

Draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners (“the Commissioners”) this day of 20.... under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.

Background

By a Scheme of the Commissioners made under the said Measure on the 20th September 2021 the church of Saint Michael the Archangel, being the parish church of the parish of Letchworth in the diocese of Saint Albans was declared closed for regular public worship.

NOW, it is provided as follows:-

Future of the church building and annexed land

1. The building and the land annexed or belonging thereto shown outlined in red on the annexed plan (together referred to as the property) shall be appropriated to use for Christian worship, services and other religious activities in accordance with the rites and customs of the Apostolic Faith Mission – Stevenage and ancillary purposes subject to the Existing Matters specified in Schedule 1.

Disposal

2. The Commissioners are hereby empowered to sell the property for the said use subject to the Existing Matters specified in Schedule 1.

Contents

3. The contents of the building shall be disposed of as the Bishop shall direct.

Coming into operation of this Scheme

4. This Scheme shall not come into operation until such date as the Commissioners shall determine following the making of this Scheme and the Commissioners shall not be obliged to bring the Scheme into operation but may do so if they so determine.

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

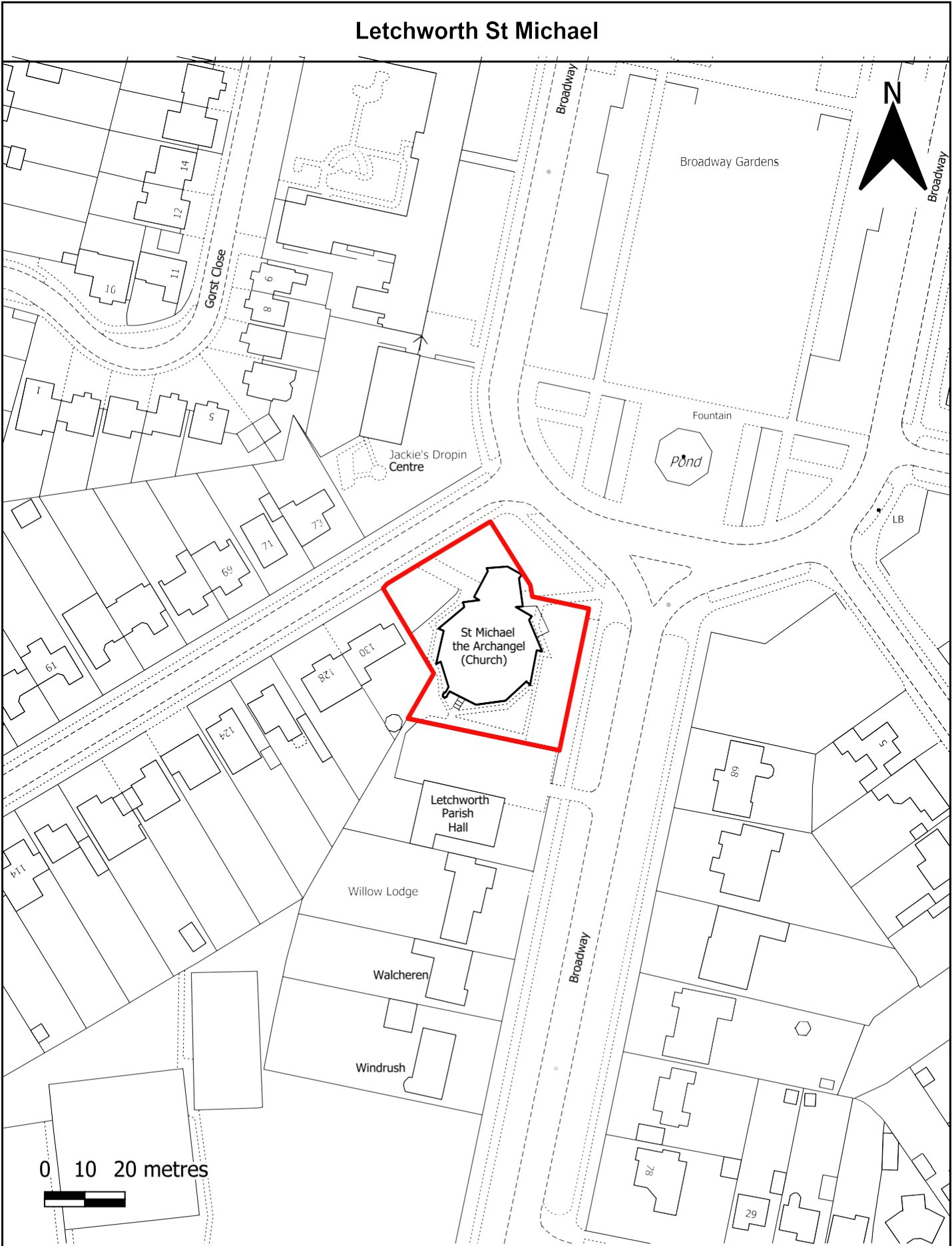
Executed as a Deed by the Church Commissioners for England
acting by two authorised signatories:

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Plan

Letchworth St Michael



© Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000824521				
Drawn by Georgina Matthews	Scale 1:1250	Date 08/12/2025		
File Pathname / Project/ Drawing No. Tracings/101A_Letchworth St Michael				

Schedule 1: Existing Matters

The rights, reservations covenants and stipulations contained or referred to in a conveyance dated 18th July 1940 between First Garden City Limited (now Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation) and The St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance in so far as the same are still subsisting and are capable of taking effect.



EXPLANATORY NOTE

MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011 DRAFT PASTORAL (CHURCH BUILDINGS DISPOSAL) SCHEME LETCWORTH ST MICHAEL DIOCESE OF SAINT ALBANS

This note accompanies a draft scheme under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 which makes provision for the future of a closed church building, The Church Commissioners provide this information so that individuals and interested parties can understand the background to the proposals, make a reasoned judgement on the merits of the draft scheme and, if they see fit, a reasoned expression of support or objection to it.

The Current Proposals

The Commissioners have agreed to publish a draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme providing for the closed church of Letchworth St Michael to be sold for use for Christian worship, services and other religious activities in accordance with the rites and customs of the Apostolic Faith Mission – Stevenage (AFM) and for ancillary purposes.

Background

The church closed for safety reasons in December 2019. Water had seeped into the building from the roof and lantern making the ceilings unsafe so services were transferred to the church hall. The PCC did not have the funds to cover the cost of basic insurance or other bills and could not meet the costs of 'opening up' the roof structure to allow a full inspection and assessment of the damage. The church was closed for regular public worship on 1st October 2021.

The Building

St Michael's is located in a conservation area in a predominantly residential area of Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire. The town has good rail connections, the A1 passes the town and Luton and Stansted airports are within reasonable travelling distance.

The church, built in 1966-7 to designs by Laurence King, is a good example of the Liturgical Movement Modernist style. It is ten-sided with a copper roof and glazed lantern supporting a thirty-foot spire. The west end has a simple Lady Chapel and the east end a series of rooms at a higher level than the nave with storage space below. To the south of the church is the church hall, built in 1977 (also designed by Laurence King) and the church hall car park.

The Views of the Statutory Advisory Committee

The Commissioners statutory advisors, The Statutory Advisory Committee of the Church Buildings Council (SAC) noted that the building is set in a spacious site in a key part of the Letchworth Garden City Conservation Area and makes a positive contribution to the townscape with its prominent lantern and spire. The SAC advised that the building is of moderate significance and merits preservation by conversion to a suitable new use that will protect its character and interest.

Planning and Access

The property will continue in use for worship therefore planning permission will not be required and listed building consent will also not be required as AFM intend to repair the building without structural or architectural alterations.

Access to the property is along pathways directly off the surrounding roads: West View and The Broadway.

Correspondence

Further information about the proposals may be obtained from the Case Officer, Karen Abaka-Wood by e-mail at karen.abaka-wood@churchofengland.org or by telephone at 07825 854 938 .

Representations against or in support of the draft Scheme

Anyone may make a representation for or against any provision of the draft Scheme.

Representations should be sent to:

**Matthew Crowe
Mission and Pastoral Services
Church Commissioners
Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3AZ**

Or by e-mail to: **matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org**

Any communication received after 2nd June 2026 cannot be treated as a representation.

If we receive representations against the draft Scheme, we will send all representations, both for and against, to the Bishop, whose view will be sought. Individual representors will then receive copies of our correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and they may comment further in writing to us in light of the diocesan response if they so wish.

If no representations against the Scheme are received the Commissioners shall make the Scheme and bring it into effect as provided for in the scheme and explained above.

Information on the Mission and pastoral Measure 2011 and its procedures can be found on the Church Commissioners' website at www.ccpastoral.org where there are also links to download copies of these notes and the draft scheme.

Karen Abaka-Wood
29 April 2026

MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011

Closed church building of Letchworth St Michael Diocese of Saint Albans

How representations concerning a draft scheme are considered by the Church Commissioners

Anyone may make comments, known as representations, either in support or against a draft scheme to the Commissioners in writing or by email. A petition will be given proper consideration, but for administrative purposes it will be classed as a single representation and we will only correspond with the sender of the petition, if known, or otherwise the first signatory.

If we do not receive any representations against the draft scheme the Commissioners will make the scheme, subject to any necessary consents being granted.

If we do receive any representations against the draft scheme we will seek the views of the Bishop about these, and those in favour. If you make a representation we will also share this with other representors and the Commissioners' Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee. We will send you a copy of our correspondence with the Bishop and you will be able to comment further if you wish on any points relating to your original representation. Copies of all of the representations received and associated correspondence will be published on the Commissioners' website if the matter needs to be considered by the Commissioners.

Once all the relevant information has been collated the Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee will meet to consider all representations in relation to the draft scheme. In making a representation you should indicate whether you also request the opportunity to speak to the Committee about your representation. Otherwise, if a hearing is not held, the case will be considered in private, and you will be informed accordingly. If the Commissioners' decide to hold a public hearing into the case, you may attend the Committee meeting and you may have an opportunity to speak to your representation. When we acknowledge your representation we will let you know the dates of the Committee's next couple of meetings. We will confirm the actual date, and if a hearing is to be held, nearer the time.

The Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee will decide whether the draft scheme should proceed. A full statement of reasons for the Commissioners' decision will be issued to all representors about 10 days after the meeting of the Committee. If they decide that the scheme should proceed, the Commissioners will make the Scheme, subject to the necessary consents being granted, if appropriate.

The scheme would be brought into effect at the appropriate time as it provides.

Please note that the procedures for considering representations only apply where there is at least one objection to the draft scheme. The Committee will not have to consider the case where there are only representations in support of the draft scheme and no outstanding objections. If you write in support of the scheme, we will let you know as soon as possible whether we have also received representations against its provisions that will require consideration by the Committee.