

ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD

12 JUNE 2021

**ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SCHEME FOR THE
INSPECTION OF CHURCHES**

Briefing note from the Pastoral & Advisory Secretary

We have for many years had a Diocesan Scheme, approved by the Diocesan Synod, originally under the provisions of the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955. The most recent Diocesan Scheme was made in 2005 following amendments to the legislation. Our Diocesan Scheme has always provided for PCCs to pay for Quinquennial Inspection (QI) reports rather than having a “diocesan fund” and this will not change.

The framework for QIs has been amended more recently by the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 and by a paragraph in the Miscellaneous Provisions Measure 2020, enacted from 1 September 2020. The most significant changes are (1) the DAC is now to hold a list of professional advisers active in the diocese, rather than an approved list; and (2) inspectors need not necessarily be architects or chartered building surveyors, although they still need to be able to demonstrate the relevant experience, expertise and in many cases accreditation to inspect church buildings.

Because of these changes, it is necessary to bring an amended Diocesan Scheme to the Diocesan Synod.

The amended Diocesan Scheme is based on the template issued by the Church Buildings Council, but recognising our local context and in particular the [DAC's published advice](#), which has recently been updated. We have sought to keep the Diocesan Scheme general, rather than referring to particular figures, website links or advice, so that we do not need to keep bringing it back to Synod for amendment as these details are updated.

The Diocesan Scheme was endorsed by the DAC at its meeting on 21 January 2021 for recommendation to the Bishop's Council and the Synod.

Emma Critchley
DAC Secretary