



Pastoral Measure 1983 (repealed)

1983 No. 1

PART III

REDUNDANT CHURCHES

Redundancy schemes

49 **Waiting period.**

- (1) Where a declaration of redundancy is made in a case to which neither section 46 nor section 47 applies, the redundant building, together with the contents thereof, shall, when the declaration takes effect, vest by virtue of this Measure, without any conveyance or other assurance, in the diocesan board of finance, and the Commissioners shall not prepare a redundancy scheme in respect of the redundant building for a period of at least six months thereafter:

Provided that—

- (i) if the Advisory Board certifies that the redundant building or any part thereof is of such small historic and archaeological interest or of such little architectural quality or requires such extensive structural repair that the demolition thereof would not in their opinion be objectionable on any or all of those grounds, the Commissioners may proceed forthwith with the making of a redundancy scheme providing for the demolition thereof and other matters mentioned in section 51(4);
 - (ii) if the Commissioners are satisfied that a suitable use or uses will be available for the redundant building before the expiration of the said period, they may proceed forthwith with the making of a redundancy scheme providing for the appropriation of the redundant building to such use or uses and for other matters mentioned in section 51(2).
- (2) During the period between the taking effect of a declaration of redundancy and the coming into operation of a redundancy scheme with respect to the redundant property—

Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.

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- (a) the diocesan board of finance shall be responsible for the care and maintenance of the redundant building, so far as is reasonable in all the circumstances, and the safe keeping of its contents, whether in the building or elsewhere, and shall insure the said building and contents;
 - (b) the said board may without obtaining a faculty transfer the contents of the redundant building or any of them to some other place for safe keeping until the coming into operation of the scheme;
 - (c) the said board may with the consent of the bishop and of the incumbent or priest in charge of the benefice in the area of which the redundant building is situated permit the redundant building to be used occasionally for worship, including worship by persons belonging to other Christian Churches;
 - (d) the diocesan redundant churches uses committee or, as the case may be, the Commissioners shall make every endeavour to find a suitable use for the redundant building;
 - (e) while incurring no financial obligation, the incumbent or priest in charge and churchwardens of the parish in which the redundant building is situated shall give the diocesan board of finance every assistance in providing for reasonable supervision of the building against damage.
- (3) On a declaration of redundancy taking effect, any liability of a parochial church council or rector (including a lay rector) for the repair and maintenance of the redundant building and the safe keeping of its contents shall cease, and the ^{M1}Inspection of Churches Measure 1955 shall cease to apply to the redundant building.
- (4) Where the diocesan board of finance transfers any of the contents of the redundant building to some other place, the board shall serve a notice on the Commissioners, the Advisory Board, the Redundant Churches Fund and the registrar of the diocese informing them of the transfer and giving particulars of the contents transferred and the address of the place in question, and shall serve a similar notice on any incumbent, priest in charge, parochial church council or sequestrators concerned.

Marginal Citations

M1 1955 No. 1.

50 Procedure for making redundancy schemes.

- (1) The Commissioners may at any time after the expiration of the period of six months mentioned in section 49(1) or, in the cases mentioned in the proviso to that subsection, at any time after the conditions therein mentioned are fulfilled, and shall in any case not later than three years after the declaration of redundancy takes effect, prepare a draft scheme with respect to the redundant building providing for any of the matters mentioned in the next following section:

Provided that if before the end of the said period of three years it is found to be impracticable to prepare the draft scheme before that period expires, and it seems to the Commissioners after consulting the diocesan board of finance, reasonable so to do, they may, with the consent of the bishop, postpone the preparation of the draft scheme for such minimum further period or periods as they find to be necessary.

- (2) Before preparing any such draft scheme the Commissioners—
- (a) shall consult the bishop; and

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- (b) if it is proposed to provide for the demolition or the care and maintenance by the Redundant Churches Fund of the redundant building or any part thereof, or for any architectural or structural changes in the redundant building or any part thereof for the purpose of facilitating the use thereof, shall consult the Advisory Board:

Provided that if the said Board has advised that the demolition of the redundant building or part thereof would not in their opinion be objectionable, paragraph (b) of this subsection shall not apply in relation to that building or part, as the case may be.

- (3) The Commissioners shall serve a copy of the draft scheme on the diocesan board of finance, the local planning authority or authorities concerned, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Advisory Board and, if the draft scheme provides for the care and maintenance by the Redundant Churches Fund of the redundant building or any part thereof, on that Fund.
- (4) The Commissioners shall also publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the locality in which the redundant building is situated a notice stating the effect of the draft scheme and naming a place or places where a copy thereof may be inspected, and stating that written representations with respect to the draft scheme may be made to the Commissioners not later than a date specified in the notice, being a date not less than twenty-eight days after the first publication of the notice in such a newspaper as aforesaid.
- (5) The Commissioners shall consider any representations duly made with respect to the draft scheme and any unforeseen change of circumstances affecting its implementation, and may decide not to proceed with it or to amend it or to proceed with it in its original form, and shall consult the bishop before making their decision.
- (6) If the Commissioners decide to proceed with the draft scheme, they shall seal a copy thereof, with such amendments (if any) as they may have made therein, and shall thereby make the scheme, and shall submit the scheme for confirmation by Her Majesty in Council, who may confirm the scheme by Order in Council.
- (7) If the Commissioners decide in accordance with subsection (5) not to proceed with a draft scheme, or to withdraw a scheme owing to an unforeseen change of circumstances before it has been confirmed by Order in Council, they shall as soon as possible prepare a new draft scheme, and subsections (2) to (6) shall apply thereto.
- (8) An Order in Council made under this section shall not be a statutory instrument as defined by section 1 of the ^{M2}Statutory Instruments Act 1946 and the provisions of that Act shall accordingly not apply thereto.
- (9) Sections 10 and 11 shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to schemes made and confirmed under this section as they apply to pastoral schemes, and a notice sufficiently identifying a scheme under this section and stating that it has been confirmed and where a copy of the Order in Council may be obtained shall be published in a newspaper circulating in the locality.

Marginal Citations

M2 1946 c. 36.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.

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51 Contents of redundancy schemes.

- (1) A redundancy scheme shall make the following provision for the redundant building, that is to say:—
- (a) if a use or uses appearing to the Commissioners to be suitable have been found for the redundant building or any part thereof, the scheme may provide for appropriating the building or part to such use or uses, which shall be specified or generally described in the scheme;
 - (b) if such use or uses cannot be found for the building or a part thereof and it appears to the Commissioners, after consultation with the Advisory Board that the building or part is of such historic and archaeological interest or architectural quality that it ought to be preserved in the interests of the nation and the Church of England, the scheme may provide for its care and maintenance by the Redundant Churches Fund;
 - (c) if the building or any part thereof is not appropriated or provided for under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection the scheme may, with the consent of the diocesan board of finance, provide for the building or any part thereof to remain vested in that board and to be held by them on such terms as may be specified in the scheme;
 - (d) if the building or any part thereof is not appropriated or provided for under the foregoing paragraphs of this subsection, the scheme shall provide for its demolition.
- (2) Where a redundancy scheme provides for the appropriation of the redundant building or any part thereof to a use or uses specified or described in the scheme, the scheme may also provide—
- (a) for appropriating the whole or any part of the land annexed or belonging to the redundant building or the church of which it forms part, to a use or uses so specified or described;
 - (b) for empowering the diocesan board of finance themselves to use or hold the property concerned for the use or uses so specified or described or to let or license the property for such use or uses as aforesaid, or partly one and partly the other;
 - (c) for empowering the Commissioners, subject to any conditions prescribed by the scheme, to sell, give or exchange the property concerned or any part of it for such use or uses as aforesaid.
- (3) Where a redundancy scheme provides for the redundant building or any part thereof to remain vested in the diocesan board of finance, the scheme may also provide—
- (a) for appropriating the whole or any part of the land annexed or belonging to the redundant building, or the church of which it forms part, to a use or uses specified or described in the scheme;
 - (b) for empowering the said board themselves to use or hold that land or any part of it for the use or uses so specified or described or to let or license it for such use or uses as aforesaid, or partly the one and partly the other;
 - (c) for empowering the Commissioners, subject to any conditions prescribed by the scheme, to sell, give or exchange that land or any part of it for such use or uses as aforesaid;
 - (d) for transferring to the said board responsibility for the care and maintenance of that land or any part of it;
- and the scheme may provide as mentioned in paragraph (d) above notwithstanding that the land is or has been used for burials.

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- (4) Where a redundancy scheme provides for the demolition of the redundant building or any part thereof, it may also provide—
 - (a) for the sale, gift, exchange or lease by the Commissioners of the site or part of the site of the demolished building or part of the building, with or without the whole or any part of the land annexed or belonging to the building or to the church of which it forms part;
 - (b) for the disposal of the materials arising from the demolition;
 - (c) for specifying the use or uses for which any land sold, given, exchanged or let by the Commissioners as aforesaid is to be used, or allowing it to be used without limitation;
 - (d) for appropriating the said site or any part thereof for use as part of the churchyard or burial ground or for other ecclesiastical purposes of the parish.
- (5) The proceeds of any sale or exchange under subsection (2), (3) or (4) and the premiums on any lease or licence thereunder shall be paid to the Commissioners, who, subject to subsections (6), (7), (8), and (9) and to an appropriate order made under section 53(1) (b), shall pay two-thirds of the net proceeds and net premiums to the diocesan pastoral account and shall apply the remaining one-third in accordance with section 52, and the net rent payable under any such lease or licence shall be paid into the said account.
- (6) Where in exercise of the power conferred on the Redundant Churches Fund by section 44(8) the Fund has contributed to the cost of the care and maintenance of a church or part of a church, then, unless that church or part is vested in the Fund, the sum contributed by the Fund under that subsection, or so much thereof as the Commissioners may, with the agreement of the Secretary of State, determine, shall be repaid to the Fund by the Commissioners out of the proceeds of any sale or exchange, or the premiums on any lease or licence, of that church or part or the site thereof under subsection (2), (3) or (4) before the net proceeds or net premiums, as the case may be, are paid or applied in accordance with subsection (5).
- (7) Where in exercise of the said power the Redundant Churches Fund has contributed to the cost of the care and maintenance of a church or part of a church, not being a church or part which is vested in the Fund, and the church or part or the site thereof is let or licensed by the diocesan board of finance under subsection (2) or (3) or let by the Commissioners under subsection (4), the net rent from time to time paid thereunder shall be paid by the said board or the Commissioners as the case may be, to the Fund until the sum contributed by the Fund, or so much thereof as the Commissioners may, with the agreement of the Secretary of State, determine, has been repaid to the Fund out of such rent.
- (8) Where before a declaration of redundancy was made in respect of a church or part of a church that church or part was the subject of a sharing agreement under the ^{M3}Sharing of Church Buildings Act 1969, and on the termination of the agreement it was vested in an incumbent by section 9(3) of that Act, any contribution in the nature of capital made in accordance with the agreement by any party thereto, other than a party acting on behalf of the Church of England, or so much thereof as the Commissioners may determine, may be repaid to that party by the Commissioners out of the proceeds of any sale or exchange, or the premiums on any lease or licence, of that church or part or the site thereof under subsection (2), (3) or (4) before the net proceeds or net premiums, as the case may be, are paid or applied in accordance with subsection (5).
- (9) Where a pastoral scheme makes a declaration of redundancy in respect of a church, being a church to which section 46(1) would have applied but for the fact that none

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of the conditions referred to in that subsection was fulfilled in the case of that church, then, if any subsequent redundancy scheme which makes provision for the redundant building also provides for any of the matters authorised to be included in the scheme by subsection (2)(b) or (c), subsection (3)(b) or (c) or subsection (4)(a) or (b)—

- (a) the proceeds of any sale or exchange made, and the premiums on any lease or licence granted, by virtue of those provisions shall be paid to the Commissioners in accordance with subsection (5) of this section, but
- (b) the net proceeds and net premiums shall be applied in accordance with section 46(1)(c) and not in accordance with subsection (5).

(10) In negotiating the sale or other disposal of any property under subsection (2), (3) or (4), the Commissioners shall consult with the diocesan board of finance.

(11) Where a redundancy scheme makes provision for any land which has been used for burials, that provision shall have effect notwithstanding section 3 of the ^{M4}Disused Burial Grounds Act 1884 (which prohibits the erection of buildings upon disused burial grounds), if one or other of the following conditions is satisfied, namely—

- (a) that no person has been buried in any of the land during the period of 50 years immediately before the making of the scheme; or
- (b) that no relative or personal representative of a deceased person buried in the land during that period has objected to the draft scheme, or all such objections have been withdrawn;

and the said section shall otherwise apply.

(12) Where a redundancy scheme provides for the care and maintenance of the redundant building or any part thereof by the Redundant Churches Fund, the scheme may also provide for the care and maintenance by the Fund of the whole or any part of the land annexed or belonging to the building or the church of which the building is part, and may so provide notwithstanding that the land is or has been used for burials.

(13) For the purposes of this section and of sections 46 and 47, and without prejudice to the generality of the provisions thereof, the use of a building or part of a building for such special or occasional religious worship as may be authorised by the bishop, or its use as a place of religious worship for a university, college, school or other institution, or its use for religious worship by any Church other than the Church of England, shall be a use to which a redundant building or a part thereof may be appropriated by a pastoral or redundancy scheme, and the consent of the incumbent or priest in charge of the benefice in the area of which the building is situated shall not be required for any such use.

(14) Section 38 shall apply to redundancy schemes in like manner as it applies to pastoral schemes, with the omission of the reference to the agreement of the bishop or bishops concerned.

Marginal Citations

M3 1969 c. 38.

M4 1884 c. 72.

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52 Application of remainder of proceeds of sales and other disposals.

- (1) The Commissioners shall apply the moneys comprised in the remaining one-third of the net proceeds and net premiums, or the balance thereof, mentioned in section 46(1) and section 51(5) in the following manner:—
 - (a) the said moneys up to a total in any five year period of such figure as shall be determined in accordance with section 53 for that period shall be paid to the Redundant Churches Fund;
 - (b) so far as the said moneys exceed that figure in any five year period, but subject to an appropriate order made under section 53(1)(c), they shall from time to time be allocated to the diocesan pastoral accounts of such dioceses, in such amounts, as the Commissioners may determine, giving preference to the dioceses which have received and are likely to receive less by way of payments under sections 46(1) and 51(5) than other dioceses.
- (2) In this section and the next following section the expression “five year period” means the period of five years beginning with 1 April 1979 and any subsequent period of five years, being a period which follows immediately after the preceding period of five years.

53 Orders of Commissioners determining or varying payments to Redundant Churches Fund.

- (1) The Commissioners by order—
 - (a) shall determine in respect of each five year period the total amount of grants to be made by the Commissioners under section 44(10) and the maximum figure to be paid to the Redundant Churches Fund under section 52(1);
 - (b) may in respect of any five year period vary the proportions of two-thirds and one-third specified in section 46(1) and section 51(5);
 - (c) may in respect of any five year period direct the payment to the Redundant Churches Fund out of the moneys mentioned in section 52(1) of sums additional to the said maximum figure.
- (2) An order made under subsection (1) may specify conditions which must be satisfied before a payment is made by the Commissioners.
- (3) An order made under subsection (1)(b) shall apply to all transactions completed after the date on which the order comes into operation, except such transactions (if any) as may be specified in the order.
- (4) When an order has been made under subsection (1)(c) the Commissioners shall retain the moneys mentioned in section 52 pending the final decision whether or not the order is to have effect, and shall then allocate them accordingly.
- (5) An order under this section may be varied or revoked by a subsequent order made thereunder.
- (6) Every order made under this section shall be laid before the General Synod and shall not come into operation unless and until it has been approved by the General Synod.
- (7) The ^{M5}Statutory Instruments Act 1946 shall apply to any order approved by the General Synod under subsection (6) as if it were a statutory instrument and were made when so approved, and as if this Measure were an Act providing that any such

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order shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Marginal Citations

M5 1946 c. 36.

54 Redundancy schemes in respect of churches closed or demolished otherwise than under this Measure.

- (1) Where the bishop of a diocese certifies that a church in his diocese or any part of such a church has not been used for divine service since 1 April 1964, and the incumbent (if any), the patron and the parochial church council of the parish in which the church is situated give their consent, the Commissioners may make an order declaring the church or part to be redundant and thereupon this Part shall apply as if the said declaration were a declaration of redundancy made by a pastoral scheme.
- (2) Where any church or part of a church has been demolished before the commencement of this Measure, or is subsequently demolished, otherwise than under this Part, a redundancy scheme providing for all or any of the matters mentioned in section 51(4) may, at any time after the commencement of this Measure or, as the case may be, after the demolition, be prepared, made and confirmed in accordance with subsections (2) to (6) of section 50 and subsections (8) and (9) of section 50 shall apply thereto.
- (3) Where by virtue of subsection (2) a redundancy scheme provides for any of the matters mentioned in section 51(4)(a), section 51(5) shall apply in relation to the proceeds and net proceeds of any sale or exchange, and to the premiums and net premiums on any lease, of the site or part of the site of the church or part of the church to which the scheme applies as it applies where a redundancy scheme which provides for the demolition of a redundant building also provides for any of those matters.

55 Schemes under Charities Act 1960 for redundant chapels belonging to charities.

- (1) The power of the court (as defined by the ^{M6}Charities Act 1960) to make schemes under its jurisdiction with respect to charities, and the power of the Charity Commissioners to make schemes under the said Act, shall extend to the making of schemes with respect to consecrated chapels belonging to charities which are no longer needed for the purposes of the charity, and section 45(2)(b) of the said Act shall not be taken as preventing the making of any such scheme.
- (2) Where a scheme is made under this section, the bishop may, if he thinks it proper to do so, by order under his seal direct that section 61(1) and section 65 of this Measure, if applicable, shall apply to the chapel as they apply to the buildings mentioned in those sections, and those sections shall thereupon apply accordingly, and the scheme, so far as it relates to the chapel, shall not have effect unless and until such an order is made, or the bishop directs that the scheme may have effect without such an order.
- (3) A scheme made under this section may provide—
 - (a) for the demolition of the chapel and the disposal of the materials arising from the demolition;
 - (b) for the sale or other disposal of the chapel or site thereof and the application of the proceeds;

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- (c) for the appropriation of the chapel to such uses as may be specified or generally described in the scheme;
 - (d) for matters supplementary or incidental to the matters aforesaid.
- (4) For the purposes of this section a consecrated chapel held on charitable trusts for the purpose of religious worship by the beneficiaries and staff of a charity and not by the general public shall be deemed to belong to that charity, notwithstanding that the trusts on which the chapel is held are separate from those of the charity, but save as aforesaid this section shall not apply to a chapel held on separate trusts relating to the use thereof for religious worship.
- (5) Section 54 of this Measure shall not apply to any consecrated chapel belonging to a charity.

Marginal Citations

M6 1960 c. 58.

56 Churches not to be closed or disposed of otherwise than under this Measure.

- (1) It shall not be lawful to make any order or give any direction for closing a church on the ground that it is no longer required for use as a church, and the only procedure for closing a church on that ground shall be by way of a declaration of redundancy or the exercise of powers under section 55.
- (2) It shall not be lawful to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any church or part of a church or the site or part of the site of any church or any consecrated land belonging or annexed to a church except in pursuance of powers under this Part or section 30.
- (3) The foregoing provisions of this section shall not—
 - (a) prevent the grant of a faculty authorising a suitable use of part of a church or the grant of any faculty in respect of any such land as aforesaid; or
 - (b) affect any powers under any Act of Parliament.
- (4) Where any church other than a church which has been declared redundant is purchased compulsorily or is purchased by agreement under an enactment conferring powers of compulsory purchase, then for the purposes of any enactment applying to the disposal of sums paid to the Commissioners in respect of the purchase of the church or any land annexed or belonging thereto, or in respect of compensation for damage to other ecclesiastical property arising in connection with the purchase, the provisions of this Part relating to the disposal of the proceeds of sale of a redundant building or any land annexed or belonging to a redundant church shall be deemed not to be applicable.

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