

Pastoral Measure

For most PCCs, their first introduction to the Pastoral Measure is when the arrangement where they share the same parish priest as a neighbouring parish is formalised by their becoming one benefice.

Sometimes there is a need to alter the boundary between parishes; or, more unusually, a church may be closing and will no longer be used for worship. In all these situations, the provisions of the Pastoral Measure apply.

When such changes are proposed, consultations take place within the parish and with others with an interest - a process that can take quite some time. Proposals may be incorporated in a Pastoral Scheme or a Pastoral Order.

Pastoral Schemes deal with issues such as uniting benefices, or creating a team or group ministry. In contrast, altering the areas of a parish or benefice can be achieved by a Pastoral Order; whereas Pastoral Church Building Schemes deal with the closure of churches for regular public worship.

All of these consultations and discussions take place with pastoral sensitivity and a spirit of listening to each other.

In 2007, the Dioceses Pastoral and Mission Measure established provision for a Diocesan Bishop to make Bishop's Mission Orders. These formalise non-traditional ways of being church, such as 'Fresh Expressions', and give recognition to people working on the margins of church going.

If you think that a situation requiring a Pastoral Scheme, Pastoral Order or Bishop's Mission Order exists in your parish, please speak to your Archdeacon first.

