

Minutes of Deacons' Meeting – 23rd April 2026

Present: Susan Deacon (Moderator), Keith Mitchell (Secretary), Carol Wilson, Julie Musgrave (Treasurer), Paul Greenaway, Darren Tecklenberg, Fred Northern

Apologies: None

Devotions

Meeting opened with prayer

Minutes of Last Meeting

Two amendments made regarding length of Grace course and ICE form not consent form for Safeguarding. The Secretary made the amendments and signed.

Matters Arising

- Agreed to leave discussion on deacons' role description until meet in person.
- Discussion took place regarding how to make new visitors aware of other events and activities happening within the church. Agreed to offer personal invites as we get to know them.

Secretary's Report

- Letter received from Joy Sergison tendering her resignation as both Deacon and Junior Church Leader. All agreed it is a sad loss to the team but that Joy's personal wellbeing is more important. Agreed flowers and card should be presented to Joy at next church meeting.
- Joy also raised a possible safeguarding issue within her letter. This has been passed to DPS. All persons bringing children to church should be made aware that they are responsible for their dependants until the church can make alternative arrangements. Tables to be set up with colouring/drawing supplies for their use.
- Carol Wilson reported that she was considering how to set up a creche in the backroom with a rota for those willing to help.
- Paul Greenaway advised needs to update CIO information with list of current deacons.
- Fabric. KM reported that he has received estimates for damp-proofing and electrical testing. Agreed to prioritise electrical as it is legal requirement. KM to advise contactor to go ahead. Ask church members how much willing to spend on building and priorities.

Treasurer's Report

- £5k surplus thanks to receiving gift aid for 2024 and 2024/25 small donations. Still waiting for 2023 and 2023/24 small donations. Thanks to PG for all his hard work with the claims. Giving in general has gone down significantly due to change of circumstance, death and relocation of contributing members.
- Contactless payment machine on offer at Argos but currently out of stock. JM to keep checking availability. PG reported that gift aid can be claimed on contactless donations up to £30 as long as they can be traced. Nathan at CBA advised their donations have gone up since introducing contactless.

Baptisms

- Lincoln and Doris have been given 3 dates in May for an informal coffee/chat to discuss. Open to anyone who may be interested. View to baptism taking place June/July.

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Mission Plan

- PG to present updated mission plan to church meeting on 10th May. Invite people to get involved. Agreed need to formalise some of the activities listed and clarify joint projects. Discussed extending external services to care homes where our members are based.
- Thanks again extended to PG for his hard work on this project.

Safeguarding

- Discussed whether policy should be published on website. CW has researched and found other churches do publish on their sites.
- Pastoral care continues to be an issue as current system is not robust, relies heavily on personal friendships. Included in mission plan.

AOB

- Announce in notices that church meeting on 10th May will be extraordinary meeting to agree amendments to constitution.
- Discussion took place on the effects of Bill and Hayley's antagonism. Causing a lot of hurt and stress to others within the church. SD stated that we need to work on ourselves and love everyone else. Everyone agreed that is would be ideal, but easier said than done. KM in particular is getting a lot of the flack and having to sort out issues that arise, causing a lot of unnecessary stress. Team agreed that KM should proceed however is best for him. Stressed he is an invaluable part of the team and asked him to rely more on the rest of us and ask for help when needed. We are all there for each other and stress as well as success should be shared.
- Neil Humphrey's role as pulpit supply should be clarified as some are bypassing him to rearrange preaching dates.
- Radio mike keeps cutting out. DT to research possible replacements and bring to team.
- Looking at TVs as part of the mission plan. SD has spare splitter for Carey to borrow if need one for trial.
- Reports from members of public that thought church had closed. Part of mission plan.
- Need to somehow get key back from Charles as he has no longer has valid reason to have one.

Church Meeting Agenda

- Same as Deacons

Date of next meeting: 21st May 2026 – 7pm

9pm Meeting closed in prayer