



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday May 12th 2016 7:30pm

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
 - Monthly**
 - Pastor's report
 - Treasurer's reports
 - 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. A.O.B
9. Board training.
10. Closing Prayer.

Apologies received from Nigel Utting

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 1st April 2016 at Ann and Linda's in Southwick.

Rev Michael opened in prayer at 7.45pm

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

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

Pastors Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Wendy said the Seder meal and the baptisms were enjoyable. Proposed by Simon Markham and seconded by Ann Wilkinson. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Treasurers Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Figures down slightly, we received a donation from Community Works for £330. Jean suggested using it for a banner for the Kemptown Festival. (Please see AOB) . Treasures report accepted: Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Ann Wilkinson. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Events Team: N/A

Stewardship Team: N/A

Pastoral Team: N/A

Safeguarding: N/A

Health and Safety: N/A

Charitable Status: Now that all the information has been collected and sorted, Nigel is going to review and then send it.

Sleepsafe: Rev Michael is to meet with Greg to see what is happening on the streets. Linda is not well enough to give any input. Mary Bachoo gave Rev Michael 250 leaflets.

Pride: We received a invite from MCC Brighton to join them in the parade. It was discussed and decided it needed further thought and to send a message back to Andrew thanking him and to say we will let them know later. Also we talked about possibly using Pride as a chance to promote Sleepsafe.

Focus and Targets: Rev Michael said the role of the board is to focus on the goals and objectives of the church. Also to do some training with the board members to help the board work more effectively. Rev Michael will put out emails.

Any other Business: It was discussed using the money donated for a banner promoting Sleepsafe that could be used at the Kemptown festival and possibly Pride. Any leftover funds to be used to promote the church. Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Ann Wilkinson. Accepted unanimously by the board. Also to arrange a Events team meeting soon as the festival is not far away.

Rev Michael wanted to remind everyone that A.O.B is for items that come up during or too close to the meeting to go on the agenda. Sarah suggested asking people prior to the next meeting, if anyone has anything they would like brought up at the next board meeting.

Wendy Burgess closed in prayer at 8.30pm.

Pastor's report for April 2016.

After the business of Easter in March the month of April seemed quiet. The *Sleep Safe* team hasn't been able to meet but has been given a donation so we can order posters and handouts that are more durable than can be produced domestically. The site is being accessed so we know that the community is being reached.

April was most definitely overshadowed by the sudden and unexpected passing of Bryn, Jaz' father. I was privileged to meet with the family, and then facilitate the funeral. The family chose a humanist style service that was a celebration of life, and the readings, stories, and music all reflected a man that celebrated life and was dearly loved. Our sympathies go out to Jaz, Jean, and the family.

Alas, Robert Douglas lost his brother-in-law who had been ill for some time, and so our sympathies also reach out to him. His sister's family lives in New Zealand and Robert was not able to fly out for the funeral. Fortunately he had recently been able to spend quality time with the family there and the death was not unexpected.

My own family suffered loss as Chris' cousin lost her battle with lung cancer. She left two children, 13 and 15, and family, that we are supporting as best we can.

On a happier note I have booked the stall for the Kemptown festival and am very pleased that we have been placed in the *Arts and Crafts* section. This means a stall is provided, complete with coloured bunting, and all we need to bring is posters, flyers, and chairs. The events team envisioned a 5 question handout that people could mark, with haribo and other sweets as prizes for the answers. Please see the suggested handout below. (Do you know the answers?).

Alas no one has come forward to support a Pride outreach (either walking in the parade or a presence in the park) so this year we will be focusing on the *Brighton Gay Men's Chorus Sleep Safe* fundraiser on the Friday evening, and our own Pride service on the Sunday evening. Volunteers are still needed for the Friday evening.

Brandan Robertson's visit on June 8th will take place at the Somerset Day Centre. I have sent out a special newsletter and contacted local church groups. I should have some of his new book for sale on the night. His train fare was about £30, we simply need to agree on an honorarium. This is a very special event, a milestone in the life of the church, and I am very honoured that he is taking time to visit us.

During April there were three pastoral visits, two 'get to know you better' member visits, as well as funeral arrangements and a funeral service. I am so glad to see that Linda is making a recovery as she has been very poorly – we all wish her a full recovery. Wendy and Nicki have now moved to Spain so although I am happy that they are making valuable use of their retirement they will be dearly missed.

Love

Rev. Michael.



LGBT Homelessness

**Get ALL questions right to win your choice of prize.
Get AT LEAST ONE question right and win a mini bag of Haribo.**

According to the University of Brighton's *Count Me In Too* project, what percentage of Brighton and Hove's LGBT community have found themselves homeless at some time?

- 8%
- 13%
- 22%

Which of the following LGBT focused groups has a primary mission to support the LGBT homeless and vulnerably housed within Brighton and Hove.

- Brighton and Hove LGBT Switchboard (switchboard.org.uk)
- The Village Metropolitan Community Church (thevillagemcc.org)
- Sleepsafe Brighton and Hove. (sleepsafebh.org)

If you are LGBT, homeless, and the victim of crime, what is the best way to get help?

- Call The LGBT Community Safety Forum (01273 855620 24/7)
- Call The Brighton and Hove LGBT Switchboard (01273 204050 after 5pm)
- Use a report phone app or call the police directly. (999 or crimestoppers 0800 555 111)

According to the Argus, in total how many council homes are there in Brighton, and how many families are waiting for one? A total of

- 45,000 council homes in Brighton and Hove, with about 14,000 on the waiting list.
- 33,000 council homes in Brighton and Hove, with about 9,000 on the waiting list.
- 13,500 council homes in Brighton and Hove, with about 16,000 on the waiting list.

According to the Albert Kennedy trust a large percentage of homeless youth in the UK identify as LGBT. How many do so?

- About one in 4 homeless youth identify as LGBT
- About one in 6 homeless youth identify as LGBT
- About one in 8 homeless youth identify as LGBT