



THE VILLAGE  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees  
Friday March 4<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 9?
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Charitable Status.
8. Volunteering.
9. A.O.B.
10. Closing Prayer.

## **Minutes of The Village MCC board meeting 5th February 2016 at Jaz & Jeans in Lancing.**

Wendy Burgess opened in prayer at 7.30pm

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

Minutes of last meeting: Circulated prior to meeting, proposed by Wendy Burgess and seconded by Rev Michael. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Pastors Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Wendy Burgess mentioned the payment for the retreat, Rev Michael will sort it out. Jean Hatton mentioned Drbs for Wendy Burgess and Sarah Barber, Rev Michael said Sarah would need one. But Wendy would not. Proposed by Keith Fish and seconded by Simon Markham. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Treasurers Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Jean Hatton mentioned the Keyboard fund, Keith Fish explained that it was money given in excess of need for the piano and accessories, and would be used specifically to fund any future music ministry costs. Keith also explained that the Drb money had come out and that standing orders were down by £50 a month. Rev Michael thanked Keith for the report. Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Wendy Burgess. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Events Team: No reports.

Stewardship Team: No reports.

Pastoral Team: No reports.

Safeguarding: Jean Hatton our safeguarding officer was present and had no issues to discuss.

Health & safety: Mary was not present, but no issues were apparent to report.

Charitable Status: Rev Michael said he was meeting with Nigel and Jaz at Jaz and Jeans home on Tuesday the 9th February at 9.45am. The benefits of this would be we can claim giftaid.

MCC Church Status: Rochelle had spoken to Rev Michael about becoming a full church rather than an emerging church. And asked him to bring it to the board. We discussed this and found that we could not afford to become one and that there would be no actual benefits. So we voted not to become a full church. Proposed by Wendy Burgess and seconded by Simon Markham. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Brandon Robertson: Rev Michael talked about him and said he is doing a speaking tour of Britain. Rev Michael would like to arrange an evening here in Brighton for him to speak, either at the day centre or at All Saints in Hove. On a Wednesday evening. Rev Michael to keep us updated.

Crisis Team: Rev Michael and Sarah Barber discussed safety comes first and to meet applicants only in a public place or in twos. Also needing to increase the fund, this needs to have the board's approval and can be difficult to sort out. Rev Michael suggested bringing in Jean Hatton as she is our safeguarding officer, as there would be no confidentiality problems. Some guidelines need to be drawn up.

Volunteering: Rev Michael talked about an email he had received about volunteering, that could be printed and have copies in church for interested people.

Brighton in Need: Rev Michael had talked to Lydia the coordinator about it, he said if just one person helped out it would make things easier.

LGBT befrienders service: Rev Michael explained what it is and how we could help.

Worship team volunteer opportunities: Rev Michael talked about this. There is a list on the website.

Crisis team: Rev Michael said he doesn't want people to think it's an exclusive team and that anyone who meets the criteria can be on the team.

Pastoral team: Rev Michael talked about this, Wendy Burgess is to be our pastoral care leader.

Any Other Business: Jean Hatton asked about changing our time of worship from 6pm to a morning service, Rev Michael explained that if we did this it would exclude the people who go to morning worship at other churches before coming to us in the evening. Also discussed the need to change the signatures on the account, removing Wendy Foster and adding Wendy Burgess and Simon Markham.

Date of next meeting: Next meeting arranged for 4th March, venue to be arranged.

Rev Michael closed the meeting in prayer at 8.45pm

### **Pastor's report for February 2016.**

February began with the bi-monthly article for March' G-Scene where I talked about the women of our church. Go to G-Scene.com, click on the 'March Issue', page 55. Alas, the picture they used was a g-scene stock photo of MCC Brighton in the Pride parade, but many of the women in the photo are in the article.

I was also invited by G-Scene to review *The Women of Troy* at the New Venture theatre. This is the second review I've been asked to make and I think it's another way to connect with the larger community. ([G-Scene.com/reviews](http://G-Scene.com/reviews)).

The quarterly LGBT Community Safety Forum public meeting focused very much on the way that homeless are being treated in Brighton and Hove, how inadequate the B&B accommodation used by the city is, and how the police are seen in a less favourable light this year, despite an effort on their part to create a more positive profile. The arrest and fining of homeless people certainly does not add a positive note.

At the Village MCC Charity status meeting Nigel began the on-line application and we are gathering information as we move through the application process. Thank you to Nigel and Jaz for their hard work.

There were 8 of us at the HIV awareness day. Thank you to Keith for organizing the event, and to Richard from THT for facilitating it.

Thank you to Stephen Crowther, who was our guest preacher on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> bringing us a warm and thought provoking homily.

Thank you to Robert Douglas who represented The Village MCC at the LGBT Community Groups meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, (Alas scheduled for the same time as our HIV awareness session). We were proposed as a member group.

Tuesday groups continue each week with a regular attendance of 5 to 8. Sunday worship attendance:

7 Feb – **20**    14 Feb – **25**    21 Feb – **20**    28 Feb – **19**.

Much of February's focus has been on Easter. This year we are focusing on Easter Sunday, with a baptismal event, (that is also a social event), and our evening Easter Sunday service. The Seder is on Thursday, and on Friday Mary is holding a beach hut event and we will be supporting the Good Friday walk of witness organized by *Churches Together*.

Love

Rev. Michael

## Events Team Report

Our last meeting was on January 31<sup>st</sup>, so we focused on the overall plan for the year ahead. We looked at the HIV Awareness day Feb 20 (8 people attended).

**MARCH** – Easter (Seder, Churches together good Friday event, Easter Sunday sunrise beach service etc.)

**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** - Brandon Robertson – (Rev. Michael to find out the best way to organise this event).

**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 – have a pre-pride meeting soon. Find more volunteers, crisis fund fundraiser. (Rainbow chorus away).

Other events for 2016 include a twelve step awareness event, and some casual events depending on what interest there is. (Bowling, picnic, etc.).

Sadly, since our last meeting Ann resigned from the Events team – we thank her for all the hard work she's contributed to date and will miss her input.