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Notice
Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011
Draft Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme

13th May 2021

The Church Commissioners have prepared a draft Scheme in respect of proposals sent to them by the Bishop of Worcester for:

The closure for regular public worship of the church of Saint Peter, Upper Gornal

A copy of the draft Scheme may be inspected at the public notice-board at The Arcade, Kent Street, Upper Gornal.

The draft Scheme is (also) on our website www.churchofengland.org/consultation or you may obtain a copy from me. **Large print and/or audio copies are available on request.** Anyone may make representations **for** or **against** all or any part of the draft [Scheme] [Order] (please include the reasons for your views) by post or, preferably, by email to reach me no later than midnight on **Monday 28th June 2021**. If I have not acknowledged its receipt, please ring or e-mail me. 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”.

- When making a representation, please indicate the nature of your interest in the proposals (e.g. parishioner, member of parochial church council, etc) and whether you would like an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners regarding your representation if they decide a hearing should be held regarding the case.
- If we receive representations against the draft [Scheme] [Order], we will send them, and any representations supporting the draft [Scheme] [Order], 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 Commissioners' Committee that considers the case and representors may have an opportunity to speak to it. 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 if a hearing is to be held nearer the time.
- The Committee will decide if the draft [Scheme] [Order] 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.
- Please see www.churchofengland.org/consultation for further information about the procedure.

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This draft Scheme provides solely for the parish church of Saint Peter, Upper Gornal, being one of the parish churches of the parish of Gornal and Sedgley in the Diocese of Worcester to be declared closed for regular public worship.

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners ("the Commissioners") this day of 20 in pursuance of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, the Right Reverend John, Bishop of Worcester, having consented thereto.

1. (1) The church of Saint Peter, Upper Gornal, being one of the parish churches of the parish of Gornal and Sedgley, shall be declared closed for regular public worship by this Scheme.

3. (1) Part I of this Scheme shall come into operation upon such date as the Commissioners, after consultation with the Bishop, shall determine.

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

Executed as a Deed by the Church Commissioners for England
acting by two authorised signatories:

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Notes by the Church Commissioners' office (not forming part of the draft Scheme)

The Commissioners have been told by the Bishop on the advice of his Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee that the rationale behind the diocesan proposals is as follows:

This Scheme is being proposed as a consequence of a request from the parish and clergy that the church building at Upper Gornal be closed for public worship and ask that the Bishop licence the church hall for public worship in shared use with community facilities. The cost of maintaining the current building: effecting significant repair to the fabric and making the building's facilities fit for modern use will inhibit mission and ministry in the local area. The church building is of limited significance and felt to be low priority for grant funding; the PCC would see an investment into the church hall becoming a multi-purpose space for both worship and community activity as a more sustainable base for mission. The diocese is currently reviewing mission and ministry across the diocese.

Publication of this draft Scheme by the Commissioners does not mean that we have taken a view on the merits of the diocesan case. We have a duty to publish draft Schemes based on diocesan proposals.

If we receive representations against the draft Scheme, we will send all representations, both for and against, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors will then receive copies of our correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and they may comment further in writing to us in light of the diocesan response if they so wish.

If there are no representations against the draft Scheme, we will make the Scheme and arrange for it to be brought into effect.

Clause 5

This Scheme, if implemented, would have the effect of closing Saint Peter's church, Upper Gornal for public worship and vesting it in the Worcester 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. In terms of implementing this Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme subject to the consideration of any representations, the Commissioners will need to be satisfied that all aspects of title relating to the church, including access and any rights of way, are in order before they make the Scheme. Banns of marriage may not be called nor marriages solemnized in the church from the date of closure.