



Joanna Chandler-Clarke
Pastoral Case Officer

Our ref: 20/66/JCC

23 February 2024

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011
Diocese of Lichfield
Parish of Saint Aidan and Saint Paul Burton
The Church of Saint Aidan, Shobnall

The Bishop of Lichfield has asked us to prepare a draft Pastoral Scheme in respect of pastoral proposals affecting the church of St Aidan, Shobnall.

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

Anyone may make representations **for** or **against** all or any part or parts of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) by post or, preferably, by email to reach me no later than midnight on **Monday 8 April 2024**. If we have not acknowledged receipt of your representation before this date, please ring or e-mail me to ensure it has been received. For administrative purposes, a petition will be classed as a single representation and we will only correspond with the sender of the petition, if known, or otherwise the first signatory for whom we can identify an address – “the primary petitioner”.

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

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

Those making representations should indicate whether they would like an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners regarding their representations in the

event the Commissioners decide a hearing should be held. Meetings are normally held at Church House, Westminster. If a hearing is held, we will let you know the arrangements for attending (in person or virtually) and details will also appear on our website. Otherwise, if a hearing is not to be held, the case will be considered in private and you will be informed accordingly.

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

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

Please see www.churchofengland.org/consultation for further information about the procedure.

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

Joanna Chandler-Clarke
Case Officer

Notes

1. PCC Secretaries

The draft Scheme is sent to you as PCC Secretary. Please ensure that it is drawn to the attention of the other members so the PCC as a body is able to make any comments on the draft if it wishes.

You are required as soon as possible to:

- i) print and display the Notice(s) (***please display single-sided where possible***) at or near the main door of **every** parish church, chapel of ease or licensed place of worship in your parish; (if you are unable to print the Notice please get in touch with me and I will make arrangements for copies to be sent to you for display);
- ii) make arrangements for the Announcement (see 2. below) to be made at as many services as possible at every parish church, chapel of ease or licensed place of worship in your parish where a service is held during the notice period (including any that are 'streamed').

Please e-mail or telephone me confirmation as soon as you have displayed the Notice and made arrangements for the announcements to be made. Do not wait until the end of the notice period before confirming this.

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

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

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

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

Further action required as there is a proposed church closure

In addition to the above, a copy of the draft Scheme must be made available for inspection in the locality – the arrangements for this will already have been made with the parish concerned. The draft Scheme should be displayed at St Paul's Church and at St Aidan's church and a copy of the Notice should be displayed at Burton Library.

If you are the person doing this, will you please let me know that you have taken this additional step.

2. The Announcement

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

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

PCC Secretaries – please note that it is essential that:

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

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

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

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

4. Local planning authorities and parish councils

We serve notice on the local planning authority and parish council of the parish in which the affected church building is situated as interested parties under the Mission and Pastoral Measure. Although County and Town Councils are not defined as interested parties under this Measure, please copy this correspondence to either of these parties if you feel this would be helpful. Ward Councillors for the affected parish(es) have been sent a copy of the draft Scheme.

5. Circulation List

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, The Bishop of Lichfield, Joint Patron
The personal representatives of the Rt Hon Michael, Baron Burton, Joint Patron
The Rt Revd Matthew Parker, Bishop of Stafford
The Revd Simon Archer, Priest in Charge of Burton St Aidan and St Paul
The Revd Dr Robin Trotter, Rural Dean of Tutbury Deanery
The Ven Dr Megan Smith, Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent
Dr Douglas Brown, Deanery Synod Lay Co-Chairman
East Staffordshire Borough Council
Cllr Paul Walker, Shobnall Ward Councillor
Cllr Shelagh McKiernan, Shobnall Ward Councillor
Mrs Maureen Woolley, PCC Secretary of Burton St Aidan and St Paul
Mrs Clare Beavon, Diocesan Pastoral Officer
The Statutory Advisory Committee of the Church Buildings Council
National Churches Trust
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Historic England (Midlands regional office)
Joint Committee, c/o Historic Buildings and Places
War Memorials Trust

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

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Note by the Church Commissioners' office (not forming part of the draft Scheme)

The Commissioners have been told by the Bishop on the advice of his Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee that the rationale behind the diocesan proposals is as follows:

This Scheme, if implemented, would have the effect of closing Saint Aidan's church, for regular public worship and vesting it in the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance for care and maintenance pending a decision on its future. Any such decision would be the subject of a second Scheme, called a Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme, which would be prepared and published by the Church Commissioners, and with regard to which an opportunity would be given for representations to be made. In terms of implementing this Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme subject to the consideration of any representations, the Commissioners will need to be satisfied that all aspects of title relating to the church, including access and any rights of way, are in order before they make the Scheme. Banns of marriage may not be called nor marriages solemnized in the church from the date of closure.

The sustainability of St Aidan's has been a debated concern for some years. Latterly, coincident factors including the diocesan-wide Shaping for Mission project has further highlighted the difficulties presented in trying to maintain public worship there.

The Sunday congregation has been in continual decline for over 20 years. Having diminished to 15 adults by 2005, it currently attracts about 6 adults. Though committed to the church they are of considerable maturity and have a decreasing ability to contribute to its governance and practicalities of running a parish church.

St Aidan's is the much smaller building within a benefice comprising two parish churches, the other being St Paul's. St Aidan's is in poor physical condition. Though adequately heated, it suffers with damp and has no toilet facilities nor

community space. The internal dimensions of the nave, its style of fixtures and fittings (designed purely to facilitate traditional worship) don't easily lend themselves to flexibility or adaptation. The number of occasional offices has reduced disproportionately even to its attendance; they have become something of a rarity and in themselves offer no incentive to retain worship there. As a benefice, provision for worship is more than adequately afforded by St Paul's which is only 0.75 miles away. The current congregation also strongly identify with St Modwen's, with whom they were previously linked, only 1.5 miles away. The factors above make envisioning any complementary church use or its reassignment to Festival status non-viable. St Aidan's parish hall (subject to a long-term leasing agreement to a community group) could be available, by negotiation, for alternative fresh expressions of worship which may be attractive to the Shobnall area. There are also good relationships between St Modwen's clergy and the local school, which could provide fruitful avenues for a future worshipping congregation in the area. There is a strong commitment to the residual, missional need within the Shobnall area and the PCC acknowledge that closing its church building in no way represents a withdrawal from its people.

The closure of St Aidan's and the subsequent centralizing of worship at St Paul's for the time-being would help in the increasingly difficult task of providing week-by-week ministry in a deanery which is not rich in resources. Finances, at benefice level, are very stretched; the current financial position is understood to be unsustainable even in the short-term without pastoral reorganisation. Shaping for Mission has, in fact, suggested pastoral reorganisation as part of a deanery wide strategic approach to mission. Overall pastoral sustainability as well as financial sustainability benefit alongside a refocusing of mission when St. Aidan's is not a component of the proposed pastoral reorganisation. The PCC accepts that the closure of St Aidan's, for the reasons cited, offers (in conjunction with the wider, deanery plan) the best way of serving the missional needs of the whole benefice for the foreseeable future.

Publication of this draft Scheme by the Commissioners does not mean that we have taken a view on the merits of the diocesan case. We have a duty to publish draft Schemes based on diocesan proposals.

If we receive representations against the draft Scheme, we will send all representations, both for and against, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors will then receive copies of our correspondence with the

Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and they may comment further in writing to us in light of the diocesan response if they so wish.

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

This Scheme, if implemented, would have the effect of closing Saint Aidan's church, for regular public worship and vesting it in the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance for care and maintenance pending a decision on its future. Any such decision would be the subject of a second Scheme, called a Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme, which would be prepared and published by the Church Commissioners, and with regard to which an opportunity would be given for representations to be made. In terms of implementing this Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme subject to the consideration of any representations, the Commissioners will need to be satisfied that all aspects of title relating to the church, including access and any rights of way, are in order before they make the Scheme. Banns of marriage may not be called nor marriages solemnized in the church from the date of closure.

Glossary of words commonly used in Pastoral Reorganisation

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

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/parish-reorganisation-and-closed-church-buildings/mission-and-pastoral-measure-2011-and-code#na>

Archbishop	Senior bishop with authority over a Province - of Canterbury and of York.
Archdeacon	An office held by a senior clergy person appointed by the bishop with an administrative responsibility over an archdeaconry. Some of his/her duties are laid down by law but in other respects his/her duties vary according to diocesan practice: they include care for church property.
Archdeaconry	Sub-division of the diocese over which an archdeacon has administrative responsibility.
Benefice	An ecclesiastical office carrying certain duties. An incumbent's benefice is therefore not a geographical area (see parish) but the office to which (s)he is appointed and may comprise one or more parishes. A benefice may be a rectory or vicarage from which the incumbent is called rector or vicar.
Bishop	In the Church of England the bishop is the central focus of organisation and ministry within his/her diocese. He/She is the chief pastor and authority and shares the cure of souls with all the incumbents of that diocese. He/She is also, in his/her own person, the chief representative of the diocese in the work of the wider church. He/She may be assisted by suffragan or assistant bishops.
Bishop's Pastoral Order	An amendment made in 2018 to the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 to enable fairly minor matters to be dealt with by the Bishop at the local/diocesan level and for which there are no rights of objection. e.g. changing the name of a benefice or parish.
Common Tenure	The basis on which all Church of England offices will eventually be held under the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure 2009. Existing holders of freehold offices may decide not to opt-in to Common Tenure but new office holders will be on Common Tenure. (not going to mention here about continuing to retain freehold on e.g. a union, but not when named 1st TR or TV of a new TM – as likely to be unnecessarily confusing for a 'glossary' – which just 'glosses' on certain matters)
Chapel of Ease	A consecrated church that it is not a parish church but is within a parish that (normally) does have a parish church. Originally for the ease of parishioners who could not attend the parish church.
Church Representation Rules	Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 but updated as a separate booklet. They contain the mechanism for the setting up of representative bodies in the Church of England from parochial church councils to the House of Laity of the General Synod.
Cure of Souls	'Cure' means 'care'. The bishop has the universal cure of souls in a diocese but, subject to this, the incumbent of a benefice (or team rector and team vicar(s) in a team ministry) has the exclusive cure of souls within his or her parish or parishes. The expression should not be confused with the more general phrase 'pastoral care'.
Deanery	A sub-division of an archdeaconry usually comprising between 10 and 20 parishes.
Declaration of closure for regular public worship	The act of closing a church for public worship under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.
Diocesan Board of Finance	A company constituted by the diocesan synod and regulated by the Companies Acts. A board of finance holds property for Church of England purposes, transacts business in that connection and acts as a committee of the diocesan synod. It normally also acts as the diocesan trust.
Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee	Statutory Committee established by the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. Its duty is to review the arrangement for pastoral supervision in the diocese and, as appropriate, to make recommendations to the bishop.
Diocese	One of 41 main territorial units of the Church of England over which a bishop has responsibility. Divided into archdeaconries, deaneries and parishes.
District Church Council	If a parish comprises two or more places of worship or churches then individual councils can be set up for the districts in which each place of worship or church is situated to exercise such functions as may be delegated by the parochial church council.
Glebe	Land or buildings vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance that either provides a rental income to augment the Diocesan Stipends Fund or provides housing for those involved in the cure of souls.
Group Ministry	An arrangement, authorised by the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, whereby the clergy of two or more separate benefices can assist each other to make the best possible provision for the cure of souls in the area as a whole.
Incumbent	Holder of a benefice (which can be either a freehold or a Common Tenure office) – and can be either a

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	rector or a vicar - with responsibility for the cure of souls. May be assisted by curate, deacon, licensed lay worker, retired priest etc.
Joint Council	A provision brought about by the Church Representation and Ministers Measure 2019, which may only be established under the Church Representation Rules, and deals with matters that may be delegated to it by the PCCs concerned. Please note that it is now no longer possible for any new group councils, team councils or joint PCCs to be established under the CRRs (or for a time-limited permissive option under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 process).
Leave to Appeal	Any person who makes a representation to the Commissioners against a pastoral scheme has a right to apply for leave to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council against a decision of the Commissioners to proceed notwithstanding that representation.
Members ('Other') of a Team Ministry	May be clerical or lay (see s.34 of Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011). They share the pastoral care of the area with the team rector and team vicars, but NOT the cure of souls.
Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011	The Measure of the General Synod which authorises changes in pastoral reorganisation. Designed to "make better provision for the cure of souls". Part of the law of the land and equivalent to an Act of Parliament.
Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee	A Committee of the Commissioners' Board of Governors which makes decisions on representations on pastoral, church buildings, houses and glebe matters. It is chaired by the Third Church Estates Commissioner.
Parish Centre of Worship	An unconsecrated Place of Worship designated by the bishop under s.43 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 whereupon for most purposes (other than marriage) it is regarded as a parish church.
Parish Church	A consecrated building in a parish in which, subject to canon law, the statutory services must be held unless there are other churches in the benefice where this can happen and/or certain other dispensations have been provided for under the Canons. Parishioners have a right to be married, baptised etc. in the parish church. S.41(2) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 requires that any new church or existing building which is to become a parish church must be approved by the bishop, subject to the bishop having consulted both the Diocesan Pastoral Committee and the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
Parochial Church Council	Representative body of parishioners elected from those on the electoral roll in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Usually chaired by incumbent.
Parsonage House	The official place of residence of an incumbent of a benefice. The house belongs to the incumbent in right of his or her office.
Pastoral Order	A document which effects changes in pastoral reorganisation made under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. Differs from a pastoral scheme mainly in that it deals with lesser matters.
Pastoral Scheme	A document which effects more complex changes in pastoral reorganisation made under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. A Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme is required where a closure of church building is being proposed – or a Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme if it deals with an already closed (former) church building
Patron	The person or body owning an advowson (i.e. right to present a priest to a benefice) who may be a private individual or a corporation (ecclesiastical or lay).
Plurality	The holding of two or more separate benefices by one incumbent. This can only be authorised by a scheme or order or Bishop's Pastoral Order under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.
Priest in Charge	A priest given charge of a suspended benefice by licence of the bishop. (S)he has not been presented and is not the incumbent but holds office under common tenure.
Representations	The Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 requires that any draft scheme or order be published and made available to the public. Any person can make written representations to the Commissioners either for or against what is proposed.
Restriction/Suspension of presentation	Where a patron's right of presentation is restricted (where consultation about pastoral reorganisation has begun or the bishop has asked the DMPC to consider it) or suspended (where pastoral reorganisation or replacement of parsonage house may be considered).
Team Ministry	A special form of ministry whereby a team of clergy and possibly lay people share the pastoral care of the area of a benefice. Can only be established by a pastoral scheme.
Team Rector	The priest in a team ministry who heads the team and owns the property of the benefice. (S)he shares

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the cure of souls with the team vicars.

Team Vicar

A priest of incumbent status in a team ministry, other than the team rector. (S)he shares the cure of souls with the team rector and other team vicars.



23 February 2024

Notice

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 Draft Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme

The Church Commissioners have prepared a draft Scheme in respect of proposals sent to them by the Bishop of Lichfield for the church of St Aidan, Shobnall to be declared closed for regular public worship.

A copy of the draft Scheme may be inspected on the church noticeboard of the church of St Aidan, Shobnall and at the church of St Paul, Burton.

The draft Scheme is on our website www.churchofengland.org/consultation or you may obtain a copy from me. **Large print and/or audio copies are available on request.** Anyone may make representations **for** or **against** all or any part of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) by post or, preferably, by email to reach me no later than midnight on **Monday 8 April 2024**. If I have not acknowledged its receipt, please ring or e-mail me. For administrative purposes, a petition will be classed as a single representation and we will only correspond with the sender of the petition, if known, or otherwise the first signatory for whom we can identify an address – “the primary petitioner”.

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

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