

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

This draft Scheme provides for the church of Saint James, Wigmore, being one of the parish churches of the parish of Wigmore Abbey to be declared closed for regular public worship; for the alteration of the areas of the parish of Wigmore Abbey and the parish of Aymestrey with Leinthall Earles; for the chapel of ease of Saint Andrew in the parish of Wigmore Abbey to become one of the parish churches in the parish of Wigmore Abbey and for the alteration of the name of the benefice of Kingsland with Eardisland, Aymestrey and Leinthall Earles all in the diocese of Hereford.

DRAFT

PASTORAL CHURCH BUILDINGS 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 Richard, Bishop of Hereford, having consented thereto.

PART I

Declaration of closure for regular public worship

1. (1) The church of Saint James, Wigmore being one of the parish churches of the parish of Wigmore Abbey in the diocese of Hereford shall be declared closed for regular public worship by this Scheme.

(2) Subject to any provisions of the Parochial Registers and Records Measure 1978 which apply thereto and any directions thereunder, any register books and records of that church which remain in parochial custody shall be dealt with as the Bishop shall direct.

Alteration of areas of parishes and alteration of benefice name

2. (1) All that part of the parish of Wigmore Abbey which is hatched and lettered "A" on the annexed map shall be transferred to the parish of Aymestrey with Leinthall Earles.

(2) The name of the benefice of Kingsland with Eardisland, Aymestrey and Leinthall Earles shall be altered to "The Benefice of Mortimer's Cross".

Church of Saint Andrew, Adforton

3. The church of Saint Andrew, Adforton, being a chapel of ease in the parish of Wigmore Abbey, shall become a parish church of that parish.

PART II

Coming into operation of this Scheme

2. (1) Part I of this Scheme shall come into operation upon such date as the Commissioners, after consultation with the Bishop, shall determine.

(2) Part II of this Scheme shall come into operation upon the date on which it is 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 Richard,)
Bishop of Hereford.)

Executed as a Deed by the Church Commissioners for England
acting by two authorised signatories:

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Note by the Church Commissioners' office (not forming part of the draft Scheme)

The Commissioners have been told by the Bishop on the advice of his Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee that the rationale behind the diocesan proposals is as follows:

These proposals have come forward at the request of the parish. For many years now the parish has struggled to keep a congregation and committee going for St James, Wigmore. There have been a number of issues, including its location, access (the road and footpath both presenting challenges), its size (which makes

it very difficult to heat), and the fact that it's grade I listed, which rules out a lot of options for change. The PCC has therefore been asking whether there is a better way of doing things, which will ensure the continued pastoral care of the people of Wigmore, with a continued presence of the people of the church in the community and school, but without the challenges presented by responsibility for the building. The PCC believes that the preservation of the historic building now requires it to be managed by another body. The hope is that this could be achieved with arrangements being made for occasional special services to be held each year.

Publication of this draft Scheme by the Commissioners does not mean that we have taken a view on the merits of the diocesan case. We have a duty to publish draft Schemes based on diocesan proposals.

If we receive representations against the draft Scheme, we will send all representations, both for and against, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors will then receive copies of our correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and they may comment further in writing to us in light of the diocesan response if they so wish.

If there are no representations against the draft Scheme, we will make the Scheme and arrange for it to be brought into effect.

This Scheme, if implemented, would have the effect of closing Saint James church, Wigmore for regular public worship and vesting it in the Hereford Diocesan Board of Finance for care and maintenance pending a decision on its future. Any such decision would be the subject of a second Scheme, called a Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme, which would be prepared and published by the Church Commissioners, and with regard to which an opportunity would be given for representations to be made. In terms of implementing this Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme subject to the consideration of any representations, the Commissioners will need to be satisfied that all aspects of title relating to the church, including access and any rights of way, are in order before they make the Scheme. Banns of marriage may not be called nor marriages solemnized in the church from the date of closure.

Transfer of area of Wigmore Abbey to Amestrey with Leinthall Earles

