



**THE VILLAGE
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
 - Pastor's report
 - Treasurer's reports
 - Pickle fund report
4. Any AOB for Item 10?
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Pride, and Trans Pride – Plans and Budgets.
8. Guest speakers for August – Advertising.
9. AOB
10. 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 *The Village*
MCC Board Meeting
Friday March 3rd 2017.**

Present: Rev Michael Hydes (chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Simon Markham (Secretary), Sarah Barber (Safeguarding Officer) and Wendy Burgess (Vice Chair).

Rev Michael opened in prayer at 7:30pm.

Minutes of last meeting: Circulated prior to meeting. Keith asked if Rev Michael was keeping a record of the Pickle fund payments, Rev Michael said he is. Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Keith, accepted unanimously by the board.

Pastors Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Wendy proposed that the board thank Rev Michael for his work on the Soul Safari, and that Chris be thanked for his art work. Seconded by Keith and accepted unanimously. Rev Michael said he had changed a couple of speakers around for Marches sermons. Proposed by Wendy and seconded by Keith, accepted unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Keith said February was a short month so some payments had not come in yet, but that in March there will be two lots going in. He said the conference fund now had £200. Rev Michael thanked Keith for his hard work and the report. Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Wendy, accepted unanimously by the board.

Pickle Fund: Rev Michael went over last month's expenditure of £30 and talked about the circumstances in which the funds were allocated.

Safeguarding: Sarah said she had agreed to do the position till the AGM, but as no one had stood for the position she would take it on officially. Supported fully by the board.

Health&Safety: No issues at present.

Soul Safari: Rev Michael asked for feedback on events. Everyone said it went well, just a shame more people didn't see the advertising soon enough. More different venues for advertising would be good for next time. Rev Michael said Billie had already put in for next year and should give us a 6-month run up. Rev Michael said he would like to organise events differently as well next time. Rev Michael said he thought the work with the Jesus deck went well, Wendy said it might be a good idea to have two people with the readings. Rev Michael expressed his thanks to Charlie, Bill, Wendy, Sarah, and myself for our help during the safaris, and to everyone else who stepped in from time to time..

Pride: We talked about doing temporary tattoos and the Jesus deck at Pride this year at last month's meeting. We explored the idea further. We would only need some folding chairs and tables, and Rev. Michael said he was thinking of getting some folders with plastic pockets in to put the tattoos in. Rev Michael said it would be nice to take part in the parade, but none of us could manage to walk it. Keith said maybe we could look into doing something with the Bear Patrol or MCC Brighton. Rev Michael to have a word with Billie to see if he could help.

Guest speakers in March: Rev Michael said all speakers sorted for the March sermons. He asked if we could put it out on social media and to any women's groups.

Emails: Rev Michael said the church email hardly gets used and is mainly junk mail, he said he had missed two important ones through this. Chris has now set it up to forward emails to his own email account. Keith said we could open a Hotmail account, and that the Youtube channel needs an easier way of finding us.

Any other business: Wendy said they feel the need to start a women's' group, on the second Wednesday of the month. They are going to look at venues. Rev Michael said he wanted to remind us of our vision we had set out in 2015, he said he was meeting with Billie and Gary to discuss a space that meets with our vision. Rev Michael said Peta had got his microphone and was very pleased with it and thanked us.

Sarah closed in prayer at 9:10pm

Pastor's report for March 2017

March was women's history month and I was thrilled that Sophie Cook, Rev. Felice Rhiannon, Rev. Heather Leak Date, and our own Sarah Barber. Our final speaker, (set for April 2nd) wasn't able to be with us. Caroline Lucas wanted to come and be with us but was committed to the Green Party Conference which extended it's program of events beyond our worship time. I was very grateful that Stephen Crowther offered to come and share with us and brought a wonderful word in due season.

I'm now focused on Easter in the short term, (The Seder on Thursday as well as the other Easter events), and then on Pride Month long term. Rabbi Elli is scheduled to join us on August 27th and I hope to be able to fill the month with LGBT community speakers, including one or two that identify as straight! I'll keep you posted as we move forward. I'm meeting with the Jesus Deck Team this week to talk about pride and I also hope to be able to have a team at Trans Pride if they want us to facilitate the multi-faith area again. Keith heard from MCC Brighton who do not want to work with us on a stall as their own stall is MCC Brighton branded, but have offered us space if we'd like to walk with them in the parade. I haven't heard anything about Trans Pride so I've emailed Phoenix on the Trans pride team, and MCC Brighton.

At the beginning of march I created *The Village MCC Action Report*, accessible through a dropbox link. This keeps us all up to date on what is going on, what our own parts are, and how we're doing moving ahead. There are two tabs. The first one is actions that are outstanding. The second one is actions completed. Please let me know when you have completed an action and I will move it from one page to the other. In the mean time I will send out regular reminders for you to check it and will update it with new actions as they occur.

On the second page you'll see some of the things that were done last month. These do not include pastoral visits or pastoral meetings, which I don't schedule on here to preserve confidentiality. Last month I made 5 pastoral visits, as well as met with Rev. Peta to talk about their plans for the future, with Mary to talk about Sleepsafe, with my Spiritual director to talk about my own walk with God and the life of the church, and was interviewed twice on *Latest TV*. I am due to be interviewed again this Monday to talk about The Village MCC on *Andrew K's Souffle'* chat program.

Chris kindly updated the website so it could be found on search engines. The leadership page still requires updating and I have pages to add. It's still not coming up in the first hit but Chris is working on it.

Keith is speaking with the denomination about assessments. A recent communication suggested that our tithe had risen to 11.5%, but it was a mistake on their part. Some of the content on the new paperwork is ambiguous so Keith has written for clarification. I'm so glad he's handling it, it's a maze!

The new worship rota is simpler now, with more slots for on the day volunteers. Quite often communion celebrant and communion server were mixed up so communion servers are no longer scheduled and where I am not the celebrant I shall serve, and where I am the celebrant I will look for a volunteer. Often folk surprise me by stepping forward and it was nice this week to have Tula bring the reading and Pam bring the prayers. They both loved being asked and read beautifully! Since Stephen preached (a wonderful message) there was hardly anything for me to do. I do prefer it that way!

Wendy and Sarah have volunteered to lead a mid week women's group and I look forward in anticipation to hearing about their plans. A women's group has been in much need for some time and I'm so happy they feel called to lead this.

May is Mental health awareness month, August is Pride Month, September is Music month, October is stewardship month, November is 'get to know the Village' month and I'm hoping again to bring a month of interviews. Lots to look forward to as we move ahead.

Much love

Michael.

Mar '17 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 28 Feb 2017 **£5118.41**

Income

Collections		Attendance	
05 Mar	41.25	21	
12 Mar	47.50	21	
19 Mar	38.50	20	
26 Mar	41.24	17	
Standing Order	£ 971.50		£1139.99

Expenditure Jan

<u>M Hydes Feb</u>	£400.00	
<u>M Hydes Exp Feb</u>	£227.22	
<u>Rent Mar</u>	£144.00	
<u>Tithe</u>	£ 65.70	
<u>Travel S Markham</u>	£ 13.20	
		£850.12

(conference transfer £50.00)

Balance in Account as at 31 Mar 2017 **£5408.28**

Forecast

<u>M Hydes Feb</u>	£400.00	
<u>M Hydes Exp Mar</u>	£243.16	
<u>Rent Apr +1</u>	£216.00	
<u>Tithe</u>	£ 99.00	
		£958.16

allocated Brighton Cares £500.00

forecast Balance available **£3950.12**

<u>Keyboard fund</u>	£ 39.12
<u>PickleFund</u>	£512.00
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	£643.63
<u>Community Works</u>	£ 00.00
<u>Conference Fund</u>	£ 250.00

General funds Avail £2963.49