

SUMMARY OF MAIN PROVISIONS OF DRAFT SCHEME (NOT PART OF THE DRAFT SCHEME)

This draft Scheme provides solely for the church of Saint Mary, Greenhow Hill, being a parish church of the parish of Upper Nidderdale in the diocese of Leeds, to be declared closed for regular public worship.

DRAFT

PASTORAL CHURCH BUILDINGS SCHEME

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 Toby, Bishop of Bradford, duly authorised to act in that behalf pursuant to section 13 of the Diocese, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007, having consented thereto.

Part I

Declaration of closure for regular public worship

1. (1) The church of Saint Mary, Greenhow Hill, being one of the parish churches of the parish of Upper Nidderdale in the diocese of Leeds, shall be declared closed for regular public worship by this Scheme.

(2) Subject to any provisions of the Parochial Registers and Records Measure 1978 which apply thereto and any directions thereunder, any register books and records of that church which remain in parochial custody shall be dealt with as the Bishop shall direct.

Part II

Coming into operation of this Scheme

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

(2) Part II of this Scheme shall come into operation upon the date on which it is made by the Commissioners.

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

SIGNED by the)
)
Right Reverend Toby,)
)
Bishop of Bradford.)

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

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Note 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:

Closure of the church is being considered due to age related and other health issues affecting members of the small congregation, who no longer feel able to run the church, maintain the building and fundraise for its upkeep. None of those who attend regularly live in Greenhow Hill and driving to the church has become difficult for some. As a result, they no longer wish to worship at this church and prefer to attend churches closer to where they live. Attendance at services by anyone from Greenhow Hill is infrequent and no residents play an active role in the running of the church.

In 2022, considerable time, effort and funds were invested in the drawing up of plans to re-order St Mary's and create a community space, which would allow for alternative uses. Estimates in the region of £590,000 were received. However, this work could not be taken forward as the required level of commitment from the community proved too great, there was no sustainable proposal for an alternative use and therefore no way of attracting grant funding. A community meeting held in July 2025 to investigate whether these plans could be re-started did not result in any new interest. The PCC has therefore decided to pursue closure.

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.

This Scheme, if implemented, would have the effect of closing Saint Mary's church, Greenhow Hill for regular public worship and vesting it in the Leeds 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.