

And whereas the Church Commissioners have duly prepared and laid before Her Majesty in Council a Scheme bearing date the 20th day of November, 1953, in the words and figures following, that is to say:

"We, the Church Commissioners, acting in pursuance of the Pastoral Reorganisation Measure, 1949, the Union of Benefices Measures, 1923 to 1952, and the Diocesan Stipends Funds Measure, 1953, now humbly lay before Your Majesty in Council the following Scheme which we have prepared with the consent of the Right Reverend Launcelot, Bishop of Portsmouth (in witness whereof he has signed this Scheme) for effecting the union of the benefice of West Meon and the benefice of Warnford, both situate in the diocese of Portsmouth.

"SCHEME.

"1. *Union of Benefices.* The benefice of West Meon and the benefice of Warnford shall be permanently united together and form one benefice with cure of souls under the style of 'The United Benefice of West Meon and Warnford' but the parishes of the said benefices shall continue in all respects distinct.

"2. *Taking effect of union.*

"(a) If upon the day when any Order of Your Majesty in Council affirming this scheme is published in the London Gazette

"(i) both of the said two benefices shall be vacant; or

"(ii) the benefice of Warnford only shall be vacant; or

"(iii) the benefice of West Meon only shall be vacant and the incumbent at that time of the benefice of Warnford shall consent to become the first incumbent of the united benefice, the union shall take effect forthwith.

"(b) If upon the day when any Order of Your Majesty in Council affirming this Scheme is published in the London Gazette

"(i) the benefice of West Meon only shall be vacant and the incumbent at that time of the benefice of Warnford shall not consent to become the first incumbent of the united benefice; or

"(ii) both of the said two benefices shall be full and the benefice of Warnford shall be the first of the said two benefices to be avoided thereafter, or if, in the event of the benefice of West Meon having been first avoided, the union shall not have thereupon become effective, the union shall take effect upon the next avoidance of the benefice of Warnford.

"(c) If upon the day when any Order of Your Majesty in Council affirming this Scheme is published in the London Gazette both of the said two benefices shall be full and the benefice of West Meon shall be the first of the said two benefices to be avoided thereafter the union shall take effect upon the next avoidance of the benefice of West Meon if the incumbent at that time of the benefice of Warnford shall consent to become the first incumbent of the united benefice.

"(d) If the Reverend John Cecil Hurst is incumbent of the benefice of West Meon at the time when the union takes effect he shall, with his consent (testified by his signature to this Scheme), become the first incumbent of the united benefice.

"3. *Patronage.*

"(a) After the union has taken effect the right of presentation to the united benefice shall be exercised by the patrons of the two benefices alternately;

"(b) If both benefices shall be vacant upon the day when the union takes effect, the patron of the benefice of West Meon shall have the first presentation to the united benefice, but if both benefices shall not be vacant the patron whose presentee does not become the first incumbent of the united benefice shall have the first presentation to the united benefice to be made after the union.

"4. *Diversion of Endowment Income.*

"(a) Subject as hereinafter provided any surplus for the twelve months ending on the 31st March in each year of the endowment income (calculated as prescribed in the schedule hereto) of the united benefice over and above an annual sum of £568 shall, with effect from the date upon which the union shall take effect, be paid to and be held by

us for the benefit of the diocesan stipends fund of the diocese of Portsmouth.

"(b) The said endowment income and the said surplus and the said annual sum of £568 shall be deemed to accrue from day to day and shall when we deem that circumstances so require be apportionable accordingly.

"(c) Any moneys due to us from the incumbent of the united benefice, or, during any vacancy in the united benefice, from the sequestrators thereof, as the case may be (hereinafter called 'the incumbent or sequestrators') upon the calculation of the said surplus shall be paid by the incumbent or sequestrators to us not later than the 30th June in each year and shall be recoverable as a debt due to us.

"(d) For the purpose of ascertaining the amounts of the said endowment income and of the said surplus, we shall have power to require production by the incumbent or sequestrators of accounts and other documents in relation thereto, and the said accounts for the twelve months to 31st March in each year (or where applicable for a part of the year ending on that date) shall be rendered annually to us within six weeks of that date in such form as we shall prescribe; and in the event of failure by the incumbent or sequestrators to produce such accounts or documents we shall have all legal remedies for enforcing production thereof.

"SCHEDULE.

"For the purpose of this Scheme the endowment income of the united benefice shall without prejudice to the power of decision vested in us by virtue of section 18 of the Pastoral Reorganisation Measure, 1949, if any question shall arise, be computed in accordance with our Central Register of Benefice Income, that is to say, by including:—

"(1) all gross secured income payable by us and any other person or body, and

"(2) all gross income received from ground rents, chief rents or other fixed charges, other glebe rents and any letting of the parsonage house or a formally divided portion thereof, and by deducting therefrom:—

"(1) the rates payable on the parsonage house if occupied by the incumbent,

"(2) the rent and rates payable on any house occupied by the incumbent other than the parsonage house,

"(3) the annual assessment charged upon the incumbent under the Ecclesiastical Dilapidations Measures, 1923 to 1951, in respect of the benefice,

"(4) the rates payable on the glebe,

"(5) the cost of collecting glebe rents,

"(6) any tithe annuity, rentcharge or fee farm rent charged upon the glebe,

"(7) any other outgoings in respect of glebe,

"(8) any charge upon the benefice income in favour of another benefice or any lay person,

"(9) any payment to a curate or lay worker out of the benefice income,

"(10) the annual payments in respect of capital and interest in respect of any mortgage of the benefice income,

"(11) any pension paid to a retired incumbent out of the benefice income,

"(12) any part of the benefice income diverted to the diocesan stipends fund pursuant to an Order under section 12 of the Pastoral Reorganisation Measure, 1949."

And whereas the provisions of the Union of Benefices Measures, 1923 to 1952, the Union of Benefices Rules, 1926 and 1930, and the Pastoral Reorganisation Measure, 1949, relating to the preparation and submission of this Scheme have been duly complied with:

And whereas the said Scheme has been approved at the Council held under the authority of the said Letters Patent:

Now, therefore, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, being authorized thereto by the said Letters Patent, have taken the said Scheme into consideration, and do hereby, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council, on Her Majesty's behalf affirm the said Scheme and order that it shall be and become effectual in law immediately upon the publication of this Order in the London Gazette.

W. G. Agnew.