Introduction

In the 15th Century William Tyndale, said, “The church is the only institution that exists for those outside it.” These words have been a watchword ever since. It means the church should be alert to the needs of the local communities it is called to serve. It also requires the church to be forward looking if we are to build a sound foundation for future generations.

The Diocese of Liverpool recognises that those who live in the community are usually in the best position to identify what may work best for that community. Therefore the Diocese prefers to take a bottom up process with recommendations emerging from the deanery in consultation with the parishes and interested parties.

*This worksheet is intended to be an easy to follow guide to help clergy, churchwardens and PCCs to see how, as Christians, we can respond by taking a fresh look at our organisation and structures.*

Every deanery has a plan (Deanery Mission Plan) which sets out the mission and ministry for every parish within its deanery. It will have taken into account critical factors like ageing money, retiring clergy and the viability of its buildings when formulating the plan.

In order to make the changes which the deanery plans may require the Diocese has to follow the legal process as set out in the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. The Measure provides the legal basis for structural and organisational changes to enable the local church to be more effective in mission and ministry whilst balancing needs and resources.

You can find the full measure here: [www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/pastoralandclosedchurches](http://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/pastoralandclosedchurches).

Deanery and Mission Planning Committee (DMPC) Process

The process for pastoral reorganisation begins with extensive discussions at local / parish level. The Pastoral Team* are very willing to be involved at this stage to explain what options are available to the parishes and/or deaneries, answer any questions that may arise or respond to any concerns.

When the interested parties (key stakeholders) are happy with the proposed pastoral reorganisation for their area, the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) will then make a formal recommendation to the relevant Archidiaconal Mission and Pastoral Committee, which in turn will make a recommendation to the DMPC for ratification.

The DMPC does have a legal obligation to look at the broader picture and ensure that any deanery proposals are in harmony with Diocesan policy. If there was a significant concern with a proposal it could be referred back to the deanery for amendment.

Once a proposal has been approved by the DMPC the Pastoral Team will then draft proposals, which have to be submitted to the Bishop for his approval. Once the draft proposals have been approved by the interested parties they will then be put into the format of a pastoral scheme/order, which will legally bring the reorganisation into effect. Both the draft proposals and draft scheme are circulated to all interested parties for consultation.

The interested parties are Archdeacon, Area Dean, Lay Chair, Incumbents, Priests in Charge, Team Vicars, PCC, Patrons (as appropriate)
The consultation process

DISCUSSION WITH AREA DEAN AND LAY CHAIR

DEANERY MISSION AND PASTORAL COMMITTEE
(Initiates recommendation for pastoral reorganisation)

ARCHIDIACONAL MISSION & PASTORAL COMMITTEE
(Considers proposals and makes recommendation)

DIOCESAN MISSION & PASTORAL COMMITTEE
(Considers and ratifies recommendation)

CONSULTATION PROCESS BEGINS TO IMPLEMENT
PASTORAL SCHEME/ORDER WITH INTERESTED PARTIES

PASTORAL SCHEME COMPLETED AND REORGANISATION TAKES EFFECT

Mission and Pastoral Measure Options Available

The terms of the Measure provide a wide measure of flexibility and allow for a variety of arrangements to suit the particular needs of parishes and deaneries. Possible structures include the creation of a united benefice, a united parish, or possibly a plurality. Establishing a Group or a Team ministry may be the preferred option, alternatively mission opportunities may be promoted by a Bishop’s Mission Order. Other possibilities could mean revision of parish boundaries to reflect demographic changes or the closure of a church building.

Please see glossary for an explanation of these terms.
**DMPC Structure**

The pastoral function for this diocese is a three layered structure, with the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee providing a strategic overview, Archdeaconry Sub Committees making decisions on a local basis, and 2 Sub Committees to deal with closed churches and the legal and administrative matters.

Each committee works together to support the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committees aiming to work towards our vision of a bigger church making a bigger difference.

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**Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee**

**Membership:** 1 Bishop; 4 Archdeacons; Diocesan Secretary; Director of Church Growth; 1 x Laity from each Archdeaconry; 1 x Clergy from each Archdeaconry

**Officer support:** Bishop’s Planning Officer(s), Mission & Pastoral Officer

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**Liverpool Archdeaconry DMPC Sub Committee**

**Membership** – Archdeacon; 1 x Laity from each Deanery; 1 x Clergy from each deanery

**Officer support:** Bishop’s Planning Officer(s), Mission & Pastoral Officer

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**Warrington Archdeaconry DMPC Sub Committee**

**Membership** – Archdeacon; 1 x Laity from each Deanery; 1 x Clergy from each deanery

**Officer support:** Bishop’s Planning Officer(s), Mission & Pastoral Officer

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**DMPC Legal and Administrative Sub Committee**

**Membership** – Archdeacon, BPO(s) & Mission & Pastoral Officer

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**Closed Churches (Uses & Disposal) Committee**

**Membership** – Archdeacons, Bishop’s Planning Officer(s), Diocesan Properties Manager, Chair DAC, Redundant Churches Secretary, Glebe Agent

**Support**

Church Commissioners’ Officer

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*Pastoral Team*

- **Sandra Holmes** (Mission & Pastoral Officer) tel. 0151 705 2142
  Email: sandra.holmes@liverpool.anglican.org

- **Rev Simon Fisher** (Bishop’s Planning Officer) tel. 0151 228 2023
  Email: mailto:simon.fisher@liverpool.anglican.org

- **Rev Rob Williams** (Asst Bishop’s Planning Officer) tel. 0151 722 4549
  Email: rob49@tiscali.co.uk

- **Chris Leggett** (Assistant to Mission & Pastoral Officer) tel. 0151 705 2122
  Email: mailto:chris.leggett@liverpool.anglican.org

Diocesan website: [www.liverpool.anglican.org/Pastoral-Team](http://www.liverpool.anglican.org/Pastoral-Team)
Glossary – A short guide

Parish
A geographical area for which an incumbent has responsibility

Benefice
The office to which an incumbent is appointed – this may contain one or more parishes

Church
In this instance ‘the church’ refers to the building

Suspension of Presentation
The process where Bishop may ask a church patron to suspend their right to present a candidate

Church Commissioners
The Commissioners provide administrative support for the national church including boundary re-organisation and work to produce funds for the Church of England.

Pastoral Proposals

These may include the following:

**Boundary changes**
The boundaries of a parish and those surrounding it may be changed to take account of property developments and other demographic changes.

**United Benefice and United Parish**
Two or more benefices held by a single priest but with the intention that the parishes concerned shall be united to form a single parish. Parishes within a United Benefice will retain individual P.C.C.s, finances and churchwardens whereas a United Parish will merge these positions.

**Team Ministry**
A special form of ministry whereby a team of clergy and possibly lay people share the pastoral care of the area of a benefice. A Team will be served by a Team Rector.

**Group Ministry**
An arrangement whereby the clergy of 2 or more separate benefices can assist each other in ministry to the area in which they serve.

**Plurality**
The holding of 2 or more benefices by a single incumbent

**Bishops Mission Order**
These enable individual clergy to work across parish structures and boundaries to further mission.

**Fresh Expression**
A form of church that finds new ways to worship to reflect our changing culture and expectations

**Local Missional Leaders**
These are recognised local leaders who provide a point of devolved leadership to a church community under the authority of the incumbent and the PCC. They may be lay or ordained but will be licensed and supported within a Missional Leaders Community encouraging fresh expressions of worship for our changing cultures.