

Report of Pastoral Committee meeting of 5th November 2025

Members of the Committee:

Sue Powditch – Chair

Sarah Shackleton LLM

Nicky Gibbard

Anne Cheeseman – Safeguarding Lead

The meeting opened with prayer.

The Pastoral Committee have a What'sApp group for immediate communication of any pastoral issues that come to our attention, and, if necessary, meet to discuss any action required. We now only meet once a year to review and assess pastoral care needs and requirements. At this meeting we reviewed those we know who are going through difficult times with illness or ageing to make sure that they are being supported by members of the church family.

We then moved on to review the newcomers to church to assess whether they are integrating into the church family. We know that quite a few people don't stay on for fellowship over refreshments. Some may have a partner who doesn't come to church or are tied into other family commitments; some, particularly those in the caring professions or retail, may have to work and some simply prefer to go home. We agreed that between us we'd try and talk to as many as we can to make sure that they feel welcomed into the family even if they can't or don't want to stay on after the service.

Whether the talks given on the church family caring for each other have borne any fruit was also discussed. We hadn't noticed any difference and thought that, as ever in life, it's actions that speak louder than words. We endeavour to set the example of looking round the hall and going to speak to anyone obviously on their own and introducing them to others where possible.

A new venture, for those who are not in the 'bringing up children' mode or want a short break from it, went well in October with a card-making and fellowship session. Another session (perhaps craft and cake might be a better title!) is being held on Sunday 9th November, with decorating little gift boxes as the craft. We hope to continue this once a month on a Sunday afternoon where possible.