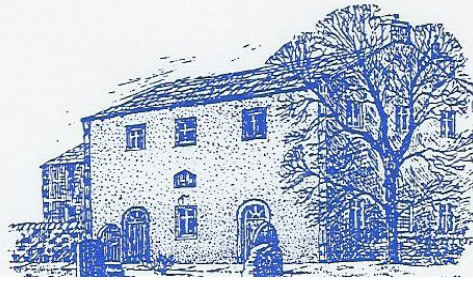


# Grassington Congregational Church



## Functions of the Diaconate

The Deacons Meeting the church consists of the minister and the Deacons elected by the Church Meeting and exercises oversight of the spiritual life of the local church. The minister, or during a pastoral vacancy the Church Secretary, normally presides over the Deacons Meeting.

### Functions:

1. to foster in the congregation concern for witness and service to the community, evangelism at home and abroad, Christian education and ecumenical action;
2. to see that public worship is regularly offered and the sacraments are duly administered, and generally to promote the welfare of the congregation;
3. to ensure adequate pastoral care of the congregation in general and of the Minister in particular;
4. to arrange for pulpit supply in a vacancy;
5. to keep the roll of members and lists of names of adherents and children attached to the congregation and, in consultation with the Church Meeting, to maintain standards of membership and to advise on the admission of members on profession of faith and by transfer, on the suspension of members, and on the removal of names from the roll;
6. to be responsible for the oversight of work among children and young people and of all organisations within the congregation;
7. to consider the suitability of any applicant for recognition as a candidate for the ministry and advise the Church Meeting accordingly;
8. to recommend to the Church Meeting arrangements for the proper maintenance of buildings and the general oversight of all the financial responsibilities of the Church;
9. to oversee the implementation of decisions made by the Church Meeting; and
10. to ensure that adequate records of all decisions taken by the Church Meeting are kept.

### Powers:

1. Deacons are appointed to undertake specific roles (eg Treasurer and Church Secretary) or to supply specific expertise (eg property maintenance, spiritual leadership and pastoral counselling). They have no authority to implement policies or decisions of their own making.
2. Deacons have no power or authority other than that explicitly conferred upon them by resolution of the Church Meeting.