

**Diocese of Birmingham**

**Parish of Solihull**

**A Scheme for a St Alphege District Church Council**

**Approved by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

(This scheme replaces the previous Scheme of 8 June 2004)

Entered into force: .....)

*Authorisation for election of a district church council for St Alphege's*

In accordance with its powers under rules M34 and M35 of the Church Representation Rules 2020 (Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969) referred to hereinafter as 'the Rules' the annual parochial church meeting of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Solihull ('the annual meeting') hereby authorises the election of a District Church Council for the District (as defined in the Schedule hereto) in which the Church of St Alphege is situated. Such a body is hereinafter referred to as 'the St Alphege District Church Council' ('the StADCC').

*Delegation of PCC Powers*

2 The Parochial Church Council for the Ecclesiastical Parish of Solihull ('the PCC') may delegate to the StADCC in respect of the District and Church of St Alphege (subject to the exceptions set out in rule M35(5) of the Rules and in paragraph 3 of this Scheme) the general functions of a parochial church council and more particularly those functions as are described in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Synodical Government Measure 1969 (including the rules made under those measures).

*Responsibilities of the Incumbent the PCC and the StADCC*

3 (1) Subject to the rights of the bishop ultimate responsibility within the Ecclesiastical Parish of Solihull ('the Parish') including the District of St Alphege shall continue to lie with the incumbent for the appointment and

allocation of duties of the clergy. Ultimate responsibility within the Parish including the District of St Alphege shall continue to lie with the PCC for the allocation of financial resources.

(2) The StADCC shall submit to the PCC for approval:

- (a) its annual budget (and shall make periodic reports to the PCC during the year on its income and expenditure);
- (b) any application for a faculty in respect of St Alphege Church other than an application relating solely to repair of the fabric.

4 Subject to paragraph 3 above the StADCC shall accept such measure of financial responsibility as shall be agreed with the PCC for any commitments already undertaken or to be undertaken in relation to the District of St Alphege including:

- (a) maintenance and upkeep of the fabric and contents of the Church of St Alphege including the churchyard thereof;
- (b) maintenance and upkeep of the fabric of such other church properties as shall be agreed between the PCC and the StACC;
- (c) the payment of the annual diocesan apportionment calculated for the District of St Alphege.

#### *St Alphege Section of the Parish Electoral Roll*

5 (1) For the purposes of participation in the St Alphege Annual General Meeting ('AGM'), a separate section ('the St Alphege Section') of the Parish Electoral Roll ('the Parish Roll') shall be formed for the Church of St Alphege.

(2) The rules for the formation of the St Alphege Section shall be as laid down in the Rules for the formation of a Parish Electoral Roll except that references in such Rules to a parochial church council shall be to the StADCC and references in such Rules to 'the parish' and 'parochial' shall be to the District of St Alphege.

(3) Except for representation on the Deanery Synod the St Alphege Section shall be treated as an integral part of the Parish Electoral Roll and

inclusion on the St Alphege. Section shall confer inclusion on the Parish Roll.

*St Alphege Representation on the Deanery Synod*

6 The District of St Alphege shall continue to have separate representation on the Deanery Synod of Yardley and Solihull, and this shall be based on the St Alphege Section.

*St Alphege Representation on the PCC*

7 (1) The Deputy Wardens of St Alphege shall be ex officio members of the PCC.

(2) The St Alphege AGM may nominate up to two persons being on the St Alphege Section who upon ratification by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting shall be deemed to be elected as representatives of the laity on the PCC.

*The St Alphege Annual General Meeting*

8 The AGM for the District of St Alphege shall be held every year at a date earlier than that of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The incumbent or the person appointed under paragraph 13(1)(a) or (b) shall chair the AGM.

*Deputy Churchwardens for St Alphege*

9 (1) Two Deputy Churchwardens of St Alphege shall be elected at the St Alphege AGM.

(2 ) The said Deputy Churchwardens shall be chosen from persons who are eligible to be elected as Parish Churchwardens and whose names are on the St Alphege Section of the Parish Electoral Roll.

(3) The Parish Churchwardens may delegate to the said Deputy Churchwardens any or all of the duties of a Churchwarden within the District of St Alphege.

### *Membership of the St Alphege District Church Council*

10. The following shall be members of the StADCC:

- (a) the incumbent and all clerks in Holy Orders beneficed in or licensed to the Parish (or an area including the Parish);
- (b) such other clerks in Holy Orders who have permission to officiate within the Parish (or an area including the Parish) as the AGM, with the consent of the incumbent, may determine.
- (c) the Parish Church Wardens;
- (d) the Deputy Churchwardens of St Alphege Church and District;
- (e) any lay worker licensed to the Parish (or to an area including the Parish);
- (f) such if any readers who are licensed to or have permission to officiate within the Parish (or an area including the Parish) and who are on the St. Alphege Section as the St Alphege AGM may determine.
- (g) all persons whose names are on the St Alphege Section and who are lay members of any general, diocesan or deanery synod or of the PCC.
- (h) up to fifteen members of the laity elected by the St Alphege AGM.
- (i) such number of co-opted members as the StADCC determines not exceeding one-fifth of the representatives of the laity elected under the last sub-paragraph provided that in calculating the proportion of one-fifth no account shall be taken of the co-option of any person who holds the office of Secretary, Treasurer or Electoral Roll Officer to the District of St Alphege;
- (j) Any number of co-opted members not having voting rights.

### *Qualifications for Membership of the St Alphege Church Council*

11 Persons shall be eligible to be elected a representative of the laity on the StADCC if they are eligible to be elected to the PCC, and their names are on the St Alphege Section.

### *Terms of office*

12 (1) Deputy Church Wardens shall hold office for a period of three years or such lesser period as the AGM may by resolution determine but shall be eligible to stand for re-election at the end of their term of office.

(2) Members of the StADCC shall hold office for a period of three years one third retiring each year but shall be eligible to stand for re-election at the end of their term of office. The AGM may by resolution determine that the period of office of such members shall be of a lesser duration.

(3) Any reduction in a term of office under the foregoing sub- paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not terminate the office of anyone whose current term has not yet expired.

### *The St Alphege District Church Council —Presiding Officer*

13(1) The StADCC shall be chaired by the incumbent, or a person appointed by the incumbent with the consent of the StADCC being either:

(a) a clerk in Holy Orders licensed to or having permission to officiate within the Parish (or an area including the Parish); or

(b) a member of the laity whose name is on the St Alphege Section.

(2) A Lay Vice Chair shall be elected to deputise for the incumbent or other person specified in the preceding sub-paragraph in chairing the Council.

(3) the Lay Vice Chair shall chair the Council during the vacancy of the benefice or when the incumbent is incapacitated by absence or illness or any other cause or when the incumbent invites the Lay Vice Chair to do so in person.

(4) Other than during the vacancy of the benefice references to the incumbent in the preceding sub-paragraph shall include any person appointed under sub-paragraph 13(1)(a) or (b).

(5) In making any appointment described in sub – paragraph 13(1) (a) or (b) the incumbent and the StADCC shall take into account the missional requirements of the St Alphege District and of the Parish.

### *Standing Orders for the District of St Alphege*

14(1) The standing orders for St Alphege shall be modelled as far as practical on the relevant provisions governing the conduct of parochial church meetings and parochial church councils as are to be found in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) in the Church Representation Rules (as amended) and in the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

(2) The St Alphege AGM may amend the standing orders or may adopt new such orders, but any such amendments and any new such standing orders shall be consistent with any statute canon or measure (or rule made thereunder) directly applicable to district AGMs or district church councils, with this Scheme, and with the Parish Standing Orders (including the Parish Accounting Standing Orders).

(3) The StADCC may amend the standing orders for the District of St Alphege where such changes:

- (a) are desirable to reflect an amendment to any statute, canon, measure or rule that is directly applicable to district churches; or
- (b) are desirable to reflect an amendment to a District Scheme or to Parish Standing Orders;

but shall report the aforesaid amendments to the next AGM for ratification.

### *Saving*

15 Nothing in this scheme shall invalidate anything done by to or before the StADCC or any St Alphege AGM under the provisions of the previous scheme of 2004.

## *Interpretation*

16 (1) In this Scheme any reference to an APCM shall include reference to a validly convened special or extraordinary parochial church meeting and any reference to a St Alphege AGM shall include reference to any validly convened special or extraordinary church general meeting for the District of St Alphege.

(2) Any power conferred by this Scheme to make approve frame pass or adopt any rule order resolution determination decision direction or appointment or to give any consent or settle any constitution or to prescribe the manner of doing anything shall be construed as including a power exercisable in like manner and subject to like conditions to revoke or vary any such rule order resolution determination decision direction appointment consent or constitution or anything so prescribed.

(3) Any reference in this Scheme to the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 the Synodical Government Measure 1969 or the Churchwardens Measure 2001 (including the rules made under those measures) shall include reference to such changes as have been made and shall be made from time to time to the aforesaid measures and rules.

(4) References to 'the incumbent' shall be deemed to be references to the Rector or to any clerk in holy orders who carries out the functions of incumbent of the Parish for the time being.

(5) The Interpretation Measure 1925 and the Interpretation Act 1978 shall unless the context otherwise requires apply for the interpretation of this Scheme as they apply for the interpretation of measures passed by General Synod.

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## **Schedule : Boundaries**

The District of St Alphege shall comprise that part of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Solihull that has not been designated and shall not in future be designated by any scheme made under rules M34 or 35 as the district of another district church.

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