portland Deanery and it is felt that these three parishes would belong better in Lyme Bay Deanery, linked to the benefice of Bride Valley. The two benefices have begun to develop good working relationships; pastorally they would both fit together well. Uniting the two benefices to form the benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil would create a larger clergy team. This is not intended to be a cost saving exercise but would allow clergy to better serve the needs of the worshipping communities..”

5. Attached are:

Annex A: A copy of the draft Pastoral Scheme;

Annex B: A scaled map of the area;

Annex C: A copy of the letter referring the representations to the Bishop of Salisbury together with his response.

Annex D: Parish information forms for the parishes;

Annex R: Copies of the representations;

Annex S: Supplementary comments received from the representors: the Bishop did not wish to add to his previous response.

6. The representors against, all from Litton Cheney, express concern about the area of the proposed new benefice and the capacity of any incumbent to be able to effectively minister to it; the financial implications for the parishes in the proposed new benefice, and the overarching rationale behind the proposals.
7. The representors in favour and those who submitted comments also raise questions about the future pattern of ministry deployment in the area.

Summary of representations against the draft scheme

8. The predominant concern of the representors against the draft Scheme is about the ability of a future incumbent to cover the area of the new proposed benefice— both in terms of human resource but also the geography of the proposed benefice. Along with concern about the reducing numbers of lay ministers in the area (Wendy Firrell, Janet Jackson) they doubt the diocesan rationale, that the proposals will lead to a larger clergy team is realistic, as the current team in Bride Valley already struggle to serve the eight churches in that benefice. H J Veroce, at Litton Cheney says that in a typical month they may only have one service taken by the incumbent, who then frequently has other services elsewhere in the benefice. There is concern that the proposed new benefice would present even greater challenges in planning services, and in the amount of time a new incumbent would have to spend travelling to them (including on the busy B3157).
9. The new benefice would increase the Rector's cure of souls significantly (Litton Cheney PCC), and a single house for duty assistant post would be insufficient. The PCC requests an alternative approach be found. This is echoed by Wendy Firrell who suggests a better match would be for the Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring parishes to unite with The Winterbournes Team Ministry which would make more logistical sense. There is further concern from many of the representors about the increased burden on the Rector's time in terms of PCC meetings, schools' work and so on.
10. In terms of finance, they express concern that some of the parishes in the proposed reorganisation use "Friends" schemes, or similar, to effectively reduce the amount of parish share they send to the Diocese, and this is considered unfair and a potential source of disagreement between the parishes. The Bride Valley benefice is said to be set to meet its total parish share request this year as it has in recent years, but Abbotsbury and Portesham have arrears of some £40,000, at least partly arising from the "reliance" on Friends groups of those churches, whose constitutions prevent their contributions being used towards parish share. Freddie Spicer believes that the proposed transfer to the DBF of the parsonage in Portesham will ultimately be for financial gain (although a footnote to the draft scheme says that it is intended to continue to be used for a house for duty post).

Summary of the representations in favour

11. The PCC of Portesham is in favour of the proposed Scheme and says that the parishes in their current benefice are much better linked to rural communities than the mainly urban Weymouth. It asks for guarantees that the current house for duty post in its benefice would continue in the proposed reorganisation – the whole area of the proposed new benefice would be too great for one priest.
12. The Langton Herring PCC comments only to request the same guarantee as Portesham PCC. Sir Philip Williams, one of the patrons of the Bride Valley benefice, understands the diocesan rationale to mean that there will also be a priest appointed to replace the late Reverend Susan Linford, who was as an assistant priest in the Bride Valley benefice, as well as the part-time post in the current Abbotsbury benefice. He also suggests, echoing a concern of others, that following the recently announced resignation of the current incumbent of the Bride Valley benefice, the draft Scheme should not be implemented until a new Rector is in post to help manage the transition.
13. Martin Pearson expresses surprise at the continuation of private patronage interests in the Church of England. Given the current changes in clergy deployment, he hopes that the Bishop will invoke the powers of suspending presentation to the benefice as set out in the Mission and Pastoral Measure.

The Bishop's response

14. Following normal practice, copies of the representations were sent to the Bishop to seek his view on the objections. He says that there has been a great deal of work explaining to Litton Cheney PCC both the rationale and advantages of the scheme, to which all the other involved parishes have agreed.
15. The Bishop sets the context of the proposed Scheme, saying that the proposals arise from the deanery planning process in both the deanery of Weymouth and Portland, and the deanery of Lyme Bay. As a result of other reorganisation schemes in the wider area, the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring has been left somewhat “in limbo” – having formed a relationship with the Bride Valley team in the Lyme Bay deanery but remaining in the Weymouth and Portland deanery. He also explains that the other reorganisation has left the current house for duty priest without close colleagues, and the DMPC aims to structure supportive local ministry teams, and to link house for duty posts with full-time colleagues for support.
16. The Bishop addresses the proposal in one of the representations to unite the Abbotsbury benefice with the Winterbournes and says this was not considered, appropriate. The Winterbourne Team Ministry is in the Dorchester deanery and comprises Dorchester and Poundbury with rural parishes which look to Dorchester whereas Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring are coastal parishes between Weymouth and Bridport. It is currently overseen by a house for duty priest and so there would not be enough “ministry strength” in its rural area to bring the two benefices together.
17. In terms of workload for a proposed new incumbent, the Bishop is committed to having a full-time priest in the proposed new benefice, with the continuing support of

a house for duty minister based in Portesham, who would be replaced after the retirement of the present office holder. He says there is also currently an associate priest in the Bride Valley benefice who along with the two posts already mentioned would provide a team of three active priests in the proposed new benefice, alongside a well-established and strong lay ministry team. This would, if the Scheme proceeds, give the new benefice five Lay Worship Leaders, four lay Pastoral Assistants, and a Lay Pioneer Minister, as well as (from Bride Valley) a Licensed Lay Minister and an active retired priest. The Bishop praises the work of the incumbent in Bride Valley, who is shortly to move to another post elsewhere (for reasons unrelated to the proposed Scheme).

18. On finance and Share contributions, the Bishop believes that proposed benefice would be able to meet its requested contribution to cover ministry costs, and this should not be contentious. The proposed larger benefice would sit more comfortably within a Share band, and as each parish is considered a separate entity for the Share scheme, the union of the benefices would not impact the amount requested.
19. The Bishop firmly believes the proposals will have a positive impact in this challenging rural area – the Weymouth deanery mission plan has significant urban and community focus, whereas Lyme Bay deanery faces a need to embrace tourism, while providing support for the town of Bridport and the more rural communities. With an increasing number of second homes and decreasing resident population, the smaller communities (including Litton Cheney) need to adapt to, and accept, a more flexible, mutually supportive provision of mission and ministry.
20. Finally, the Bishop sets out the background to the local consultations.

Supplementary views of the representors

21. Patricia Gates reiterates her belief that the proposal is a “done deal”.
22. The PCC of Litton Cheney believes that its primary concern, of clergy presence in the parishes, remains unaddressed. It says the proposed benefice would increase the population under the incumbent’s cure of souls by 49%, and that since 2007 ministry has already been spread thinly, and the proposed Scheme would worsen that to an unacceptable degree.
23. The PCC also does not believe its concern about some of the parishes not meeting their Share in full has been resolved.
24. Langton Herring PCC welcomes the Bishop’s commitment to retaining the house-for-duty post based at Abbotsbury and says its letter of comment should now be considered a representation in favour.

Supplementary response from the Bishop

25. The Bishop did not wish to add anything to his previous comments.

Issues for the Committee

- (i) Does the proposed new benefice present a manageable workload for an incumbent, in the context set out by the Bishop? Will the envisaged ministry team for the proposed benefice be sufficient?
- (ii) Are the financial concerns expressed in the objections of such weight that the proposals should be rejected?
- (iii) Would the draft scheme further the mission of the Church of England and make better provision for the cure of souls in the diocese?

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to consider the representations and the issues set out in this report and whether the draft Scheme should proceed.

Matthew Crowe

Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3AZ

July 2023

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

This draft Scheme provides for:

- *the union of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring and the benefice of Bride Valley (their constituent parishes to remain distinct);*
- *for the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice and for her parsonage house to be that of the benefice of Bride Valley*
- *for the transfer to the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes of the parsonage house of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring;*
- *and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice;*
in the diocese of Salisbury.

DRAFT

PASTORAL SCHEME

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners this day of 2023 in pursuance of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, the Right Reverend Stephen, Bishop of Salisbury, having consented thereto.

Union of benefices

1. The benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring and the benefice of Bride Valley in the diocese of Salisbury shall be united to create a new benefice which shall be named "The Benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil", and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Abbotsbury, the parish of Langton Herring, the parish of Portesham, the parish of Burton Bradstock and Chilcombe, the parish of Little Bredy, the parish of Litton Cheney, the parish of Long Bredy, the parish of Puncknowle, the parish of Shipton Gorge and the parish of Swyre, which parishes shall continue distinct.

Archdeaconry and deanery

2. The new benefice and its constituent parishes shall belong to the archdeaconry of Sherborne and the deanery of Lyme Bay.

Designation of first incumbent

3. If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Jane Lorette Williams holds an ecclesiastical office in either of the benefices referred to in clause 1 hereof she shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

Assistant curates: consequential provision

4. (1) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Margaret Preuss-Higham and/or the Reverend Elizabeth Mary Howlett holds the office of assistant curate (however described) in either of the benefices referred to in clause 1 hereof they shall, in consequence of the union of benefices effected by the Scheme hold that office subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil.

(2) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation any other person holds an office of assistant curate (however described) in either of the benefices referred to in clause 1 hereof he, she or they shall as consequence of the union of benefices effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil.

Place of residence

5. The parsonage house of the benefice of Bride Valley (known as The Rectory, Church Street, Burton Bradstock, Bridport, DT6 4QS) shall be the place of residence of the incumbent of the new benefice.

Transfer of parsonage house

6. The parsonage house of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring (known as Portesham Rectory, Church Lane, Portesham, Weymouth, DT3 4HB), 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 Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes.

Patronage

7. Subject to clause 3 hereof, the right of presentation to the new benefice shall on each occasion be exercised jointly by the Bishop of Salisbury in his corporate capacity, The Honourable Mrs Charlotte Townshend, of Melbury House, Melbury Sampford, Dorchester DT2 0LF, Mr George Pitt-Rivers, of The Manor House, Hinton Saint Mary, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1NA, and Sir Philip Williams Bt., of Bridehead, Little Bredy, Dorchester, DT2 9JA.

Coming into operation of this Scheme

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

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

SIGNED by the)
)
Right Reverend Stephen,)
)
Bishop of Salisbury,)

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

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Signature of Authorised Signatory

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

The rationale behind the diocesan proposals is as follows:

Due to its rural nature the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring has not been a good fit in Weymouth and Portland Deanery and it is felt that these three parishes would belong better in Lyme Bay Deanery, linked to the benefice of Bride Valley. The two benefices have begun to develop good working relationships; pastorally they would both fit together well. Uniting the two benefices to form the benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil would create a larger clergy team. This is not intended to be a cost saving exercise but would allow clergy to better serve the needs of the worshipping communities.

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.

Clause 2

The parishes of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring will be transferred from the deanery of Weymouth and Portland to the deanery of Lyme Bay by this Scheme.

Clause 4

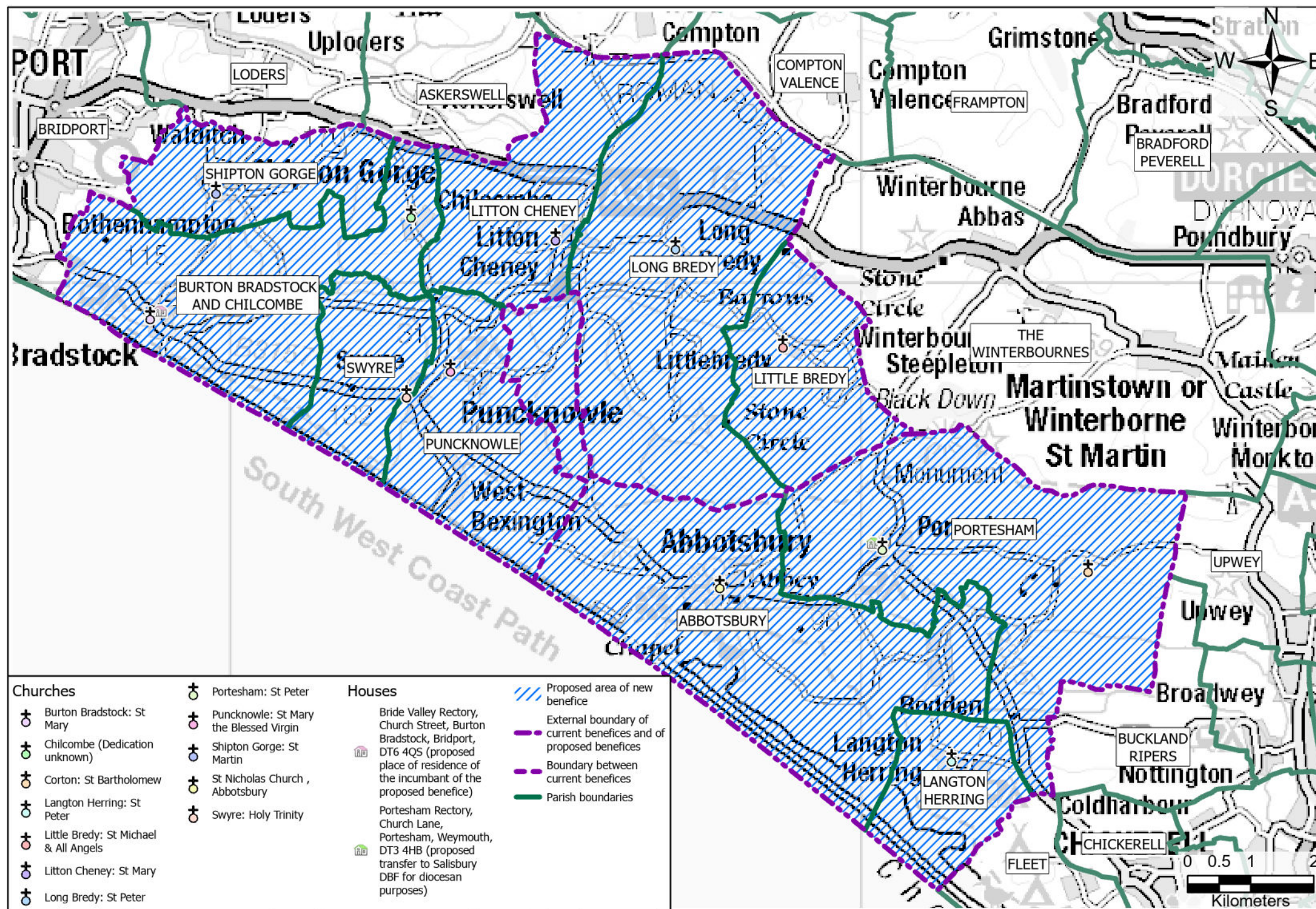
This clause has been included to ensure that any person holding an office of assistant curate (however described) shall as consequence of the union of benefices effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice. Although there is currently no such unnamed office holder in post, this clause is included in case any such office holder is appointed before this Scheme comes into operation.

Clause 6

The parsonage of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portseham and Langton Herring will continue to be occupied by the Reverend Margaret Preuss-Higham.

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.





THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

CHURCH
COMMISSIONERS

The Rt Revd the Bishop of Salisbury
By email only

Matthew Crowe
Senior Case and Policy Advisor
Pastoral & Closed Churches

Our ref: 34/045BM

26th May 2023

Dear Bishop,

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011
Benefices of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring; and Bride Valley
Proposed Pastoral Scheme**

Following the publication of the draft scheme providing for the union of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring and the benefice of Bride Valley (their constituent parishes to remain distinct); for the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice and for her parsonage house to be that of the benefice of Bride Valley; for the transfer to the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes of the parsonage house of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring; and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice we received **eight representations against, one in favour, and three letters of comment**. I attach a copy of the correspondence received.

The representations against, all from parishioners and the PCC of Litton Cheney, are predominantly concerned with the ability of an incumbent to cover the area of the proposed new benefice effectively, the financial implications in the proposed new benefice, and the rationale behind the proposals.

The representation in favour and one of the letters of comment also raise questions about future ministry deployment in the area and the timing of the Scheme.

Summary of the representations against

The predominant concern of the representors against the draft Scheme is about the ability of a future incumbent to cover the area of the new proposed benefice— both in terms of human resource but also the geographical issues presented. Along with concerns about reducing numbers of lay ministers in the area (Wendy Firrell, Janet Jackson) there is doubt as to whether the diocesan rationale that the proposals will lead to a larger clergy team is a realistic prospect, as the current team in Bride Valley

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The Church Commissioners are a registered charity (number 1140097)

already struggle to serve the eight churches in that benefice. H J Veroce, at Litton Cheney says that in a typical month they may only have one service taken by the incumbent, who then frequently has other services elsewhere in the benefice. There is concern that the proposed new benefice would present even greater challenges in planning services, and in the amount of time a new incumbent would have to spend travelling to them (including on the busy B3157).

The new benefice would increase the Rector's cure of souls significantly (Litton Cheney PCC), and a single house for duty assistant post would be insufficient. The PCC request an alternative approach be found. This is echoed by Wendy Firrell who suggests a better match would be for the Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring parishes would be to unite instead with The Winterbournes Team Ministry which would make more logistical sense. There is further concern from many of the representors about the increase on the Rector's time in terms of PCC meetings, schools' work and so on.

In terms of finance, there is concern that some of the parishes in the proposed reorganisation use "Friends" schemes or similar to effectively reduce the amount of parish share they send to the diocese, and this is considered unfair and a potential source of disagreement between the parishes. The Bride Valley benefice is said to be set to meet its total parish share request this year as it has in recent years, but Abbotsbury and Portesham have arrears of some £40,000, at least partly arising from the "reliance" on Friends groups of those churches, whose constitutions prevent their contributions being used towards parish share. Freddie Spicer believes that the proposed transfer to the DBF of the parsonage in Portesham will ultimately be for financial gain (although a footnote to the draft scheme says that it is intended to continue to be used for a house for duty post).

Summary of the representation in support

The PCC of Portesham is in favour of the proposed Scheme and says that the parishes in their current benefice are much better linked to rural communities than the mainly urban Weymouth. It asks for guarantees that the current house for duty post in its benefice would continue in the proposed reorganisation – the whole area of the proposed new benefice would be too great for one priest.

Comments

Langton Herring PCC comments only to request the same guarantee as Portesham PCC. Sir Philip Williams, one of the patrons of the Bride Valley benefice, also understands the diocesan rationale to mean that there will be also be a priest appointed to replace the late Reverend Susan Linford, who was as an assistant priest in the Bride Valley benefice, as well as the part-time post in the current Abbotsbury benefice. He also suggests, echoing a concern of others, that following the recently announced resignation of the current incumbent of the Bride Valley benefice the draft Scheme should not be implemented until a new Rector is in post to help manage the transition.

Martin Pearson expresses surprise at the continuation of private patronage interests in the Church of England. Given the current changes in clergy deployment, he hopes

that you will invoke the powers of suspending presentation to the benefice as set out in the Mission and Pastoral Measure.

It will be necessary for our Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee to consider this matter and I should be grateful for your comments on the representations in general and on the following, more specific points:

1. What were the main reasons for the proposals as drafted? Were other options (in particular the linking of the Abbotsbury parishes with the Winterbournes team ministry as suggested in the representations) considered?
2. Please comment on the concerns expressed about the workload of the prospective incumbent, especially in terms of additional meetings and responsibility for an additional church school, and its impact on their ability to provide pastoral care.
3. Are you able to confirm that it is intended that there will continue to be a house for duty, or other, post based at the Portesham parsonage as requested in the representations? Would you expect such a post-holder to mainly minister to the parishes of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring or would they also have a wider role across the new benefice? Is it intended that an assistant priest, replacing the late Reverend Sue Linford will also be appointed?
4. How would the staffing of the proposed new benefice compare with that of other benefices in the Diocese of similar population and geographical extent?
5. To what extent is the draft Scheme based on an expectation that lay ministry across the benefice will continue to be provided at the current level? Please comment on the concern of some representors that the number of lay ministers coming forward is declining.
6. Please comment on the financial issues in the affected parishes, including reference to the contributions to parish share alluded to in the representations. Do you think this might become a contentious issue within the proposed new benefice?
7. Would you be prepared to delay the implementation of the draft Scheme until a new incumbent has been chosen?
8. How do you believe the proposals will impact on the mission of the Church of England in this community?
9. Are there any other factors which the Commissioners should be aware of in their consideration of these representations?

The next meeting of the Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee at which this case could be considered is due to be held on **26th July 2023**. If the matter is to be considered at this meeting it would be helpful to receive your response by **Friday 23rd June**. This is to allow time for this letter and your reply to be sent to the representors, for them to make any further comments and, if necessary, for you to respond.

The Commissioners are required to consider the representations under the quasi-judicial process laid down by the Measure. A legal challenge may arise from the Commissioners' decision if, among other matters, it is based materially on incorrect information. Of necessity the Commissioners rely on others to provide information to assist their deliberations, and to this end I should be grateful for your help.

The Commissioners will decide on the basis of the written representations whether oral representations will be heard, or the case considered on the papers alone. The decision on whether to hold a hearing is one which will be taken by the Commissioners in the light of the particular circumstances of the case. We will confirm that decision in due course.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Katharine Robinson and Miriam Lightfoot in the diocesan office, and also to the Bishop of Sherborne as I understand she led on the development of these proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Crowe', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Matthew Crowe



Matthew Crowe
Church Commissioners
Church House
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3AZ

14 June 2023

Dear Matthew

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011
Benefices of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring; and Bride Valley
Proposed Pastoral Scheme**

Thank you for your letter dated 26th May 2023 with its enclosures.

I am sorry that there have been a number of representations about the scheme especially from one particular parish. We have worked hard over the last 18 months to bring this one parish on board explaining both the rational and the advantages of such a scheme, which has been agreed by every other parish involved.

I have been advised about the proposed scheme by the Bishop of Sherborne and the Archdeacon of Sherborne and respond to the questions raised in your letter as follows:

1. Rationale

The proposals arise out of the preparation of a deanery plan for both the deanery of Weymouth and Portland, and the deanery of Lyme Bay.

The parishes of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring have been traditionally attached to the parishes of Chickerell and Fleet, with the Priest-in-Charge of Chickerell and Fleet having responsibility also of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton. For the last nine years this arrangement has been in name only as there has been a House for Duty (HfD) Associate priest based in Portesham, offering oversight to, and taking responsibility for, Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring. The Priest-in-Charge left two years ago which provided an opportunity to rethink ministry patterns in line with both deaneries.

The recent and anticipated future growth of Chickerell and its geography towards the growing town of Weymouth led to an agreed Pastoral Scheme to bring Chickerell into the larger Radipole and Melcombe Regis Team Ministry. The small size of Fleet and its closer proximity to Weymouth have led to an agreed Pastoral Scheme linking this parish to the parish of St Paul's Weymouth. Both these schemes came formally into effect this year.

The parishes of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring lie outside the immediate Weymouth conurbation in an area of natural beauty along the coastal road and form, along with the Bride Valley, the rural communities between Weymouth and Bridport. They share the same missional outlook, being settled village communities with many second homes and offering outreach to visitors. While each village church enjoys its own independence, an active HfD priest has, over the last nine years, achieved a great deal of collaboration in their working together.

Currently, with pastoral changes already made to adjoining parishes, the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring feels as though it is in limbo, forming a relationship with the Bride Valley in the Lyme Bay deanery whilst currently remaining in the Weymouth deanery.

Changes in pastoral reorganisation have also meant that the HfD priest has been left without any close colleagues. In the diocese it is our desire to offer clergy support in ministry by bringing together full and part-time colleagues and lay ministers to form a supportive local team. It is our aim always to link a HfD priest with full-time colleagues for support and encouragement. The Bride Valley on one side of Bridport also could be quite isolating for a sole incumbent, although she has been grateful for, until recently, two associate (SSM) clergy colleagues. It has been gratifying to see over the last year closer collaboration between the clergy of these two benefices, offering support to one another and a new energy reflected also in the proposed Pastoral Scheme.

Dorchester and the Winterbournes team ministry, mentioned in one of the representations, was not considered as a suitable partner for Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring. It is already a large team embracing the whole of the County town of Dorchester, including the new growing community of Poundbury, together with some of the rural hinterland. Enlarging that Dorchester deanery to take in a coastal area the other side of Weymouth would not be appropriate. The Winterbournes firmly look towards Dorchester, whereas the Bride Valley and Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring have a coastal outlook and firmly all fit in the boundary between the A30 and the coast, between Weymouth and Bridport. The Winterbournes are currently also Overseen by a HfD minister, and therefore there would also not be enough ministry strength in the rural areas to bring together these two benefices.

2. Workload

The diocese is firmly committed to a full-time incumbent in the benefice, working together with a HfD minister based in Portesham. This proposed Pastoral Scheme will not therefore change the workload of either priest. In addition, there has been an Associate Priest in the Bride Valley, who was also chaplain to the prison on Portland. It is to this that the Patron refers. Sadly, this priest died last year, having retired and been granted PTO. There is, however, a further Associate Priest (not mentioned in the correspondence) in the Bride Valley, who currently works alongside the incumbent, who would, with the HfD priest, form a team of three active priests.

The Incumbent in the Bride Valley has also built up a strong lay ministry team and, although some of the Licensed Lay Ministers have retired, the new benefice will have between them five Lay Worship Leaders, four Lay Pastoral Assistants and a Lay Pioneer minister. There is one Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) and one active retired priest also in the Bride Valley.

The Bride Valley, and Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring have worked hard in recent years to bring together PCCs, and the Bride Valley has a very effective benefice Council.

I think that it is appropriate to say that the current incumbent of the Bride Valley is moving to a benefice nearer to Poole for family reasons. Neither the workload nor the proposed pastoral

reorganisation is the reason for such a move. The incumbent is one of our most able priests and has enjoyed enabling the parishes in the Bride Valley to work together, raising up new lay leadership and working with neighbouring clergy colleagues. Had she remained in the developing benefice, in due course it would have been looked upon favourably as a place for a training curate.

3. Commitment to a HfD priest

There will continue to be a HfD priest in Portesham, who will primarily minister to those three parishes, however with an emphasis on collaboration and partnership, it would be expected that all the clergy and lay leaders share their gifts and skills across the benefice and to work together for the good of all. This would include support with occasional officers and schools. On retirement the current HfD priest will be replaced. We believe that this post will be more attractive in the future if it were part of a large benefice clergy and lay team.

The late Revd Sue Langford had been a self-supporting minister, living in the benefice and licensed as a Chaplain to HM Portland before being granted PTO on her 70th birthday. The Revd Liz Howlett moved to the Othona Community, located within the benefice, and was licenced to the benefice in April 2020 as a self-supporting Associate priest.

4. Comparison with neighbouring benefices

The staffing across the benefice compares favourably with that of neighbouring benefices. This will change will not increase the current workload by adding additional.

Benefice	Population	Churches	Clergy
Bride Valley	2,580	8	1.0
Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring	1,260	3	HfD
Beaminster Team	7,550	15	1.5
Bridport	12,900	5	2.0
Charminster	5,190	6	1.0
Stour Vale	2,020	7	1.0
Piddle Valley	1,860	6	1.0

Also, for comparison, the former benefice of Chickerell, Fleet, Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring had a population of 6580 with one full-time and one HfD priest.

5. Lay Ministry

Lay ministry continues to develop in the diocese, particularly in our rural areas. As already mentioned, the incumbent of the Bride Valley has spent much time developing lay ministry and leaves it in good heart. This includes support for the benefice administration. There are parish officers in most churches offering their time and expertise. This pastoral proposal is not based on the number of active lay ministers, although, of course, local resources to manage change are a contributing factor. It is our expectation as a diocese that the continued development of lay ministry will resource our rural areas. We have an increasing number of retired clergy moving into the area seeking some kind of active ministry, and are looking to consider how our schools ministry can be further resourced. In the Lyme Bay deanery we have also recently agreed to replace a Pioneer minister with someone who has an emphasis on the arts around Bridport. Our expectation would be that, in deanery plans, such a

person would also offer a resource across the villages of the Bride Valley, particularly Burton Bradstock and Abbotsbury, with both villages having many seasonal and summer visitors.

6. Financial Implications

The original benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring, Chickerell and Fleet was not paying, via parish Share, the cost of its ministry (one full-time and a HfD priest). Changes in pastoral reorganisation now make that possible, with Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring being asked for a parish Share of £25,379 (in 2022), of which they were able to contribute £19,964.

Bride Valley had been asked for a parish Share of £73,796 (in 2022) which they contributed in full. This covers the cost of a full time incumbent.

The current level of parish Share will therefore pay for ongoing ministry at the current level. Parish Share is always a factor in benefices made up of a number of smaller parishes. We do not, however, believe in this instance that it will be contentious as each parish contributes towards the whole. In addition, under the present Share scheme, merging the benefices would result in the joint benefice being much more securely in the Share band requiring no adjustments. The Share scheme regards each parish as a discrete entity within each benefice, entirely responsible for raising and paying Share. The merger would therefore result in no implications for Share.

The diocese will be introducing a revised Share scheme in the next two years. Bringing together these two benefices will offer a strong financial basis on which the cost of ministry is met, with the introduction of mutual support between parishes. This is needed as some of the parishes in the Bride Valley are more prosperous than others, and places like Abbotsbury, which has struggled with a small out of season population, will be strengthened and supported as a result.

7. New Incumbent

We do not believe that the representations are fully aware of how much work has already been done with the clergy beginning to work together and, whilst this has not been pre-empting any agreement to pastoral reorganisation, we do believe that there is a momentum which we would lose if we appoint a new incumbent only to the Bride Valley. This would cause a great deal of uncertainty in Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring, who would like to move ahead with their mission and ministry in a greater partnership.

We also think it would be detrimental in the short term to an appointment of a new incumbent and to the vision of the Bride Valley as a benefice. Ideally, we would like the Associate Priest in the Bride Valley and the Associate Minister of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring to be part of any profile writing and appointment process of any new colleague. We believe that it is important that any new incumbent has clarity on the expectations of the role and the colleagues they would be working with.

The deanery of Lyme Bay is also very keen to embrace the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring and incorporate it into its plans.

8. Mission

We believe, having understood the needs of these rural and coastal communities, that their mission would be best served as one benefice. Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring have missed out by being in the Weymouth deanery where the emphasis has been on the provision of ministry to the

urban, and poorer areas. The mission plan for that deanery has significant urban and community priorities.

Meanwhile the mission plan of Lyme Bay deanery is to provide support both for the market town of Bridport and for the rural and coastal hinterland, which continues west down the coast towards Lyme Regis and would continue east to Langton Herring.

There is a need across the deanery to embrace tourism. Recently a pilgrim path has been established along the coast from Abbotsbury west to the Golden Cap and then inland to Whitchurch Canonorum. There is a desire for churches to be 'walker friendly' and open. As a diocese, we would like to continue to support our rural communities and some of our more 'fragile' churches. This pastoral plan would ensure that the strengths of many churches would support those that are weaker and would build on the best.

Whilst population growth continues to decline and second homes continue to prosper, there is also a need for realism. Litton Cheney has a population of only 357 and, whilst it has a school in the village, manages to maintain a regular congregation because of a flexible worship pattern developed in the Bride Valley. It is this kind of development which must be encouraged because it demonstrates that many of these village congregations and churches could not survive without mutual support across a larger area. The largest village of the Bride Valley is Burton Bradstock (population 934) and therefore, by bringing both Abbotsbury (population 481) and Portesham (population 685) into the benefice, there will be some further opportunity to share resources and develop support for the smaller villages and hamlets.

9. Further considerations: Consultation

Considerable consultation took place before the drawing up of the pastoral plan and its proposal to the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee in June 2022 that it proceeds to formal consultation. By then all the parishes were aware of the proposal and had met with the Archdeacon.

The Archdeacon met with the joint PCCs of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring in September 2021 on the departure of the then Priest-in-Charge. The options discussed were moving to Lyme Bay deanery and joining with the Bride Valley to become one benefice, or remaining in Weymouth and Portland deanery and becoming part of the Radipole and Melcombe Regis Team. The view of the meeting was very much that a move to join with the Bride Valley would be preferable because of the shared rural and coastal nature of the parishes. (The Radipole Team is very urban in nature).

A period of discernment followed with meetings between the Incumbent of the Bride Valley and the HfD priest of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring. The incumbent of the Bride Valley also consulted the patron and the churchwardens of the individual churches. This led to a Bride Valley benefice wide meeting of all PCC members with the Archdeacon in January 2022. Most participants were positive about the proposals. The PCC of Litton Cheney, however, requested a further meeting with the Archdeacon. This took place in March 2022. All the parishes were formally consulted by the diocese on the plans in the summer and autumn of 2022 with all but the parish of Litton Cheney agreeing to the proposal.

I hope this letter helps the Commissioners' Mission and Pastoral Committee to discern that due process has been carried out with much care and consensus. The clergy and PCCs are very pleased to work in the way proposed and already new relationships are bearing fruit.

I wish you well with your deliberations. If a hearing is held, the Archdeacon of Sherborne will attend as my representative to speak in favour of the proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stephen Lake". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

The Rt Revd Stephen Lake
Bishop of Salisbury

PARISH INFORMATION FORM**P100**

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

BENEFICE	The Bride Valley	
Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge (Date of institution/licensing)	The Reverend Jane Williams (18 th July 2019)	
Patron(s)	Sir Philip Williams and Mr George Pitt Rivers	
Parsonage house (address)	The Rectory, Church Street, Burton Bradstock, BRIDPORT, DT6 4QS	
PARISH	Parish of Burton Bradstock & Chilcombe	
Population of parish (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	950 (taken from the 2011 census)	
Churches and sittings (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	St Mary's Burton Bradstock, Parish Church 12 th Century	Chapel of ease, Chilcombe 12 th Century
Church services and numbers attending (See Note 2 overleaf) <i>Example:</i> <u>1st Sunday</u> 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	<u>Sundays</u> 1 st Sunday 11am Songs of Praise (Outreach and mission) (44) 2 nd Sunday 11am Holy Communion (Common Worship) (31) 3 rd Sunday 8am Holy Communion (BCP) (7) 9.30am Café Church (new fresh expression) (29) 4 th Sunday 11am Holy Communion (31) Evening Prayer (BCP, winter only) (6) 5 th Sunday United Benefice Service (51) 1 st Wednesday Midweek HC at 11.30 followed by lunch (10)	<u>Sundays</u> 4 th Sunday only Evening Prayer (BCP Summer time only) (15) Please note, this service is attended mainly by parishioners of Burton Bradstock
Electoral roll (for the last five years – the most recent first)	76, 75, 75, 82, 87	
Staff/lay assistance (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	Associate Priest Liz Howlett (1 Sunday per month) Retired Priest Ryder Rodgers (2 or 3 services per month) Licensed Lay Minister (Lay Reader) James Webster (with PTO) Lay Worship Leaders x3, LPAs x4 (for the Benefice)	
Church traditions and characteristics of that style of worship	St Mary's BB - Mixed ecology ranging from informal café church to Holy Communion in traditional language, due to there only being one denomination in the village we have people who identify as Roman Catholic who attend as well as those from non-conformist backgrounds.	Chilcombe is a Chapel of Ease – has 1 x BCP Service during the summer months
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).	<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> Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests	

Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders	Burton Bradstock (BB) has a full bellringing team which has a good reputation and regularly has visitors. BB has monthly weekday HC followed by a light lunch with a regular congregation of above 10 Monthly coffee mornings held in church and lead a coffee morning bi annually in the village hall Open the Book team Our Christian weekly Tot's Time (term time) is held in the church/churchyard, regular attendance above 10	
Other parochial and/or community buildings	None	<i>Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use</i>
Other denominations	None	
Sociological make-up of parish (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural, main industries: tourism and agriculture, high number of second homes	
Shopping and other local facilities (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	Post Office, Pubs x2, Hotel x1, Restaurant x1, Fuel station with a shop attached, Garage – car sales and maintenance. Lots of Holiday homes and 3 x caravan parks	
Bus services (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)	Daily regular bus service, more frequent in the summer. Weekly free service to supermarket	

	POPULATION	
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>	The population is static
2	<i>How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?</i>	Largely within the village with some outlying farms and houses
	PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.	
3	<i>Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?</i>	3
4	<i>To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?</i>	Varies, approx 5 per Sunday
5	<i>Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.</i>	Yes, we benefit from regular visits from holidaymakers all year round and also second home owners visit
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, but some do attend other denominations in the local area eg RC and non-conformist
7	<i>Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.</i>	No
	CHURCH SCHOOLS	
8	<i>Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.</i>	Burton Bradstock CE VC School
9	<i>Approximately how many pupils are there?</i>	95
10	<i>From which area are they drawn?</i>	Locally including the local town of Bridport
11	<i>Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.</i>	No
12	<i>Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.</i>	St Mary's CE Primary Bridport Bridport Primary Thorners CE VA Primary Litton Cheney Loders CE Primary The Sir John Colefox Academy
	MISCELLANEOUS	
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>	The parish share is £28,437 and paid in full. Each parish contributes a percentage towards the clergy expenses via the Benefice Council
14	<i>Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.</i>	There are no Trust Funds, for info the following are restricted funds: Welcome Project £14,48, General Fabric £6527 & small sundry accounts. Total restricted £22,797 General unrestricted £51,049

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

There is a significantly higher proportion of older adults living in this parish compared to the England average. The village has a beach (Hive Beach), it is a popular tourist destination, particularly in the summer, but also all year round

**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)**

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>
<i>On the local formal consultations:</i>	<i>The PCC discussed the proposals on 7/2/2022, 9/5/2022, 1/8/22 and 10/10/22 and were in acceptance</i>		
<i>On the published draft Scheme:</i>			

Completed by The Reverend Jane Williams (Rector)

Date 22nd June 2023

Note 1:	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.)
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Note 2:	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.
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BENEFICE	The Bride Valley		
Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge (Date of institution/licensing)	The Reverend Jane Williams (18 th July 2019)		
Patron(s)	Sir Philip Williams and Mr George Pitt Rivers		
Parsonage house (address)	The Rectory, Church Street, Burton Bradstock, BRIDPORT, DT6 4QS		
PARISH	Parish of Littlebredy		
Population of parish (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	Currently 85 in total (7 children) from the Estate owner, Sir Philip Williams, also Patron		
Churches and sittings (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	St Michael and All Angels, Parish Church Some parts are medieval, with 19 th century additions		
Church services and numbers attending (See Note 2 overleaf) Example: <u>1st Sunday</u> 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	<u>Sundays</u> 2 nd Sunday 11am Holy Communion (Traditional Language – BCP) 4 th Sunday 11am Holy Communion (Traditional Language – BCP) Occasionally Morning Prayer BCP or Morning Worship CW replaces a HC service led by a layperson. Usual Sunday attendance is between 8-12 adults.		
Electoral roll (for the last five years – the most recent first)	24, 24, 24, 24, 23		
Staff/lay assistance (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	Associate Priest Liz Howlett (1 Sunday per month) Retired Priest Ryder Rodgers (2 or 3 services per month) Licensed Lay Minister (Lay Reader) James Webster (with PTO) Lay Worship Leaders x3, LPAs x4 (for the Benefice)		
Church traditions and characteristics of that style of worship	The preferred style of service at Littlebredy has been low church/BCP although there is an appetite for more modern services occasionally.	If there is more than one church in the parish please indicate any difference in the church traditions in the individual churches	
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).	<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> Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests		
Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders	I think it's fair to say Littlebredy is a close knit community and Festivals are very well attended by villagers and their relatives even if they do not attend regularly throughout the year.		
Other parochial and/or community buildings	There is a village hall	Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use	
Other denominations	None		
Sociological make-up of parish (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural: Littlebredy is an Traditional, estate village		
Shopping and other local facilities (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	None		

Bus services (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)	None
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	POPULATION	
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>	Mainly in the village with some outlying farms and houses
	PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.	
3	<i>Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?</i>	Static population
4	<i>To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?</i>	3 or 4 from Long Bredy and 1 from Dorchester, nearby town
5	<i>Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.</i>	No
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>	Yes, on alternate Sundays some parishioners attend church in neighbouring Long Bredy
7	<i>Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.</i>	No
	CHURCH SCHOOLS	
8	<i>Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.</i>	No
9	<i>Approximately how many pupils are there?</i>	NA
10	<i>From which area are they drawn?</i>	NA
11	<i>Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.</i>	NA
12	<i>Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.</i>	Thorner's, Litton Cheney
	MISCELLANEOUS	
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>	The parish share is £5,591.19, paid in full, the PCC reimburse clergy and other expenses via a contribution to the Benefice Council
14	<i>Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.</i>	None

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

There is a significantly higher proportion of older adults in this parish compared to the England average.

**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)**

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>
<i>On the local formal consultations:</i>	<i>The PCC have been discussing the proposal for the last 2 years and are mainly in favour of the change, I believe Sir Philip has made representation</i>		
<i>On the published draft Scheme:</i>			

Completed by The reverend Jane Williams (Rector)

Date 22nd June 2023

Note 1:	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.)
Note 2:	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.

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Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge (Date of institution/licensing)	The Reverend Jane Williams (18 th July 2019)																						
Patron(s)	Sir Philip Williams and Mr George Pitt Rivers																						
Parsonage house (address)	The Rectory, Church Street, Burton Bradstock, BRIDPORT, DT6 4QS																						
PARISH	Parish of Litton Cheney																						
Population of parish (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	330 (according to Census 2011) 349 (in 2021 census)																						
Churches and sittings (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	St Mary's, Parish Church was built in 14th/15 th Century and restored 1878. (Although first vicar recorded as 1207!)																						
Church services and numbers attending (See Note 2 overleaf) Example: <u>1st Sunday</u> 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	<p><u>Sundays</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1st Sunday</td><td>9.30 am</td><td>Morning Worship</td><td>Benefice booklet</td></tr> <tr> <td>2nd Sunday</td><td>9.30am</td><td>Holy Communion</td><td>(Trad Lang, BCP)</td></tr> <tr> <td>3rd Sunday</td><td>9.30am</td><td>Morning Prayer</td><td>(BCP)</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">(This has recently change to 6pm Evensong BCP for the summer months)</td></tr> <tr> <td>4th Sunday</td><td>9.30am</td><td>Holy Communion</td><td>Common Worship</td></tr> </table> <p>Average numbers attending - 16</p>			1st Sunday	9.30 am	Morning Worship	Benefice booklet	2 nd Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion	(Trad Lang, BCP)	3 rd Sunday	9.30am	Morning Prayer	(BCP)	(This has recently change to 6pm Evensong BCP for the summer months)				4 th Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion	Common Worship
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(This has recently change to 6pm Evensong BCP for the summer months)																							
4 th Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion	Common Worship																				
Electoral roll (for the last five years – the most recent first)	35, 38, 41, 41, 41																						
Staff/lay assistance (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	Associate Priest Liz Howlett (1 Sunday per month) Retired Priest Ryder Rodgers (2 or 3 services per month) Licensed Lay Minister (Lay Reader) James Webster (with PTO) Lay Worship Leaders x3, LPAs x4 (for the Benefice)																						
Church traditions and characteristics of that style of worship	A mix 50/50 of contemporary and traditional language with occasional choir input	If there is more than one church in the parish please indicate any difference in the church traditions in the individual churches																					
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).	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td><td>YES</td><td>NO</td><td>NOT VOTED</td></tr> <tr> <td>Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </table>				YES	NO	NOT VOTED	Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>												
	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	A choir who practise weekly 12 members A full team of bell ringers who practise weekly 8 members Monthly coffee mornings during the Autumn/Winter months usually attended by about 12 adults and 3 or 4 children.																						
Other parochial and/or community buildings	None	Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use																					
Other denominations	None																						
Sociological make-up of parish (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural, Main industry: tourism and agriculture including a vineyard																						

Shopping and other local facilities (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	1 Pub Holiday properties and a campsite with facilities
Bus services (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)	Weekly bus to Dorchester (nearest town) which needs booking

	POPULATION	
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>	Slight increase since 2011
2	<i>How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?</i>	Mainly within the village with some people living just outside
	PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.	
3	<i>Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?</i>	1
4	<i>To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?</i>	3 regulars
5	<i>Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.</i>	We do occasionally get visitors
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>	Usually on 5 th Sunday there is a United Benefice Service and the choir/bellringers from Litton Cheney are sometimes asked to sing/ring.
7	<i>Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.</i>	A very small number attend other denominations elsewhere.
	CHURCH SCHOOLS	
8	<i>Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.</i>	Litton Cheney, Thorner's CE VA Primary School
9	<i>Approximately how many pupils are there?</i>	92 (22 in Pre-school)
10	<i>From which area are they drawn?</i>	Locally, but extending to Weymouth/Bridport
11	<i>Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.</i>	Yes, there is a modern hall which is bookable
12	<i>Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.</i>	Burton Bradstock School
	MISCELLANEOUS	
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>	The parish share is £17,336 and paid in full
14	<i>Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.</i>	Rev Joseph Cox Fund £10,880 Anon Bell Fund £9,400

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

There is a significantly higher proportion of older adults in this parish compared to the England average.

**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)**

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>
<i>On the local formal consultations:</i>	0	8	1
<i>On the published draft Scheme:</i>	0	8	1

Completed by The Reverend Jane Williams (Rector)

Date 22nd June 2023

Note 1:	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.)
Note 2:	D9 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.
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PARISH INFORMATION FORM

P100

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

BENEFICE	The Bride Valley	
Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge (Date of institution/licensing)	The Reverend Jane Williams (18 th July 2019)	
Patron(s)	Sir Philip Williams and Mr George Pitt Rivers	
Parsonage house (address)	The Rectory, Church Street, Burton Bradstock, BRIDPORT, DT6 4QS	
PARISH	Parish of Long Bredy	
Population of parish (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	290 (taken from the 2011 census)	
Churches and sittings (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	St Peter, Parish Church 12 th Century	
Church services and numbers attending (See Note 2 overleaf) <i>Example:</i> <u>1st Sunday</u> 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	<u>Sundays</u> 1 st Sunday 11am Holy Communion (Traditional Language, BCP) (10) 3 rd Sunday 9.30 Morning Prayer (Mix of CW or BCP) (10) Weekdays Usually on Monday morning at 9am: Morning Prayer (BCP) Usual attendance (4-6)	
Electoral roll (for the last five years – the most recent first)	23, 23, 23, 25, 24	
Staff/lay assistance (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	Associate Priest Liz Howlett (1 Sunday per month) Retired Priest Ryder Rodgers (2 or 3 services per month) Licensed Lay Minister (Lay Reader) James Webster (with PTO) Lay Worship Leaders x3, LPAs x4 (for the Benefice)	
Church traditions and characteristics of that style of worship	Traditional liturgy is used in an informal way, with a warm welcome to all who attend, usually a mix of people from the village of Long Bredy and neighbouring Littlebredy.	<i>If there is more than one church in the parish please indicate any difference in the church traditions in the individual churches</i>
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).	<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>	
Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders	There is a dedicated team of bellringers at Long Bredy and they are currently introducing an electronic bell system for when they don't have enough ringers. A longstanding tradition is to toll the bell at funerals to correspond with the age of the deceased, this is greatly appreciated by mourners. Despite the lack of facilities, eg running water, the hospitality at Long bredy is excellent and this doesn't stop them serving refreshments after morning Worship monthly.	
Other parochial and/or community buildings	There is a village hall which is widely used by the community.	<i>Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use</i>
Other denominations	None	
Sociological make-up of parish (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural: main industry: farming	

Shopping and other local facilities (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	Facilities are limited in Long Bredy, but there is great community support from a small number of parishioners, mostly churchgoers, but not exclusively. It is a very active community group.
Bus services (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)	None

	POPULATION	
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.)	Static
2	How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?	Mainly in the village with some outlying farms and houses.
	PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.	
3	Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?	One
4	To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?	Occasional attendances – more for special services .
5	Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.	No
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).	No, although there are parishioners who attend the nearby RC Church.
7	Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.	No, not really.
	CHURCH SCHOOLS	
8	Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.	No
9	Approximately how many pupils are there?	NA
10	From which area are they drawn?	NA
11	Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.	NA
12	Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.	Thorners School, In neighbouring Litton Cheney.
	MISCELLANEOUS	
13	What is the parish share, and to what extent does the PCC meet the working expenses of the clergy or lay workers?	The parish share is £5,895.12 for 2022 paid in full, the PCC reimburse expenses via a contribution to the Benefice Council.
14	Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.	None

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

There is a significantly higher proportion of older adults in this parish compared to the England average.

**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)**

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>
<i>On the local formal consultations:</i>	<i>five</i>	<i>one</i>	
<i>On the published draft Scheme:</i>	<i>five</i>	<i>one</i>	

Completed by The Reverend Jane Williams (Rector)

Date 22nd June 2023

Note 1:	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.)
Note 2:	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

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BENEFICE	The Bride Valley		
Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge (Date of institution/licensing)	The Reverend Jane Williams (18 th July 2019)		
Patron(s)	Sir Philip Williams and Mr George Pitt Rivers		
Parsonage house (address)	The Rectory, Church Street, Burton Bradstock, BRIDPORT, DT6 4QS		
PARISH	Parish of Puncknowle		
Population of parish (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	470 (from the 2011 Census)		
Churches and sittings (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Parish Church Built in 12 th Century		
Church services and numbers attending (See Note 2 overleaf) Example: <u>1st Sunday</u> 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	<u>Sundays</u> 1 st Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion (Trad language, not BCP) 2 nd Sunday No service (used to hold an evening prayer, but was recently stopped due to falling numbers) 3 rd Sunday 11am Holy Communion (Modern language, CW) 4 th Sunday 9.30 Joint Breakfast Church with Swyre and West Bexington (this is a new fresh expression since Sept 2022 and is under review), held in the village hall which used to be the school, then the church hall.		
Electoral roll (for the last five years – the most recent first)	8, 15, 15, 15, 15		
Staff/lay assistance (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	Associate Priest Liz Howlett (1 Sunday per month) Retired Priest Ryder Rodgers (2 or 3 services per month) Licensed Lay Minister (Lay Reader) James Webster (with PTO) Lay Worship Leaders x3, LPAs x4 (for the Benefice)		
Church traditions and characteristics of that style of worship	Our services follow a formal liturgy, but are informal in nature and welcoming, each service is followed by coffee in the pub opposite We have recently been looking at how to adapt and change in response to some new congregants who are thinking of joining the PCC once they join the Electoral Roll!	<i>If there is more than one church in the parish please indicate any difference in the church traditions in the individual churches</i>	
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).	<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>		
Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders	We held a recent successful flower festival for the coronation, there is an appetite to hold more like this		
Other parochial and/or community buildings	The village hall is a very good resource	Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use	
Other denominations	None		
Sociological make-up of parish (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural, main industries; farming and tourism		
Shopping and other local facilities (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	1 x pub and several holiday homes as well as a campsite. The family who own the manor house are very supportive of our church and allow us to use their grounds for our annual fete.		

Bus services (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)	There is a weekly community bus service which needs to be booked, mid week		
POPULATION			
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.)	The population is static	
2	How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?	Mainly in the village with some outlying farms and houses	
PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.			
3	Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?	None	
4	To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?	Usual congregation members live in the village with occasional holidaymakers throughout the year.	
5	Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.	See above	
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).	No, although some travel outside for other denominations	
7	Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.	No	
CHURCH SCHOOLS			
8	Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.	No	
9	Approximately how many pupils are there?	NA	
10	From which area are they drawn?	NA	
11	Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.	NA	
12	Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.	Thorner's School, in neighbouring Litton Cheney	
MISCELLANEOUS			
13	What is the parish share, and to what extent does the PCC meet the working expenses of the clergy or lay workers?	Our parish share is £6,197.52 paid in full, the parish contributes a percentage to the Benefice Council towards clergy and other benefice expenses, e.g administrative support	
14	Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.	None	
ARE THERE ANY OTHER FACTUAL POINTS WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS TO UNDERSTAND THE CHARACTER OF THE PARISH BETTER ?			
There is a significantly higher proportion of older adults in this parish compared to the England average.			

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:	The PCC have been discussing the proposal for the last 2 years and are in favour of the change, noting that we were linked with "Abbotsbury Deanery" about 100 years ago!		
On the published draft Scheme:			

Completed by The Reverend Jane Williams (Rector)

Date 22nd June 2023

Note 1:	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.)
Note 2:	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

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BENEFICE	The Bride Valley	
Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge (Date of institution/licensing)	The Reverend Jane Williams (18 th July 2019)	
Patron(s)	Sir Philip Williams and Mr George Pitt Rivers	
Parsonage house (address)	The Rectory, Church Street, Burton Bradstock, BRIDPORT, DT6 4QS	
PARISH	Parish of Shipton Gorge	
Population of parish (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	380 (obtained from the 2011 census)	
Churches and sittings (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	St Martin's, Parish Church, tower built in 14 th Century, Church 17 th with a Victorian rebuild 1862	
Church services and numbers attending (See Note 2 overleaf) Example: <u>1st Sunday</u> 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	<u>Sundays</u> 2nd Sunday Breakfast Church held in the neighbouring village hall Average numbers 18 4th Sunday Holy Communion (CW) Average numbers 6 5th Sunday United Valley Service Annual: Pet Service, Remembrance Service. Mothering Sunday	
Electoral roll (for the last five years – the most recent first)	49, 51, 51, 56, 56	
Staff/lay assistance (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	Associate Priest Liz Howlett (1 Sunday per month) Retired Priest Ryder Rodgers (2 or 3 services per month) Licensed Lay Minister (Lay Reader) James Webster (with PTO) Lay Worship Leaders x3, LPAs x4 (for the Benefice)	
Church traditions and characteristics of that style of worship	Holy Communion (Common Worship CW) Breakfast Church is a fresh expression which started in 2021 and is flourishing (It is now lay-led)	<i>If there is more than one church in the parish please indicate any difference in the church traditions in the individual churches</i>
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).	<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> Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests	
Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders	We have recently trained a band of bell-ringers from within the community who rang for the coronation – this is an exciting development	
Other parochial and/or community buildings	Former church hall which is now the village hall	<i>Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use</i>
Other denominations	None	
Sociological make-up of parish (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural, mainly agriculture and tourism	
Shopping and other local facilities (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	There is a successful community run pub	

Bus services (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)	None
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	POPULATION	
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.)	Static
2	How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?	Mainly within the village with some outlying houses and farms nearby
	PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.	
3	Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?	None
4	To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?	Some are second home owners, others are holidaymakers
5	Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.	Occasionally we get visitors on holiday
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).	Some parishioners attend other denominations in nearby Bridport, closest town, generally as RC or non-conformist
7	Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.	See above
	CHURCH SCHOOLS	
8	Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.	Not in the village, but in the neighbouring village of Burton Bradstock
9	Approximately how many pupils are there?	Not applicable (NA)
10	From which area are they drawn?	NA
11	Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.	NA
12	Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.	St Mary's CE Primary Bridport Bridport Primary Thorners CE VA Primary Litton Cheney Loders CE Primary The Sir John Colefox Academy
	MISCELLANEOUS	
13	What is the parish share, and to what extent does the PCC meet the working expenses of the clergy or lay workers?	The parish share is currently £8,719 and is paid in full
14	Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.	None

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

There is a significantly higher proportion of older adults in this parish compared to the England average.

**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)**

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>
On the local formal consultations:	The PCC have been discussing the proposal for the last 2 years and are all in favour of the change.		
On the published draft Scheme:			

Completed by The Reverend Jane Williams (Rector)

Date 22nd June 2022

Note 1:	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.)
Note 2:	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**

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BENEFICE	The Bride Valley
Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge (Date of institution/licensing)	The Reverend Jane Williams (18 th July 2019)
Patron(s)	Sir Philip Williams and Mr George Pitt Rivers
Parsonage house (address)	The Rectory, Church Street, Burton Bradstock, BRIDPORT, DT6 4QS
PARISH	Parish of Swyre
Population of parish (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	90 (obtained from the 2011 Census)
Churches and sittings (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	Holy Trinity Parish Church (The current building date is 1844, with the Chancel Arch and Tower dating from the 14 th Century, probably on the footprint of an older and smaller church)
Church services and numbers attending (See Note 2 overleaf) <i>Example:</i> <i>1st Sunday</i> <i>10.00am</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Common Worship A</i> <i>(30)</i>	<p><u>Sundays</u> 1st Sunday 6pm Evening Prayer (3pm in wintertime)</p> <p>2nd Sunday 11am Holy Communion (Common Worship)</p> <p>3rd Sunday 11am Morning Worship</p> <p>4th Sunday 9.30 Breakfast Church (this is a new fresh expression since Sept 2022 and is under review)</p> <p>During August we hold a Songs of Praise Service each Sunday evening at 6pm and encourage people on holiday and from the local caravan sites to join us. Numbers attending – average 12</p> <p><u>Weekdays</u> Monthly 3rd Friday at 10am Reflective Prayer based on Julian of Norwich Numbers attending – 4-8</p>
Electoral roll (for the last five years – the most recent first)	12, 12, 12, 12, 12
Staff/lay assistance (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	Associate Priest Liz Howlett (1 Sunday per month) Retired Priest Ryder Rodgers (2 or 3 services per month) Licensed Lay Minister (Lay Reader) James Webster (with PTO) Lay Worship Leaders x3, LPAs x4 (for the Benefice)
Church traditions and characteristics of that style of worship	The church tradition is very informal and we regularly worship together in the chancel. We often are joined by holidaymakers, up to 50% of the congregation, people are encouraged to do a bible reading when they arrive. The ambition is to become part of the small pilgrim network. The reflective nature of the Julian Group is appreciated by people from across the Benefice.
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).	<div style="text-align: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <p>Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests</p>

Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders	We have regular coffee mornings at Festivals and an Easter Egg hunt this Easter. Last year we held a very successful Victorian Evening which locals enjoyed.	
Other parochial and/or community buildings	There are no other community buildings in Swyre	<i>Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use</i>
Other denominations	None	
Sociological make-up of parish (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural, main industries are farming and tourism	
Shopping and other local facilities (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	A pub, under new management	
Bus services (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)	There is an hourly coastal bus service during the summer months, everyday running along the Jurassic Coast route which stops with yards from the church.	

	POPULATION	
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>	The population is static
2	<i>How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?</i>	Mostly across the village with some outlying farms and houses
	PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.	
3	<i>Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?</i>	9 from outside the parish
4	<i>To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?</i>	50%
5	<i>Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.</i>	Yes, although it is a popular holiday destination throughout the year
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, but we do have a quaker family who join us regularly
7	<i>Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.</i>	No
	CHURCH SCHOOLS	
8	<i>Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.</i>	No
9	<i>Approximately how many pupils are there?</i>	NA
10	<i>From which area are they drawn?</i>	NA
11	<i>Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.</i>	NA
12	<i>Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.</i>	Thorner's School in neighbouring Litton Cheney
	MISCELLANEOUS	
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>	Our parish share is £2,720.88, paid in full and we contribute a percentage based on the share to the Benefice Council for benefice expenses, including administration and clergy expenses., do the PCC reimburse expenses?
14	<i>Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.</i>	None

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

There is a significantly higher proportion of older adults in this parish compared to the England average.

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)

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>
<i>On the local formal consultations:</i>	The draft scheme was discussed at length at 4 PCC meetings, a unanimous vote in favour was taken on 01.02.2022. Proposed by Sue Taylor and seconded by Sally Bowsher.		
<i>On the published draft Scheme:</i>			

Completed by The Reverend Jane Williams (Rector) Date 22nd June 2023

Note 1:	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.)
Note 2:	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

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

BENEFICE	Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring	
Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge (Date of institution/licensing)	None	
Patron(s)	The Bishop of Salisbury and The Hon Mrs Charlotte Townshend	
Parsonage house (address)	Portesham Rectory, Church Lane, Portesham, Weymouth, DT3 4HB	
PARISH	Parish of Abbotsbury	
Population of parish (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	490	
Churches and sittings (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	St Nicholas, Parish Church 14 th century	
Church services and numbers attending (See Note 2 overleaf) <i>Example:</i> <u>1st Sunday</u> 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	<u>1st Sunday</u> 11am CW holy Communion order one B sung 10 <u>4th Sunday</u> 10am Informal – sung using Bluetooth speaker 10	<u>2nd Sundays</u> 9am BCP Holy Communion 4 <u>Weekdays. No services</u> <u>Time</u> <u>Service</u> <u>Numbers</u>
Electoral roll (for the last five years – the most recent first)	14 ,13,,20.20.20	
Staff/lay assistance (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	PTO x1	
Church traditions and characteristics of that style of worship	Middle Book of common prayer - common worship order one holy communion	If there is more than one church in the parish please indicate any difference in the church traditions in the individual churches
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).	Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests	YES NO NOT VOTED <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders	PCC - 6	
Other parochial and/or community buildings	Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use	
Other denominations		
Sociological make-up of parish (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	rural	
Shopping and other local facilities (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	Post Office , General store, Pubs x2 , café/tearooms x2, tourist attractions and artisans shops. Pre-school	

Bus services (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)	Buses only 2 hourly through the village connecting to towns on south coast. No actual parish bus service. Car is necessary.
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	POPULATION	
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.)	Staying the same due to building constraints. The village is an 'owned village' with all but 10 houses owned by the estate – these are rented or leasehold. There are only 10 freehold properties in village.
2	How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?	In village
	PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.	
3	Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?	All live in village
4	To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?	none
5	Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.	Not a significant difference
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).	no
7	Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.	no
	CHURCH SCHOOLS	
8	Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.	no
9	Approximately how many pupils are there?	
10	From which area are they drawn?	
11	Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.	
12	Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.	
	MISCELLANEOUS	
13	What is the parish share, and to what extent does the PCC meet the working expenses of the clergy or lay workers?	£8000 yes
14	Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.	Reserves for fabric

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

Abbotsbury is an owned village with very few freehold properties. There are weekend homes. The numbers of true locals is diminishing. High cost of property. Majority of villagers are retired.

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)

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>
<i>On the local formal consultations:</i>	<i>all</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>
<i>On the published draft Scheme:</i>	<i>all</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>

Completed by Margaret Preuss-Higham (Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge/etc.) Date 22/6/2023

Note 1:	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.)
Note 2:	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

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

BENEFICE	Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring		
Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge (Date of institution/licensing)	None		
Patron(s)	The Bishop of Salisbury and The Hon Mrs Charlotte Townshend		
Parsonage house (address)	The Rectory, Church Lane, Portesham, Weymouth, DT3 4HB		
PARISH	Parish of Langton Herring		
Population of parish (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	150		
Churches and sittings (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	St Peter, Parish Church		
Church services and numbers attending (See Note 2 overleaf) Example: <u>1st Sunday</u> 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	<u>1st Sunday</u> 9am Book of communion prayer said Eucharist 6 <u>2nd Sunday</u> 11am holy communion order one – not set prayer.sungg using Bluetooth speaker 8 <u>3rd Sunday</u> 10am Informal sung 10	<u>Weekdays - none</u> <u>Time</u> <u>Service</u> <u>Numbers</u>	
Electoral roll (for the last five years – the most recent first)	21, 21, 21, 19, 19		
Staff/lay assistance (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	Church warden		
Church traditions and characteristics of that style of worship	low	If there is more than one church in the parish please indicate any difference in the church traditions in the individual churches	
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).	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> YES NO NOT VOTED </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div>		
Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders	PCC - 4		
Other parochial and/or community buildings	Village for social occasions	Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use	
Other denominations			
Sociological make-up of parish (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural retired - agricultural		

Shopping and other local facilities (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	Pub
Bus services (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)	No service

	POPULATION	
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.)	Static – due to local plan
2	How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?	central
	PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.	
3	Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?	4
4	To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?	occasionally
5	Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.	slightly
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).	no
7	Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.	no
	CHURCH SCHOOLS	no
8	Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.	
9	Approximately how many pupils are there?	
10	From which area are they drawn?	
11	Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.	
12	Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.	
	MISCELLANEOUS	
13	What is the parish share, and to what extent does the PCC meet the working expenses of the clergy or lay workers?	4000 yes
14	Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.	none

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

**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)**

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>
<i>On the local formal consultations:</i>	<i>all</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>
<i>On the published draft Scheme:</i>	<i>all</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>

Completed by(Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge/etc.) Date

Note 1:	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.)
Note 2:	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**

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BENEFICE	Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring		
Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge (Date of institution/licensing)	None		
Patron(s)	The Bishop of Salisbury and The Hon Mrs Charlotte Townshend		
Parsonage house (address)	The Rectory, Church Lane, Portesham, Weymouth, DT3 4HB		
PARISH	Parish of Portesham		
Population of parish (adults & children) (Please state how computed)	680		
Churches and sittings (See Note 1 overleaf) Date built (approx.)	St Peter, Parish Church 11 th /12 th century	St Bartholomew, Chapel of Ease 13 th century	
Church services and numbers attending (See Note 2 overleaf) Example: <u>1st Sunday</u> 10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship A (30)	2 nd Sunday 10am Family praise - sung 25 3 rd Sunday 11am Sung holy communion order 1 CW - B 25 4 rd Sunday 9am Book of common Prayer said worship 10	Rogation, Harvest and St. Bartholomew day service are held here.	
Electoral roll (for the last five years – the most recent first)	42, 43, 44, 44, 41		
Staff/lay assistance (e.g. curates, lay readers, NSMs etc.)	LWL – PTO retired 2 church wardens		
Church traditions and characteristics of that style of worship	Low to middle BCP and common worship order one.	If there is more than one church in the parish please indicate any difference in the church traditions in the individual churches	
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).	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> YES NO NOT VOTED </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div>Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> </div>		
Parochial church organisations and number of regular attenders	PCC -8		
Other parochial and/or community buildings	Village hall – church use for fund raising events. Methodist Church hall -	Please indicate if any building is not primarily for church use	
Other denominations			
Sociological make-up of parish (e.g. rural, industrial, residential etc.)	Rural, agricultural, retirement area, second homes, mostly private housing in excess of £400,000		

Shopping and other local facilities (e.g. Post Office, General Store, Doctor, Dentist, Police Station, Pubs, Clubs, other recreational centres)	Doctors surgery, Pub x 1, general shops, various groups/clubs meet in village hall. Village hall.
Bus services (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)	Buses only 2 hourly through the village connecting to towns on south coast. No designated parish bus service. Car is necessary. Community bus to Dorchester on a Wednesday.

	POPULATION	
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.)	Population remains static due to local building controls
2	How is the population distributed (e.g. in one or more centres, or dispersed over the parish)?	central
	PAROCHIAL LIFE ETC.	
3	Approximately how many of those on the church electoral roll live outside the parish?	none
4	To what extent does the congregation come from outside the parish?	none
5	Does the congregation increase significantly during the holiday season? If so, please give details.	Not a significant difference
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).	No – however some will travel to other churches in benefice.
7	Has any other denomination a strong following in the parish? If so, please give brief details.	Methodist
	CHURCH SCHOOLS	
8	Is there a church school? If so, please state name and type.	Portesham CE VA Primary School
9	Approximately how many pupils are there?	70
10	From which area are they drawn?	Villages of Portesham, Abbotsbury and Langton Herring. From 10 miles away to feed into a secondary school
11	Are the school buildings available for parochial purposes? If so, please give details.	School Hall
12	Please also state name and type of other schools in the area.	none
	MISCELLANEOUS	
13	What is the parish share, and to what extent does the PCC meet the working expenses of the clergy or lay workers?	£12000approx yes
14	Please indicate what, if any, trust funds are available to the parish and for what purposes.	none

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

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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)

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>
<i>On the local formal consultations:</i>	<i>all</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>
<i>On the published draft Scheme:</i>	<i>all</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>

Completed by Margaret Preuss-higham. (Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge/etc.) Date 22/6/2023

Note 1:	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.)
Note 2:	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.
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Representations against the draft Scheme

From a representor who wished to remain anonymous

Dear Matthew

I am very concerned about the current proposal to amalgamate the Parishes of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring with the current Bride Valley Benefice. The benefice already covers 8 rural parishes and these concerns are broadly the following, though there is clearly some overlap:

- Adding three additional parishes to an already large rural benefice will seriously impact on the Rector's ability to effectively administer his/her duties. It is already noticeable that in conducting responsibilities to the current parishes within the benefice these can be significantly stretched at times. Most Churches are only able to offer communion services on a fortnightly basis at present. One more recent example of this is the increase in the necessity to undertake communion by extension, which according to the guidelines should only be used occasionally in exceptional circumstances.
- I do have reservations about the ability of a rector to serve such a large benefice without it proving significantly detrimental to their own well being and health. I believe most would become increasingly frustrated knowing that they are not able to serve the community in the manner they would want and to the high standard they would desire.
- At a time when congregations in all areas are relatively small I am concerned that if parishioners do not feel they are being served appropriately by their local church and minister they are more likely to either leave the church completely or at least to stop attending local parish services and perhaps look to worship elsewhere. This of course not only applies to the spiritual needs of the community but also to the more pastoral nature of a rector's work, which will be spread ever more thinly.
- While I do not know all the details I understand that there are differences in the way some of the parishes handle their finances with some having a 'Friends Of ..' scheme which limits the amount of funding they have to send to the Dioceses. This does seem very unfair as it will disadvantage some of the parishes already within the Benefice and any considerations should ensure financial arrangements are on an even playing field.

I do trust that these and the many other concerns raised by parishioners within the Bride Valley Benefice will be heeded and that it will be realised that any such amalgamation would prove to be detrimental to both the current benefice and to those parishes joining and would have a negative impact on all concerned.

Yours Sincerely.

From Wendy Firrell

Comments on the Pastoral Scheme to unite the seven parishes of the Bride Valley Benefice with the parishes of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring, thus forming "The Benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil"

As a parishioner of St. Mary's Litton Cheney for over twenty years I wish to **oppose** the proposed Pastoral Scheme for several reasons.

The seven parishes of The Bride Valley Benefice are already suffering from a dwindling number of LLMs and LWLs due to old-age, illness and disillusion. This adds to the ever-increasing workload of our present Rector and thus to a reduced number of services and pastoral care. Our Rector is now due to leave us at the end of July, for perfectly understandable reasons, but this will throw us into our third interregnum in ten years – the first two being as a result of the tragic deaths of two of our previous Rectors. What we have been told is that one of the benefits of the amalgamation is the extra clergy support provided by the Assistant Priest based in Portesham. However she is only part-time, nearing retirement age, and already trying to cope with the three other parishes, which is unlikely to give time for her to offer much help, if any, to our seven parishes, particularly during an interregnum.

The finances of the three parishes are of great concern and this aspect does not appear to have been dealt with. Abbotsbury and Portesham have large historical debt and this really does need to be addressed. There is no way these debts can ever be paid – surely they should be written off so that any amalgamation could start with a clean slate? The constitution of their “Friends” also needs to be changed to allow funds to be used for Share as well as maintenance of the buildings.

Geographically, combining the Bride Valley Benefice with the three parishes further east is going to create a 12-mile long journey from one end to the other, making travelling hard for any future incumbent, along narrow country lanes used by horse-riders, cyclists, runners, and in the summer months caravans and campervans, or alternatively using the main coast road frequently shrouded in sea mist or fog and which is notoriously accident-prone. No hope of getting from A to B quickly to take a second or third service on a Sunday morning.

As a suggestion, joining the three parishes with The Winterbournes Team Ministry would seem to be a far better choice – they have several clergy and a direct link over the hill via a main road, which would make travelling much easier thus giving three struggling parishes access to a much bigger worshipping community, including the County Town of Dorchester.

I know first-hand the heavy work-load and stress levels of working in a large multi-parish Benefice. It is not good either for an incumbent or the community. Big is not always better, as can be seen from Dorset Council's recent amalgamation to quote but one organization where services have declined and personal contact is virtually non-existent.

From the very beginning of this proposal there has been the whiff of a “done deal” along the lines of “This will be good for you because we say it will, and we know best”. Under the present circumstances I cannot see how all this upheaval will be good for anyone. There is debt, a Church School in Special Measures, a dwindling amount of lay help, and a shortage of Churchwardens and other officers in many of the parishes. Who will want to take all that on?

You will have received several erudite and finely worded comments, but this is just a plea from the heart – please don't allow this amalgamation to happen now – maybe sometime in the future, if it has to be, but first let there be the appointment of a vibrant and energetic new Rector for the Bride Valley Benefice – someone who is prepared to take on all the extra work, responsibility and problems that any future amalgamation with the other three parishes would involve.

An amalgamation will only make things worse for our Benefice and many of us will feel bereft of support in our struggling parishes – a recipe for further decline – is that what you want?

Please, not now – preferably not ever.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wendy Firrell

From Patricia Gates

I fully acknowledge that the Church of England needs to move forward and to get things DONE for the good of those they serve however, I respectfully request that further time, appropriate, worthwhile consultation and consideration be given to the Proposal, for the following reasons:-

- I and fellow Parishoners have not been given sufficient grace let alone information about the benefits or any possible negatives about the Amalgamation. On trying to ascertain facts about what it will practically mean to each Church from individuals involved, it is clear to see that due considerations are extremely muddled and certainly questions have not been given credible answers or concerns placated.
- Appropriate Communication and Consultation methods just seem to be giving lipservice. The word on the street is that "it is a done deal". I have even been given the threat that Churches will close if the Amalgamation does not take place. Therefore if the message received by the community is that the process is not meaningful then the attitude will inevitably be "what is the point in giving or raising questions and concerns"?
- The process being followed seems to lack consistency and transparency. The formal paperwork issued seems just a paper driven exercise. For example communication of open meetings and details of agenda. Time periods surely should be set, opportunities for debate by varying methods need also to be set and the audiences should be informed in good and reasonable time to participate.
- Since the Amalgamation process was implemented early in March the resignation has been received from the Rev Jane Williams. It is clear that the workload and impact of the workload takes its toll already on Officers past and present. Salisbury and ultimately the Church of England surely has a DUTY OF CARE to its Officers and anything that effects their workload. Therefore in the recruitment process it is vital, for the future, that serious reflection and possibly reconsideration, after a comprehensive review, takes place which takes a great deal of investment in time. This investment should surely be undertaken before considering extending the role and the impacts of it.

It would be suggested that a full evaluation of a new role in relation to any possible Amalgamation would need to take place to ensure that the new post holders CONTRACT is appropriate so enabling them to be able to give their full commitment to the post and community. Salisbury surely should be looking at Staff/post turnover and the impacts on previous post holders mental and physical health to avoid any future claims or issues.

Frankly the more I have researched what is proposed the more I am scratching my head as to the reasons of the proposal in its current form and at this time. I believe our community needs better and worthwhile communication which then ultimately will lead to shape a strong and positive recruitment process which will enhance our whole community. At the moment it really does feel that the whatever happens it will be DONE TO US.

Regards

Patricia Gates

From Janet Jackson

Dear Mr Crowe,

I would like to make a personal objection against the proposed amalgamation of the three parishes of Langton Herring, Portesham and Abbotsbury with Bride Valley Benefice. I am a PCC member of Litton Cheney St Mary's Church, also the Lay Chair of Lyme Bay Deanery Synod. I am a member of Diocesan Synod and I have represented Church and Deanery at Salisbury Diocese Bishop's Council for the past eight years.

My initial reaction on hearing of the proposal was 'Why'? How would the Bride Valley Churches benefit from this. We are not struggling neither have we asked for help. There was a general feeling that we are being asked to accommodate a decision that has already been made by those without the understanding or knowledge of this part of the Diocese.

I challenge the rationale that 'pastorally they would both fit together' – even a casual glance at the map and the physical features of the landscape suggests geographical difficulties. We are not all coastal villages and our aims and experiences within our communities vary. I am aware that there are some multi church Benefices within our Diocese – not all happy and where it has been successful is due to differing circumstances which are just not applicable here. Our Church serves and cares for our village community – that kind of care cannot be diluted. An enlarged Benefice cannot support and strengthen the parishes within it particularly with only one, full time incumbent.

"A larger Clergy Team" may I suggest is just a dream. At this time our team consists of our Rector, an Associate priest, one retired Priest, one LLM and three LWL. They struggle to serve eight Churches already and taking on further travelling would impose difficulties. The extra work involved for our Rector would be considerable and I consider to be most unfair in our present circumstances. Listening at Deanery Synod and also to our local congregations, I have learned that parishes really value their priests and look to them for guidance and leadership in both spiritual and pastoral matters. They are regarded as part of village life. Retired locums who very kindly help us can never fill that role.

Administration would pose other problems. There are three Church schools involved. As a past Chair of Thorners Church School in Litton Cheney I know how much I depended on advice and

involvement of our incumbents. I believe our present Rector is equally involved together with Burton Bradstock school. I understand that Portesham school is in need and surely our Rector would not be expected to help out there?

Finance would also pose new problems, setting up of Rotas and arrangement for meetings all depend on goodwill and hard work from volunteers. Travelling in winter on icy or fog-bound roads would be frankly dangerous.

Finally, on that last point I am very aware of Deanery Synod members having to travel difficult and sometimes lengthy journeys to meetings since our Deanery covers a large area- extending it Eastwards would cause problems for everyone. For example - Hawkchurch (Devon Border) to Portesham (eastern border) might pose problems.

Our Benefice has received personal attendance from Diocese to discuss the proposed Amalgamation. As a PCC we have listened and thoroughly discussed all aspects of the proposal. No assurances answered our concerns for the future. The mantra that church processes and future plans should be “chosen not imposed” is not evident in this proposal.

I regret having to express my views so bluntly but have felt it necessary, with this letter to voice my concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Jackson

POSTSCRIPT

Since writing the above our present Incumbent has decided to leave us.

From Litton Cheney PCC

The Views of the majority of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Litton Cheney. The Rector was not involved in the creation of this response.

1. According to Dorset Council's statistics the total population of the villages within the Bride Valley Benefice is 2225 and of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring is 1390. The proposed amalgamation will thus increase the Bride Valley Rector's primary task of the Cure of Souls, already overburdened by a large and active Benefice, by 62%. Assistance from a House for Duty post, terminable on the whim of the Diocese, would be inadequate support. Believing the foundation bedrock of the Church of England to be individual parishes the PCC fear the proposal will do nothing to assuage the need, within both existing benefices, for increased pastoral care. The PCC request that an alternative approach to remedy the problem of insufficient clergy numbers be considered such as the pruning of available clergy from the top down leaving the essential stability of the parishes well alone. The PCC fear the repeated erosion of clergy presence in parishes will inevitably result in a withering death of the church at grass roots level.

2. Whilst the PCC appreciate there will be parishes within the Diocese who find the payment of Share to be beyond their means and that in consequence an element of subsidisation is to be expected, it is

another matter entirely where a parish finds itself in difficulty over payment of Share on account of a restriction on the use of their income. It is understood both Abbotsbury and Portesham rely on income from formal Friends charities which by their constitutions restrict the use of the income to the repair of the church fabric. The PCC fears therefore that amalgamation is fraught with difficulty regarding future relations between Abbotsbury and Portesham on the one hand and the existing Bride Valley parishes, who have consistently, without exception and at considerable cost paid their Share requests in full, on the other.

As Abbotsbury and Portesham are not currently able to cover their share request, there is likely to be the inevitable grumble that some in a new Benefice will not be paying for the cost of their ministry.

3. Confirmation is requested that the existing Bride Valley parishes will not suffer an increase in Share consequent on the proposed amalgamation either under the existing Fairer Share procedure or any revision thereof.

Submitted to Diocese 4th October 2022

Submitted to Church Commissioners 10th April 2023.

From Mrs Lesley Salvetti

I am writing to you as a parishioner of St. Marys, Litton Cheney, to **oppose** the proposed union of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring with the benefice of the Bride Valley.

I have hesitated writing, for some considerable time, believing it best left to the PCC to voice our objections, however, the news that the current Rector of Bride Valley will be leaving and moving on within a few months has changed my mind – and we now move into our third Interregnum within the last 9 years.

It seems the proposal must now fall; it will take many months of interregnum before a new incumbent takes up post.

I will limit my objections to two, which are:

1. From my point of view the prime purpose of churches and parishes of the Church of England is to support the followers and practitioners of the Anglican faith, and to spread the word of God. How can the merging of 2 benefices, which are both lacking in the clergy, fulfil this purpose? The inability to provide a physical presence and support to parishioners will inevitably lead to further decline in followers and church attendance.
2. By nefarious means, 2 parishes have built up a large debt with the diocese. It is unethical and immoral. This needs to be addressed and rectified before any union can take place. In the wider context of Christianity, how can it be more important to raise money for the upkeep of buildings (which is what these “Friends” organisations are doing) and yet not pay for the ministry of faith?

There are many other reasons for this proposal to fail but I hope, by limiting myself to 2 key objections, this will lead to a period of reflection and contemplation, and a decision to stop proceedings.

Lesley Salvetti

From Mr Freddie Spicer

Dear Sir,

Draft Pastoral Scheme

The Benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil

I wish to make the following representation to the Commissioners concerning the above proposal.

I have lived in the Parish of Litton Cheney for 30 years during which time I have served as Chairman of the Parish Council, lay Chairman of the Benefice Council, Churchwarden for 17 years and am currently Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council.

As was the custom of incumbents of rural parishes in those days, we were called upon by the then Benefice Vicar within a very few days of moving in and thus received a meaningful introduction to St Mary's church and the local ministry. I believe this practice strikes at the very root and soul of ministry; a visit from a lay person representing the church is a poor substitute. With the removal of the Benefice Vicar in 2007 visiting his or her flock became difficult for the incumbent; with the addition of three further parishes, equating to an increase of population in excess of 60%, such contact will become impossible and will lead inevitably to the absence of vital pastoral care for parishioners and a withering decline in the life of the church.

The proposal to transfer the parsonage house of the Chesil benefice to the Diocese supports the conclusion that the underlying purpose of the Scheme is purely a financial accommodation. It would seem highly likely, as happened to the vicarage in Litton Cheney on removal of the vicar, that the Diocese will seek to raise funds through a sale of this parsonage house. Such a withdrawal of the very fabric of facilities within parishes will do nothing to nurture their ability to sustain the life of the church at a fundamental level.

The total share request for 2023 for the existing Bride Valley parishes is £76,010 and as was the case in all recent years there is a 100% likelihood that this request will be met in full. Thus it is evident that the existing Bride Valley benefice covers the cost of its incumbent with excess to spare for the Diocese. It is of considerable concern that the parishes of Abbotsbury and Portesham have prior years share arrears totalling £40,525; it is understood a principal reason for this is their reliance on "Friends" of the church for income and the consequent restriction on expenditure. This situation if continued in an amalgamation is a recipe for serious dissension between the existing Bride Valley parishes on the one hand and the Chesil parishes on the other.

There is strong anecdotal evidence, particularly from the Church Growth Research Programme, that ministry spread thinly leads to a decline in church attendance. The Scheme will result in ministry by the incumbent of the proposed new benefice to be spread very thinly indeed; quite apart from the population increase the incumbent will face an unacceptable geographic spread of the new benefice with

a return journey of 25 miles to the most distant parish. In addition to the increase in the number of churches from 8 to 12 the incumbent will also be burdened with an additional Church school making 3 in total in the new benefice.

For the above reasons I am against the proposals for union of the benefices and the transfer of the parsonage house to the Diocese, and hence in essence the entire Scheme for the overriding reason that the implementation of the scheme and consequent additional burden imposed upon the incumbent of an enlarged benefice will diminish the ability of the individual parishes to be the strong, vibrant focal points they need to be to nurture the life of the church therein for the benefit of all its parishioners.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Freddie Spicer

From H J Vercoe

Dear Mr. Crowe,

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011

Benefices of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring and Bride Valley

Proposal to unite the Benefices.

Personal comments – H.J. Vercoe, Churchwarden at St Mary's Litton Cheney.

The PCC at St Marys have submitted a joint response to the proposal stating our concerns.

The following additional comments are personal ones and reflect my concerns regarding the practicalities of what is being proposed. These are based on 17 years' experience of living in the Bride Valley. I am currently in my 7th year as Churchwarden at St Mary's church.

I preface these comments by noting that "the rationale behind the diocesan proposals" states that **Uniting the two benefices to form the benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil would create a larger clergy team.** This is clearly not the case; the clergy team remains the same.

In terms of paid clergy, the Bride Valley Rector is on her own. We've sadly just lost the services of the late Reverend Sue Linford and, perhaps unusually, there seem to be no retired clergy the Rector can call on. It is not clear what practical assistance she would get from Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring in the running of the proposed wider Benefice, in the longer term. We are already heavily dependent on volunteer Licensed Lay Ministers who do an excellent job but who are limited in what they can do and the time that they can give and who, at times of crisis, may not be a substitute for an ordained Minister.

I can only speak for Litton Cheney, but I believe that the experience of other churches in the Bride Valley Benefice will be similar to ours.

In a typical month, the Rector will officiate at one service here in Litton Cheney; occasionally we see her twice in one month and some months we don't see her for a service at all. Having taken the service, the Rector frequently must rush away to get to her next service on time. There is just no time for her to meet and greet members of the congregation old or new, to find out how they are and to hear of any concerns they may have. The Rector does not live among us, so Sunday services provide the only opportunity for some members of our congregation to meet with her and for her to meet with them.

Journey times entirely within the Bride Valley are fairly predictable but even as things are, there are occasions when the Rector (or whoever is taking the service) arrives late or at the last minute having experienced a delay along the way; meeting with a group of cyclists or a farm tractor for example.

The Bride Valley Benefice extends 9.5 miles from Shipton Gorge in the west to Little Bredy in the east. Distance from the Rectory in Burton Bradstock to Little Bredy (furthest east) is 7.5 miles. Maximum driving time between churches is approximately 16 minutes using the AA route finder as a guide, all within the Bride Valley. Bringing Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring into the equation, would extend the eastern boundary by 5 miles and the maximum driving time between churches to 24 minutes. Distance from Burton Bradstock (the Rectory) to the furthest outpost of the “new” Benefice (Langton Herring) is 12 miles approximately with a driving time of 20 minutes (40 minutes round trip). These times make no allowance for parking, getting in and out of the car etc.

There is however a complication. Travel to the three churches outside the Bride Valley would require use of the B3157 (Jurassic Coast Road – see map); probably one of the most strikingly scenic coastal roads in Britain but one which is prone to fog in winter and heavy traffic during holiday periods when visitors are here. Abbotsbury is a notorious traffic bottle neck at all times of the year. Any driving times between villages within the Bride Valley to Abbotsbury and villages further east along the coast road, are therefore purely notional and subject to a number of variables. When scheduling church services it would therefore be necessary to allow not only for inherent longer journey times to the three churches outside the Bride Valley, but also for possible delays due to fog and/or traffic as mentioned above. It should be noted that we rarely get fog in the Bride Valley and we don't get anywhere near the volumes of traffic which the villages along the B3157 do.

This is not just about Church services. The Rector must attend PCC meetings (increased from 7 to 10 in number under the new arrangement), Schools (increased from 2 to 3), weddings, funerals, baptisms, home visits and various other church related activities. She already spends a great deal of time “commuting” between villages in the Bride Valley.

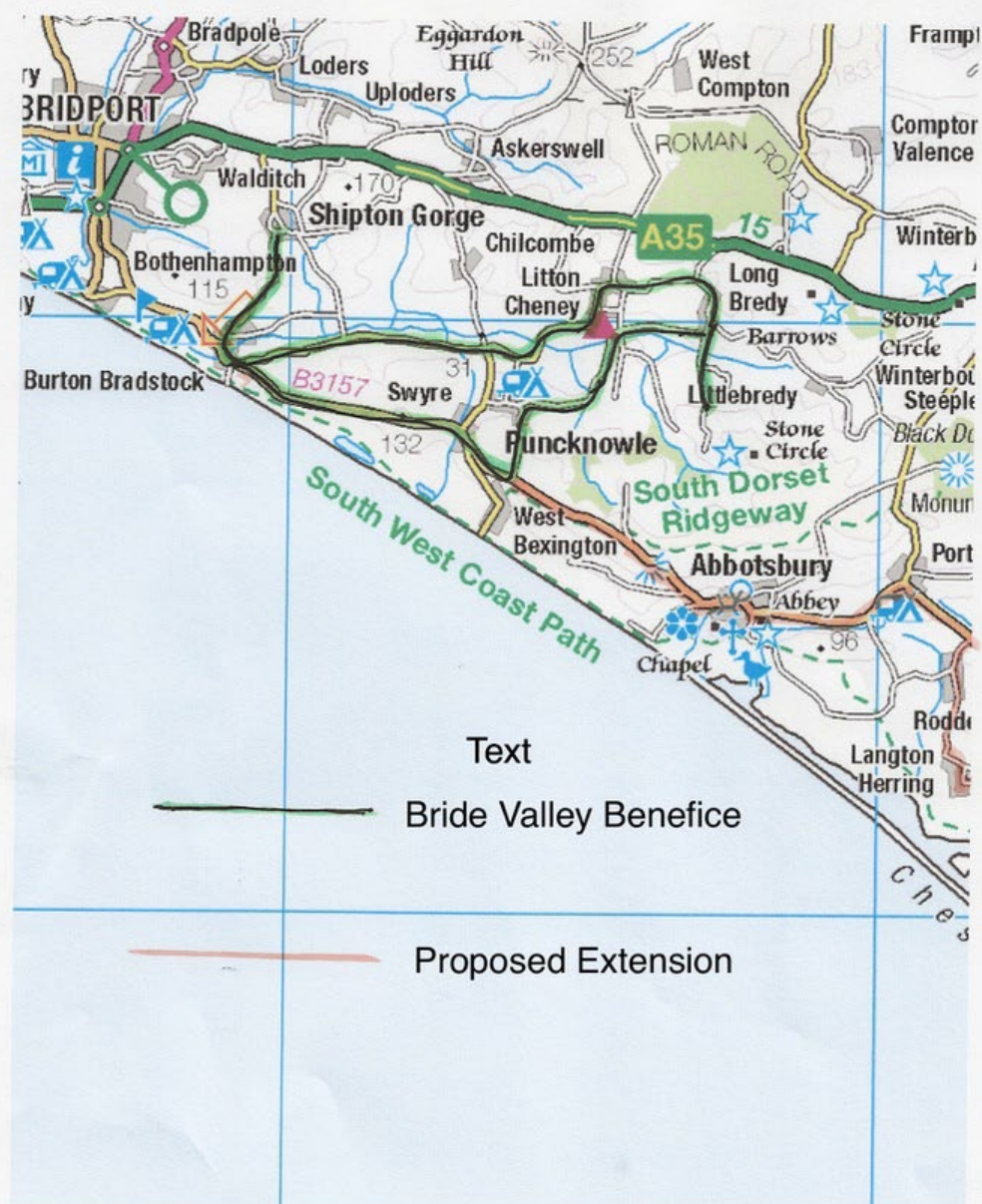
My concerns are that increased journey times to the three churches outside the Bride Valley, coupled with uncertainties caused by weather and/or heavy traffic on the B1357, would create inefficiencies in scheduling of services and in arranging meetings and that this would result in the clergy team, and the Rector in particular, being spread even more thinly. The likelihood that the person who is taking the service will arrive late at a church and out of breath and/or that they will have to leave the church the minute the service ends to go to the next one, will be increased. This will have negative implications for pastoral care in the community which is already left largely in the hands of lay persons.

In summary, I fail to see how spending more time in their cars would allow the ministry team to better serve the needs of the worshipping communities. I feel bound to question whether the architects of this proposal have taken due consideration of the practical and logistical dilemmas that this so called “united” Benefice would create and the additional demands it will place on our Rector in particular.

Yours sincerely

H.J Vercoe

MAP OF THE BRIDE VALLEY AND SURROUNDING AREA



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Representation in favour of the draft Scheme

From Portesham PCC

Dear Mr. Crowe,

Abbotsbury, Langton Herring and Portesham, Proposal to Join the Bride Valley

The Parochial Church Council of St Peter's, Portesham are very much in favour of the proposed move of our three churches, Abbotsbury, Langton Herring and Portesham, into the Bride Valley Team. We feel that a rural community would be much more fitting than the mainly urban community of Weymouth.

An added bonus was that Rev'd Margaret Preuss-Higham would have a priest with a similar background to support her, something which was missing from the Weymouth Deanery.

However, we need assurance that when our Vicar, Rev'd Margaret Preuss-Higham, retires that we will have a replacement House for Duty Priest, or a similar arrangement, for these three parishes. The whole Bride Valley team with ourselves included is much too much for one stipended priest to manage.

The congregations of the Bride Valley were concerned about the extra work load for their Priest, until they realised that Margaret was to look after our parishes, and receive guidance from their Priest and help with services on occasions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Di Ludlow

Portesham Church Warden and Hon. Secretary.

Letters of Comment in respect of the draft Scheme

From Mr Martin Pearson

Dear Matthew,

I am writing as an individual parishioner in response to the above consultation.

I don't have a particularly strong opinion about the changes to the Deanery, but as a relative newcomer to the CofE, I was rather shocked to see that individual Patrons still exist in this area. It seems inconceivable that medieval property rights are still being used, and I fail to see their relevance to the vision, mission and ministry of the church in the 21st century. It also enables these unaccountable individuals to drive appointments processes. That seems very strange when transparency and due diligence in appointments are expected. I had assumed that the 'lay voice' would be that of the parish to be served, through the elected PCC and its representatives.

I understand that the Mission and Pastoral Measure gives the bishop power to suspend the patron's right of presentation during a vacancy and given the likelihood that there will be imminent changes to the clergy, I hope that power will be invoked.

Yours sincerely

Martin Pearson

From Langton Herring PCC

Dear Matthew,

The Langton Herring PCC discussed the Proposed Pastoral Scheme at its meeting on 28th March 2023 and agreed to submit a representation. The PCC request that there is a guarantee to maintain the role of a House for Duty Associate Priest and to retain the Rectory in Portesham for that purpose.

Yours sincerely

Martin

From Philip Williams

Dear Mr. Crowe,

I am writing this e-mail with more than one hat on...

Firstly, as PCC Secretary and Churchwarden at St. Michael & All Angels, Littlebredy, I confirm that I have today placed a copy of the above Draft Pastoral Scheme in the Church, with a covering page to identify it, and placed a copy of your attached Notice in the porch, both to remain in situ till the 24th April.

Please don't treat this as a representation, but for the sake of accuracy in the Patronage paragraph, my christian name has only one L in it, and in my address Dorchester should have an H! My family has always treated Littlebredy as one word, but I'm sure Diocesan records must be different, so I won't open that can of worms.

Secondly, and you (and the Diocese – copied in, as you see) can take this comment as a representation if you wish [and now writing in my capacity as one of the Patrons here], I note in the rationale that the proposed enlarged benefice "would create a larger clergy team ... (and) ... is not intended to be a cost saving exercise...". The Diocese of Salisbury will be aware that we (the Bride Valley Benefice) have recently lost to cancer a very gifted Assistant Priest, Susan Mary Linford, who has been away from her pastoral work for a considerable while and whose funeral took place last Thursday. I can place no other interpretation on those words in the rationale than that we shall shortly receive the services of a replacement priest who will offer at least as many hours (Sue was also the part-time Anglican member of the chaplaincy team at HMP/YOI Portland) if not more, within the Bride Valley and Chesil ministry team. The reduced numbers under which they have been labouring for a while has obviously placed a burden on our Rector, her assistant priests and lay assistants in whatever capacity, and it is good to know that the Pastoral Scheme plans fully to relieve this. It was helpful that I had the opportunity to make the same observation to the Archdeacon, whom I met at Sue's funeral last week, so the mind of the Church at several levels can now be directed to that end.

With all best wishes.

Sincerely,

Philip Williams.

Supplementary responses

From Patricia Gates

Dear Matthew

I acknowledge receipt of all the comments and information. I also understand the future process of consideration regarding the Scheme. I do not wish to withdraw my representation and after a great deal of further reflection on the response my only comment is that local people seem to be informed and correct in their thinking that all along "IT IS A DONE DEAL".

Yours sincerely

Patricia Gates

From Litton Cheney PCC

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011

Proposed Pastoral Scheme: Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring; and Bride Valley

Further Comments from Litton Cheney PCC following the Bishop's Response (unanimously approved by the lay members)

We were saddened to see our representation was deemed by the Bishop to warrant an apology to the Commissioners. Having been invited to consider and respond to the Scheme we did so in all honesty and are sorry if our views conflict with Diocesan proposals.

Our primary objection and concern, that the Scheme will result in a further erosion of clergy presence in parishes, remains largely unaddressed. The Diocesan population statistics reveal a 49% increase in responsibility for the Cure of Souls by the incumbent of an amalgamated benefice; since the abolition of the post of Vicar in the Bride Valley, in 2007, ministry has inevitably been spread thinly, the Scheme will cause that spreading to be very thin indeed with unacceptable results.

Our secondary concern, that some parishes within the amalgamated benefice may not pay their share in full, remains unresolved.

Submitted to Church Commissioners June 2023.

From Janet Jackson

As a member of Bishop's Council I am very loathe to make any comments regarding Bishop Stephen's Letter of Response - my loyalty to Bishop Stephen is outweighed by the need to put the record straight in one regard. I must make a correction

regarding the 'keenness' (para. 7) of Lyme Bay Deanery Synod to the proposal. Clearly Clergy members might have expressed approval in another place but the proposal has never, formally been put to Lyme Bay Deanery Synod as a draft motion for approval. In September 2021 the Rural Dean received an e mail, just prior to the meeting, from AD Sherborne asking him to present information regarding a proposed amalgamation. Bride Valley Incumbent was at the meeting and was then asked to describe what was then known to her regarding the plan. This she did but at that time no draft had been prepared or presented to Bride Valley Parishes. To quote from the Minutes ' Conversations are currently ongoing'.

Rural Dean asked the Synod to approve the plan in principle which was noted. The idea being that details, discussion and opinions would be voiced later. No formal motion has been put forward since then. Only 4 members of bride Valley were at that meeting and having no knowledge of what the future plans involved, did not vote. It is an assumption that members would have approved if presented in the correct manner and with correct procedure carried out.

I appreciate that the 3 parishes involved would like to join the Benefice and fully understand their reasons. It does seem though that they were consulted first without a combined discussion with Bride Valley Benefice which may have been a better move to involve everyone from the start. Bride Valley Parishes were only informed not consulted after decisions had been made at Diocese level. Not good PR.

Yes our population of Litton Cheney is small but just look at how we raise maximum parish share despite this. We have a very strong congregation, a choir and close liaison with our Church school. We have a positive and inclusive attitude towards the future. We coped very well with the two tragic interregnums and at that time could rely on Lay Ministry. Sadly, now we have another retirement from that office and our retired priest suffers ill health which precludes him managing access to some of the Churches. The Associate Priest is also naturally limited in the amount of time offered.

Finally just a reminder to anyone who has to travel along the B3157 road which links Burton Bradstock to the 3 parishes of Langton Herring, Portesham and Abbotsbury - the Police list it as one of the most dangerous roads in the County. Foggy and prone to flooding it is an accident black-spot. Travelling in the dark in winter or in stormy conditions would be extremely hazardous as I have found out.

Personally, I think that the parishes` rather reluctant agreement to the scheme was initially made with due loyalty to Revd. Jane Williams thinking she would be with us to see it through. We are sad to lose her.

Yours most sincerely,
Janet Jackson
Lay Chair
Lyme Bay Deanery Synod

From Langton Herring PCC

Dear Matt,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the representations and the Bishops response.

The Langton Herring PCC met yesterday and discussed these, and also the comments made at the joint PCC meeting held with the Archdeacon on 12th June. The PCC was reassured that the Bishop supports the continuation of the House for Duty post based in Portesham, and had also clarified the Share Scheme implications, and it was noted that the Share scheme regards each parish within the benefice as a discrete entity, and that therefore this was not an issue of concern.

The PCC therefore resolved to support the proposed union of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring and the benefice of Bride Valley, and the proposed pastoral scheme.

Kind regards

Martin

Martin Pearson
PCC Secretary