

25th March 2025

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011
Diocese of Salisbury
Benefice of Nadder Valley**

The Bishop of Salisbury has asked us to prepare a draft Pastoral Scheme in respect of pastoral proposals affecting the above benefices.

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 the Church Commissioners at the following address no later than midnight on **Tuesday 6th May 2025**.

Mr Matthew Crowe
Church Commissioners
Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3AZ
(Email: matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org)

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

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

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

website if the matter needs to be considered by them.

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

With thanks and best wishes

Miriam Longfoot
Governance and Pastoral Planning Manager
Emmaus House, The Avenue, Wilton, Salisbury, SP2 0RG

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; (whether or not they are currently open for individual prayer or services); if you are unable to print the Notice(s) please get in touch with me and I will make

arrangements for copies to be sent to you for display;

- ii) make arrangements for the Announcement (see 2. below) to be made at as many services as possible at every parish church, chapel of ease or licensed place of worship in your parish where a service is held during the notice period (including any that are 'streamed').

Please e-mail Katharine Robinson (katharine.robinson@salisbury.anglican.org) or telephone on 01722 411922 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 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 Katharine Robinson (katharine.robinson@salisbury.anglican.org) have a note of his or her name and email/postal address.

2. The Announcement

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

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

PCC Secretaries – please note that it is essential that:

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

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

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

If a PCC Secretary is not able to carry out these requirements, please could you arrange for these matters to be dealt with as soon as possible. Please also let Katharine Robinson (katharine.robinson@salisbury.anglican.org) know if there has been a recent change of Secretary in any of the parishes.

4. Circulation List

The Bishop of Salisbury, Patron

The Lord Chancellor, Patron

The Church Society Trust, Patron

The Honourable Miss Mary Morrison, Patron and PCC Secretary Fonthill Bishop with Berwick St Leonard

Mr James Mackenzie-Charrington, Patron

Mr John Lane, Patron

The Reformation Church Trust, Patron

All Souls College Oxford, Patron

The Bishop of Ramsbury

The Archdeacon of Sarum

The Revd Elaine Brightwell, Team Vicar and Assistant Rural Dean

The Revd Joanna Naish, Associate Priest

The Revd Mark Hayter, Rural Dean of Chalke

Canon Judy Anderson, Team Secretary Nadder Valley, and PCC Secretary Tisbury

Mrs Lesley Simm, PCC Secretary Ansty

Ms Diane Wood, PCC Secretary Barford St Martin and Burcombe

Mrs Batty Fenson, PCC Secretary Baverstock

Sir Richard Packer, PCC Secretary Chilmark

Mrs Julia Cayne, PCC Secretary Compton Chamberlayne

Mrs Emily Broomhead, PCC Secretary Dinton

Mr George Francis, PCC Secretary Fonthill Gifford

Miss Vicki Rowse, PCC Secretary Fovant

Ms Brita Latham, PCC Secretary Hindon with Chicklade and Pertwood

Lady Jane Deverell, PCC Secretary Sutton Mandeville

Mrs Jane Berridge, PCC Secretary Swallowcliffe

Mr Simon Mabey, PCC Secretary Teffont Evias with Teffont Magna

Copied to: All Churchwardens, Area Office, Diocesan Registry, Property Team.

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

This draft Scheme provides for:

- *the dissolution of the benefice of Nadder Valley (Team Ministry) and the termination of the team ministry established for the area of that benefice;*
- *the creation of a new benefice of Upper Nadder, for the selection of the first incumbent of the new benefice and his/her place of residence, and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice;*
- *the creation of a new benefice Lower Nadder, for the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice and her place of residence, and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice*

all in the diocese of Salisbury

DRAFT

PASTORAL SCHEME

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

Dissolution of benefice and termination of team ministry

1. The benefice of Nadder Valley (Team Ministry) in the diocese of Salisbury shall be dissolved and the team ministry established for the area of that benefice by virtue of a Scheme made by the Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 1983 of the 24th day of April 2001 (“the 2001 team ministry”) shall be terminated.

Creation of new benefice of Upper Nadder

2. (1) A new benefice which shall be named "The Benefice of Upper Nadder", which shall be a rectory, shall be created in the diocese of Salisbury, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Ansty, the parish of Swallowcliffe, the parish of Tisbury, the parish of Fonthill Bishop with Berwick Saint Leonard, the parish of Fonthill Gifford, the parish of Hindon with Chicklade and Pertwood and the parish of Chilmark, which parishes shall continue distinct.

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

(3) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation any person has been licensed by the Bishop to serve within the area of the benefice of Nadder Valley (Team Ministry) as priest-in-charge that person shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice. However, if immediately before this Scheme comes into operation no such person has been so licensed the incumbent of the said benefice may be selected by the Bishop after consultation with the other patrons of the said benefice and the parochial church councils of the parishes in the area of the said benefice.

(4) The parsonage house of the benefice of Nadder Valley (Team Ministry) (known as The Rectory, Park Road, Tisbury, Salisbury, SP3 6LF) shall without any conveyance or other assurance be vested in the incumbent of the new benefice in his/her corporate capacity as his/her official residence.

(5) Subject to clause 2(3) hereof, the right of presentation to the new benefice shall be exercised in a recurring series of four successive turns of which the Bishop in his corporate capacity, the Honourable Miss Mary Morrison, of The Old Rectory, Fonthill Bishop, Salisbury, SP3 5SF, and Mr John Lane of Sedgehill Grange, Sedgehill, Shaftesbury, SP7 9JW shall jointly have the first, second and fourth turns; and the Lord Chancellor on behalf of His Majesty in right of His Crown shall have the third turn.

Creation of new benefice of Lower Nadder

3. (1) A new benefice which shall be named "The Benefice of Lower Nadder", which shall be a rectory, shall be created in the diocese of Salisbury, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Barford Saint Martin and Burcombe, the parish of Baverstock, the parish of Compton Chamberlayne, the parish of Dinton, the parish of Fovant, the parish of Sutton Mandeville and the parish of Teffont Evias with Teffont Magna, which parishes shall continue distinct.

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

(3) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Elaine Brightwell holds the office of team vicar in the 2001 team ministry she shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

(4) Subject to clause 3(3) hereof, the right of presentation to the new benefice shall be exercised alternately by the Bishop in his corporate capacity, Mr James Mackenzie-Charrington, of Iris Cottage, Love Lane, Marnhull, DT10 1PT, and the Warden and Fellows of All Souls College in the University of Oxford who shall jointly have the first turn; and the Reformation Church Trust (whose registered address is at 15, Grange Court, Cambridge, CB3 9BD), and the Church Society Trust (whose registered address is at Church Society, Ground Floor, Centre Block, Hille Business Estate, 132 Saint Albans Road, Watford, WD24 4AE) jointly having the second turn.

Assistant curates: consequential provision

4. (1) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Joanna Mary Naish holds the office of assistant curate (however described) in the benefice referred to in clause 1 hereof she shall, in consequence of the dissolution of that benefice effected by the Scheme hold that office subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice of Upper Nadder and/or the new benefice of Lower Nadder as the Bishop shall direct.

(2) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation any other person holds an office of assistant curate (however described) in the benefice referred to in clause 1 hereof he, she or they shall as consequence of the dissolution of that benefice effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice of Upper Nadder and/or the new benefice of Lower Nadder as the Bishop shall direct.

Coming into operation of this Scheme

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

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

SIGNED by the)
Right Reverend 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:

The team ministry was created in 2001 to include a Team Rector working in collaboration with two Team Vicars across the benefice. This format is no longer financially viable and therefore the Diocese, with the PCCs, have been seeking a mutually agreeable way forward. The decision has been made to dissolve the benefice, terminate the team and create two smaller benefices which will provide opportunities for closer collaboration. The Mission and Pastoral Committee is supportive of this decision.

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(3)

This clause has been included to allow the Bishop to select a priest-in-charge appointed to the current benefice to become the first incumbent of the proposed Upper Nadder benefice. The patrons and parishes concerned will be fully consulted over the appointment of the priest in charge. If it is not possible to appoint a priest in charge before the Scheme comes into effect the first incumbent of this new benefice will be appointed under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 process.

Clause 4(2)

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

Parsonage house of the Lower Nadder benefice

It is the diocesan intention that the house known as The Vicarage, 11A Tyndales Meadow, Dinton, Salisbury SP3 5HU will be the parsonage house of the proposed new benefice. The transfer of this house into benefice ownership would be dealt with under the Church Property Measure 2018 after the proposed Scheme takes effect as it is not possible to deal with it under the 2011 Measure process.

Patronage provisions

In this proposed scheme, the interests of the patrons will move in line with their historical parish connection to ensure this is preserved.

Glossary of Words commonly used in pastoral re-organisation:

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

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/pastoralandclosedchurches/mprm2011code.aspx>)

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

Interested Party	One of the statutory persons or bodies that the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee is required to consult in accordance with s.6 / 21 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.
Joint Parochial Church Council	Where a benefice comprises two or more parishes the parochial church councils of the individual parishes can form a joint parochial church council to act in the benefice as a whole in such matters as the individual PCCs together decide.
Leave to Appeal	Any person who makes a representation to the Commissioners against a pastoral scheme (but not a pastoral order) has a right to apply for leave to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council against a decision of the Commissioners to proceed notwithstanding that representation.
Members ('Other') of a Team Ministry	May be clerical or lay (see s.34 of Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011). They share the pastoral care of the area with the team rector and team vicars, but NOT the cure of souls.
Mission and Pastoral Committee	A Committee of the Commissioners' Board of Governors which makes decisions on representations on pastoral, houses and glebe matters. It is chaired by the Third Church Estates Commissioner.
Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011	The Measure of the General Synod which authorises changes in pastoral reorganisation. Designed to "make better provision for the cure of souls". Part of the law of the land and equivalent to an Act of Parliament.
Parish	The basic geographical unit over which an incumbent has cure of souls. There may be several parishes within the area of one benefice.
Parish Centre of Worship	An unconsecrated Place of Worship designated by the bishop under s.43 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 whereupon for most purposes (other than marriage) it is regarded as a parish church.
Parish Church	A consecrated building in a parish in which, subject to canon law, the statutory services must be held. Parishioners have a right to be married, baptised etc. in the parish church. S.41(2) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 requires that any building which is to become a parish church must be approved by the bishop, subject to the bishop having consulted both the Diocesan Pastoral Committee and the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
Parochial Church Council	Representative body of parishioners elected from those on the electoral roll in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Usually chaired by the incumbent.
Parsonage House	The official place of residence of an incumbent of a benefice. The house belongs to the incumbent in right of their office.
Pastoral Order	A document which effects changes in pastoral reorganisation made under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. Differs from a pastoral scheme mainly in that it deals with lesser matters.
Pastoral Scheme	A document which effects more complex or significant changes in pastoral reorganisation made under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.
Patron	The person or body owning an advowson (i.e. right to present a priest to a benefice) who may be a private individual or a corporation (ecclesiastical or lay).
Plurality	The holding of two or more benefices by one incumbent who then has the freehold of all the benefices. This can only be authorised by a scheme or order under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.
Priest in Charge	A priest (who has not been presented by the patrons and does not become the incumbent) given charge of a benefice to which the right of presentation has been suspended.
Representations	The Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 requires that any draft scheme or order be published and made available to the public. Any person can make written representations to the Commissioners either for or against what is proposed.
Team Council	In a team ministry a team council can be established, either under the authority of a scheme or under the Church Representation Rules. Such a council is similar to a joint parochial church council and provides a formal structure for all the parishes in the team to discuss matters of mutual concern.
Team Ministry	A special form of ministry whereby a team of clergy and possibly lay people share the pastoral care of the area of a benefice. Can only be established by a pastoral scheme.
Team Rector	The priest in a team ministry who heads the team and owns the property of the benefice but shares the cure of souls with the team vicars.
Team Vicar	A priest of incumbent status in a team ministry, other than the team rector, who shares the cure of souls with the team rector and other team vicars.

NOTICE

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 Draft Pastoral Scheme

25th March 2025

The Salisbury Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee has prepared a draft Pastoral Scheme for:

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

This draft Scheme provides for:

- *the dissolution of the benefice of Nadder Valley (Team Ministry) and the termination of the team ministry established for the area of that benefice;*
- *the creation of a new benefice of Upper Nadder, for the selection of the first incumbent of the new benefice and his/her place of residence, and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice;*
- *the creation of a new benefice Lower Nadder, for the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice and her place of residence, and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice*

all in the diocese of Salisbury

A copy of the draft Scheme may be inspected at:

The Church of St James, Ansty

The Church of St Martin, Barford St Martin and Burcombe

The Church of St Editha, Baverstock

The Church of St Margaret of Antioch, Chilmark

The Church of St Michael, Compton Chamberlayne

The Church of St Mary, Dinton

The Church of All Saints, Fonthill Bishop with Berwick St Leonard

The Church of Holy Trinity, Fonthill Gifford

The Church of St George, Fovant

The Church of Hindon St John the Baptist, Hindon with Chicklade and Pertwood

The Church of Chicklade All Saints, Hindon with Chicklade and Pertwood

The Church of All Saints, Sutton Mandeville

The Church of St Peter, Swallowcliffe

The Church of Teffont Evias St Michael, Teffont Evias St Michael

The Chapel of Ease of Teffont Magna St Edward, Teffont Evias with Teffont Magna

The Church of St John the Baptist, Tisbury

The draft Scheme is on the Commissioners' website

www.churchofengland.org/consultation or you may obtain a copy from Katharine Robinson (katharine.robinson@salisbury.anglican.org). **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 the

Commissioners no later than **midnight on Tuesday 6th May 2025**. Please send your representation to (e-mail: matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org) or by letter marked for the attention of **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. Please ensure you provide contact information so that they can be in touch with you regarding later stages of the process.
- If they receive representations against the draft Scheme, they will send them, and any representations supporting the draft Scheme, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors and the primary petitioner will then receive copies of the correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and will be told whether a hearing is to be held. They and individual petitioners may comment further to the Commissioners. Copies of all of the representations received and associated correspondence will normally be published on the Commissioners’ website if the matter needs to be considered by them.
- If a hearing is held, anyone may attend the meeting of the Commissioners that considers the case and representors may have an opportunity to speak to their Committee. Otherwise, if a hearing is not to be held, the case will be considered in private and you will be informed accordingly.
- When they acknowledge representations the Commissioners will let individual representors (and the primary petitioner) know the next few dates of their Committee’s meetings. They will confirm the actual date if a hearing is to be held nearer the time.
- The Commissioners’ will decide if the draft Scheme should proceed when they consider all the representations on the basis of a paper prepared by the Commissioners’ staff and any points raised at the meeting.
- The Commissioners will notify all representors of their decision and give a statement of the reasons for it.
- If they so decide, any representor or petitioner against the draft Scheme may seek leave from the Privy Council to appeal against the decision.
- Please see the Commissioners’ website www.churchofengland.org/consultation for further information about the procedure.

With thanks and best wishes

Miriam Longfoot
Governance and Pastoral Planning Manager