

## **Minutes of the Deacons Meeting August 1<sup>st</sup> 2025**

**Present** Rev Elsie Fraser, Janet Aukett, Hilary Robinson, Paul Gardner and Sandra Henchcliffe.

Elsie opened the meeting with a reading of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.

### **Deacons**

The role of deacon is now available on our website. We have vacancies for three more deacons, we have one volunteer, Tony Salt and Graham Falgate are still considering. Janet nominated and Hilary seconded Tony. David Ballard's name was suggested and Paul agreed to speak with him.

We also need volunteers for preparing, serving and clearing away on communion Sundays, also more volunteers for doing the Sunday bible readings.

### **Praying for members**

This to be deferred until the next meeting.

### **IT/Website**

Elsie is working with Tony on upgrading our system. Elsie has managed to get a church zoom account with charity status by using our gift aid number. The cost is £5.41 pcm billed annually. This will come into effect when we restart the bible study in September. Les held a multimedia training session on July 28<sup>th</sup>. This was attended by Alex Fraser, Gordon Fraser and Rob Archer. Tony Salt and Graham Falgate were unable to attend. Elsie to ask Les to arrange another training day, we also need one or two more people to learn to use the system on a Sunday morning. Gordon will operate the system this Sunday. We are in urgent need of a new broadband provider, Paul and Tony to investigate this.

### **Bible Study**

Elsie has received feedback from twenty people who gave in the forms she handed out. There was a mixed response, some preferred meeting face to face and others wanting to remain with zoom meetings. It was proposed that we try a Thursday morning meeting 10 am to 12 noon at the church. Elsie will facilitate this meeting. The Thursday evening zoom meeting to continue between 7-30 and 8-30 pm. It was suggested that the zoom meeting could be changed to another evening. We will play it by ear for holiday breaks. Elsie proposed that we use the Life Builder course.

## **Membership**

Elsie has sent out letter to Angela Barker and Andrew and Karen Minto regarding their church membership. Peoples welcome card details need to be kept on a secure data base.

## **Members Meeting**

The meeting agenda to be out by the end of August.

## **Finance**

Hilary can sign cheques but is not approved to access the bank account. Christine and Pam are still approved by the bank. This needs to be sorted out with the bank.

## **Fabric & Building Matters**

Paul assured Elsie that all her questions on the church insurance have a yes answer.

The manse needs a new circuit board as the fuses keep blowing. Elsie has already got one quote and will get more for doing this job. Alex still to fix the thermostats and light fittings. Still, some rubbish to be removed, Hilary will take the fridge to the tip, the lawn mower to go to TWAM. Other small items to go into a skip at Janet's.

It was suggested that we have a Thank Offering to help offset the cost of the baptistry repair.

The card reader is to be put on hold until we get a new internet connection. Janet will sort this out in October after she returns from her holiday.

## **Preaching**

Elsie will start a new preaching series Firm Foundation on August 31<sup>st</sup>. This will go through to Advent. Graham Falgate will be leading and preaching on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Paul Gardner will conduct the communion service. Rob Archer will be leading and preaching on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Graham will also be preaching on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Elsie is trying to put together an in-house preaching group to help with services.

## **Room Bookings**

Paul to ask Stan if he would be willing to take on this task from Margaret and David.

## **Safeguarding**

Graham Falgate has agreed to be the church safeguarding officer. It was suggested that we ask Maggie Archer to be the other officer. A new policy and statement are in the progress of being put together.

## Events and Activities

The Anglican and Methodist Churches are leading two Sunday services a month at Middleton Lodge and Littleover Baptist church will do a once-a-month communion service to share the load between them.

Churches Together will arrange the annual carol singing at the White Swan and The Oaklands. There will also be carol singing outside the Co-op in the village. The Churches Together are also hoping to hold a prayer event sometime in the New Year.

The churches have been asked to give £100 per year to fund churches together events. The other churches have been contacted about joining us for a first aid course, but we have not had any response to this. Elsie said that she would follow it up.

It was suggested that we ask the Salvation Army to do a concert on a Saturday evening in January or February 2026 as requested by Rita and Stan. Elsie has made contact with them and will follow this up in September.

## Harvest

Paul proposed that we collected tools etc to give to TWAM as part of our harvest donations. Janet to order collection envelopes for Operation Agri. A list of items needed by the Padley centre needs to be put up

## Small Church Hub

It is proposed to set up a hub of small Baptist churches in our local areas. There will be a meeting and service on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup> at Burton Baptist Church. Names need to be on the list by the 18<sup>th</sup> so that transport can be sorted out.

## Church Anniversary

Our 2026 church anniversary coincides with the Centenary of Violet Heger who was the first female Baptist Minister and her first church was here at LBC. It is felt that we should do something to celebrate this. It may be possible to involve the East Midlands Baptist Union. Elsie to follow this up.

## Date of next meeting

Friday August 29<sup>th</sup> 10 am at the church

Elsie and Paul closed the meeting with Prayer

**Signature** -----

**Date** -----