

**MEMORANDUM
PASTORAL MEASURE 1983**

APPENDIX A

DRAFT PASTORAL SCHEME

**BETTESHANGER ST MARY THE VIRGIN
DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY**

The Church Commissioners have decided to publish a memorandum to all interested parties at publication stage of a draft scheme under the Pastoral Measure 1983 which provides for the future of a redundant church. This is to enable interested parties to 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. This memorandum explains the decision to prepare a draft pastoral scheme containing provision for the redundancy of the parish church of Betteshanger St Mary the Virgin and for its appropriation to use as a school chapel.

Background

St Mary's is a Grade II* listed building situated on the edge of Northbourne Park which belongs to Northbourne School. Originally a Norman church stood on the site, probably dating from the 12th century. The decorated arch over the north door of the nave, relocated from the present south doorway, remains of the Norman building. The church was substantially rebuilt in 1853-4 in neo-Norman style to the designs of A Salvin of London, the walls are flint rubble with freestone dressings and the timber roof is covered in old Kent clay tiles. The stained glass includes glass by Kempe in the nave. The entrance to the church is through an Arts and Crafts style lychgate and the surrounding churchyard is terraced and leads down to the Neo-classical gardens of the school. There are several old yew trees in the churchyard and it is likely that medieval burials took place there. It is thought there may also be the remains of a deserted medieval village in the grounds of the church and/ or school.

Proposed redundancy

Whilst Northbourne School currently uses the building on an informal basis for worship, the draft scheme contains provision for use on a more structured basis enabling Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance to lease or licence the building for school chapel use. It is proposed that faculty jurisdiction will remain. It is intended that the fixtures, fittings and contents including the monuments and memorials are to remain under Bishop's directions. The churchyard is to remain in parish use.

The views of the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches

The Commissioners' statutory advisors, the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches, consider the building to be of historic and archaeological interest, as well as architectural and aesthetic quality and an important feature in the landscape. It has recommended the use of the building as a school chapel. Both secular and ecclesiastical consents will apply for any future proposals for alterations.

The current situation

The Commissioners now consider it appropriate to publish a draft pastoral scheme providing for the church of Betteshanger St Mary the Virgin to be declared redundant and appropriated to use as a school chapel for lease by the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance. Under the provisions of the Pastoral Measure 1983, the Commissioners are required to give all those who so wish the right to make representations either for or against any provision in the draft scheme. If no representation are received against the draft scheme, it will be confirmed at Privy Council and brought into effect.

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