



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday April 1st 2016 7:30pm

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
 - Monthly**
 - Pastor's report
 - Treasurer's reports – N/A yet.
 - Quarterly**
 - Events Team (n/a)
 - Stewardship Team (n/a)
 - Pastoral Team (n/a)
4. Safeguarding.
5. Health and Safety.
6. Charitable Status.
7. Sleepsafe
8. Pride
9. Focus and targets
10. Board training.
11. A.O.B. (The use of AOB on the agenda).
12. Closing Prayer.

Apologies received from Keith Fish.

Our Vision

We call for a world where LGBTQ people live free from discrimination.

Our Mission

We are called primarily to empower and serve the LGBTQ community.

Our Core Values

We are a Christian church called to do justice and walk humbly with God. (Micah 6:8). We seek at all times to be honest, transparent, and true to our mission in the world.

Minutes of *The Village* MCC board meeting 4th March 2016 at Ann & Linda's Southwick.

Rev Michael opened in prayer at 7.30pm.

Present: Rev Michael Hydes (Chair), Nigel Utting (Vice Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Jean Hatton (Safeguarding Officer), Mary Bachoo (Health & Safety Officer), Ann Wilkinson, Wendy Burgess, Sarah Barber and Simon Markham (Secretary).

Minutes of last meeting: Circulated prior to meeting. Keith Fish said he was waiting to hear from the bank on signature changing. Acceptance proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Ann Wilkinson. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Pastors Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Rev Michael said that Nigel Utting had begun the online process to the charity commission. Proposed by Wendy Burgess and seconded by Ann Wilkinson. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Treasurers Report: Keith Fish explained down the report and pledge forms were discussed. Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Nigel Utting. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Events Team: Rev Michael said he was still trying to arrange an evening with Brandon Robertson, just having problems finding a venue. On August 5th Brighton Gay Mens Chorus are having a concert and donations are for sleepsafes, asked if anyone would like to hold a collection bucket on the night. Rev Michael thanked Ann Wilkinson for her input and help while on the team. Proposed by Keith Fish and seconded by Wendy Burgess. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Pastoral report: Nothing to report.

Any Other Business to add to item 9: Nigel Utting wanted to discuss Easter Sunday and Mary Bachoo wanted to discuss Good Friday and the sleepsafes flyers.

Safeguarding: Jean Hatton our safeguarding officer present, but no issues to discuss.

Health & Safety: Mary Bachoo our health and safety officer present, but no issues to discuss.

Charitable Status: Nigel Utting said he was sorting out the online application form and could send it to Rev Michael and Janet Potter.

Volunteering: Rev Michael said two people had helped out on the Friday evening project with Lydia. Also Bill who attends on a Sunday had begun applying for the Friendship/Mentoring service, Rev Michael explained it was a long process as he had to go through checks and have a DRB form. Rev Michael said that at the moment nobody has come forward to volunteer on a Sunday evening.

Any Other Business: Keith Fish said he had taken 10 trays to the Sussex Beacon and a letter of thanks is to follow. Nigel Utting said that the Easter Baptism event at his house was fine and he would have the pool heated. He did want an idea of numbers and timing of the event, for refreshments he said tea, coffee and biscuits. Rev Michael said he had put a 2pm till 4pm on it as there was the evening service at the usual time. Rev Michael thanked Nigel for hosting the event. Mary Bachoo asked if it would need a risk assessment doing. Mary Bachoo talked about the Good Friday beach hut event starting at 5.30pm till 6.30pm and asked if anyone could help with it and if so could they be there for 5pm.

Linda came in and told us that Lydia who has been running the Brighton In Need project on a Friday evening is planning to move away and that it will have to close if the church could not in some way take it on. Rev Michael said he felt it was not something that the church itself could take on, but it might be done through the sleepsafes project in a longterm goal. Linda explained what is involved and what they have been doing on a Friday evening and also that Lydia has a great deal of donated items still to give out. Rev Michael felt that we could do a one off night and take out some items, myself and Mary Bachoo said we could help. Mary asked if it had to be a Friday night or if it could be a different evening, Linda said a change of evening was not a problem so Thursday the 10th of March was chosen to do the donating. Mary Bachoo handed out a sample of the Sleepsafes leaflet, it was well received and a further 200 to be done. Rev Michael closed in prayer at 8.40pm

Pastor's report for February 2016.

At the last board meeting we discovered that *Brighton Cares* (an informal group helping Brighton's rough sleepers) would be folding as Lydia is moving out of the area. On Thursday March 10th Linda, Mary, Chris and I took out supplies to the rough sleepers in the centre of Brighton. Mary has volunteered to look at ways in which the service can continue with an informal structure.

Although I made two pastoral visits during the month, (one to a non member), and met with one person who's attendance has been less regular, (to make sure they were OK), the focus of March has been Easter.

This years events were pared down. I focused on three events: the Seder, the baptismal service and social, and the Easter Sunday service. There was 11 of us at the Seder and it was nearly midnight before everyone left. There were 5 people baptised at the baptismal service (James, Simon, Stephen, Will, and Robert) which was generously hosted by Nigel and Gerry. In total there were 11 at the baptismal service, and 22 at the Easter Sunday service where we blessed the candidates and awarded certificates.

The *Sleepsafe* meeting scheduled for March 16th was postponed and has yet to be re-arranged.

Attendance in March was **6th**-23, **13th**- 22, **20th**-19, **27th** -22. Attendance at our Easter Sunday service was up 37.5% on last year (from 16-22).

The book club continues but is not a huge success. One of the reasons for this is that I chose books that each have lots of layers and require a lot of processing!

My next focus are:

JUNE 4th Kemptown festival – (educational and fundraising) look at ways of bringing sleepsafes and the church together – perhaps a short paper quiz with prize? (haribo). We want to look at a new banner, one in which the village church is shown to support sleepsafes.

JUNE 8th - Brandan Robertson – still looking at options.

July 30 Trans pride.

Aug 5 The Brighton Gay Men's chorus have named sleepsafes as their summer event fundraiser which is a joint concert with the London gay men's chorus at All Saints in Hove, so we will be looking for volunteers to shake buckets.

Aug 6 Pride – what are our options and what will work for us this year?

Love

Rev. Michael