

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 15th day of *December*, 1932.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England have, in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, duly prepared, and laid before His Majesty in Council, a Scheme bearing date the 10th day of November, 1932, in the words and figures following, that is to say:—

“ We, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, acting in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, have prepared, and now humbly lay before Your Majesty in Council, the following Scheme (1) for effecting the union of the Benefice (being a Rectory) of Otham and the Benefice (being a Vicarage) of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, and (2) for altering the boundaries of the Parish of the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, and of the Parish of the Benefice of Maidstone, Saint Philip, all of which Benefices are situate in the County of Kent and in the Diocese of Canterbury:

“ Whereas Commissioners appointed at our request by the Right Honourable and Most Reverend Cosmo Gordon, Archbishop of Canterbury, pursuant to the provisions of the said Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, to inquire and report with reference to the said Benefices of Otham; Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist; and Maidstone, Saint Philip; duly made their Report to the said Archbishop of Canterbury and therein recommended the union of the said two Benefices of Otham and Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, and the terms for effecting the union, including the transfer to the Parish of the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint Philip, of a part of the Parish of the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, and the said Archbishop of Canterbury 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 and alteration of boundaries based upon the terms recommended in the said Report:

“ And whereas all the said three Benefices of Otham; Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist; and Maidstone, Saint Philip, are now full, the Reverend William Wyatt Holdgate being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Otham; the Reverend Robert William Shaw being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist; and the Reverend Stanley Richards being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint Philip:

“ And whereas there is at present no Parsonage House belonging to the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, but there are certain funds in our hands and in the hands of the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty which are available for the provision of a Parsonage House for such Benefice:

“ And whereas the Patronage of the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, now belongs to the Archbishop of Canterbury for the time being:

“ Now, therefore, we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, with the consent of the said Cosmo Gordon, Archbishop of Canterbury (in testimony whereof he has signed this Scheme), and with the consents of the said William Wyatt Holdgate and Stanley Richards (testified by their respectively signing this Scheme), do humbly recommend and propose to Your Majesty as follows, that is to say:—

“ 1. That the said Benefice of Otham and the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, shall be permanently united together and form one Benefice with cure of souls under the style of ‘The United Benefice of Otham with Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist’ but the Parishes of the said Benefices shall continue distinct in all respects.

“ 2. That if upon the day of the date of the publication in the London Gazette of any Order of Your Majesty in Council affirming this Scheme the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, shall be vacant then the union shall forthwith take effect but if upon that day the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, shall be full then the union shall take effect immediately upon the first vacation thereafter of the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, and in either case the said William Wyatt Holdgate if he is then Incumbent of the said Benefice of Otham shall become and be the first Incumbent of the United Benefice.

“ 3. That upon the said union taking effect the Parsonage House at present belonging to the said Benefice of Otham shall become and be the house of residence for the Incumbent of the United Benefice.

“ 4. That upon the said union taking effect the funds held by us, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and by the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty for the provision of a Parsonage House for the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, as aforesaid shall be severed or diverted from the United Benefice and shall become and be applicable for the provision of a Parsonage House for the New District referred to in Clause 5 of this Scheme.

“ 5. That upon the said union taking effect there shall be transferred and annexed to the United Benefice all the properties revenues and income constituting the endowments of the said Benefice of Otham together with a part of the endowments of the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, namely an annual sum of £100 being part of a larger annual sum at present payable by us, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to the Incumbent for the time being of the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, and all the other or remaining endowments or property of the last named Benefice shall be severed or diverted from that Benefice and shall be applied for the endowment of a new District to be in the Patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury and to be constituted mainly out of that part of the Parish of the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint John the Evangelist, which is hereinafter recommended and proposed to be transferred and annexed to the Parish of the said Benefice of Maidstone, Saint Philip.

“ 6. That upon the said union taking effect a part of the Parish of the said Benefice of