



THE VILLAGE
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees
Friday June 3rd 2016 7:30pm**

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
 - Pastor's report
 - Treasurer's reports
 - Crisis fund report
4. Safeguarding.
5. Health and Safety.
6. Charitable Status.
7. Sleepsafe
8. Monthly Sunday lunch for the Homeless.
9. Retreats and *Excel Europe*.
10. The Golden Handbags
11. Pride
12. A.O.B
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 of The Village MCC board meeting 12th May 2016 at Ann and Linda's in Southwick.

Rev Michael opened in prayer at 7.30pm

Present: Rev Michael Hydes (Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Jean Hatton (Safeguarding Officer), Sarah Barber (Crisis Team), Mary Bachoo (Health and Safety officer), Simon Markham (Secretary), Wendy Burgess and Ann Wilkinson (Members at large). **Apologies:** Nigel Utting (Vice Chair).

Minutes of last meeting: Circulated prior to meeting. Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Ann Wilkinson. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Pastors Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Proposed by Wendy Burgess and seconded by Keith Fish. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Treasurers Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Wendy Burgess. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Events Team: N/A

Stewardship Team: N/A

Pastoral Team: N/A

Safeguarding: No issues to discuss.

Health and Safety: No issues to discuss.

Charitable Status: Nigel got all the signatures he needed at Sundays service. He was just awaiting the constitution which he now has.

Sleepsafe: The website is up and running and Chris Baker has designed a poster for sleepsafes, all liked it. Rev Michael met with Greg and also wants to meet with other agencies to see if anything is changing.

Any other Business: Brandon Robertsons visit on the 8th of June was discussed and Jean Hatton suggested letting MCC North London know of his visit. £50 was suggested as a donation to him. Kempton festival and the BGMC are raising money for Sleepsafe. At the festival we have a stall in the Arts and Crafts section, we have a 5 question quiz for people to do that will raise awareness of LGBT homelessness. Prizes consist of Haribo sweets. And the BGMC fundraiser on the Friday evening before Pride, volunteers needed on the night to collect donations. Was mentioned the need to check for a licence to collect money at the Kempton festival. Ann said, she had received a email about the Brunswick festival in August, did we want to do anything. Also Rev Michael to find out about Trans Pride.

Board Training: Rev Michael had put together a sheet with 7 points to discuss on this months training entitled, *The priority for a church board member is firstly and foremost their personal spiritual life because:* This was discussed and raised a lot of thoughts and conversation.

Date of next meeting: 3rd June 2016

Keith Fish closed in prayer at 8.50pm

Pastor's report for May 2016.

May began with Bryn's funeral at Worthing crematorium. I was glad that we have been able to be there for Jaz, Jean, and the family at such a difficult time. Although a very sad occasion it was very much a celebration of life; a life that has touched so many other lives in positive and creative ways. Not only will he be sadly missed by both friends and family, the world's strength and life is lessened by his absence.

And then none of us could have guessed that just a few short weeks later that Sean Potter, Jean's son, would be rushed into hospital with life threatening symptoms. The church has been praying fervently for him and everyone is shocked that such a terrible thing should happen, especially after the tragedy of losing Bryn. We continue to hope, pray, and make what donations we can towards supporting the family.

For myself much of May has been about planning. After designing the questionnaire for the Kempton Festival Chris designed beach style flags for both the church and sleepsafe. They arrived this week and are a little larger than I imagined, standing over ten feet tall. Great for outside the church and for fundraising events, but not sure where to place them at the festival!

Recently we have made two community crisis payments to referrals from *Sleep Safe*. The first was to a trans person on a zero hours contract who couldn't afford groceries that week, and the second was to a young trans person who needed emergency accommodation after being sexually assaulted sleeping rough on the streets of Brighton. To date we have given out £48.

Sleepsafe met this week and has begun to look at the long term goals and visions for the group. Although they are in the very very early stages I'm very excited by the possibilities. Watch this space for news as we move forward.

During May we held the quarterly LGBT Network meeting, (now called *Working to Connect* – or often abbreviated to 'WTC') and continued to discuss the way forward as a group. The group now includes *BLAGGS*, *LGBT Safety Forum*, *Rainbow Families*, *Peer Action*, *Trans Pride Brighton*, *Older and Out*, *The Village MCC*, *FTM Brighton*, *Rainbow Chorus*, *Brighton Bothways*, *Trans Alliance*, *Lunch Positive*, *MCC Brighton*, *GEMS*, *No Holds Barred*, and *The Clare Project*, although this list is not exhaustive and some groups may join, or leave, before the group becomes a formal charity. My hope is that Sleep Safe will be added to the list as it grows.

Attendance has been down at our Sunday Service and easy to see why. Members have been ill, are attending to urgent family matters, are working some Sunday's, or have recently moved to another country! This has hit us financially but we have some savings to fall back on, hoping that things will improve as we move forward.

Very soon it will be general conference and although it's frustrating not to be able to afford to go, or send a lay delegate, in reality my health would not allow me to travel anyway, and as a church in formation our focus right now is very much on our local plans and commitments. Please pray with me that all who attend are blessed by the event, and that the denomination chooses a new moderator wisely.

Next week I am speaking at a Lunch Positive staff meeting about Sleep Safe, then meeting with Rev. Robin Selmes to talk about a monthly lunch program for the homeless at Dorset Gardens. As always I'll keep you posted.

Love

Rev. Michael.

May '16 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 30 April 2016 £3891.38

Income

Collections		Attendance	
01 May	£17.00	14	
08 May	£55.54	20	
15 May	£26.50	16	
22 May	£60.00	18	
29 May	£33.00	21	£192.04

Standing Order 611.50 (inc donation £100 Crisis Fund) £4694.92

Expenditure

M Hydes		
Mar Remuneration	400.00	
Rent Mar	180.00	
G Scene	40.20	
Apr ~Mileage	28.80	
MCC Tithe	81.22	
Domain Name	46.60	
Flowers	33.00	
Kempton festival stall	55.00	£864.82

Balance as at 31 May 2016 £3830.10

<u>Lloyds ac 31 May</u>	3737.10	
<u>Pending credits</u>	60.00	
	33.00	£3830.10

Forecast

Monies Due

M Hydes		
Apr Remuneration	400.00	
Rent May	144.00	
Apr MCC Tithe	80.35	
Exp/costs		
G Scene June	40.20	
Crisis Payout	20.00	
Travel/Pkg	38.25	
Kempton	257.28	
Visiting Speaker	25.00	£1005.08

Balance available £2825.02

<u>Keyboard fund</u>	£ 59.10
<u>Crisis Fund</u>	£340.00
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	£ 6.74
<u>Community Works</u>	£124.46

General funds Avail £2308.20