

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

This draft Scheme provides for:

- (1) the termination of the group ministry established in 1977;*
- (2) the dissolution of the three benefices of Buckingham; North Buckingham; and Stowe;*
- (3) the creation of three new benefices of (i) Buckingham; (ii) North Buckingham with Stowe; and (iii) Blackthorn Chase; and for*
 - o the appointments of the first incumbents of the new benefices;*
 - o their housing arrangements; and*
 - o the future patronage arrangements for the new benefices;*
- (4) the establishment of a new group ministry for the new benefice of Buckingham; the new benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe; the new benefice of Blackthorn Chase, the benefice of Lenborough and the benefice of West Buckingham;*

all in the diocese of Oxford.

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 2011 Measure”), the Right Reverend Steven, Bishop of Oxford, having consented thereto.

Termination of group ministry

1. The group ministry which was established by a Scheme made by the Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 1968 on the 29th day of July 1977 for the then benefice of Buckingham, the benefice of North Buckingham, the then benefice of Lenborough, the then benefice of Nash with Thornton, Beachampton and Thornborough, the then benefice of Tingewick with Water Stratford, Radclive cum Chackmore and the then benefice of Westbury with Turweston, Shalstone and Biddlesden in the diocese of Oxford shall be terminated.

Dissolution of benefices

2. The benefice of Buckingham, the benefice of North Buckingham and the benefice of Stowe in the diocese of Oxford shall be dissolved

Creation of new benefice of Buckingham

3. (1) A new benefice which shall be named the “Benefice of Buckingham”, which shall be a rectory, shall be created in the diocese of Oxford, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Buckingham and the parish of Radclive cum Chackmore, which parishes shall continue distinct.

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

(3) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend William Oliver Clinton Pearson-Gee holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 2 hereof he shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

(4) The parsonage house of the benefice of Buckingham (known as The Rectory, 8, Aris Way, Buckingham, MK18 1FX) shall without any conveyance or other assurance be vested in the incumbent of the new benefice in his corporate capacity as his official residence.

(5) Subject to clause 3(3) hereof the right of presentation to the new benefice shall on each occasion be exercised jointly by the Bishop of Oxford in his corporate capacity; and the Warden and Scholars of Saint Mary's College of Winchester in Oxford, commonly called New College.

Creation of new benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe

4. (1) A new benefice which shall be named the "Benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe", which shall be a rectory, shall be created in the diocese of Oxford, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of North Buckingham and the parish of Stowe, which parishes shall continue distinct.

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

(3) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Johannes Albert Taling holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 2 hereof he shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

(4) The parsonage house of the benefice of North Buckingham (known as The Rectory, South Hall, Maids Moreton, Buckingham, MK18 1QD) shall without any conveyance or other assurance be vested in the incumbent of the new benefice in his corporate capacity as his official residence.

(5) Subject to clause 4(3) hereof, the right of presentation to the new benefice shall on each occasion be exercised jointly by the Church Society Trust, whose registered office is at Church Society, Ground Floor, Centre Block, Hille Business Estate, 132 Saint Albans Road, Watford, WD24 4AE; Oliver Abraham John Roberts, Esquire, of Fox and Hounds Farm, Lillingstone Dayrell, Buckingham MK18 5AP; and the Governors of Stowe School, care of the secretary, Stowe School, Stowe, Buckingham, MK18 5EH.

Creation of new benefice of Blackthorn Chase

5. (1) A new benefice which shall be named the "Benefice of Blackthorn Chase", which shall be a rectory, shall be created in the diocese of Oxford, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Beachampton, the parish of Thornborough, the parish of Thornton with Nash and the parish of Whaddon, which parishes shall continue distinct.

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

(3) If immediate before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Jaqueline McClintock Dove holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 2 hereof she shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

(4) Subject to clause 5(3) the right of presentation to the new benefice shall on each occasion be exercised jointly by the archdeacon of the archdeaconry to which the new benefice shall from time to time belong; the Master and Fellows of

Gonville and Caius College in the University of Cambridge; and Ms Emily Railson of Home Farm, Thornton, Milton Keynes, MK17 0HB.

Assistant curates: consequential provision

6. (1) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend John Frederick King holds the office of assistant curate (however described) in the benefice of Buckingham he, 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 Blackthorn Chase.

(2) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation any other person holds an office of assistant curate (however described) in any of the benefices dissolved by this Scheme, she, he or they shall as consequence of the creation of the three new benefices effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in such of the new benefices as the Bishop shall direct.

Establishment of group ministry

7. (1) A group ministry to be known as "The Buckingham Group Ministry" shall be established for the new benefice of Buckingham created pursuant to clause 3(1) hereof, the new benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe created pursuant to clause 4(1) hereof, the new benefice of Blackthorn Chase created pursuant to clause 5(1) hereof, the benefice of West Buckingham and the benefice of Lenborough in the diocese of Oxford.

(2) If pursuant to clause 3(3) hereof the Reverend William Oliver Clinton Pearson-Gee becomes the first incumbent of the new benefice of Buckingham, or if pursuant to clause 4(3) hereof the Reverend Johannes Albert Taling becomes the first incumbent of the new benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe, or if pursuant to clause 5(3) hereof the Reverend Jaqueline McClintock Dove becomes the first incumbent of the new benefice of Blackthorn Chase or if immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Paula Smith is the incumbent of the benefice of West Buckingham, or the Reverend Rosamunde Mair Roberts is the incumbent of the benefice of Lenborough, he, she or they shall be the first person (or persons) to hold that benefice (or those benefices) as a benefice (or as benefices) in the group.

Coming into operation of this Scheme

8. If this Scheme is made by the Commissioners before the 1st day of January 2021 it shall come into operation upon the 1st day of January 2021 but if this Scheme is made by the Commissioners after the 1st day of January 2021 it shall come into operation upon 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 Steven,)
)
Bishop of Oxford.)

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 benefices affected by these proposals are demographically diverse and present distinct pastoral and missional needs. These proposals have been prepared to enable appropriately focussed missional leadership to each area involved.**
- **The single-parish benefice of Stowe has undergone an extended period without its own priest. These proposals provide for the benefice to combine with the North Buckingham benefice to create a new benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe which will enable Stowe to once more have an incumbent to lead and care for the parish, as well as becoming part of a wider support system.**
- **These proposals also provide for the current Buckingham benefice to be divided in two to enable the incumbent of the new benefice of Buckingham, where Buckingham itself is essentially a “town parish”, to focus on what is an increasingly urban environment in the town. It is proposed that the parish of Radclive cum Chackmore, to the west of Buckingham, remain within the new benefice of Buckingham, on the understanding that that parish is enabled to remain distinct and is provided with adequate resources from within the Group Ministry to continue and enhance its rural mission.**
- **The remaining part of the existing Buckingham benefice will form a new benefice to the east of Buckingham, the Blackthorn Chase benefice, allowing a new incumbent to focus on the rural missional context which unites the four parishes involved.**
- **The proposal to resurrect the “Buckingham Group Ministry” comes from a desire by the “rural ring” of parishes surrounding the town of Buckingham to work together, in particular sharing expertise and**

common purpose in rural mission, and forming a lay leadership team which will draw together lay worship leaders and lay missional leaders from all the rural benefices, to be deployed as needed around the Group.

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.

1. The benefice of West Buckingham; and the benefice of Lenborough

The only effect on these benefices is that they will no longer be part of the group ministry established by the 1977 Scheme but will instead be part of the new group ministry established by this one.

2. Status of 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.

3. Assistant curates: consequential provision – clause 6(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 benefices effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the new benefices, as the Bishop shall direct. 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.

4. Parsonage house for the proposed new benefice of Blackthorn Chase

It is the diocesan intention that the property known as The Rectory, Chapel Lane, Thornborough, MK18 2DJ currently vested in the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance as part of its corporate portfolio, will be transferred into benefice ownership as the parsonage. This transaction cannot be provided for in the draft Pastoral Scheme under the 2011 Measure process and will need to be dealt with under the Church Property Measure 2018 legislation should the proposed Scheme take effect.

5. Group ministry

Sharing of ministry within the group

The benefices within the group will retain their separate and distinct existence but each of the incumbents (and any priests-in-charge) will have authority to perform in the area of every benefice in the group all such offices and services as may be performed by the incumbent of that benefice. When acting outside his or her own benefice an incumbent must act in accordance with the directions of the incumbent concerned (and in giving such instructions an incumbent should follow the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests, made in conjunction with the Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure 2014, that any directions under Canon C8.2(a) relating to a parish which has passed a resolution under the House of Bishops' Declaration should not conflict with the nature of the conviction on this issue underlying the PCC's resolution). The incumbents also have a duty to assist each other so as to make the best possible provision for the cure of souls throughout the area of the group ministry. (S.35(1) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure.)

Group Chapter

The incumbents (and any priests-in-charge) must meet together regularly as a chapter for the purpose of discussing and reaching a common mind on all matters of general concern or special interest to the group ministry and a chairman must be elected, normally for a term of three years. (S.35(4) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure.)

Consultation on appointment of new incumbent

A patron of a group benefice must consult the other incumbents (and any priests-in-charge) in the group before seeking the approval of the parish representatives (as defined in s.11(7) of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986), and of the bishop, to the making to a priest of an offer of appointment. (Paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 to the Mission and Pastoral Measure.)

Joint Councils

Any provision relating to the creation of a Joint Council under the Church Representation Rules will be effected after this Scheme comes into effect should the proposed Scheme take effect.