

TRINITY CHURCH SUTTON

The role of the Deacons

Trinity Church is a joint Methodist and United Reformed Church. It appoints Deacons who approximate to the role of Stewards in the Methodist Church and the role of Elders in a United Reformed Church.

Deacons share with the Minister in the leadership of the church over the whole range of its life and activity. To this end it is their responsibility to uphold and act upon the decisions and policies of the church meeting.

TRUSTEES

By becoming a Deacon you agree to be a trustee of the Church. This means you must accept ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of the Church. You must act with integrity and avoid personal conflicts of interest, and take special care when investing charity funds or borrowing and obtain professional advice on all matters where they may be material. If things go wrong Trustees may be personally liable for any debts or losses of the charity. Personal liability is however rare and trustees who follow Church guidance will generally be protected.

Election. There are 10 Deacons. Anyone can nominate a church member to stand for election as a Deacon with the consent of the person concerned. Deacons are elected by Church Meeting, normally the Annual Church Meeting. Once elected, Deacons serve for a period of 3 years. A Deacon may be re-elected for a further term of three years. Following a 6 year period in office a Deacon may not be re-elected for a further consecutive term, but must stand down for at least a year.

Commissioning. Following elections, Deacons are commissioned in an act of worship.

Deacons' Meetings. The deacons meet regularly (typically 10 times a year on the first Wednesday of the month at 8pm) with the Minister. They share news of the church family and ensure their collective duties are discharged.

NO-ONE SHOULD ACCEPT NOMINATION AS A DEACON WHO IS NOT ABLE TO GIVE A REGULAR COMMITMENT TO ATTENDING THE DEACONS MEETING

The Deacons appoint from amongst themselves the following officers:-

- Deacon responsible for URC matters.
- Deacon responsible for Methodist matters.
- Representatives to each constituted committee
- Secretary to the Church Meeting
- Secretary to the Deacons Meeting
- Communion Secretary
- Deacons for Junior Church and Uniformed Organisations

Time Commitment. Fulfilling the duties outlined above requires a commitment of time. Regular commitments include:-

- Deacons' meetings typically 10 times a year on a Wednesday evening.
- Preparation for morning service typically once a month.
 - Preparing hymnbooks and hymnboard.
 - Welcoming visiting preachers.
 - Leading a prayer in the vestry before worship.
- Helping to serve communion typically once a month.
- Preparation for evening service if in Trinity and on duty.
- Representing the Deacons on at least one church committee.

Apart from these specific activities the role entails involvement in the concerns and activities of the church including attendance of the Church Meeting.

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