

NOTICE

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 Draft Pastoral Scheme

22nd September 2025

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

- *the dissolution of the benefice of Clitheroe, Chatburn and Downham;*
- *the creation of a new benefice of Saint Paul, Low Moor, Clitheroe and Christ Church, Chatburn, and for:*
 - *the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice;*
 - *the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice;*
- *the creation of a new benefice of Clitheroe Saint Mary and Saint Leonard Downham, and for:*
 - *the parsonage house of the new benefice;*
 - *the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice;*

all in the diocese of Blackburn.

A copy of the draft Scheme may be inspected at the parish churches and licensed places of worship in the affected parishes. You may also access the draft Scheme on the Commissioners' website at www.ccpastoral.org or obtain or inspect a copy during normal office hours by applying to me. **Large print and/or audio copies are available on request.**

- Anyone may make representations to the Church Commissioners **for or against** all or any part or parts of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) in writing or by email to reach them no later than midnight on **Monday 3rd November 2025**.
- Please send your representation marked for the attention of Rex Andrew, Pastoral Division, Church Commissioners, Church House, Great Smith Street, LONDON SW1P 3AZ (e-mail: rex.andrew@churchofengland.org). If they have not acknowledged receipt of your representation before this date, please call 0207 898 1743 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 also 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 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 the Commissioners receive representations against the draft Scheme they will send them, and any representations supporting the draft Scheme, to the Bishop whose views

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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 Mission and Pastoral Committee that considers the case and representors may have an opportunity to speak to the Committee. Otherwise 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 the 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 the Scheme should proceed, any representor or petitioner against the draft Scheme may seek leave from the Privy Council to appeal against the decision.
- Please see www.ccpastoral.org for further information about the procedure.

Faye Gunn
Secretary to the Blackburn Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee

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.

Glossary of words commonly used in Pastoral Reorganisation

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 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	The basic geographical unit over which an incumbent has cure of souls. There may be several parishes within the area of one benefice.
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).

Glossary of words commonly used in Pastoral Reorganisation

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 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.