

PROPOSALS FOR THE UNION OF PARISHES, ALTERATION OF THE AREA OF PARISHES AND A DECLARATION OF CLOSURE FOR REGULAR PUBLIC WORSHIP

SUMMARY OF MAIN PROVISIONS OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

These draft proposals provide for:

- *the dissolution of the parish of Twigworth in the benefice of Twigworth, Down Hatherley, Norton, the Leigh, Evington, Sandhurst and Staverton with Boddington also commonly known as 'Seven Towers Benefice'*
- *the alteration of the boundaries of the parishes of Twigworth, Down Hatherley and Sandhurst in the benefice of Twigworth, Down Hatherley, Norton, the Leigh, Evington, Sandhurst and Staverton with Boddington; and the parish of St John the Evangelist, Churchdown and Innsworth in the benefice of the same name; and the parish of Longlevens in the benefice of the same name*
- *the parish church of the parish of Twigworth to be closed for regular public worship.*

Dissolution of parish

1 The parish of Twigworth in the benefice of Twigworth, Down Hatherley, Norton, the Leigh, Evington, Sandhurst and Staverton with Boddington shall be dissolved.

Alteration of areas of parishes

2 The area of the parishes of Twigworth, Down Hatherley, Sandhurst, St John the Evangelist, Churchdown and Innsworth and Longlevens shall be altered in the manner described in the Schedule below and shown on the annexed map.

Archdeaconry and deanery

3 That part of the parish of Twigworth lettered A and B on the annexed map shall belong to the archdeaconry of Gloucester and the deanery of Severn Vale and that part of the parish of Twigworth lettered C on the annexed map shall belong to the archdeaconry of Gloucester and the deanery of Gloucester City. That part of the parish of St John the Evangelist, Churchdown and Innsworth lettered D on the annexed map shall belong to the archdeaconry of Gloucester and the deanery of Gloucester City.

Declaration of closure for regular public worship

4 The Church of St Matthew being the parish church of the parish of Twigworth, shall be to be closed for regular public worship.

Coming into effect of these proposals

5 If upon the date on which any Scheme arising from these proposals is made no person holds an ecclesiastical office under Common Tenure and is in receipt of a stipend or other emoluments of office including accommodation in any parish which will be dissolved by the Scheme, the Scheme shall come into operation on the first day of the month following the said date; but if on the said date any person holds such an office the Scheme shall come into effect six months thereafter or on such earlier date on which all such offices have been vacated.

SCHEDULE

1. All those parts of the parish of Twigworth to the East of the A38 which is hatched and lettered " A " on the annexed map shall be transferred to the parish of Down Hatherley
2. All that part of the parish of Twigworth to the West of the A38 which is cross-hatched and lettered " B " on the annexed map shall be transferred to the parish of Sandhurst
3. All that part of the parish of Twigworth which is hatched in blue and lettered "C" on the annexed map shall be transferred to the parish of, Longlevens
4. All that part of the parish of St John the Evangelist, Churchdown and Innsworth which is cross hatched in blue and lettered "D" on the annexed map shall be transferred to the parish of Longlevens

NOTES:

These proposals, if implemented by a pastoral scheme, would not affect the status of the churchyard of St Matthew. This would remain open and become a churchyard of the parish of Down Hatherley parish. Any burials of individuals not resident in the parish of Down Hatherley will be subject to the consent of the minister for Down Hatherley under the guidance of the Parochial Church Council.

Clause 4

These proposals, if implemented by a pastoral scheme, would have the effect of closing the Church of St Matthew for public worship and vesting it in the Gloucester 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.

Clause 5

Coming into effect clause

Under the provision of s39(3) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 it is mandatory for a Pastoral Scheme which would have the effect of causing any ecclesiastical office held under Common Tenure the holder of which is in receipt of a stipend and/or accommodation to cease to exist to include the provision in clause 5 delaying the coming into effect of the Scheme for up to six months after it is made. This is to give such an office holder who would be dispossessed an opportunity to find another post before the Scheme takes effect, and if not appointed to another office he or she may become eligible for compensation. For the avoidance of doubt this provision is included in all cases where the possibility of such dispossession could arise but the six month delay provision will only become operative if someone in receipt of a stipend and/or accommodation is actually in post on the day the Scheme is made. Generally any such persons will agree to resign and be relicensed to the new parish in order to bring the Scheme into effect without delay. No such persons are currently licensed to the parish of Twigworth.