

Benefices Measure, 1923, have prepared, and now humbly lay before Your Majesty in Council, the following Scheme for effecting the union of the Benefice (being a Vicarage) of Metfield and the Benefice (being a Rectory) of Withersdale (now part of the United Benefice of Fressingfield with Withersdale), both of which Benefices are situate in the County of Suffolk and in the Diocese of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich:

"Whereas Commissioners appointed at our request by the Right Reverend Walter Godfrey, Bishop of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich, pursuant to the provisions of the said Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, to inquire into and report upon the union of the said two Benefices of Metfield and Withersdale duly made their Report to the said Bishop of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich and therein recommended such union and the terms for effecting the same, and the said Bishop of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich signified in writing his approval of the said Report:

"And whereas we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, have prepared this Scheme for the said union based upon the terms recommended in the said Report:

"And whereas both of the said Benefices of Fressingfield with Withersdale and Metfield are now full, the Reverend Kenneth Edwin Shaw being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Fressingfield with Withersdale, and the Reverend Laurence Arthur Long being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Metfield:

"And whereas there is no Parsonage House at present available for the United Benefice hereinafter recommended and proposed to be constituted, but a fund exists for the purpose of providing a Parsonage House within the limits of the said Benefice of Metfield:

"And whereas the Patronage of the said Benefice of Metfield is now vested in certain Trustees known as the Metfield Town Land Feoffees in trust for the parishioners of the Parish of Metfield and the right to present to the said Benefice of Metfield is accordingly exercised by the Parochial Church Council of Metfield by virtue of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure, 1921, and the said Trustees and the said Parochial Church Council have by a Resolution dated the 18th May, 1926, and duly communicated to us the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners agreed to the arrangement hereinafter recommended and proposed as to the Patronage of the proposed United Benefice:

"Now, therefore, we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, with the consent of the said Walter Godfrey, Bishop of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich (in testimony whereof he has signed this Scheme), do humbly recommend and propose to Your Majesty as follows, that is to say:—

"1. That a part of the said Benefice of Fressingfield with Withersdale that is to say, so much of the said Benefice of Fressingfield with Withersdale as comprises the Benefice of Withersdale shall be severed from the said Benefice of Fressingfield with Withersdale.

"2. That the Benefice of Withersdale (so severed as aforesaid) and the said Benefice of Metfield shall be permanently united together

and form one Benefice with Cure of Souls under the style of 'The United Benefice of Metfield with Withersdale,' but the Parishes of the said Benefices of Withersdale and Metfield shall continue distinct in all respects.

"3. That if upon the day when any Order of Your Majesty in Council ratifying this Scheme shall be published in the London Gazette both of the said two Benefices of Metfield and Fressingfield with Withersdale shall be vacant the severance and union hereinbefore recommended and proposed shall take effect forthwith: and if one only of the said two Benefices of Metfield and Fressingfield with Withersdale shall be then vacant the said severance and union shall take effect upon the next avoidance of the other of the said two Benefices: and if neither of the said two Benefices of Metfield and Fressingfield with Withersdale be then vacant the said severance and union shall take effect upon the next avoidance of that one of the said two Benefices of Metfield and Fressingfield with Withersdale which shall last be avoided after the date of the publication in the London Gazette of any Order of Your Majesty in Council ratifying this Scheme.

"4. That upon the said union taking effect the Parsonage House provided or to be provided within the said Benefice of Metfield as aforesaid shall become and be the house of residence for the Incumbent of the United Benefice.

"5. That after the said union has taken effect the Patronage of the United Benefice shall be exercised as follows, that is to say, the right of presentation shall belong to the Patrons of the said Benefice of Fressingfield with Withersdale and to the Bishop for the time being of the Diocese of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich in alternate turns the Patrons of the said Benefices of Fressingfield with Withersdale having the right upon the first presentation to the United Benefice to be made after the union and every alternate right of presentation and the Bishop of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich having the right upon the second presentation to the United Benefice to be made after the union and every alternate turn thereafter.

"6. That upon the union taking effect there shall be severed from the said Benefice of Fressingfield with Withersdale and transferred and annexed to the United Benefice a part of the endowments and property of the said Benefice of Fressingfield with Withersdale namely a portion amounting to £103 1s. 6d. of the Rectorial Tithe Rentcharges arising within the Parish of Withersdale the particulars of which portion are set forth in the Schedule hereto annexed, together with all capital sums of money stocks and other property if any being or representing the produce of any sale, redemption or other conversion of any part or parts of such Tithe Rent Charges amounting to £103 1s. 6d. as aforesaid.

"Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent us from recommending and proposing any other measures relating to the matters aforesaid, or any of them, in accordance with the provisions of the said Measure, or of any other Measure of the National Assembly of the Church of England, or of any Act of Parliament.