MINUTES OF THE DEACONS MEETING FRIDAY DECEMBER 7th 2025

Present
Rev Elsie Fraser, Janet Aukett, Graham Falgate, Paul Gardner, Hillary Robinson, Tony Salt,

Apology
Sandra Henchliffe

Elsie opened the meeting with a reading from Col 3v12-17. She commented on how we are all different, but commanded in this reading to bear with each other and show each other compassion, kindness and forgiveness. She opened the meeting in prayer.

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

Actions from previous minutes – see Action Tracker

1	Explore a card reader for church	Elsie will enquire whether there is a redundant device at Slough Baptist Church
2	External Auditor	Clare Towel will fulfil this role at the next audit
3	Bookshelves for music book next to organ	Ongoing with David Ballard
4	Prayer Diary - group family names together for easy reference for new people	Deferred until February. The list will be reviewed when there is a review of membership.
5	Faster/wider coverage broadband	In progress
6	Hall and basement clean-up and sort out cupboards	in progress
7	Hall decorating & fix skylights (B & Q funding???)	To be reviewed next year
8	Outside noticeboard at church needs repainting	To be done
9	Prayer room decorating and sorting out of storage areas	In progress
10	Thermostatic valves fitted on radiators & some lights changed in manse	In progress
12	Update website	This has been started and there will be a Deacons Meeting dedicated to this topic next year
13	First aid course	No progress has been made in attracting interest from other churches. This will be abandoned for now.
14	Review room booking processes and update information	David and Margaret have resigned and will be formally thanked next Sunday. A new booking team has been created consisting of Tracy, Alex and Tony who will meet soon to allocate tasks. This team will review and update published information
15	Update Elsie's contract to full-time	No progress
16	Tree in car part to be trimmed	Ali Davies-Marsh of Littleover parks has identified someone who could perform this task at the correct time of the year
17	Hilary to be approved to access bank account	Still ongoing
18	Replacement for Christine re Gift Aid	Christine Martindale will perform this task again this year, Alex may do this in the future

20	Documents to be added to Trustees section on website	Perpetual! Elsie and Tony will meet to review which of the OneDrive documents need to be in the Trustee Section of the website.
21	Guttering at Manse to be cleaned	No change
22	Railings of Baptistry	To be discussed at Members Meeting
23	Damp patch in front toilet	Paul to ask Steve McGill for advice. This may be just a stain.
24	Welcome packs	The Deacons meeting on February 27th will be dedicated to discussing these items.
25	How to store/share info re new people	

Items for Members Meeting
Roger & Sonia Howe are now regularly worshipping elsewhere and have resigned their membership at LBC.
The times and dates of future church meetings are to be discussed as an AOB item at the next Members Meeting.

Finance
The Baptist Union recommendation for a ministers' stipend will be stated at the forthcoming church members meeting.
Activities regarding the Ministers' Pension Scheme are in hand.
A £200 a donation for the Salvation Army (already agreed) will be added to monies collected at the concert to be given by the Army at LBC and given to Salvation Army Derby Central.
The EMBA has appealed for churches to increase their giving to Home Mission by 1%. It was agreed to donate the offering from our Violet Hedges Centenary event to Home Mission and later to review the level of our giving for next year.

Fabric & building matters
The noticeboard needs updating, but the wooden 'box' is in poor condition and may need replacing.
The light illuminating the LBC Community Hall sign has failed.

Pastoral Matters & Membership
Welcoming – Integrating people into church family and Praying – "watching over" - people will be discussed at the Deacons meeting on 27th February.

Events & Activities
Jenny Few and her husband will be present at the Church Anniversary celebration. The meal following the service will be funded by the church.

AOB
Elsie has written a draft Statement of Faith which will be published on the website. The content of this may be refined at a future Deacons Meeting.
Creating a risk assessment for the church is now urgent since our ability to host safeguarding training in January depends upon this. Elsie requested Paul to provide a copy of our existing risk assessment and she will update this.

Closing prayer
Elsie closed the meeting in prayer.

Next meetings: 9th January 2026; 30th January 2026; 27th February;