

Mission in Review

Members who do not have access to *The Ringing World* may be unaware of the above report, which was presented to the General Synod of the Church of England in July, or of the strong feelings against GS2222 – a legislative proposal to amend the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – being expressed by ‘Save the Parish’.

Save the Parish is a movement set up in August with the aims of preserving our national parish network and ensuring that parishes have priority funding rather than dioceses and new initiatives. They claim that, if passed, GS2222 will expedite the closure of parish churches and sacking of clergy. It has been estimated that this measure would triple the rate of church closures. As ringers we must all be concerned that bells in church buildings that become privately owned will probably not be accessible for ringing in the future.

The Central Council is discussing the implications of the proposal with the Clerical Guild of Ringers with the aim of giving a consultation response on behalf of the ringing community as a whole. It has suggested that it might be a good idea to open a dialogue with your clergy about GS2222.

Your Oxford Diocesan Guild officers do not feel that it would be appropriate at this time to encourage you to become involved in, what is essentially, Church politics. However, if you do have serious concerns about these potential changes to our fundamental right to ‘the parish church’ then you might like to make your feelings known.

The subject is covered on pages **780/81 of 27th August** edition of *The Ringing World*. You could Google **GS2222** to read the document in question. ‘Save the Parish’ draw attention in particular to the figures on pages 14 and 17.

The consultation questionnaire is tedious but you could send an email instead to:

mpm2011review@churchofengland.org

See <https://cccb.org.uk/save-the-parish> for a balanced and informative summary.

Time is short as the consultation deadline is **30th September**. Save the Parish suggest copying your objection to your MP, requesting that they write to the Second Estates Commissioner, Andrew Selous MP, asking for the Church’s legislative proposal GS2222 to be dropped urgently.

You could visit **savetheparish.com** to find out more and/or lend your support.

Apologies for the lack of notice.

Robert Newton, on behalf of F&GP