

## WELSH CHURCH

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### 1. Charter of Incorporation

ORDER IN COUNCIL APPROVING DRAFT CHARTER UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE WELSH CHURCH ACT, 1914 (4 & 5 GEO. 5. C. 91) INCORPORATING THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH IN WALES.

**1919 No. 564**

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 15th day of April, 1919.

PRESENT,

The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas there was this day read at the Board a Report of a Committee of the Lords of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, dated the 9th day of April, 1919, in the words following, viz.:—

“ Your Majesty having been pleased, by Your Order of the 10th day of February, 1919, to refer unto this Committee the humble Petition of The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of St. Asaph, The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of St. David's, The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Bangor, The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Llandaff, The Right Honourable Sir John Eldon Bankes, The Right Honourable Sir James Richard Atkin, Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., and The Honourable Sir John Sankey, G.B.E., praying that Your Majesty would be pleased, in exercise of Your Royal Prerogative and of the power in that behalf contained in Section 13 (2) of the Welsh Church Act, 1914, to grant a Charter of Incorporation to the persons mentioned in the Second Schedule to the said Petition, and their successors, being the Representative Body of the Church in Wales under the provisions of the said Act:

“ The Lords of the Committee, in obedience to Your Majesty's said Order of Reference, have taken the said Petition into consideration, and do this day agree humbly to report, as their opinion, to Your Majesty, that a Charter may be granted by Your Majesty in terms of the Draft hereunto annexed.”

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His Majesty, having taken into consideration the said Report, and the Draft Charter accompanying it, was pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, to approve thereof, and to order, as it is hereby ordered, that the Right Honourable Edward Shortt, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, do cause a Warrant to be prepared for His Majesty's Royal Signature, for passing under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom a Charter in conformity with the said Draft, which is hereunto annexed.

*Almeric FitzRoy.*

George the Fifth, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.

Whereas by the Welsh Church Act, 1914, it was enacted that on the day after the expiration of six months or such extended period as We might fix by Order in Council not being more than twelve months after the passing of the said Act the Church of England so far as it extends to and exists in Wales and Monmouthshire (in the said Act referred to as "the Church in Wales" and hereinafter referred to as "the said Church") should cease to be established by law and that on the date of disestablishment every Cathedral and Ecclesiastical Corporation in the Church in Wales whether sole or aggregate should be dissolved.

And whereas the said Act was passed on the 18th day of September, 1914.

And whereas by Sub-section 1 of Section 13 of the said Act it was further provided that nothing in any Act Law or Custom should prevent the Bishops Clergy and Laity of the said Church from holding synods or electing representatives thereto or from framing either by themselves or by their representatives elected in such manner as they should think fit constitutions and regulations for the general management and good government of the said Church and the property and affairs thereof whether as a whole or according to Dioceses and the future representation of members thereof in a general synod or in Diocesan synods or otherwise and by Sub-section 2 of Section 13 aforesaid it was further provided that if at any time it should be shown to Our satisfaction that the said Bishops Clergy and Laity had appointed any persons to represent them and hold property for any of their uses and purposes it should be lawful for Us by Charter to incorporate such persons (in the said Act referred to as "the Representative Body") with power to hold land without licence in mortmain.

And whereas by the Suspensory Act, 1914, it was enacted that notwithstanding anything in the Welsh Church Act, 1914, the date of disestablishment under that Act should be postponed until the expiration of twelve months from the date of the passing of that Act or if at the expiration of those twelve months the present war had not ended until such later date (not being later than the end of the present war) as might be fixed by Us by Order in Council.

## Charter of Incorporation

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And whereas by an Order in Council made on the 14th day of September, 1915, the date of disestablishment under the Welsh Church Act, 1914, was postponed until the end of the present war.

And whereas a Convention of the Bishops Clergy and Laity of the Church in Wales was duly held at Cardiff in the month of October, 1917, at which a scheme was adopted and approved for the constitution of a body to be known as the Governing Body of the Church in Wales (hereinafter referred to as "the Governing Body") with power among other things to make constitutions and regulations for the general management and good government of the said Church and the property and affairs thereof.

And whereas the Bishops Clergy and Laity of the said Church have appointed the following persons to be the members of the body referred to in the Welsh Church Act, 1914, as the Representative Body—that is to say—

The Right Reverend Father in God Alfred George  
Lord Bishop of the Diocese of St. Asaph.

The Right Reverend Father in God John  
Lord Bishop of the Diocese of St. David's.

The Right Reverend Father in God Watkin Herbert  
Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Bangor.

The Right Reverend Father in God Joshua Pritchard  
Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Llandaff.

(Being the Diocesan Bishops of the said Church and the *ex-officio* members of the said body).

The Ven. Thomas Lloyd, Archdeacon of St. Asaph, The Vicarage, Rhyl.

The Ven. David Grimaldi Davis, D.D., Archdeacon of Montgomery, Llandrinio Rectory, Llanymynech.

The Rev. Canon Daniel Davies, The Vicarage, Wrexham.

The Rev. Canon Thomas Redfern, The Rectory, Denbigh.

The Right Hon. Sir John Eldon Bankes, Soughton Hall, Northop.

The Right Hon. Frederick Henry Baron Colwyn, Colwyn Bay.

Sir Herbert Lloyd Watkin Williams-Wynn, Bt., C.B., Wynnstay, Ruabon.

Major-General Arthur Edmund Sandbach, C.B., D.S.O., Bryngwyn, Bwlchycibau.

Colonel Thomas Alured Wynne Edwards, Plas Nantglyn, Denbigh.

Mr. Henry Neville Gladstone, Hawarden Castle, Flints.

Mr. David Falconer Pennant, Nantlys, St. Asaph.

Mr. Walter Baldwin Yates, Cilcen Hall, Mold.

(Elected by the Diocesan Conference of the Diocese of St. Asaph.)

The Right Rev. Edward Lathom Bevan, D.D., Bishop of Swansea, The Vicarage, Brecon.

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- The Ven. Robert Williams, Archdeacon of Carmarthen, The Vicarage, Llandilo.
- The Rev. Gilbert Cunningham Joyce, D.D., St. David's College, Lampeter.
- The Rev. Canon David Watcyn Morgan, The Vicarage, Llanelly.
- Margaret Child Lady Dynevor, Dynevor Castle, Llandilo.
- Mrs. Katharine Minna Dillwyn Venables-Llewelyn, Llysdinam, Newbridge-on-Wye.
- Sir Evan Davies Jones, Bt., Pentower, Fishguard.
- Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., Coomb, Llangain, Carmarthen.
- Mr. Wilfred Seymour de Winton, Tymawr, Brecon.
- Mr. Richard Townsend Greer, Frongog, Llanbadarn, Aberystwyth.
- Mr. Francis William Gilbertson, Glynteg, Pontardawe.
- Mr. William Edward Cecil Tregoning, Warborough, Llanelly.  
(Elected by the Diocesan Conference of the Diocese of St. David's.)
- The Rev. Canon Edmund Osborne Jones, The Vicarage, Llanidloes.
- The Rev. William Morgan, St. Anne's Vicarage, Bethesda.
- The Rev. Thomas Edward Owen, Aberdaron Vicarage, Pwllheli.
- The Rev. Francis Parry Watkin-Davies, The Rectory, Llanfairfechan.
- The Hon. Alice Douglas Pennant, Penrhyn Castle, Bangor.
- Sir Hugh John Ellis-Nanney, Bt., Gwynfryn, Criccieth.
- Colonel the Hon. Richard Southwell George Stapleton Cotton, Llwynon, Llanfair P.G., Anglesey.
- Lieut.-Colonel Alan Percy George Gough, C.M.G., D.S.O., Gelliwig, Pwllheli.
- Mr. John Ernest Greaves, Bron Eifion, Criccieth.
- Mr. Robert Jones Morris, Gwrach Ynys, Talsarnau, Merioneth.
- Mr. Arthur Ivor Pryce, Diocesan Registry, Bangor.
- Mr. Hugh Corbet Vincent, Bronwydd, Bangor.  
(Elected by the Diocesan Conference of the Diocese of Bangor.)
- The Ven. Charles Alfred Howell Green, D.D., Archdeacon of Monmouth, Jesmond, Stow Park Circus, Newport.
- The Rev. Canon Thomas Jesse Jones, The Rectory, Gellygaer, Glam.
- The Rev. David Thomas Griffiths, The Vicarage, Llantrissant.
- The Rev. Llewellyn Morgan Williams, The Rectory, Dowlais.
- The Right Hon. Robert George Earl of Plymouth, G.B.E., C.B., St. Fagan's Castle, Cardiff.

- The Right Hon. Henry Campbell Baron Aberdare, Duffryn, Mountain Ash.
- The Hon. Sir John Sankey, G.B.E., 14, Dean's Yard, Westminster.
- Sir Henry Mather Jackson, Bt., C.B.E., Llantilio Court, Abergavenny.
- Mr. Wilfrid Hubert Poyer Lewis, Diocesan Registry, Cardiff.
- Major-General Henry Herbert Lee, C.B.E., The Mount, Dinas Powis, Cardiff.
- Mr. Sidney Hutchinson Byass, Llandough Castle, Cowbridge.
- Mr. Thomas Bishop Ridley Wilson, Methven, Maindee, Newport.
- (Elected by the Diocesan Conference of the Diocese of Llandaff.)
- The Right Rev. Bishop Owen Thomas Lloyd Crossley, D.D., 58, Park Place, Cardiff.
- The Rev. Canon David Davies, 7, The Green, Llandaff.
- The Rev. Canon Joseph Lloyd, The Vicarage, Llanpumpsaint, Carmarthenshire.
- The Rev. Albert Owen Evans, Llanfaethlu Rectory, Valley, Anglesey.
- The Right Hon. Sir Lawrence Hugh Jenkins, K.C.I.E., Cilbronnau, Llangoedmore, Cardiganshire.
- The Right Hon. Sir James Richard Atkin, Royal Courts of Justice, London.
- Mrs. Rose Yates, Cilcen Hall, Mold.
- Mr. Edward Marlay Samson, C.B.E., Scotchwell, Haverfordwest.
- Mr. Walter Powell Nicholas, The Garth, Trealaw, Glam.
- Mr. Henry Pearce, Soughton House, Northop, Flints.
- Mr. Daniel Wintringham Stable, Plas Llwynon, Llanbryn-mair.
- Winifred Countess of Dundonald, Gwrych Castle, Abergele, N.W.
- (being the co-opted Members of the said Body).

And—

- The Very Rev. Llewellyn Wynne-Jones, Dean of St. Asaph, The Deanery, St. Asaph.
- The Rev. Benjamin Davies, St. David's Vicarage, Carmarthen.
- The Right Hon. George Henry Robert Child Earl of Jersey, Middleton Park, Bicester.
- The Right Hon. Edward Sholton Baron Penrhyn, Wicken, Stony Stratford.
- Mr. Alfred Harold Edwards, 9, Maybury Lodge, Queen's Park, Chester.
- Mr. Wyndham Damer Clark, Talygarn, Pontyclun, Glam.
- Mr. Charles Hamilton Eden, Glynderwen, Black Pill, Glam.

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Sir Harry Rudolf Rudolf Reichel, Gartherwen, Bangor.  
(being the Nominated Members of the said Body they having been nominated by the Diocesan Bishops of the said Church).

Now know all men by these presents that We of Our especial Grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, by and with the advice and consent of Our Privy Council, do for Us, Our heirs and successors grant, constitute, declare and appoint that the said above-named persons so appointed by the said Bishops Clergy and Laity as aforesaid and that successors to be appointed as hereinafter mentioned shall forever hereafter be one body corporate and politic by the name of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales or by such other name as the Governing Body may hereinafter with the approval of Our Privy Council determine and by such name shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal with such stamp and inscription to be made and engraved thereon as they shall think proper with power to break alter or renew the said Seal from time to time as they shall think proper and by such name shall and may sue and be sued in all courts whatsoever of Us, Our heirs and successors in all actions suits plaints and demands whatsoever And We do also hereby for Ourselves and Our successors licence authorize and for ever hereafter enable the said Representative Body hereby constituted (hereinafter referred to as the Representative Body) to acquire (by purchase or otherwise) receive and hold any lands tenements or hereditaments whatsoever or interests therein (notwithstanding the statutes of Mortmain) and any investments money goods chattels or other personal property which may be transferred or paid to the Representative Body pursuant to the Welsh Church Act, 1914, or which may be assured given devised or bequeathed to the Representative Body by any person or persons company or body politic capable of making an assurance gift devise or bequest thereof for the uses or purposes of the Bishops Clergy and Laity of the said Church or upon any special trusts And We grant and ordain that the Representative Body shall exercise all the powers and perform all the functions and duties intended by the Welsh Church Act, 1914, to be exercised and performed by the Body in the said Act referred to as the Representative Body And We grant and ordain that the Representative Body shall hold all property which shall become vested in it (other than property vested in it pursuant to Section 22 of the Welsh Church Act, 1914, or upon any special trusts) upon and for such trusts objects and purposes and with and subject to such powers of management investment sale leasing exchange and other powers of dealing therewith or disposing thereof as the said Convention of the said Church held in the month of October, 1917, shall have directed or as the Governing Body shall from time to time direct and as shall not be inconsistent with or in violation of the Welsh Church Act, 1914, or any other law of this Realm and shall under the direction of the Governing Body hold all property transferred to the Representative Body pursuant to Section 22 of the Welsh Church Act, 1914, or assured given devised or bequeathed to the Representative Body upon any special trusts upon the trusts and with and subject to the powers and provisions affecting the property so transferred or declared or created by or by

virtue of such assurance gift devise or bequest And We ordain and declare that the Representative Body shall in all matters be subject to the order and control of the Governing Body And We ordain and declare that the provisions contained in the Schedule hereto shall have effect with respect to the composition of the Representative Body and the qualification election co-option nomination and retirement of the members thereof and the procedure thereof And lastly We do by these Presents grant to the Representative Body that these Our Letters Patent and all and singular the matters and things in the same contained shall be good and valid in law according to the true intent and meaning of the same and shall be taken construed and adjudged in the most favourable and beneficial sense and for the best advantage of the Representative Body in all Our Courts and elsewhere by all Judges Justices Officers Ministers and other subjects of Us, Our heirs and successors any omission defect or thing whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding.

*The Schedule above referred to*

1. The Representative Body shall be composed of four classes, namely, the *ex-officio*, the elected, the co-opted and the nominated members.

2. The *ex-officio* members shall be the Diocesan Bishops of the Church in Wales for the time being.

3. The elected members shall be twelve for each Diocese, elected in the first instance and until otherwise determined, by the respective Diocesan Conferences, eight in each case being lay persons and four clergymen.

4. The co-opted members shall be limited to twelve, co-opted by the Representative Body without any regard to Dioceses.

5. The nominated members shall be limited to eight, nominated by the Diocesan Bishops of the Church in Wales, acting collectively, without any regard to Dioceses.

6. Every Clergyman who is in Priest's Orders, and who holds or has held a Dignity, Cathedral Preferment, Benefice or Office within the Church in Wales or a licence from a Welsh Diocesan Bishop, shall be qualified to be a member of the Representative Body.

7. Every Lay communicant of either sex, who is over twenty-one years of age, and who either resides or has resided at any time for a period of twelve months in a parish which is, or is determined under the Welsh Church Act, 1914, to be, in Wales or Monmouthshire, or who has been a contributor to the funds of the Church in Wales within the twelve months next preceding the day of his or her nomination, and who does not belong to any religious body which is not in communion with the Church in Wales, shall be qualified to be a member of the Representative Body.

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Provided always, that until the Governing Body otherwise determine, the number of women to be elected, co-opted or nominated shall not exceed the following, namely, elected two for each Diocese, co-opted two, and nominated two.

**8.** Every lay person so elected, nominated, or co-opted, before taking his or her seat, shall sign a declaration in the following form in a register to be kept for that purpose by the Secretary of the Representative Body:—

*I, J. S., of ....., do hereby solemnly declare that I am a communicant over twenty-one years of age, and qualified to be a member of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales, and that I do not belong to any religious body which is not in communion with the Church in Wales.*

**9.** The members first elected, co-opted, or nominated to the Representative Body shall hold office for a period commencing with the date of their appointment and ending on the day three years after the granting of this Charter.

**10.** On the determination of such period and subsequently as from December 31st of each year, one-third of the members elected by each Diocese shall retire in rotation annually, and in their stead an equal number of members shall be elected by each Diocese, provided always that a clergyman shall be elected to succeed a clergyman and a lay person to succeed a lay person.

**11.** On the determination of such period and subsequently as from December 31st of each year, one-third of the members co-opted by the Representative Body shall retire in rotation annually, and in their stead an equal number of members shall be co-opted by the Representative Body.

**12.** The members, whether elected or co-opted, to retire first shall be chosen by ballot of the Representative Body, and those to retire the following year shall similarly be chosen from among those first elected or co-opted, the remaining third retiring the third year.

**13.** All persons elected or co-opted to fill the places of retiring members shall, except as provided in clause 16, hold office for three years.

**14.** All the members nominated by the Diocesan Bishops shall retire at the end of such period, and the said Bishops shall then and thereafter triennially, acting collectively, nominate an equal number of members to sit for three years.

**15.** Casual vacancies shall be filled by the Representative Body according to the order in which they are placed on supplemental lists (if any) of clergy and lay persons which may be made for the purpose by the several Diocesan Conferences.

**16.** The Diocesan Bishops shall fill up a casual vacancy among those members nominated by them. All other casual vacancies shall be filled up by the Representative Body, and in the case of casual vacancies among the elected members from the supplemental lists. The member appointed to fill such vacancy shall vacate his or her office at the same time as the person whose place he or she fills would have done, provided always that the Representative Body in filling up a vacancy among the elected members shall always appoint a clergyman to succeed a clergyman and a lay person to succeed a lay person and of the same Diocese as was represented by the person in whose place the new member is appointed.

**17.** Any member of the Representative Body shall on retirement be eligible for membership, if otherwise duly qualified.

**18.** Any member of the Representative Body may be removed for sufficient reasons by the Governing Body. The Governing Body shall be final judges of what constitutes a sufficient reason within the meaning of this clause.

**19.** Any member of the Representative Body may resign his or her office by writing under his or her hand, addressed to the Secretary of the Representative Body.

**20.** The Representative Body shall at its first meeting and thereafter triennially elect from amongst its members a Chairman; in the Chairman's absence the Representative Body shall elect some other member to take his place.

**21.** The Representative Body shall have power to declare how many members present shall form a quorum, and to make rules for the regulation of its procedure.

**22.** The Representative Body shall have power to appoint committees of the members, and to make rules and regulations for the powers of and the procedure to be followed by any committee, provided that all acts and decisions of any committee, unless previously specifically authorised, must be ratified and confirmed by the Representative Body to become valid.

**23.** The Representative Body shall execute documents by affixing its common seal thereto in the presence of the Secretary and two members of the Body. The Secretary shall have the custody of the seal.

**24.** The Representative Body shall be subject to such alterations in the numbers of its members, or in the rules and regulations laid down for their qualification, election, or retirement, or in its powers and duties as shall from time to time be adopted by the Governing Body, provided always that such rules, regulations and alterations thereof do not conflict with its statutory authority, powers and duties.

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25. In this Schedule the expression "Diocesan Bishops" means the persons who for the time being shall exercise and discharge the episcopal functions of Diocesan Bishops of the Church in Wales and the expression "Diocese" means any district for the time being under the spiritual governance of any such Bishop.

In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

Witness Ourself at Westminster this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, in the Ninth year of our Reign.

By Warrant under the King's Sign Manual.

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