



Patrick Brown
Pastoral Case Officer

Our ref: 18/155BW
4 February 2026

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011

Diocese of Hereford

Parish of Wigmore Abbey and the parish of Aymestrey with Leinthall Earles

The church of Saint James, Wigmore

The Bishop of Hereford has asked us to prepare a draft Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme in respect of pastoral proposals affecting the parish of Wigmore Abbey and the parish of Aymestrey with Leinthall Earles and the church of Saint James, Wigmore.

I attach a copy of the draft Scheme and a glossary of terms used together with the Notice. I am sending a copy to all the statutory interested parties, as the Mission and Pastoral Measure requires, and any others with an interest in the proposals.

Anyone may make representations **for** or **against** all or any part or parts of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) by post or, preferably, by email to reach me no later than **midnight on Monday 9th March 2026**. If we have not acknowledged receipt of your representation before this date, please ring or email me to ensure it has been received. For administrative purposes, a petition will be classed as a single representation and we will only correspond with the sender of the petition, if known, or otherwise the first signatory for whom we can identify an address – “the primary petitioner”.

If we do not receive representations against the draft Scheme, we will make the Scheme and it will come into effect as it provides. A copy of the completed Scheme will be sent to you together with a note of its effective date.

If we receive any representations against the draft Scheme, we will send them, and any representations supporting the draft Scheme, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors and the primary petitioner will then receive copies of our correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations). They and individual petitioners may comment further. Copies of all of the representations received and associated correspondence will normally be published on the Commissioners’ website if the matter needs to be considered by us.

Those making representations should indicate whether they would like an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners regarding their representations in the event the Commissioners decide a hearing should be held. Meetings are normally held at Church House, Westminster. If a hearing is held, we will let you know the arrangements for attending (in person or virtually) and details will also appear on our website. Otherwise, if a hearing is not to be held, the case will be considered in private and you will be informed accordingly.

When we acknowledge representations we will let individual representors (and the primary petitioner) know the next few dates of our Committee's meetings. We will confirm the actual date of any hearing nearer the time. The Commissioners will decide if the draft Scheme should proceed when they consider all the representations on the basis of a paper prepared by their staff and any points raised at the meeting. If the Commissioners do so decide, any representor or petitioner against the draft Scheme may seek leave from the Privy Council to appeal against the decision.

You will be informed of the Commissioners' decision and the reasons for it.

Please see www.churchofengland.org/consultation for further information about the procedure.

PCC Secretaries, incumbents/priests-in-charge/rural deans, persons taking services during the Notice Period and local planning authorities should refer to the relevant notes below for important additional information concerning them.

Patrick Brown
Case Officer

Notes

1. PCC Secretaries

The draft Scheme is sent to you as PCC Secretary. Please ensure that it is drawn to the attention of the other members so the PCC as a body is able to make any comments on the draft if it wishes.

You are required as soon as possible to:

- i) print and display the Notice(s) (***please display single-sided where possible***) at or near the main door of **every** parish church, chapel of ease or licensed place of worship in your parish; (if you are unable to print the Notice(s) please get in touch with me and I will make arrangements for copies to be sent to you for display);
- ii) make arrangements for the Announcement (see 2. below) to be made at as many services as possible at every parish church, chapel of ease or licensed place of worship in your parish where a service is held during the notice period (including any that are 'streamed').

Please email or telephone me confirmation as soon as you have displayed the Notice(s) and made arrangements for the announcements to be made. Do not wait until the end of the notice period before confirming this.

Although the following are not legal requirements, to ensure that as many of those who habitually attend public worship, as is practicable, are aware of the contents of the Notice and draft Scheme, you are also encouraged to take (or make arrangements for), where possible, such of the following steps as is appropriate in your parish:

- i) arrange for copies of the Notice and draft Scheme to be posted to members of the worshipping community who are shielding or self-isolating (in accordance with the general advice to parishes this should be by the postal service and not hand delivered);
- ii) insert the Notice in the parish magazine or newsletter;
- iii) display the draft Scheme with the Notice at every parish church, chapel of ease or licensed place of worship in your parish;
- iv) use Facebook/social media posts;
- v) send emails; and
- vi) spread by word of mouth, including pastoral telephone calls.

Please make a note of what you have been able to do regarding steps i) to vi) above in case the consultation process is queried.

If you are no longer the PCC Secretary, please pass this communication to the current Secretary and let me have a note of his or her name and email/postal address.

Further action required as there is a proposed church closure

In addition to the above, a copy of the draft Scheme must be made available for inspection in the locality – in this case, I understand that arrangements have been made for display at Wigmore Village Community Centre, HR6 9UW

If you are the person doing this, will you please let me know that you have taken this additional step.

2. The Announcement

Anybody taking services (including those that are ‘streamed’) during the Notice Period should ensure that the following announcement is made.

“A Notice giving the objects of proposed pastoral reorganisation affecting this parish has or will be displayed near the main door and on the Church of England website. The Notice includes the last date by which representations regarding the proposed reorganisation may be made to the Church Commissioners.”

PCC Secretaries – please note that it is essential that:

- i) Notices are displayed; and
- ii) arrangements are made for Announcements.

3. Incumbents/priests-in-charge/rural deans

Please ensure that the required Notices are displayed and Announcements made.

If a PCC Secretary is not able to carry out these requirements, please could you arrange for these matters to be dealt with as soon as possible. Please also let me know if there has been a recent change of Secretary in any of the parishes.

4. Local planning authorities and parish councils

We serve notice on the local planning authority and parish council of the parish in which the affected church building is situated as interested parties under the Mission and Pastoral Measure. Although County and Town Councils are not defined as interested parties under this Measure, please copy this correspondence to either of these parties if you feel this would be helpful. Ward Councillors for the affected parish(es) have been sent a copy of the draft Scheme.

5. Circulation List

The Statutory Advisory Committee of the Church Buildings Council

National Churches Trust

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Historic England, Midlands Regional

Joint Committee, c/o Historic Buildings and Places

War Memorials Trust

Society of Genealogists

PCC Secretaries/Church Administrator/Churchwardens:

Wigmore St James, Mr A Page

Aston St Giles, Mr N Tandy

Adforton St Andrew, Mr A Page

Elton St Mary, Mrs G Bilbrough

Leinthall Starkes St Mary, Mrs V Price

Leintwardine St Mary, Mrs V Price

Brampton Bryan St Barnabas, Mr W Morris

Kingsland St Michael, Revd N Read

Downton St Giles, Mr A Page

Eardisland St Mary, Mrs A Denny

Aymestrey with Leinthall Earles St John the Baptist and St Alkmund, Mrs B Hutchings

Bishop of Hereford

Crown and Lord Chancellor Mailbox

Hereford Diocesan Board of Patronage

Secretary to the Hereford Diocesan Board of Patronage in their office of secretary to the patronage trust for the benefice of Wigmore Abbey

The Venerable D Chedzey, Archdeacon of Hereford

The Reverend M Long, Rural Dean

Mr L Davies, Deanery Synod Lay Chair

The Reverend L Thompson
The Reverend L Womack
The Reverend Dr A Thompson
The Reverend R Roberts
Hereford Council
Wigmore Group Parish Council
Councillor C Gandy Ward Councillor
Friends of Saint James, Wigmore c/o D Swatton
Wigmore Village Community Centre