Minutes of the 63rd Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of Southcote Family Church, held on Sunday 7th June 2026

Opening Prayer and Thought –

Graham Edge read **2 Corinthians 5:11-21** and prayed through our recently written Vision that we would "Shine for Christ". He prayed that we would seek continued guidance from the Holy Spirit, as ambassadors in Christ.

Present: Graham Edge, Linda Edge, Helmut Haines, Pete Cole, Judi Charters and Barry Young (external Trustee).

Apologies were received and accepted from Norman Lindsey, our other external Trustee, who had recently broken his collar bone. (Norman had sent Barry an email which was read out later in AOB).

Appointment of Chair and Secretary: both Norman and Judi were willing to continue as Chair and Secretary. There were no more interested persons. Norman was proposed by Graham and seconded by Barry, while Judi was proposed by Pete and seconded by Graham.

Barry agreed to chair the meeting in Norman's absence.

Minutes of last AGM - agreed as a true record and signed by Barry.

Matters arising from those minutes (not covered in this meeting):

- The Away Day had been a useful and enjoyable time of fellowship and learning for the Leadership and Leadership Support teams of the church.
- 60th Anniversary celebrations were a huge success, bringing together friends from the past and those presently attending and/or supporting our church, and providing us with reflections of the past and hope for the future. More than 100 people enjoyed sound preaching from Dave Long and Alistair Hornal (past Pastors of the church) along with excellent food and fellowship.

Financial Report – the balance of our finances is very healthy, mainly due to having no Pastor salary to pay out for the past year and a half. 18-20% of our income goes to the charities we support on a regular and incidental basis. Gift Aid income is most acceptable and certainly helps us in the work of the church, which relies solely on the generosity of our attendees. A gift of £500 has been given to Tina in Jarek's memory – most of which was donated by people in the fellowship. A new bulb has

been purchased for the projector, and a decision is to be made as to whether to purchase a new projector which will cost in excess of £3,000. A floor cleaning machine will be purchased to replace the current broken one. Thanks go to Graham Allen, our Treasurer, for his excellent work.

Leadership Team Report – Judi and Graham presented a verbal report on behalf of the Leadership Team:

- The year has seen much development within the church, with a baptism in October and some “new” people attending Sunday services. We average around 25-30 attendees at our services. Sadly, three members of our congregation have passed away this year.
- Our visiting speakers have provided us with a variety of subjects and styles of preaching which have been well received by the congregation. A preaching theme was followed at Easter and another is proposed for Harvest-time. Thanks go to Graham Edge for securing a team of visiting speakers.
- The LT has produced, after much time and effort, a Vision for the church, which reflects its ongoing development, both within the fellowship and in the out-reach and in-reach of its work. The Pantry continues to thrive in its church home, with Communicare (along with NHS Health Checks and Liver Scans) featuring regularly. Plans for further developments are being discussed for a ReadiCook initiative and other activities aimed at supporting those in need within the community. Our Parish Nurse has become a familiar face and is proving to be an invaluable support for many local residents.
- Our weekly activities continue to be well received – Coffee and Chat on Wednesdays now have the extra elements of occasional Seated Exercise sessions provided by Berkshire Active and Board Games with children coming across from Manor School. Prayer Meetings are still considered to be a fundamental “must” for us to encourage regular corporate prayer. AGE UK continue to use our building for foot care sessions, and AGLOW meet here monthly.
- From among our congregation, we have regular volunteers for TORCH and the Pantry. Representatives from both these charities take part in occasional Sunday services, updating us on their valuable work in the local community.
- Two members of the LT attend monthly meetings of Southcote Alive to help organise activities and services for the three local

churches. Volunteers from SFC help with Café Alive which is held once a week at the Grange Church, whilst at least one member of our church volunteers at the local CCA charity shop.

- The LT attended a Refresher Day in May, led by Graham Cooke from Kennet Valley Free Church. The day proved to be beneficial to us all.
- A 3-2-1 course is being run on the first Sunday of each month, with a follow up session on the following Tuesday morning. Thank you to Karen Allen for leading this initiative.
- Pastoral Care continues to be a vital part of the work of the church, with some of our fellowship – as well as the LT – being especially vigilant towards those living alone or those who are elderly and/or in need of support.
- Our charity-giving continues in earnest, with our regular Causes and with extras such as Tear Fund at Harvest time, Operation Christmas Child and Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Barry, as one of our external Trustees, remarked on how well this year appears to have gone, due to the diligence of the LT and others who work with them.

Vision and Mission Statements – a great deal of time has been spent over recent months in the formulation of a new Vision for Southcote Family Church. This has now been completed and was accepted by the fellowship at the Forum held a week ago. The Vision and Mission statements were presented to the Trustees and approved of. These will now be printed and distributed to the fellowship and to those associated with the church and its work.

AOB – Barry read from an email he had received from Norman in his absence. Norman commended the Leadership Team and all those who work so hard within the church for a very successful year! He spoke of our “purposeful spirit”, and commented on the Vision Statements which he felt were important statements of faith and purpose.

Date of next AGM and reminder of Policy Review meeting date:

Policy Review meeting – Sunday 24th January 2027

AGM – Sunday 6th June 2027

Both meetings will take place after the morning service and will preceded by a buffet lunch.