

Diocese of Birmingham

Parish of Solihull

A Scheme for St. Helen's District Church Council

**Approved by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on 28th April 2025.**

(This Scheme replaces the Scheme of 8th June 2004.)

(Entered into Force.....)

Authorisation for election of a district church council for St Helen's

1 In accordance with its powers under rule M34 of the Church Representation Rules 2020, (Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969), hereinafter referred to as 'the Rules' the annual parochial church meeting of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Solihull ('the parish meeting') hereby authorises the election of a District Church Council for the District (as defined in the Schedule below) in which the church of St Helen is situated. Such body is hereinafter referred to as 'the DCC'.

Delegation of PCC Powers

2 The delegation of functions from the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') to the DCC and from the Parish Churchwardens to the Deputy Churchwardens for St Helen's ('the Deputy Churchwardens') referred to in paragraphs 2 and 8 of the Scheme of 1978 (that is to say that the PCC 'hereby delegates to the St Helen's District Church Council (the DCC) those general functions of a Parochial Church Council' under the provisions of Rule 18(3) and that 'the Deputy Churchwardens for St Helen's shall be elected at the Annual District Church Meeting and they shall perform the duties of Churchwarden within the Church and District of St. Helen's.') shall remain in force until varied or revoked.

Responsibilities of the Incumbent, PCC and DCC

3 Subject to the rights of the Bishop ultimate responsibility within the Ecclesiastical Parish of Solihull ('the Parish') including the St Helen's District shall continue to lie with the incumbent for the appointment and allocation of duties of the clergy. Ultimate responsibility within the Parish including the St Helen's District shall continue to lie with the PCC for the allocation of financial resources. The DCC shall submit to the PCC for approval its annual budget and shall make periodic reports to the PCC during the year on its income and expenditure.

4 Subject to paragraph 3 above, the DCC shall accept financial responsibility for any commitments already undertaken or to be undertaken in relation to the St Helen's District, including: maintenance, upkeep and renewal of the fabric and contents of the St Helen's Church and the payment of the annual diocesan apportionment calculated for St Helen's District

St Helen 's Section of the Parish Electoral Roll

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

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

(3) Except for representation on the Deanery Synod, the St Helen's Section shall be treated as an integral part of the Parish Roll and inclusion on the St Helen's Section shall confer inclusion on the Parish Roll.

St Helen 's Representation on the Deanery Synod

6 St Helen's District shall have separate representation on the Deanery Synod of Yardley and Solihull and this shall be based on the St Helen's Section.

St Helen's Representation on the PCC

7 (1) The Deputy Churchwardens of St Helen's shall be ex officio members of the PCC.

(2) The AGM may nominate up to two persons being on the St Helen's Section who upon ratification by the parish meeting shall be deemed to be elected as representatives of the laity on the PCC.

St Helen 's Annual General Meeting

8 The AGM for the District of St Helen's 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

9 (1) Two Deputy Churchwardens shall be elected at the 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 Helen's Section.

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

Membership of the St Helen's DCC

10 The following shall be members of the DCC:

- (a) The incumbent and all other clerks in Holy Orders beneficed in or licensed to the Parish (or to an area including the Parish);
- (b) such other clerks in Holy Orders who have permission to officiate within the Parish (or to an area including the Parish); as the St Helen's AGM with the consent of the incumbent may determine.
- (c) the Parish Churchwardens;
- (d) the Deputy Churchwardens of the St. Helen's 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 who have permission to officiate within the Parish (or an area including the Parish) and who are on the St Helen's Section as the AGM may determine;
- (g) all persons whose names are on the St Helen's Section and who are lay members of any general, diocesan or deanery synod, or of the PCC.
- (h) up to twelve members of the laity elected by the AGM,
- (i) such number of co-opted members as the DCC determine, not exceeding in number one-quarter of the representatives of the laity elected under the last subparagraph;

Qualifications for membership of the St Helen's DCC

11 Persons shall be eligible to be elected as representatives of the laity on the DCC if they are eligible to be elected to the PCC and their names are on the St Helen's Section.

Terms of Office

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

(2) Members of the DCC 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 St Helen's 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 Helen's DCC – Presiding Officer

13 (1) The DCC shall be chaired by the incumbent, or a person appointed by the incumbent with the consent of the DCC 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 Helen's section.

(2) A Lay Vice Chair shall be elected to deputise for the incumbent or other person specified in the preceding subparagraph in chairing the council.

(3) The Lay Vice-Chair shall chair the DCC 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) the incumbent and the DCC shall take into account the missional requirements of the St Helen’s District and of the parish.

Standing Orders for the District of St Helen

14 (1) The AGM shall draw up standing orders for St Helen’s District which shall be consistent with any Rule directly applicable to St. Helen's District and with this Scheme.

(2) Such standing orders shall, inter alia, govern the conduct of district general meetings and proceedings of the DCC, and (subject to such modifications as may be felt appropriate) shall follow the relevant provisions of the Rules relating to the conduct of parochial general meetings and the proceedings of PCCs.

Saving

15 Nothing in this scheme shall invalidate anything done by to or before the DCC or any general meeting of the St Helen’s District before the entry into force of this Scheme under the provisions of previous schemes.

Interpretation

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

(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 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.

Schedule: Boundaries

The ecclesiastical district of St Helen shall be held to lie within the following boundaries:

A line following the centre of the railway track from its crossing over Blossomfield Road to the centre of the railway bridge under Grange Road; along the centre of Grange Road from the railway track to the centre of Warwick Road; along the centre of Warwick Road from its junction with Grange Road to its junction with Dovehouse Lane; along the centre of Dovehouse Lane from its junction with Warwick Road to the centre of the bridge over the Grand Union Canal; along the centre of the Grand Union Canal from the centre of Dovehouse Lane to the centre of the bridge on Lode Lane over the Grand Union Canal; along the centre of Lode Lane from the Grand Union Canal crossing to its junction with Streetsbrook Road; along the centre of Blossomfield Road from its junction with Streetsbrook Road to the centre of the railway bridge over Blossomfield Road.