

# **Proposed Changes to the Three District Schemes**

## **Explanatory Note for APCM 2025**

### **Background**

The Team Review, when completed by the Church Commissioners, is likely to introduce changes to the Parish's governance which will require some consequential amendments to the existing District Schemes - these regulate the running of the district church councils and their relationship with the PCC.

### **The Proposals**

The main elements of the proposed amendments to the schemes are:

- Given the likely dissolution of the Team Ministry and the phasing out of the post of team vicar, new provision needs to be made for the chairing of DCC meetings. It is proposed that DCCs should be chaired by a person clerical or lay nominated by the incumbent with the consent of the DCC.
- It is recommended that clergy and readers with permission to officiate within the parish ('PTO'), as opposed to being licensed, are, like those licensed, made eligible for co-option as members of the DCCs.
- St Alphege Church Council. For historical reasons the body bears this name although it is legally a DCC like the other two councils. It is recommended that the name should resemble that of the other two bodies and that its formal name should be changed to 'the St Alphege District Church Council.'
- Some other drafting changes are made for the sake of clarity and removing anomalies, in particular the removal of obsolete references to St Catherine's in the St Alphege Scheme.

Amended schemes have been drafted to reflect the above considerations. Copies of these are available for inspection at the meeting. They have been publicised via the Parish website. Copies have also been made available on request as email attachments. The PCC and the three district

AGMs have given them broad approval. They are now submitted to the APCM for approval.

### **Timing**

It is desirable to pass the scheme amendments at this meeting as otherwise it might be necessary to wait until the APCM 2026, which would be inconvenient.

### **Variations in the Church Representation Rules**

APCMs are now able to vary the application of the Church Representation Rules to their parishes as regards most internal management matters. The necessary resolution must be passed by a 2/3 majority at the APCM and subsequently approved by the Bishop's Council. It is proposed to invoke this provision for two matters:

- Extending to the PCC the enfranchisement of clergy and readers with PTO, as proposed for the three DCCs.
- Clarifying that changes to district schemes can be made at a special parochial church meeting without having to wait until the next APCM – it is the uncertainty over this matter that makes it desirable to pass the proposed changes to the 3 district schemes at this meeting.

Resolutions giving effect to the proposals in this paper are annexed.

### **Delegations**

The question of changes to the delegations, which regulate the functions of the DCCs in relationship to the PCC, is being considered separately. Such delegations are the responsibility of the PCC and Parish Wardens rather than of the APCM and can be made at any time during the year. Any such changes will only be made after consultation between the PCC and DCCs.

### **SGL**

**21 April 202**

**Resolution A**

This meeting approves the three amended schemes for the Districts of St Alphege, St Helen, and St Michael, copies of which have been deposited with this resolution.

**Resolution B**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Solihull by virtue of its powers under Rules 12 and 13 of the Church Representation Rules 2022 ('the Rules') adopts the following scheme.

**The Scheme**

In Rule M15(1) insert the following sub-paragraph after M15(1)(a):

'(aa) such other clerks in Holy Orders who have permission to officiate within the Parish (or an area including the Parish) as the annual meeting with the consent of the incumbent may determine.'

In Rule M15(1) replace sub-paragraph (h) with the following:

'(h) if the annual meeting so decides that one or more readers licensed to or who hold permission to officiate within the Parish (or an area including the Parish) whose names are on the roll of the Parish should be members, the reader or readers in question.'

In Rule M15(2) replace 'paragraph (1)(a) or (d)' with 'paragraph (1)(a), (aa) or (d)'

In Rule M15 (3) replace 'paragraph (1)(a) or (d)' with 'paragraph (1)(a), (aa) or (d)'

In Rule M34(1) after ‘annual meeting’ insert ‘or a special parochial church meeting’.

In Rule M35(1) after ‘annual meeting’ insert ‘or a special parochial church meeting’.

This scheme shall enter into effect on [ ]  
subject to approval by the Bishop’s Council.

DRAFT 6