

Draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners ("the Commissioners") this day of 20.... under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.

Background

By a Scheme of the Commissioners made on 27th April 1971 pursuant to the Pastoral Measure 1968 and confirmed by Order in Council on the 30th day of April 1971 the redundant building of St Andrew and the land annexed or belonging thereto was appropriated to use by the Parochial Church Council of Pershore for religious and other charitable purposes of the Church of England in the Parish of Pershore and the Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance was empowered to licence the redundant building and the land annexed or belonging thereto for such use.

It is now desired to make new provision for the future of the redundant building and part of the land annexed or belonging thereto shown.

NOW, it is provided as follows:-

Future of the property

1. The provisions of the 1971 Scheme in so far as they relate to the redundant building and that part of the land together shown hatched in red on the annexed plan ("the property") are hereby revoked.
2. The property shall be appropriated to use by the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of the Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore for religious and other charitable purposes of the Church of England in the Parish of Pershore.

Disposal

3. The Commissioners are hereby empowered to sell or give the property for the said use together with the benefit of rights granted by Schedule 1.

Contents

4. The contents of the building shall be disposed of as the Bishop shall direct subject, so far as it is required, to listed building consent being granted.

Coming into operation of this Scheme

5. This Scheme shall not come into operation until such date as the Commissioners shall determine following the making of this Scheme.

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

Signature of Authorised Signatory

PERSHORE ST ANDREW



Drawn by
T. Wood

Scale
1:500

Date
20/03/2025

File Pathname / Project / Drawing No.
Tracings\28S_Pershore_St_Andrew

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Schedule 1: Grant of Rights of Way

To enable the property to be used for the purposes specified in the Scheme, the following rights shall vest in the Commissioners for the benefit of the property:-

(i) a right of way over and along the existing pathways in the remaining part of the churchyard annexed or belonging to the building subject to the Commissioners' successors in title paying a fair and proper portion of the cost of keeping the same in good and substantial repair to the reasonable satisfaction of the parochial church council of the parish within the area of which the property is for the time being situated; and

(ii) the right to the passage of water, soil, gas, electricity, and telecommunication services (if any) through any drains, sewers, pipes, wires, cables, and other conducting media ('the services') now laid or to be laid under, upon or above the said churchyard; and

(iii) the right (upon reasonable prior notice in writing to the said parochial church council) to enter with or without vehicles, equipment and apparatus upon such parts of the said churchyard as may be necessary for the purpose of inspecting, repairing and maintaining the building and for the purpose of laying, connecting into, inspecting, repairing, maintaining or renewing the services subject to the person exercising such right causing as little damage as possible to the said churchyard or any graves, tombstones, monuments and memorials therein, and subject to the Commissioners' successors in title making good any damage so caused to the reasonable satisfaction of the said parochial church council or other person for the time being responsible for the care and maintenance of the said churchyard and subject to the grant of any necessary faculties by the Consistory Court to authorise the said works; and

iv) to enable the property to be used for the purposes specified in the Scheme all rights and easements appertaining or reputed to appertain to the property shall vest in the Commissioners in common with all others entitled to the like rights.



EXPLANATORY NOTE

MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011

DRAFT AMENDING PASTORAL (CHURCH BUILDINGS DISPOSAL) SCHEME

PERSHORE ST ANDREW

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

This note accompanies a draft scheme under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 which makes provision for the future of a closed church building, The Church Commissioners provide this information so that individuals and interested parties can understand the background to the proposals, make a reasoned judgement on the merits of the draft scheme and, if they see fit, a reasoned expression of support or objection to it.

The Current Proposals

The Commissioners have agreed to publish a draft amending Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme providing for the closed church of Pershore St Andrew and part of the annexed churchyard to be gifted to the Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance for religious and other charitable purposes and purposes ancillary thereto. Once the Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance have acquired the freehold, it is proposed to be held in trust for the benefit of the PCC of Pershore.

Background

The church building was closed for regular public worship in April 1971 following a Scheme appropriating it to use for religious and other charitable purposes. Since then, Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance has licenced the building to the PCC of Pershore on an annual basis. During this time, it has been well used by the PCC of Pershore as a church/community hall for the adjacent Pershore Abbey, with hireable main space, meeting rooms, and bell tower used for practice and performance by the Abbey Ringers. Notwithstanding the demonstrable value this facility has within the local community, the licence arrangements are not suitable for the long term future use of the building. It is now required to make this a long term arrangement by way of this amending Scheme.

The Building

Pershore St Andrew is a Grade II* listed building located at the heart of Pershore, a market town and civil parish situated 10 miles south east of Worcester. The church lies immediately east of the Abbey church which serves as a triumphant remnant of a Medieval Benedictine monastery. St Andrew's shows evidence of a building dating back to the late 12th Century. Whilst much was destroyed during the subsequent act of dissolving the monasteries c. 1535 – 1539, rebuilding and remodelling have produced a mixture of Norman, Early English, Decorated Gothic and Victorian architecture.

Burials and the Churchyard

The churchyard was closed for burial in 1865. The provisions of the 1971 Scheme will continue to apply to the remainder of the churchyard.

The Views of the Statutory Advisory Committee

The SAC have not been consulted on this amending Scheme given that no alterations to the building are proposed to allow the continued use of the building by the PCC.

Planning and Access

Neither planning consent or listed building consent are required as the proposed religious and charitable use falls within the current planning Use Class and no alterations are proposed to the building. Existing access rights over the private access road to both the church building and churchyard will continue as existing.

Correspondence

Further information about the proposals can be obtained from the Case Officer, Sarah Mellor at sarah.mellor@churchofengland.org or by telephone on 07824 581491.

Representations against or in support of the draft Scheme

Anyone may make a representation for or against any provision of the draft Scheme.

Representations must be made in writing or by e-mail and should be sent to:

Matthew Crowe
Pastoral and Closed Churches
Church Commissioners
Church House
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3AZ

Or by e-mail to: matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org

Any communication received after **19 June 2025** cannot be treated as a representation.

If we receive representations against the draft Scheme, we will send all representations, both for and against, to the Bishop, whose view 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 no representations against the Scheme are received the Commissioners shall make the Scheme and bring it into effect as provided for in the scheme and explained above.

Information on the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 and its procedures can be found on the Church Commissioners' website at www.ccpastoral.org where there are also links to download copies of these notes and the draft scheme.

22 May 2025