

Lichfield Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee

Annual Report under Section 2 (5) Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011

September 2022 – August 2023

The Lichfield Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee is a statutory diocesan Committee established under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. Its membership is the same as Bishop's Council.

The Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 provides the legal basis for structural and organisational changes to enable the local church to be more effective in its mission and ministry while balancing needs and resources. The Lichfield Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee is responsible for all aspects of reorganisation carried out under the Measure, although some of its responsibilities are devolved to the three Area Mission and Pastoral Committees.

Under Section 2(5) of the Measure, the Lichfield Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee is required, amongst other things, to present annually to the diocesan synod a report on its activities during the preceding year. New Mission and Pastoral Committee arrangements were effected in September 2014 so the Report below covers details of pastoral reorganisation or matters achieved under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 during the past year.

Pastoral Schemes completed

Pastoral Schemes provide for pastoral reorganisation of various kinds and for closure of church

Ep Area	Archdeaconry	Benefices involved	Substance	Sealed Scheme/Order made	Scheme/Order effective

Pastoral Orders and Bishop's Pastoral Orders completed

Pastoral Orders also provide for certain types of pastoral reorganisation, normally related to places (boundary changes, church or parish name changes, etc.) and not usually involving people or posts.

Ep Area	Archdeaconry	Benefices involved	Substance	Order made	Scheme/Order effective

Suspensions/Restrictions effected

The suspension of the right of presentation to a benefice provides a period of time to consider and possibly effect pastoral reorganisation – some suspensions have now ceased owing to such subsequent reorganisation

Benefice name	Date suspension/lift suspension effected
Chapel Chorlton, Maer and Whitmore (Restriction)	04/09/2022
Mow Cop	26/09/2022
Knutton (Lifting Restriction)	25/10/2022
Hartshill, Penkhull and Trent Vale	02/12/2022
Longton St Mary and St Chad (Restriction)	01/02/2023
Cheadle with Freehay	16/04/2023
Alstonfield, Ilam and Wetton (Restriction)	26/04/2023
Mid Trent (Restriction)	26/04/2023
Stone S.Michael and S.Wulfad with Aston S.Saviour (Restriction)	25/07/2023

Churches closed to public worship

Annual Report under Section 3(3)(e) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011

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Under Section 3(3)(e) of the Measure, the Lichfield Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee is required, amongst other things, to present annually to the diocesan synod a report in respect of listed church buildings which have been closed to public worship. Section 3(3)(e) states –

“in the case of listed buildings or buildings in a conservation area, to make, in accordance with section 55, every endeavour to find a suitable alternative use or suitable alternative uses for churches which are proposed to be closed and buildings which have been closed for regular public worship in the diocese under a pastoral church buildings scheme and, in the case of any other such building, to develop proposals for the suitable alternative use or uses of the building or for the demolition of the building and the disposal of its site)”

CLOSED CHURCHES VESTED IN AND MANAGED BY THE LICHFIELD DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE	
Lichfield St Mary (main portion and chancel)	Civic and diocesan treasury, heritage centre and day centre for elderly. To vest in the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance to allow lease of whole building to the Guild of St Mary's and underlease of ground floor to allow Staffordshire Council Council to use as Lichfield Library.
Wolverhampton St Chad	Youth and community centre: lease (part of nave only)
Wolverhampton All Saints (part)	Lease part of building and land for use as community centre.
Walsall St Paul	Gift to DBF for religious, community, office, retail and studio use; leased and underlease to Lichfield Diocesan Trust/St Paul's Developments Ltd.
No Man's Heath St Mary	Lease to local trust for monument & community use.

CHURCHES CLOSED UNDER MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011 AND IN "USE SEEKING PERIOD"		
Rugeley Old Chancel	To be leased/transferred to local building preservation trust.	<i>Formed building preservation trust. There are a set of trustees including a local councillor, and they are trying to find funding for a feasibility study for a heritage/community centre. After a meeting with the trustees it was identified that they would like a 2 stage option, firstly to preserve the building and secondly to obtain a feasibility study to look at options for future use.</i>
Goldenhill	Pastoral Scheme for closure was effective from 19/12/2016.	<i>The disposal scheme has been made and the Bishop's Directions (BD) are complete, the MOJ order was signed off/issued on 14/06/21. Currently dealing with the matter of Japanese Knotweed. The Churchyard is now closed, approved by His Majesty Privy Council on 15/02/23. We are liaising with CC about the process for demolition. We have received a couple of enquiries about potential purchase but these didn't come to anything so we will revisit the process for demolition.</i>

CHURCHES PENDING FORMAL CLOSURE (IN PROCESS UNDER THE MEASURE)		
Burslem (St John the Baptist)	To lease to New Testament Church of God	<i>draft scheme stage - draft scheme publication awaited</i>

West Bromwich Good Shepherd with S.John	Public meeting has been held and the CBC inspection is complete. The first round of consultation has taken place but the PCC are against the closure of the church and met with reps of the WAMPC on 17/05/2021. WAMPC recommended the draft proposals to the DMPC who subsequently recommended them to the Bishop. The 2nd consultation has taken place and the Church Commissioners have received a number of representations against the draft scheme.	<i>It was agreed the process for closure was paused for a period of up to 1 year to allow the parish to prove that the reasons for closure no longer apply. This period came to an end in Sept 2023 and the review group met with the PCC and made a recommendation to the WAMPC (to be further discussed at their Nov 2023 meeting).</i>
Wednesfield S.Gregory the Great	Public meeting has been held and the CBC inspection is complete. The first round of consultation has taken place, WAMPC recommended the draft proposals to the DMPC who subsequently recommended them to the Bishop. The 2 nd consultation is in progress.	
Willenhall St Anne	Public meeting has been held and the CBC inspection is complete, we have received the CBC report and first consultation has taken place.	
Priors Lee St Peter	Public meeting has been held, we have received the CBC report. The first consultation has taken place, approved by both the ShAMPC and the DMPC.	
Shobnall St Aidan, Burton	Public meeting has been held and the CBC inspection is complete. The first consultation has taken place, approved by both the StAMPC and the DMPC.	<i>We are waiting for the Church Commissioners to produce the draft scheme and to process this for the public consultation period.</i>

Chadsmoor S. Chad	Public meeting has been held, the valuation has been completed and the CBC inspection took place in Aug 2023.	
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Mrs Clare Beavon, Diocesan Pastoral Officer
September 2023