



## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

### **MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011 DRAFT PASTORAL (CHURCH BUILDINGS DISPOSAL) SCHEME BROUGHTON MOOR ST COLUMBA DIOCESE OF CARLISLE**

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 Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme providing for the closed church of Broughton Moor St Columba and a small part of the churchyard adjoining the building be appropriated to use for community purposes.

It is proposed that the property is gifted to Broughton Moor Parish Council so that it continues to benefit local people as a community facility.

#### **Background**

Although not used since 2019 because of its deteriorating condition, St Columba's was formally closed in 2021 following a decline in the size of the congregation and a significant increase in anticipated building repair costs. There was little prospect of growing or sustaining the church congregation given a general decline in the area's economic activity.

Following its closure the Parish Council came forward with proposals to take the building on for use as a community space, citing their experience in managing and maintaining the existing Community Centre.

#### **The Building**

Dating from 1905 to the designs of W.D. Caroe, St Columba's is built of rock-faced stone under a slate-covered roof featuring a 'dwarf' bell tower. Its simple structure enabled it to be built by local unskilled labour using local materials. It is a Grade II listed building. The last quinquennial inspection noted a series of repairs which needed to be undertaken on the building fabric principally to combat dampness and water ingress.

## **The Views of the Statutory Advisory Committee**

The Commissioners statutory advisors, the Statutory Advisory Committee of the Church Buildings Council (SAC), have indicated that St Columba's is a striking stone building with strong 'street scene' presence and unusual design but with few features of interest internally. Although of moderate significance overall the church merits preservation by conversion to a new use.

## **Planning and Access**

Planning permission has recently been granted to facilitate the proposed use of the building (Cumberland Council planning reference FUL/2023/0153). There are no structural or internal alterations proposed as part of this scheme and any future alterations would require Listed Building Consent.

There is good pedestrian access to the building from the adjoining main road, which provides car parking in the absence of any on-site provision.

## **Burials and the Churchyard**

No burials are affected by the proposed scheme and access to the remaining churchyard (which will remain open and the responsibility of the parochial church council) will be unaffected by the proposed community use of the church building.

## **Making the Draft Scheme**

In the event that there are no representations against the scheme, the Commissioners will arrange for the scheme to be made which will allow for the legal disposal of the building.

## **Correspondence**

Further information about the proposals may be obtained from the Case Officer, Stephen Hughes, by e-mail at [Stephen.hughes@churchofengland.org](mailto:Stephen.hughes@churchofengland.org) or by telephone on 07825 854951.

## **Representations against or in support of the draft Scheme**

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

Representations should be sent to:

**Katie Lowe**  
**Pastoral Division, Church Commissioners**  
**Church House**  
**Great Smith Street**  
**London SW1P 3AZ**

Or by e-mail to: [katie.lowe@churchofengland.org](mailto:katie.lowe@churchofengland.org)

Any communication received after 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 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](http://www.ccpastoral.org) . There are also links to download copies of these notes and the draft scheme on the website at [www.churchofengland.org/consultation](http://www.churchofengland.org/consultation)

Stephen Hughes