



THE VILLAGE
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees
Friday January 6th 2017 7:30pm**

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
 - Pastor's report
 - Treasurer's reports
 - Pickle fund report
4. AOB no. 12
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Thank you to Ann and Nigel (For 2 years service)
8. Thank you to Wendy and Simon (For 1 year's service)
9. Thank you to Keith. (For 2 year's service and new commitment).
10. Board Positions.
11. LGBT History Month Feb
12. AOB.
13. Closing Prayer.

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 for Friday November 4th 2016 board meeting.

Present: Rev. Michael, Keith Fish, Simon Markham, Wendy Burgess, Sarah Barber, Wendy Burgess

Opening Prayer. Sarah Barber.

Minutes of the last meeting. Prop: KF, 2nd WB, accepted unanimously

Pastor's report: Prop: KF, 2nd SM, accepted unanimously

Treasurer's reports: Prop: Rev.M, 2nd SM, accepted unanimously

Crisis fund report: Now called 'The Pickle Fund'. No requests to date although the application form is now complete.

Safeguarding: NTR

Health and Safety: NTR

Charitable Status: Nigel Utting resigned all duties. Application abandoned until we are on a more secure footing.

Lunch for the Homeless Review: 61 guests attended instead of the anticipated 25. More food needed for the January meal.

AGM: 4th December after the service. KF proposed a 2017 budget. Accepted with one amendment, that the £50 increase in pastor's stipend be used as a conference fund instead. AW, KF, NU completed terms. KF to stand again.

Christmas. Plans for a dinner for anyone on their own and a Christmas eve celebration.

Closing Prayer: Rev.M closed in prayer at 8:40pm.

Pastor's report for November and December 2016

As it's become colder the pain from neuralgia and spondylosis have prevented me from doing some of the things I'd have liked to have done. I am so grateful to Mary, Linda, James, and others for taking much needed supplies out to the rough sleepers in central Brighton, but have only been unable to join them once. I'm also grateful to everyone who was involved with the world aids day remembrance event that I was also unable to attend.

However, I have been very grateful to have been at all the services I planned to be at, and was able to host an open Christmas day meal. Thank you to Chris, Liz, and Suzy, who made it a very enjoyable day indeed.

The Trans day of remembrance service on November 20th was celebrated at the Dorset Gardens Methodist Church. It's very much a secular service of remembrance and the emotions ran high. It was also Rev. Robin Selmes last Trans Day Remembrance service as he leaves his current post in September.

November saw the beginning of our new worship format which includes the revisions that were adopted during our annual retreat. So far the response to the change has been generally positive and Will is doing a great job leading the worship music, especially as the amount of work he needs to do to bring together each worship service has increased enormously.

Of course the main service was on Christmas eve, and with 28 present it's our largest service attendance as a church to date. As there were many folks away I'm especially pleased with the turn out. I'm also very grateful to Will, Chris, Wendy, and guests Barry, Rod, James, Anthony, Liz, Declan, and Steve for their input. It was a wonderful evening of celebration and the music was awesome. There was no sermon but Wendy gave an old English rendition of the nativity taken from passages in the King James version of the bible, and then brought the Christ light in with a prayer.

December saw the last of our regular Tuesday evening meetings. I've enjoyed them over the year although they have strayed somewhat from the original format and remit. The conversation / sharing / prayer format meetings now take place on the first Tuesday of every month and other events will occur on Tuesday evenings throughout the year instead. During January there will be trainings on how to use *The Jesus Deck* to connect with non church members.

I have noticed over the past year that although the church blog (newsletter) is read by 57% of people who receive it, that the links are very rarely followed up, (Less than 10% - and then most of those during Pride month). I therefore decided to write a personal blog where I can include teachings that are not always wholly representative of the church, and send out a church newsletter monthly. The personal blog is www.bearlyreligious.com if you would like to read it.

February is to be a busy month as we host the spirituality days at the LGBT history month festival. I hope to include workshops and experiences from many different community and faith groups. It's less than five weeks away so watch this space!

Coming up we also have lots of guest preachers. Jan 22, Rev. Alex Mabbs, Feb 19, Rev. Steven Foster, and then during women's history month we have stories and messages from Paula Cocker of the PRIDE team; Rev. Felice Rhiannon, multi faith minister; Rev. Heather Leake-Date; HIV chaplain, and our own Sarah Barber. There's lots to look forward to!

During December I gave out one payment from the Pickle fund, it is yet to be utilized fully.

Much love

Michael.

Nov '16 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 31 Oct 2016 **£4962.32**

Income

Collections Attendance

06 Nov	22.50	19
13 Nov	86.70	22
20 Nov	53.78	22
27 Nov	25.50	18
Anniversary Collection	50.00	

Standing Order £ 571.50 **£813.98**

Expenditure Nov

M Hydes

Oct Remuneration 400.00

Rent Nov 144.00

MCC Tithe 97.00

Expenses Oct 145.45 **786.45**

Balance in Account as at 30 Nov 2016 £4989.85

Forecast

M Hydes Nov £400.00

M Hydes Exp Nov nil

Rent Dec £144.00

Tithe £ 71.40

Annivesary collection £ 50.00

£ 665.40

Balance available **£4324.45**

Keyboard fund £ 59.10

Crisis Fund £812.00

Sleep Safe £613.63

Community Works £124.46

Anniversary collection £ 50.00

Conference Fund £ 50.00

General funds Avail **£2615.26**

Dec '16 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 30 NOV 2016 **£4989.85**

Income

Collections		Attendance
04 Dec	47.00	14
11 Dec	28.60	22
18 Dec	27.50	15
24 Dec	80.73	28

Standing Order **£ 721.50** **£905.33**

Expenditure Dec

M Hydes

Oct Remuneration	400.00	
Rent Dec	144.00	
MCC Tithe	71.40	
Anniversary collection	50.00	665.40

Balance in Account as at 31 Dec 2016 **£5229.78**

Forecast

<u>M Hydes Nov</u>		£400.00
<u>M Hydes Exp</u>	Nov/Dec	£198.24
<u>Rent Jan</u>		£180.00
<u>Tithe</u>		£ 85.53
		£863.77

Balance available **£4366.01**

<u>Keyboard fund</u>	£ 59.10
<u>Crisis Fund</u>	£812.00
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	£613.63
<u>Community Works</u>	£124.46
<u>Conference Fund</u>	£ 100.00

General funds Avail **£2656.82**