
Notes by the Diocesan office (not forming part of the draft Scheme)

The rationale behind the diocesan proposals is as follows:

These proposals have been brought forward by the Archdeacon in consultation with the churchwardens and parochial church councils of the affected parishes, and with the support of the Totnes Archidiaconal Mission and Pastoral Committee.

The benefice of Paignton, and the benefice of Goodrington and Collaton Saint Mary, have both fallen vacant during the first quarter of 2026. Together, the three parishes of these benefices occupy a substantial area of the town of Paignton and its immediate surroundings, with a mixed socio-economic demographic and important opportunities for mission and outreach, such as the South Devon College campus.

It is felt that the proposed union of the benefices, together with the creation of a team ministry served by a team rector and a team vicar, and supported by other licensed office-holders, would create greater capacity among the clergy and parishes to build on the pioneering work that is already taking place, facilitating collaborative working across parish boundaries in the service of the local community and for the growth and flourishing of the Church in that place.

The parsonage house of the benefice of Paignton is no longer considered suitable for occupation by an incumbent; and it is not straightforward to find a suitable replacement property within the area of the parish. There is, however, a fit-for-purpose parsonage house within the parish of Goodrington. The PCC of the parish of Paignton is currently undertaking a programme of reordering to create a parish office at the back of the church of St John the Baptist. It is therefore proposed that the team rector would reside in the Goodrington parsonage house, with the possibility of an office base in Paignton; and that the team vicar, the Revd Laura McAdam to be the first holder of that office, would reside in Paignton in a Diocesan Board of Finance property.

Publication of this draft Scheme has been approved by the Church Commissioners but does not mean that they have taken a view on the merits of the diocesan case.

If they receive representations against the draft Scheme, the Commissioners will send all representations, both for and against, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors will then receive copies of the Commissioners' correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and they may comment further in writing to the Commissioners in light of the diocesan response if they so wish.

If there are no representations against the draft Scheme, the Commissioners will make the Scheme and arrange for it to be brought into effect.