

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

This draft Scheme provides for:

- the union of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring and the benefice of Bride Valley (their constituent parishes to remain distinct);*
- for the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice and for her parsonage house to be that of the benefice of Bride Valley*
- for the transfer to the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes of the parsonage house of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring;*
- and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice; in the diocese of Salisbury.*

DRAFT

PASTORAL SCHEME

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners this day of 2023 in pursuance of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, the Right Reverend Stephen, Bishop of Salisbury, having consented thereto.

Union of benefices

1. The benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring and the benefice of Bride Valley in the diocese of Salisbury shall be united to create a new benefice which shall be named "The Benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil", and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Abbotsbury, the parish of Langton Herring, the parish of Portesham, the parish of Burton Bradstock and Chilcombe, the parish of Little Bredy, the parish of Litton Cheney, the parish of Long Bredy, the parish of Puncknowle, the parish of Shipton Gorge and the parish of Swyre, which parishes shall continue distinct.

Archdeaconry and deanery

2. The new benefice and its constituent parishes shall belong to the archdeaconry of Sherborne and the deanery of Lyme Bay.

Designation of first incumbent

3. If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Jane Lorette Williams holds an ecclesiastical office in either of the benefices referred to in clause 1 hereof she shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

Assistant curates: consequential provision

4. (1) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Margaret Preuss-Higham and/or the Reverend Elizabeth Mary Howlett holds the office of assistant curate (however described) in either of the benefices referred to in clause 1 hereof they shall, in consequence of the union of benefices effected by the Scheme hold that office subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil.

(2) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation any other person holds an office of assistant curate (however described) in either of the benefices referred to in clause 1 hereof he, she or they shall as consequence of the union of benefices effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil.

Place of residence

5. The parsonage house of the benefice of Bride Valley (known as The Rectory, Church Street, Burton Bradstock, Bridport, DT6 4QS) shall be the place of residence of the incumbent of the new benefice.

Transfer of parsonage house

6. The parsonage house of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring (known as Portesham Rectory, Church Lane, Portesham, Weymouth, DT3 4HB), 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 Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes.

Patronage

7. Subject to clause 3 hereof, the right of presentation to the new benefice shall on each occasion be exercised jointly by the Bishop of Salisbury in his corporate capacity, The Honourable Mrs Charlotte Townshend, of Melbury House, Melbury Sampford, Dorchester DT2 0LF, Mr George Pitt-Rivers, of The Manor House, Hinton Saint Mary, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1NA, and Sir Phillip Williams Bt., of Bridehead, Little Bredy, Dorchester, DT2 9JA.

Coming into operation of this Scheme

8. 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 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:

Due to its rural nature the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring has not been a good fit in Weymouth and Portland Deanery and it is felt that these three parishes would belong better in Lyme Bay Deanery, linked to the benefice of Bride Valley. The two benefices have begun to develop good working relationships; pastorally they would both fit together well. Uniting the two benefices to form the benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil would create a larger clergy team. This is not intended to be a cost saving exercise but would allow clergy to better serve the needs of the worshipping communities.

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

The parishes of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring will be transferred from the deanery of Weymouth and Portland to the deanery of Lyme Bay by this Scheme.

Clause 4

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

Clause 6

It is intended that the parsonage of the benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring will house the Associate Priest. It will continue to be occupied by the Reverend Margaret Preuss-Higham during her tenure as Associate Priest.

Churches etc

This Scheme does not alter the existing status of any of the churches, chapels of ease or licensed places of worship in the affected parishes.