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6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**To: Interested parties listed at the end of this letter**

**Dear Sir/Madam**

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011  
Proposed transfer of the parish of Buckland Dinham**

The Bishop of Bath and Wells has asked us to prepare a draft Pastoral Scheme, in respect of pastoral proposals affecting the benefice of Mells with Vobster with Buckland Dinham, Elm, Whatley and Chantry and the benefice of Hardington Vale.

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

Anyone may make representations for or against all or any part or parts of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) preferably by email, or by post, to the Church Commissioners at the following address, no later than **midnight on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024**:

Mr Matthew Crowe  
Church Commissioners  
Church House  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3AZ  
(Email: [matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org](mailto:matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org)) (Tel: 020 7898 1784)

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

[www.bathandwells.org.uk](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk)

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

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

Those making representations should indicate whether they would like an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners regarding their representations in the event the Commissioners decide a hearing should be held. Their meetings are normally held at Church House, Westminster, but during the current circumstances they may need to be held virtually via 'Zoom.' If a hearing is held, they will let you know the arrangements for attending (in person or virtually) and details will also appear on their website. Otherwise, if a hearing is not to be held, the case will be considered in private and you will be informed accordingly.

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

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

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

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

Yours faithfully



Peter M. Evans  
Secretary  
Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee

## Notes

### 1. PCC Secretaries

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

As soon as possible, please can you:

- i) print and display the attached Notice (P76) (***please display single-sided***) at or near the main door of every parish church, chapel of ease or licensed place of worship in your parish; (whether or not they are currently open for individual prayer or services); if you are unable to print the Notice 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(s) and made arrangements for the announcements to be made. Do not wait until the end of the notice period before confirming this.**

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

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

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

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

[www.bathandwells.org.uk](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk)

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The Bath and Wells Diocesan Board of Finance

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## 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. Incumbent/Area dean

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

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

## 4. Circulation List-interested parties (by email)

### Clergy

The Revd Caroline Walker, Rector, the benefice of Hardington Vale  
(Vacant) The benefice of Mells with Vobster, with Buckland Dinham, Elm, Whatley and Chantry

### Patrons

Hardington Vale: The Bishop of Bath and Wells and The Revd Peter Owen-Jones (joint)  
Mells with Vobster, with Buckland Dinham, Elm, Whatley and Chantry: The Bishop of Bath and Wells(1<sup>st</sup> turn); The Diocesan Board of Patronage(2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> turn)

### Parochial Church Councils

Mrs Lorna Powell, PCC Secretary, Hardington Vale  
Mrs Meg Griffiths, PCC Secretary, Buckland Dinham  
Vacant, PCC Secretary, Mells w Vobster (*email to Mrs Jan Seewooruttun*)  
Mrs Gemma Brooking, PCC Secretary, Elm  
Mrs Val Rawlins, PCC Secretary, Chantry  
Mrs Katie Gay, PCC Secretary, Whatley

The Ven Charlie Peer, Acting Archdeacon of Wells  
The Revd Caroline Walker, Area Dean, Frome  
Mrs Lois Bushell, Lay Dean, Frome

**Diocesan Office copies to:**

Property Department

HR Department

Finance Department

Copy to Matthew Crowe, Church Commissioners.

[www.bathandwells.org.uk](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk)

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

*This draft Scheme provides for:*

- *the transfer of the parish of Buckland Dinham in the benefice of Mells with Vobster with Buckland Dinham, Elm, Whatley and Chantry to the benefice of Hardington Vale where it shall be immediately united with the parish of Hardington Vale;*
- *for the parish church of Saint Michael and All Angels, Buckland Dinham to become a chapel of ease in the new parish; and*
- *for the consequential amendment of the benefice name of Mells with Vobster with Buckland Dinham, Elm, Whatley and Chantry;*

*all in the diocese of Bath and Wells.*

**DRAFT**  
**PASTORAL SCHEME**

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners this        day of 2024 in pursuance of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, the Right Reverend Michael, Bishop of Bath and Wells, having consented thereto.

**Transfer of parish and alteration of benefice name**

1. The parish of Buckland Dinham, being one of the constituent parishes of the benefice of Mells with Buckland Dinham, Elm, Whatley, Vobster and Chantry (the name of which shall be altered to "The Benefice of Mells with Vobster with Elm, Whatley and Chantry") in the diocese of Bath and Wells, shall be transferred to the benefice of Hardington Vale in the same diocese.

**Union of parishes**

2. Subject to clause 1 hereof, the parish of Buckland Dinham and the parish of Hardington Vale ("the old parish of Hardington Vale"), being the two parishes comprising the area of the benefice of Hardington Vale shall be united to create a new parish which shall be named "The Parish of Hardington Vale" ("the new parish of Hardington Vale").

**Parish churches**

3. (1) The church of Saint Philip and Saint James, Norton and the church of Saint Lawrence, Rode, being parish churches of the old parish of Hardington Vale, shall both be parish churches of the new parish of Hardington Vale.

(2) The church of Saint Michael and All Angels, being the parish church of the parish of Buckland Dinham, shall, upon the date this Scheme comes into operation, cease to be a parish church.

**Coming into operation of this Scheme**

4. 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 Michael, )  
Bishop of Bath and Wells. )

Executed as a Deed by the Church Commissioners for England

acting by two authorised signatories:

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Signature of Authorised Signatory

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Signature of Authorised Signatory

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

The rationale behind the diocesan proposals is as follows:

**These proposals have been approved by the Frome Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group in the interests of furthering the mission of the Church of England in Frome Deanery.**

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 3(2)

The Scheme includes provision for the parish church of Saint Michael and All Angels, Buckland Dinham, to become a chapel of ease. Banns of marriage may not be called nor marriages solemnized in the church from the date on which the Scheme comes into operation (unless the building is subsequently licensed under Section 20 of the Marriage Act 1949).

Other places of worship

The churches of Saint Leonard, Farleigh-Hungerford; the Blessed Virgin Mary, Laverton; and All Saints, Tellisford shall all continue to be chapels of ease within the parish of Hardington Vale.

Patronage

Patronage of the benefice of Hardington Vale is held jointly by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and The Revd Peter John Owen-Jones. Before incorporation into the Mells benefice the Bishop of Bath and Wells had a share in the patronage of Buckland Dinham. Patronage of both altered benefices will therefore remain unchanged.



## 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

## Glossary of words commonly used in Pastoral Reorganisation

	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

## Glossary of words commonly used in Pastoral Reorganisation

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.

6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## Notice

### Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011

#### Draft Pastoral Scheme- Transfer of the Parish of Buckland Dinham


The Bath and Wells Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee has prepared a draft Pastoral Scheme affecting the benefice of Mells with Vobster with Buckland Dinham, Elm, Whatley and Chantry and the benefice of Hardington Vale.

The draft Scheme is on the Commissioners' website

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

- Anyone may make representations for or against all or any part of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) preferably by email or by post to reach the Commissioners no later than **midnight on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024**. **Please send your representation to (e-mail: name of [matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org](mailto:matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org)) or letter marked for the attention of Mr Matthew Crowe, Pastoral Division, Church Commissioners, Church House, Great Smith Street, LONDON SW1P 3AZ.**
- If they have not acknowledged receipt of your representation before this date, please ring 020 7898 1784 or e-mail them to ensure it has been received. For administrative purposes, a petition will be classed as a single representation and the Commissioners will only correspond with the sender of the petition, if known, or otherwise the first signatory for whom they can identify an address – “the primary petitioner”.
- When making a representation, please indicate the nature of your interest in the proposals (e.g. parishioner, member of parochial church council, etc) and whether you would like an opportunity to speak to their Committee regarding your representation if the Commissioners decide a hearing should be held regarding the case.
- If they receive representations against the draft Scheme, they will send them, and any representations supporting the draft Scheme, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors and the primary petitioner will then receive copies of the correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and will be told whether a hearing is to be held. They and individual petitioners may comment further to the Commissioners. Copies of all of the representations received and associated correspondence will normally be published on the Commissioners' website if the matter needs to be considered by them.

- If a hearing is held, anyone may attend the meeting of the Commissioners that considers the case and representors may have an opportunity to speak to their Committee. Otherwise, if a hearing is not to be held, the case will be considered in private and you will be informed accordingly.
- When they acknowledge representations the Commissioners will let individual representors (and the primary petitioner) know the next few dates of their Committee's meetings. They will confirm the actual date if a hearing is to be held nearer the time.
- The Commissioners' will decide if the draft Scheme should proceed when they consider all the representations on the basis of a paper prepared by the Commissioners' staff and any points raised at the meeting.
- The Commissioners will notify all representors of their decision and give a statement of the reasons for it.
- Please see the Commissioners' website [www.churchofengland.org/consultation](http://www.churchofengland.org/consultation) for further information about the procedure.



Peter M. Evans  
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