

17 October 2023

The Winchester Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee has prepared a draft Pastoral Scheme for:

The union of the parish of Ashmansworth, the parish of Crux Easton, the parish of East Woodhay and the parish of Woolton Hill, being four of the five parishes which comprise the area of The North West Hampshire Benefice in the diocese of Winchester. The parish of Highclere shall continue distinct.

A copy of the draft Scheme may be inspected at the churches of:

- Ashmansworth: St James
- East Woodhay: St Martin
- Woolton Hill: St Thomas
- Crux Easton: St Michael & All Angels
- Highclere: St Michael & All Angels

You may also access the draft Scheme on the Commissioners' website at www.ccpastoral.org or obtain or inspect a copy during normal office hours by applying to me. Large print and/or audio copies are available on request.

- Anyone may make representations to the Church Commissioners for or against all or any part or parts of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) in writing or by email to reach them no later than **Monday 27 November 2023**. Please send your representation marked for the attention of Rex Andrew, Pastoral Division, Church Commissioners, Church House, Great Smith Street, LONDON SW1P 3AZ (rex.andrew@churchofengland.org). If they have not acknowledged receipt of your representation before this date, please ring 020 7898 1743 or email them to ensure it has been received. For administrative purposes, a petition will be classed as a single representation and the Commissioners will only correspond with the sender of the petition, if known, or otherwise the first signatory – “the primary petitioner”.
- When making a representation, please also indicate the nature of your interest in the proposals (eg parishioner, member of parochial church council, etc) and whether you would like an opportunity to speak to the Committee regarding your representation if the Commissioners decide a hearing should be held regarding the case.
- If the Commissioners receive representations against the draft Scheme, they 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 the correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and will be told whether a hearing is to be held. They and individual petitioners may comment further to the Commissioners. Copies of all of the representations received and associated correspondence will be published on the Commissioners' website if the matter needs to be considered by the Commissioners.
- If a hearing is held, anyone may attend the meeting of the Mission and Pastoral Committee that considers the case and representors may have an opportunity to speak to the Committee. Otherwise the case will be considered in private.
- When the Commissioners acknowledge representations they will let individual representors (and the primary petitioner) know the next few dates of the Committee's meetings. They will confirm the actual date if a hearing is to be held nearer the time.
- The Commissioners' Mission and Pastoral Committee will decide if the draft Scheme should proceed when it considers all the representations on the basis of a paper prepared by the Commissioners' staff and any points raised at the meeting.
- The Commissioners will notify all representors of their decision and give a statement of the reasons for it.
- If they so decide the Scheme should proceed, any representor or petitioner against the draft Scheme may seek leave from the Privy Council to appeal against the decision.
- Please see www.ccpastoral.org for further information about the procedure.