<u>SUMMARY OF MAIN PROVISIONS OF DRAFT SCHEME (NOT PART OF THE DRAFT SCHEME)</u>

This draft Scheme provides for:

- the dissolution of the benefice of Accrington Saint James and Saint Paul; and the benefice of Saint John, Baxenden;
- for the union of the parish of Saint John Baxenden, being the parish which
 comprises the area of the benefice of Saint John, Baxenden, and the parish
 of Accrington Saint Paul, being one of the two parishes which comprise the
 area of the benefice of Accrington Saint James and Saint Paul, for the parish
 churches of the said parishes to be parish churches of the new parish;
- the creation of a new benefice of Baxenden Saint John the Baptist and Accrington Saint Paul, its area comprising the new parish of Baxenden Saint John the Baptist and Accrington Saint Paul, for the appointment of the first incumbent of the new benefice, her place of residence and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice;
- the creation of a new benefice of Accrington Saint James, its area comprising the parish by the same name, for the parsonage house of the benefice of Accrington Saint James and Saint Paul to be the parsonage house of the new benefice and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice;

all in the diocese of Blackburn

DRAFT

PASTORAL SCHEME

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners this day of 20 in pursuance of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, the Right Reverend Julian, Bishop of Blackburn, having consented thereto.

Dissolution of benefices

1. The benefice of Accrington Saint James and Saint Paul and the benefice of Saint John, Baxenden in the diocese of Blackburn shall both be dissolved.

Creation of new parish of Baxenden Saint John the Baptist and Accrington Saint Paul

- 2. (1) The parish of Saint John, Baxenden, being the parish which comprises the area of the benefice of Saint John, Baxenden, and the parish of Accrington Saint Paul, being one of the two parishes which comprise the area of the benefice of Accrington Saint James and Saint Paul in the said diocese shall be united to create a new parish which shall be named "The Parish of Baxenden Saint John the Baptist and Accrington Saint Paul".
- (2) Both the parish churches of the parishes referred to in clause 2(1) hereof shall be parish churches of the new parish.
- (3) The new parish shall belong to the archdeaconry of Blackburn and the deanery of Accrington.

(4) The Bishop may by Instrument under his hand make provision for ensuring that the congregation of every church or place of worship in the new parish of Baxenden Saint John the Baptist and Accrington Saint Paul will have its own elected representatives of the laity on the parochial church council of that parish.

Creation of new benefice of Baxenden Saint John the Baptist and Accrington Saint Paul

- 3. (1) A new benefice which shall be named "The Benefice of Baxenden Saint John the Baptist and Accrington Saint Paul" shall be created in the said diocese, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the new parish of Baxenden Saint John the Baptist and Accrington Saint Paul created pursuant to clause 2(1) hereof.
- (2) The new benefice and its constituent parish shall belong to the archdeaconry of Blackburn and the deanery of Accrington.
- (3) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Amanda Jane Marshall holds an ecclesiastical office in either of the benefices referred to in clause 1 hereof she shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.
- (4) The parsonage house of the benefice of Saint John, Baxenden (known as 2, Langford Street, Accrington, BB5 2RF) shall without any conveyance or other assurance be vested in the incumbent of the new benefice in her corporate capacity as her official residence.
- (5) The patronage of the new benefice shall be vested in the Bishop of Blackburn in his corporate capacity.

Creation of new benefice of Accrington Saint James

- 4. (1) A new benefice which shall be named "The Benefice of Accrington Saint James" shall be created in the said diocese, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Accrington Saint James.
- (2) The new benefice and its constituent parish shall belong to the archdeaconry of Blackburn and the deanery of Accrington.
- (3) The parsonage house of the benefice of Accrington Saint James and Saint Paul (known as Saint Paul's Vicarage, Barnfield Street, Accrington, BB5 2AQ) shall without any conveyance or other assurance be vested in the incumbent of the new benefice of Accrington Saint James in his or her corporate capacity as his or her official residence.
- (4) The right of presentation to the new benefice shall on each occasion be exercised jointly by the Bishop of Blackburn in his corporate capacity; and the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Patronage.

Assistant curates: consequential provision

5. If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation any person holds an office of assistant curate (however described) in either of the benefices and/or parishes referred to in clauses 1 and 2(1) hereof he, she or they shall as a consequence of the dissolution of benefices and certain parishes effected by this Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the new benefice and/or parish of Baxenden Saint John the Baptist and Accrington Saint Paul and/or the new benefice of Accrington Saint James as the Bishop shall direct.

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 Church Commissioners.

In witness of which this Scheme has been duly executed as a deed by the Church Commissioners.

Signed by the Right Reverend Julian,)
Bishop of Blackburn.)
Executed as a Deed by the Church Commission acting by two authorised signatories:	oners for England
Signature of Authorised Signatory	
Signature of Authorised Signatory	

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

The rationale behind the diocesan proposals is as follows:

The benefice of Accrington Saint James with Saint Paul is unsustainable in its current form.

After extensive consultation, Accrington Saint Paul's PCC agreed to join with Baxenden Saint John, which has also unanimously voted in favour of the new link. A further meeting took place with Baxenden Saint John and Accrington Saint Paul's parish representatives that positively explored the practicalities of forming a united parish.

A meeting has also been held between representatives of Accrington Saint James' PCC and Holy Trinity Local Ecumenical Partnership (Accrington Christ Church) to explore their joining. Following a positive outcome a meeting was held with diocesan and Baptist representatives to explore extending this local ecumenical partnership. A separate scheme to create a new benefice and united parish is in the process of being informally consulted upon.

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.

Clause 5

The above clause has been included to ensure that any person holding an office of assistant curate (however described) shall as consequence of the dissolution of the benefices and certain parishes effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in the new benefices and/or parish as the Bishop shall direct. 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.

Churches etc

This Scheme does not alter the existing status of any of the churches, chapels of ease or licensed places of worship in the affected parishes.

Clause 2(4)

The Mission and Pastoral Measure stipulates that any provision for the representation of the laity shall cease to have effect not later than five years from the date on which this Scheme comes into effect. It would, however, be possible under the Church Representation Rules to make a similar provision for an unlimited period.