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

This draft Scheme provides for the transfer of the parish of Saint Matthew and Saint Luke, Darlington in the benefice of Heighington Saint Michael and Darlington Saint Matthew and Saint Luke (which shall be renamed "Heighington Saint Michael") to the benefice of Darlington Saint Mark with Saint Paul (which shall be renamed "North Darlington") where it shall continue distinct and for the consequential amendment of patronage of the renamed benefice of Heighington Saint Michael. It also provides for the amendment to the names of two of the three benefices that make up the 4Ms Group Ministry (namely, the renamed benefice of Heighington Saint Michael, the renamed benefice of North Darlington, and the benefice of Saint Mary, Cockerton)

in the diocese of Durham.

DRAFT

PASTORAL 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 Richard, Bishop of Durham, having consented thereto.

Transfer of parish and alteration of benefice names

1. The parish of Saint Matthew and Saint Luke, Darlington, being one of the two parishes comprising the area of the benefice of Heighington Saint Michael and Darlington Saint Matthew and Saint Luke (the name of which shall be altered to "The Benefice of Heighington Saint Michael") in the diocese of Durham shall be transferred to the benefice of Darlington Saint Mark with Saint Paul (the name of which shall be altered to "The Benefice of North Darlington") in the same diocese and shall continue distinct as one of the two parishes which comprise the area of that benefice.

Assistant curates: consequential provision

2. If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation any person holds an office of assistant curate (however described) in the parish of Saint Matthew and Saint Luke, Darlington in the benefice of Heighington Saint Michael and Darlington Saint Matthew and Saint Luke he, she or they shall, in consequence of the transfer of that parish effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the said parish in the benefice renamed North Darlington pursuant to clause 1 hereof.

Selection of incumbent of renamed benefice of North Darlington

3. If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation any person has been licensed by the Bishop to serve within the area of the benefice of Darlington Saint Mark with Saint Paul as priest-in-charge that person shall be the incumbent of the benefice renamed North Darlington pursuant to clause 1 hereof. However, if immediately before this Scheme comes into operation no such person has been so licensed the incumbent of the said renamed

benefice may be selected by the Bishop after consultation with the other patron of the benefice and the parochial church councils of the parishes in the area of the said renamed benefice.

Transfer of patronage

4. With the consents of the corporate body established for the Cathedral Church of Christ, Blessed Mary the Virgin and Saint Cuthbert of Durham ("Durham Cathedral") and the Bishop of Durham in his corporate capacity ("the Bishop of Durham") (which consents have been given in writing), that share of the patronage of the benefice of Heighington Saint Michael and Darlington Saint Matthew and Saint Luke vested in the Bishop of Durham, which patronage is now exercisable alternately by Durham Cathedral and the Bishop of Durham, shall hereby be transferred to and vested in Durham Cathedral to the end that the sole right of presentation to the benefice renamed Heighington Saint Michael pursuant to clause 1 hereof shall henceforth vest in Durham Cathedral.

Amendment of group ministry

5. The group ministry known as "The 4Ms Group Ministry" established for the benefice of Heighington Saint Michael and Darlington Saint Matthew and Saint Luke, the benefice of Darlington Saint Mark with Saint Paul and the benefice of Saint Mary, Cockerton by a Scheme made by the Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 1983 on the 26th day of September 2011 shall be amended so that any reference to the benefice of Heighington Saint Michael and Darlington Saint Matthew and Saint Luke and the benefice of Darlington Saint Mark with Saint Paul shall be substituted for "the benefice of Heighington Saint Michael" and "the benefice of North Darlington" respectively.

Coming into operation of this Scheme

6. This Scheme shall come into operation upon the first day of the month following the date of it being 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 Richard,)
)
Bishop of Durham.)

Executed as a Deed by the Church Commissioners for England

acting by two authorised signatories:

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Notes (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

Having worked together over many years as part of an informal arrangement, it has been decided to bring the two neighbouring communities of St Matthew and St Luke, Darlington; and Darlington St Mark with St Paul together formally to seek to serve these communities well under one priest, while Heighington, St Michael will continue as a standalone single-parish benefice.

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.

Selection of next incumbent of renamed benefice of North Darlington – clause 3

It is intended to appoint a priest-in-charge to the existing benefice of Darlington Saint Mark with Saint Paul as soon as possible and this clause has been included to allow the priest-in-charge to become the next incumbent of the renamed benefice of North Darlington. The affected parishes and Durham Cathedral will be fully consulted over the appointment of the priest-in-charge. If it is not possible to appoint a priest-in-charge before the Scheme comes into effect the next incumbent of the said benefice may then either be selected by the Bishop under the authority contained in clause 3 or appointed under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986, depending on how far the process of appointing a priest-in-charge has progressed.

Patronage

Historically the patronage of Heighington was vested in Durham Cathedral and the patronage of Darlington St Matthew and St Luke in the Bishop of Durham. When the parishes of Darlington St Matthew and St Luke; and Heighington were linked in a two-parish benefice many years ago

alternate rights of patronage were provided for. Th current proposals reflect a return to the historical patronage arrangements for Heighington, while no change is proposed for the patronage of the renamed benefice of North Darlington as the Bishop of Durham already has a patronage interest there (as alternate patron with St John's College, Durham).

Clause 2

This clause has been included to ensure that any unnamed person holding an office of assistant curate (however described) in the parish of Saint Matthew and Saint Luke, Darlington in the benefice of Heighington Saint Michael and Darlington Saint Matthew and Saint Luke shall, in consequence of the transfer of this parish effected by the Scheme hold that office subject to the same terms of service in the renamed benefice of North Darlington. Although there is currently no such unnamed office holder in post, this clause is included in case any such office holder is appointed before this Scheme comes into operation.

Clergy

The Reverend Gordon Tough, currently licenced as assistant curate in the benefice of Heighington Saint Michael and Darlington Saint Matthew and Saint Luke, is unaffected by these proposals and will retain his licence in the renamed benefice of Heighington Saint Michael.