

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

*This draft Scheme provides for the union of the benefice of Bere Ferrers, the benefice of Peter Tavy and Mary Tavy, the benefice of Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brent Tor and the benefice of Whitchurch (their constituent parishes to remain distinct) in the diocese of Exeter and for the establishment of a team ministry for the new benefice of Bere Ferrers with Bere Alston, Brent Tor, Gulworthy, Mary Tavy, Peter Tavy, Tavistock and Whitchurch. It also provides for the cure of souls in the new benefice to be shared by a team rector and one team vicar, for their appointment, for the housing arrangements for the team and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice.*

**DRAFT**

**PASTORAL SCHEME**

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners this        day of 20        in pursuance of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, the Right Reverend Jacqueline, Bishop of Crediton, duly appointed in that behalf pursuant to section 14 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007, having consented thereto.

**Union of benefices**

1. The benefice of Bere Ferrers, the benefice of Peter Tavy and Mary Tavey, the benefice of Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brent Tor and the benefice of Whitchurch in the diocese of Exeter shall be united to create a new benefice which shall be named "The Benefice of Bere Ferrers with Bere Alston, Brent Tor, Gulworthy, Mary Tavy, Peter Tavy, Tavistock and Whitchurch", and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Bere Ferrers (the name of which shall be altered to "The Parish of Bere Ferrers with Bere Alston"), the parish of Brent Tor, the parish of Gulworthy, the parish of Mary Tavy, the parish of Peter Tavy, the parish of Tavistock and the parish of Whitchurch, which parishes shall continue distinct.

**Archdeaconry and deanery**

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

**Establishment of team ministry**

3. (1) A team ministry (to be known as "The Tavistock Area Team Ministry") shall be established for the area of the new benefice.

(2) The cure of souls in that area shall be shared by the incumbent of the new benefice, whose office shall be that of rector in the team ministry, and one other minister, who 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 licence or permission of the Bishop to serve in that area as members of the team.

#### **The office of rector in the team ministry**

4. If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Matthew Fenton Godfrey holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 1 hereof he shall be the first rector.

#### **Presentation of rector**

5. Subject to clause 4 hereof, the rector shall be presented by a patronage board (to be known as "The Tavistock Area Team Ministry Patronage Board") constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule hereto.

#### **The office of vicar in the team ministry**

6. (1) Subject to clause 7 hereof, the vicar in the team ministry shall be chosen by the Bishop and the rector jointly.

(2) The licence of the Bishop under his 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 the 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 the 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 the vicar a general responsibility to be shared with the rector for the cure of souls in the said area as a whole.

7. If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Nicholas Charles Law holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 1 hereof he shall be the first holder of the office of vicar in the team ministry.

#### **Assistant curates: consequential provision**

8. (1) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Judith Ann Blowey and/or the Reverend Doctor Hazel Judith Butland and/or the Reverend Karen Amanda Susan Sharland hold the office of assistant curate (however described) in any of the benefices referred to in clause 1 hereof she or they shall, in 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 Bere Ferrers with Bere Alston, Brent Tor, Gulworthy, Mary Tavy, Peter Tavy, Tavistock and Whitchurch.

(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 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 Bere Ferrers with Bere Alston, Brent Tor, Gulworthy, Mary Tavy, Peter Tavy, Tavistock and Whitchurch.

### **Places of residence**

9. (1) The parsonage house of the benefice of Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brent Tor (known as The Vicarage, 5A, Plymouth Road, Tavistock, PL19 8AU) shall be the place of residence of the rector.

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

- (a) the parsonage house of the benefice of Bere Ferrers;
- (b) such other conveniently situated house as may, with the Bishop's approval, be provided in substitution therefor.

### **Transfer of parsonage houses**

10. The parsonage house of the benefice of Bere Ferrers (known as Holy Trinity & Saint Andrews, The Rectory, The Down, Bere Alston, Yelverton, PL20 7HQ) and the parsonage house of the benefice of Whitchurch (known as The Vicarage, 204, Whitchurch Road, Tavistock, PL19 9DQ), together with the sites and appurtenances thereof and the grounds usually occupied and enjoyed therewith, shall without any conveyance or other assurance be transferred to the Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes.

### **Disposal of parsonage house**

11. The parsonage house of the benefice of Peter Tavy and Mary Tavy (known as The Rectory, Mary Tavy, Tavistock, PL19 9PP), 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 Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance for disposal in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8 of Schedule 3 to the 2011 Measure.

### **Coming into operation of this Scheme**

12. This Scheme shall come into operation upon the first day of the month following the date of it being made by the Church Commissioners.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **Constitution of the Tavistock Area Team Ministry Patronage Board**

The patronage board referred to in clause 5 of this Scheme shall consist of:-

- (1) the following in right of their respective offices:-
  - (a) the Bishop of Exeter, 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 vicar in the team ministry, any deacon authorised to serve in the team ministry, and any person having special responsibility for pastoral care under section 34(8) of the 2011 Measure who shall jointly have one vote which shall be exercised by such one or more of them (acting alone, unanimously or by a majority) as may be present at the meeting in question;
- (2) the Exeter Diocesan Board of Patronage, which shall have one vote;
- (3) the Guild of All Souls, whose registered office is at Dalton House, 60, Windsor Avenue, London, SW19 2RR, which shall have one vote.

In witness of which this Scheme has been duly executed as a deed by the Church Commissioners.

SIGNED by the Right Reverend Jacqueline, )  
 )  
Bishop of Crediton. )

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 market town of Tavistock (population c.13,000) is an important West Devon market town, with amenities serving the resident community and the surrounding rural and semi-rural villages. At present, the benefice of Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brent Tor (comprising three parishes and four churches) is part of a diocesan mission community with the benefices of Peter Tavy and Mary Tavy (comprising two parishes and two churches) and the benefice of Whitchurch (a single-parish benefice with one church). While the purpose of a mission community is to seek to offer the fullness of the life and ministry of the Church of England across a particular area, these three benefices have, in practice, not functioned effectively as a mission community since its inception in 2012, in large part due to clergy relations and vacancies in the benefices. The neighbouring single-parish benefice of Bere Ferrers, which has two churches, currently sits as a separate mission community.**

**The benefice of Peter Tavy and Mary Tavy has been vacant since the sudden death of the former Incumbent in 2017, with the patron's right of presentation suspended on the grounds of potential pastoral reorganisation. The benefice of Whitchurch became vacant on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, and the patron's right of presentation has also been suspended; it is this recent vacancy, together with the appointment of a new priest-in-charge of the Tavistock benefice in September 2022, that has prompted the**

bringing forward of the current proposals, which have been under discussion for some time.

**Given the current financial context and policy for the allocation of stipendiary clergy in the diocese, the benefices of Peter Tavy and Mary Tavy; and Whitchurch do not currently warrant full-time stipendiary incumbents. Rather than seek to appoint to part-time stipendiary posts (for which it is often difficult to attract candidates in rural areas of the diocese), it is felt that the parishes concerned would be best served by a team of clergy – a team rector, a team vicar and two assistant curates – working together to seek to grow a cohesive and collaborative mission community offering the fullness of the life and ministry of the Church of England across the seven parishes. The creation of a team ministry fits in with the diocesan vision that no member of the clergy should work in isolation. The parishioners of Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy are familiar with the priest-in-charge of Tavistock and the current incumbent of Bere Ferrers, who would become the team rector and team vicar respectively in the proposed team ministry, due to their support during the vacancy period. They will also become known to the parishioners of Whitchurch as they, too, enter vacancy.**

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.

### 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 3(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 and the Bishop.

3. Paragraph 2(6) of Schedule 3 to the Mission and Pastoral Measure 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 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.
5. Section 54A(1)(i) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure provides that should local circumstances require an increase in the number of team vicars, the Bishop can address this locally via a Bishop's Pastoral Order.

#### Clause 8(2)

6. The above clause has been included to ensure that any person holding an office of assistant curate (however described) shall as consequence of the union of the benefices effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice of Bere Ferrers with Bere Alston, Brent Tor, Gulworthy, Mary Tavy, Peter Tavy, Tavistock and Whitchurch. 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.

#### Patronage arrangements

7. The patrons of the existing benefices are:

Bere Ferrers: the Exeter Diocesan Board of Patronage

Peter Tavy and Mary Tavy: the Guild of All Souls

Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brent Tor: the Bishop of Exeter

Whitchurch: the Bishop of Exeter

These patronage interests are reflected in the constitution of the proposed team ministry's patronage board.

## Housing

8. Under these proposals, the current parsonage house of the benefice of Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brent Tor would become the parsonage house of the new benefice, and the place of residence the team rector.

As a benefice can only have one parsonage house at any given time, provision is being made for the parsonage houses of the benefices of Bere Ferrers; and Whitchurch be transferred to the Exeter DBF for diocesan purposes. The Bere Ferrers property would become the place of residence of the team vicar in the team ministry under the provisions contained in clause 9(2)(a); and the Whitchurch property would be retained for the foreseeable future (and possibly let in the meantime) to provide flexibility on its use in the longer term.

There is an additional property known as 1 St Andrews Road, Tavistock, PL19 9BY, held by the Exeter DBF as part of its corporate portfolio. Although all of the current curates live in their own properties, it is still the diocesan intention to retain this property for the longer term to provide flexibility on its future use, especially in case it is required to house a curate providing ministry in the area.

The parsonage house of the benefice of Peter Tavy and Mary Tavy (known as The Rectory, Mary Tavy, Tavistock, PL19 9PP) has not been used to house a priest for more than fifteen years, and is considered surplus to requirements for clergy housing. Clause 11 provides for it be transferred to the Exeter DBF for disposal in due course.

## Altering name of the parish of Bere Ferrers

9. The legal name of the existing benefice and its parish is "Bere Ferrers". The diocese has asked that the name of the parish be altered to "Bere Ferrers with Bere Alston" to tie-in with the name of the proposed new benefice (which takes into account the chapel of ease of Holy Trinity located at Bere Alston).

## Churches etc

10. 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.