

DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR UNION OF BENEFICES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TEAM MINISTRY

SUMMARY OF MAIN PROVISIONS OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

These draft proposals provide for:

- *the union of the benefice of Eastington, Frocester, Haresfield, Moreton Valence, Standish and Whitminster and the benefice of Frampton-on-Severn, Arlingham, Saul, Fretherne and Framilode and the benefice of The Stanleys with Selsley and the benefice of Stonehouse (their constituent parishes to remain distinct)*
- *the establishment of a team ministry for this new benefice*
- *the cure of souls to be shared by a team rector and two team vicars*
- *the appointment of the Reverend Charles Minchin as one of the team vicars*
- *the housing arrangements for the team*
- *the future patronage arrangements for the benefice.*

Union of benefices

1. The benefice of Eastington, Frocester, Haresfield, Moreton Valence, Standish and Whitminster and the benefice of Frampton-on-Severn, Arlingham, Saul, Fretherne and Framilode and the benefice of The Stanleys with Selsley and the benefice of Stonehouse shall be united to create a new benefice which shall be named "The Benefice of West of Stroud", and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Eastington and the parish of Frocester and the parish of Haresfield and the parish of Moreton Valence and the parish of Standish and the parish of Whitminster and the parish of Arlingham and the parish of Framilode and the parish of Frampton-on-Severn and the parish of Fretherne and the parish of Saul and the parish of Selsley and the parish of Kings Stanley and the parish of Leonard Stanley and the parish of Stonehouse, which parishes shall continue distinct.

Archdeaconry and deanery

2. The new benefice and its constituent parishes shall belong to the archdeaconry of Gloucester and the deanery of Stroud

Establishment of team ministry

3. (1) A team ministry shall be established for the area of the benefice.

(2) The cure of souls in that area shall be shared by the incumbent of the benefice, whose office shall be that of rector in the team ministry, and two other ministers, each of whom shall have the title of vicar and a status equal to that of an incumbent of a benefice.

(3) That area shall be in the pastoral care of those who are to share the cure of souls therein together with all other persons who are from time to time authorised by a provision contained in a licence or permission of the Bishop to serve in that area as members of the team.

Presentation of rector

4. The rector shall be presented, alternately by a patronage board (to be known as "The West of Stroud Team Patronage Board") constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule hereto who shall have the first turn and by Her Majesty in right of her Crown who shall have the second turn

The offices of vicar in the team ministry

5. (1) Subject to clause 6 hereof, the vicars in the team ministry shall be chosen by the Bishop and the rector jointly. ^(see notes 1-3)

(2) The licence of the Bishop under her episcopal seal appointing the holder thereto may (subject to variation or revocation of any such provision with the consent of the rector and the vicar by subsequent licence under seal) -

- (a) assign to a vicar a special cure of souls in respect of a part of the said area and, if appropriate, the name of vicar of a church in that part;
- (b) assign to a vicar a special responsibility for a particular pastoral function;
- (c) provide that any such special cure or responsibility shall be independent of the rector's general responsibility;
- (d) assign to a vicar a general responsibility to be shared with the rector for the cure of souls in the said area as a whole.

6. If immediately before the scheme establishing the team ministry comes into operation the Reverend Charles Minchin is licensed by the Bishop to serve within the area of the benefice he shall be the first holder of one of the offices of vicar in the team ministry.

Team council

7. The Bishop may by Instrument under her hand, with the concurrence of the rector, make provision -

- (a) for the establishment of a team council;
- (b) for the chairmanship, meetings and procedure of the team council;
- (c) for the functions of the parochial church council of each parish in the area of the benefice which must or may be delegated to the team council;

being provisions to the same effect as those which may be made by a scheme under the Church Representation Rules in the like case.

Places of residence

8. (1) The parsonage house of the benefice, The Rectory, Church Road, Leonard Stanley GL10 3NP, shall be the place of residence of the rector.

(2) Subject to the direction of the Bishop, the vicars in the team ministry shall severally reside in:-

- (a) the house and premises known as St Mary's House, The Street, Frampton-on-Severn GL2 7ED;
- (b) the house and premises known as The Vicarage, Elms Road, Stonehouse GL10 2NP;

- (c) such other conveniently situated house or houses as may, with the Bishop's approval, be provided in addition thereto or in substitution therefor.

Transfer of parsonage houses

9. The parsonage house of the benefice of Frampton-on-Severn, Arlingham, Saul, Fretherne and Framilode – *St Mary's House, The Street, Frampton-on-Severn GL2 7ED*, together with the site and appurtenances thereof and the grounds usually occupied and enjoyed therewith, shall without any conveyance or other assurance be transferred to the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance to be held by the said Board as part of the diocesan glebe land of the diocese of Gloucester.

10. The parsonage house of the benefice of Stonehouse – *The Vicarage, Elms Road, Stonehouse GL10 2NP*, together with the site and appurtenances thereof and the grounds usually occupied and enjoyed therewith, shall without any conveyance or other assurance be transferred to the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance to be held by the said Board as part of the diocesan glebe land of the diocese of Gloucester.

11. The parsonage house of the benefice of Eastington, Frocester, Haresfield, Moreton Valence, Standish and Whitminster – *The Rectory, Millend Lane, Eastington GL10 3SG*, together with the site and appurtenances thereof and the grounds usually occupied and enjoyed therewith, shall without any conveyance or other assurance be transferred to the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8 of Schedule 3 to the 2011 Measure.

Coming into effect of these proposals

12. If upon the date on which any Scheme arising from these proposals is made no person, other than the person referred to in clause 6 hereof, holds an ecclesiastical office under Common Tenure and is in receipt of a stipend or other emoluments of office including accommodation in any benefice which will be dissolved by the Scheme, the Scheme shall come into operation on the first day of the month following the said date; but if on the said date any person, other than the person referred to in clause 6 hereof, holds such an office the Scheme shall come into effect six months thereafter or on such earlier date on which all such offices have been vacated.

SCHEDULE

Constitution of the West of Stroud Team Patronage Board

The patronage board referred to in clause 4 of this Scheme shall consist of:-

- (1) the following in right of their respective offices:-
- (a) the Bishop who shall be chair of the board and shall have one vote as a member of the board and a casting vote as chair;
 - (b) the archdeacon of the archdeaconry to which the new benefice shall for the time being belong, who shall have one vote;
 - (c) every vicar in the team ministry, any member of the team to whom section 34(3) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 applies and any person

having special responsibility for pastoral care under section 34(8) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 who shall jointly have one vote which shall be exercised by such one of them or such two or more of them (acting unanimously or by a majority) as may be present at the meeting in question;

- (2) Gloucester Diocesan Board of Patronage of Church House, College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LY, who shall have 1 vote;
- (3) Robin Gerard d'Abo, Esquire, of Wilks Water, Odiham, Hook, Hampshire, RG29 1JG who shall have 1 vote;
- (4) Jonathan Bengough, Esquire, of Wall End Farm, Monkland, Herefordshire, HR6 9DE who shall have 1 vote;
- (5) Brigadier Jeffrey Lionel Darell, Denton Lodge, Harleston, Norfolk IP20 0AD who shall have 1 vote;
- (6) The Master or Keeper and Fellows and Scholars of the College of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint John the Evangelist and the Glorious Virgin Saint Radegund, commonly called Jesus College in the University of Cambridge who shall have 1 vote;

NOTES:

Team Name

The name of the Team used in this draft proposal is indicative only and all constructive suggestions of alternative names will be gratefully received.

Team rector

The appointment process for a Team Rector is the same as that for any incumbent within the Diocese. Whilst the patrons formally present the candidate and the Bishop appoints, the parishes are involved throughout. Each parish will help to write and agree the benefice profile and each PCC has a right to choose up to two representatives who will shortlist and interview and help to choose which candidate should be presented by the Patrons. The process for Team Vicars is very similar and the parishes are involved in the same manner.

Team chapter and team

1. Under section 34(1) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 the persons who are to share the cure of souls within the area of the benefice will constitute a team chapter and the team chapter together with the other persons referred to in clause 4(3) will constitute the team.
2. Section 13(1) and paragraphs 19 and 20 of Schedule 2 to the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 apply to the appointment of a team rector whereby the registered patron of a vacant benefice shall not make any priest an offer to present him or her to a benefice until the making of the offer to the priest in question has been approved by parish representatives of each parish in the team (unless a team council or joint parochial church council has been established in which case such approval shall be by representatives of the team or joint parochial church council) and the Bishop.

3. Paragraph 2(6) of Schedule 3 to the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 provides that before the body or other persons who are entitled to choose a person to be a vicar in a team ministry make their choice, they shall consult -
 - (a) the other members of the team;
 - (b) the parochial church council of every parish in the team ministry; and
 - (c) if a special cure of souls in respect of a part of the area is to be assigned in accordance with section 34(7)(a) to the vicar, any district church council concerned.

4. Paragraph 2(7)(a) of Schedule 3 to the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 provides that the body or other persons who are entitled to choose a person to be a vicar in a team ministry shall not make to any person an offer of appointment as such until the making of the offer to the person in question has been approved by the parish representatives of each parish in the team (unless a team council has been established in which case such approval shall be by representatives of the team) and the Bishop.

Transfer of parsonage houses

The locations of the clergy housing indicated in this draft proposal is a preliminary indication only, and any comments or suggestions for the better arrangement of the accommodation of the three stipendiary clergy within the team would be gratefully received.

There can only be one parsonage house within each benefice. It is standard to transfer team vicarages to the Diocesan Board of Finance as glebe properties. The remaining property is to be held by the Diocese in case of need for accommodating additional ministers within the area of the team, but if this need should not be forthcoming or should there be a more suitable house identified within the team area then this house may be sold to fund the purchase or creation of that alternative house, or for the general purposes of the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance.

Team council

The draft proposal allows for the creation of a team council in one of two ways. It is considered appropriate that the work of the team council should be discerned once a team forms. This will not replace individual PCCs but will allow delegation of decisions affecting the whole team to be made by the whole team acting together.

The Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 stipulates that any provisions for a team council shall cease to have effect not later than five years from the date on which the scheme establishing the team ministry comes into effect. It would, however, be possible under the Church Representation Rules to make similar provisions for an unlimited period. A structure for the draft team council instrument is circulated with this draft proposal for comments.

Membership of Patronage Board

The Vicar of Standish is one of the patrons of the benefice of Frampton-on-Severn, Arlingham, Saul, Fretherne and Framilode which is being united with the three other benefices to form the proposed new benefice and team ministry. This patronage interest

will be extinguished in the proposed arrangements as under general trust law it is not permissible for an incumbent to be patron of his own benefice; it is however, permissible for them, as a team vicar of the proposed team ministry, to be involved in the appointment process of future team rectors, as reflected in the patronage board provisions.

Coming into effect clause

6. Under the provision of s39(3) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 it is mandatory for a Pastoral Scheme which would have the effect of causing any ecclesiastical office held under Common Tenure the holder of which is in receipt of a stipend and/or accommodation to cease to exist to include the provision in clause [...] delaying the coming into effect of the Scheme for up to six months after it is made. This is to give such an office holder who would be dispossessed an opportunity to find another post before the Scheme takes effect, and if not appointed to another office he or she may become eligible for compensation. For the avoidance of doubt this provision is included in all cases where the possibility of such dispossession could arise but the six month delay provision will only become operative if someone in receipt of a stipend and/or accommodation, other than such a person who is named in the Scheme as the first holder of a new office, is actually in post on the day the Scheme is made. Generally any such persons will agree to resign and be relicensed to the new benefice in order to bring the Scheme into effect without delay.

The Revd Dr Anne Spargo has indicated that she intends to retire during 2016, and it is expected that this if this scheme is made this will not be effective until after her retirement dates. For this reason no plan to make provision for her to continue within the new team has been made.