



THE VILLAGE  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees  
Friday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 7:30pm**

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
  - Monthly**
    - Pastor's report
    - Treasurer's reports
  - Quarterly**
    - Events Team (Due March)
    - Stewardship Team (n/a)
    - Pastoral Team (n/a)
4. Any Other Business to be added to item 12?
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Charitable Status.
8. MCC Church status
9. Brandan Robertson speaking tour stop in Brighton.
10. Crisis team – larger payments authorisation.
11. Volunteering:
  - Brighton in need
  - LGBT befrienders service
  - Worship team volunteer opportunities.
  - Crisis team
  - Pastoral team.
12. A.O.B.
13. Closing Prayer.

Thank you Simon for providing these minutes.

**Minutes of The Village MCC board meeting 15th January 2016 at Ann and Linda's in Southwick.**

Rev Michael opened in prayer at 7.30pm

**Present:** Rev Michael Hydes ( Chair), Nigel Utting (Vice Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Ann Wilkinson, Wendy Burgess, Sarah Barber and Simon Markham (Secretary). **Apologies:** Jean Hatton.

**Minutes of last meeting:** Circulated prior to meeting. HIV training been arranged on 20/02/2016. Proposed by Wendy Burgess and seconded by Keith Fish. Accepted unanimously by the board.

**Pastors Report:** Circulated prior to meeting. Nigel Utting suggested we do something for World Aids Day. Proposed by Ann Wilkinson and seconded by Keith Fish. Accepted unanimously by the board.

**Treasurers Report:** Circulated prior to meeting. We have a balance of £2648.91. Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Wendy Burgess. Accepted unanimously by the board.

**Events Team:** No report. Events team meeting arranged for 24th January at Ann and Lindas home.

**Pastoral Team:** No report

**Safeguarding:** Safeguarding officer (Jean Hatton) not present. No one present was aware of any issues around safeguarding. Simon to sign forms for Rev Michaels' DRB.

**Health & Safety:** Mary not present - No report.

**Charitable Status:** Nigel Utting to meet with Rev Michael and Jaz Potter to look at ways of moving forward.

Wendy Burgess and Simon Markham welcomed onto the board. Thank you to Wendy Foster who has stepped down to be arranged for a Sunday when attending a service.

**Any other business:** World Aids Day was discussed. Rev Michael said to hold anything on 1st of December would clash with other events and suggested the need for a person to oversee it. Sarah Barber said she would do it and to see Heather at Dorset Gardens Church to see if we could use some space there.

Rev Michael asked what we wanted of himself as our pastor and the board. And that the aim of the board is to drive forward the vision of the church. It was discussed that we had no board training and the need to have trustees training for when we gain charitable status. Nigel Utting suggested if listening training would be needed for board members and all agreed it would be a good thing to do. Nigel said he would email Rev Michael with the details.

Rev Michael talked about the Sleep Safe project and the resource team and the progress being made. It was suggested that we set aside a £250 fund for this, Keith Fish proposed and Wendy Burgess seconded. Board voted yes unanimously.

Brighton Gay Mens Chorus said they would be willing to fund raise for the church.

Keith Fish mentioned the Kemptown Festival was on this year, Rev Michael said he would bring to the events team.

Anniversary service is to be on the 31st of January as The Village MCC will be 1 year old. Keith Fish kindly offered to do the cake for the evening.

Rev Michael thanked Ann Wilkinson, Nigel Utting and Keith Fish for all their help on the board over the past year.

Next board meeting was arranged for 5th February.

Nigel Utting closed the meeting in prayer at 8.55pm.

## Pastor's report for January 2016.

Since there's only been three weeks since the last board meeting there's not a great deal to report. The prayer breakfast on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> with Churches Together was well attended and I had a conversation with a young man who was interested in supporting the work that *Sleepsafe* does. I promised to keep him up to date as the project develops.

The self defence workshop on January 19<sup>th</sup> ran by *The LGBT Community Safety Forum* was interesting and we learned a couple of simple manoeuvres to help get out of a threatening situation. (Bit disappointed that I didn't learn Kung fu!)

I met with Lydia Sinclair of *Brighton in Need* (Delivering aid to rough sleepers in Brighton each Friday evening) to discuss how best to support her work. Thank you to Ann and Linda for facilitating and hosting the meeting. My hope is that we will be able to support her with a rota of volunteers - two or three volunteers for each Friday evening. Please see below.

I talked with Helen Bashford of LGBT Switchboard about an LGBT befriending service that she's coordinating. At present there are over 14 befriending groups in Brighton and Hove but none have been able to offer LGBT befrienders. Helen is coordinating a project which trains volunteers as befrienders, and then supported by the Switchboard they are connected with those from these groups who would prefer a gay, lesbian, or transgender friend to relate to. My hope is that as a church we can support this, as well as providing another avenue of support for her volunteers. I have already put one church member in touch with Helen and they are exploring volunteer options together.

I put together a volunteer list for the church and am waiting for board feedback before releasing.

We received an email from Brandan Robertson about a speaking tour he's doing in the UK in June. My hope is that we will be able to connect some groups in order to facilitate a cross-church event. I am talking to All Saints in Hove (Via Stephen Crowther) in the hope that they may be willing to host the event.

I had a skype meeting with Rachelle Brown on January 28<sup>th</sup> where we discussed the life of the church and an ongoing situation that developed with regard to payment for last September's network retreat.

The month concluded with an events team meeting where we looked at the year ahead and ways to meet the needs of both our congregation and the larger community, and our then in the evening we celebrated one year anniversary!. Nigel did a splendid job preaching and Keith made a wonderful fruit cake with *The Village MCC* logo on the top. Thank you to you both.

Church reporting has changed slightly in that it now includes attendance figures. I have therefore omitted them from this report and you will find them as part of the financial report that Keith produces.

I'm glad to report that both Sarah and I are ready to respond to crisis calls. As we do not yet know what the level of need is likely to be will review and add procedures on a case by case basis. We will only give out crisis payments up to £20 without consultation with the complete crisis team and (TBA). We will only meet clients in well populated public places, or with another trusted person.

I have asked Wendy Burgess if she would be willing to accept a pastoral role in addition to being board member. I believe that the congregation is small enough for the pastor to act as chaplain, however there is no recognised pastoral support for anyone who is not comfortable talking to the pastor. Wendy has much experience and I do not believe that whilst the church is small there is a conflict of interest. I look forward to working with her as we move forward.

Love

Rev. Michael

January '16 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 31 December 2015 £3516.10

Income

Collections		Attendance	
03 January	41.00	(15)	
10 January	57.00	(15)	
17 January	72.73	(25)	
24 January	82.40	(26)	<u>£333.13</u>
Standing Order	450.50		<u>£783.63</u>

£ 4299.73

Expenditure

Churches Together	20.00	
UFMCC Tithe	84.17	
Public Liability	196.33	
CCLI	72.00	
Rent	180.00	
M Hydes	400.00	<u>£952.50</u>

Balance £3347.23

Monies Due

M Hydes

Jan Remuneration	400.00	
Rent Feb	144.00	
Feb G scene	45.90	
Mar G Scene	45.90	
Jan MCC Tithe	73.36	<u>£709.16</u>

Balance available £2638.07

Keyboard fund £ 59.14

Resource Fund £250.00

General funds Avail

At 31/1/16 £2328.93

(Copy of the email sent to the board on January 29<sup>th</sup>) - for your information only.

Dear Friends,

Couple of things to bring to you.

Firstly, I've been in contact with Brandan Robertson of *Nomads* in the USA who is coming to the UK to do a speaking tour. With your permission he's free Wednesday June 8th and is willing to come and give a presentation here in Brighton. It would cost us rail from Cardiff (around £30 if booked well in advance), accommodation (he can stay with Chris and I), and an honorarium (we can take an offering). This is his site <http://www.nomadpartnerships.org/our-team.html> or if you go to youtube and put in his name you'll get some of his work come up. I thought it might be something MCC Brighton might also want to engage in and I'll advertise it across churches together. I'm very excited that we have the opportunity do this!

On a different note - I met with Lydia from *Brighton in need* who takes a group out on a Friday evening to take needed items out to Brighton's rough sleepers (Mainly Queen street and surrounding area). She's doing a great job, and Linda has been helping her out, but volunteer attendance is very adhoc. I'd like to see if we have enough interest to create a rota of volunteers - a couple of people each Friday to go and help her.

Also, Switchboard are doing some great work around befriending older people, I'd also like to see if there's any interest from our members.

Please see the attached 'volunteer' sheet that I'd like to publish, that explains what volunteer opportunities are available at the village, and let me know if I need to change anything.

Hope you're having a great week!

Love Mike xx



THE VILLAGE  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

PUTTING  
PEOPLE  
FIRST

## **Volunteer Opportunities at *The Village MCC*.**

- There are lots of ways to volunteer with *The Village MCC* - from participation in church worship to offering help in the larger community.
- You do not have to be a member of *The Village MCC* to volunteer with us.
- You can volunteer weekly, monthly, to a schedule, or just when you have some time.
- *The Village MCC* and many city services could not operate without the willingness of volunteers. You can make a huge difference.
- *To volunteer in any area please speak to the pastor or a board member.*

## **Community Volunteer Opportunities.**

Although there are lots of ways that you can volunteer in the community with various groups, these are the opportunities organized by *The Village MCC* :

### **Brighton in need**

Every Friday evening, (except when it's raining), from 8:30 until late, a group of volunteers deliver essential items to Brighton's rough sleepers. *The Village MCC* organises two or three volunteers each week to help out. You can volunteer once a fortnight, monthly, or however often suits you, although we do ask that you commit to whatever schedule you agree to. This work makes a huge difference to Brighton's rough sleepers and helps us to signpost *Sleepsafe* services where needed. The group works in central Brighton.

### **LGBT Befrienders service**

Working with Brighton's LGBT switchboard befrienders call and visit those in our community who are often housebound and isolated because of ongoing health issues or mobility problems. Befrienders commit to giving an hour or two every week or every other week.

The LGBT Switchboard works closely with the Befriending Coalition, a group of local befriending services, who support volunteers in this role. There is training available, if you want that, and also travel expenses can be paid.

Becoming housebound or isolated can happen to any of us through ill health, bereavement or some other change in circumstances. It makes an enormous difference to people to feel connected once again, and to build a friendship which connects them to a world outside their four walls.

### **Sleepsafe Brighton and Hove**

Sleepsafe ([www.sleepsafebh.org](http://www.sleepsafebh.org)) was born out of our desire to make a difference to those in the LGBT community that are homeless or not securely housed. However, much of what we do is relevant to the wider community and our services are accessed beyond the LGBT communities of Brighton and Hove. This is a project that is still in its early stages, but if you would like to know more about this group and/or support this work in some way we would be delighted to hear from you.

### **The Village Crisis Team.**

In order to respond to crisis in the community the village has a crisis fund administered by a crisis team. This role requires that you be able to respond out of hours, are familiar with safeguarding and health and safety protocols, are able to respect confidentiality, and are comfortable making decisions in difficult circumstances. Volunteers require a recent DBS check certificate.

## Volunteering with the Village MCC Worship Team

### Set up

Volunteers work in pairs to set up our worship space and then put the room back as we found it after worship. Volunteers are scheduled about every 6 weeks.

### Reader.

Readers begin the worship service with a welcome and reading. The reading will have been chosen by whoever is preaching to introduce the theme. Readers are scheduled five or six times a year by schedule. Training is available for this if you so wish.

### Preacher.

Bring a word to our service. Between 15 – 30 minutes long a word might be a traditional sermon or a less traditional interactive experience. ***The Preacher's Circle*** is a peer support group open to everyone who preaches at The Village MCC . At a quarterly get together we listen to each other's recorded sermons and offer positive feedback. In this way we see our work through the eyes of our peers and can hone our skills.

### Community Prayers.

The congregation's time of prayer differs in style from week to week. It might be a time of silent prayer, or it might be prayers written by ourselves or others. There are some beautiful prayers to be found in other traditions and across many genres of literature. Although not recommended for a novice, those comfortable doing so might choose to pray extemporaneously. Prayers conclude with the community prayer found in the order of service.

### Communion

- **Celebration:** Celebrating communion, (using inclusive language and theology please) in whatever way it speaks to you. Training is available for this if you so wish.
- **Server:** Offering the Eucharist to those that come forward, with a short prayer of blessing. Training is available for this if you so wish.

### Refreshments.

Weekly Linda and Simon do an amazing job providing refreshments but I'm sure would like a helping hand once in a while. There's always room for baked goods if you'd like to bring something to share. If you use alcohol in baked goods (Christmas cake is a good example), or nuts (sometimes ground almonds are added to create richness), then please make sure that this is announced in church so that those with allergies or in recovery can avoid them. (ps. Some people especially like a sausage roll!).

### Events.

The events team plans social and fundraising events for the church year. If you would like to be a part of the planning team, or take part in a specific planned event, then we welcome your help.

### Church Board of Trustees

Trustees are voted into office at our annual general meeting held at the beginning of December for a term of two years. If you feel that God is calling you to this office please speak to an existing board member or myself for more information.

### Something else.

Sometimes we can feel called to a ministry that the church is not already engaged in. Please come and talk to me. It may be that you are being called to ordained ministry, or to some other ministry that the church is also being called to but hasn't yet been explored. It may be that you are being called to a work that lies beyond the remit of the church, in which case how can we help you to reach for that and accomplish that? What support can we offer you so that you can respond to your call?