



THE VILLAGE
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees
Friday May 11th 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 9?
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Pride, and Trans Pride – updates
8. AOB
9. 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 April 4th 2017.

Meeting held at Keith's home. **Present:** Rev Michael Hydes (Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Sarah Barber (Safeguarding Officer), Wendy Burgess (Board Member), Simon Markham (Secretary).

Rev Michael opened in prayer at 7:30pm

Minutes of last meeting: Circulated prior to meeting. Keith asked about Youtube and Rev. Michael said that sermons were searchable now under names and date. Proposed by Rev Michael, seconded by Wendy and unanimously accepted by the board.

Pastors Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Rev Michael said he had been on the local TV channel twice and is on again next week. Proposed by Simon and seconded by Keith, and unanimously accepted by the board.

Treasurers Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Keith said that finances were holding as normal although to date Mary hadn't claimed the money owed. Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Wendy, unanimously accepted by the board.

Pickle Fund: No new issues to discuss, the team met to approve the application process.

Safeguarding: No issues had been made aware.

Health & Safety: No issues had been made aware.

Pride & Trans Pride: Keith said that MCC Brighton had already arranged their Pride and Trans pride events but we were not invited to participate in either park event. We were invited to walk in the parade with them. but were Rev Michael said he had emailed Phoenix and Andrew to ask about Trans Pride events. We are exploring a presence at the park events with the Jesus deck and temporary tattoos. A budget of £150 for costs was set aside, proposed by Keith, seconded by Wendy, and unanimously accepted by the board.

Speakers: Rev Michael said that May is mental health month and he is contacting various people to speak. August is Pride month and has some people to contact. He is awaiting on Caroline Lucas and would like either herself or Alistair Appleton for the Pride service. Keith suggested that when a speaker is confirmed to put a note out to all MCCs.

Any Other Business: Rev Michael met with Mary about the future of Sleepsafe. Mary has set up a C.I.C. (PASS1ON) which will umbrella a number of projects, including Sleepsafe. We are looking to collaborate with LGBTQ groups that deal with homelessness, like *Mindout* and the *LGBT Community safety forum*, to form relationships that will provide mutual support.

Rev Michael had visited the emergency Accommodation on Percival Street, he said they have nothing and struggle to cope with the demand. He would like us to think about a basic package for them. How we could fund it, make them up to fit the needs of the individuals.

Rev Michael met with Peta who shortly leaves his post at MCC N London and is having some time out before doing anything. There are some websites we are not advertising on, Keith is looking at the East Sussex and it would be good to have links to other sites we are involved with. Rev Michael said that the Labyrinth Day that Mary arranged, had gone well and was well attended.

Wendy closed in prayer at 9pm.

Pastor's report for April 2017

The interview on Latest TV went well and can be seen online (AK SOUFFLE'). I was able to talk at length about my spiritual journey.

Of course April was important because of Easter. 20 of us gathered at the Somerset Day Centre for a Queer Seder. We enjoyed a lamb dinner, a traditional Seder, and then shared our own stories of liberation. One of our guests received some sad news about a family member so we were able to share in prayers of healing and support.

We participated in the Good Friday walk of witness through Brighton, St Luke's service of light, and the Easter Morning service at the Good Shepherd church in Shoreham beach, as well as our own Easter Sunday service.

Six of us (Keith, Wendy, Sarah, Charlie, Stephen, and myself) formed a quiz team to enter the Golden Handbags launch quiz. Although we didn't win we held our own and came a creditable 8th place out of 21 teams. Well done all!

After some talk with the Community Safety Forum, and consultation with the board, I decided not to take a stall at this year's pride, but rather offer our services to the forum at the access tent. They are thrilled to host us and I'm very happy that we are able to make a real difference in the community,

I am still talking to Trans Pride in the hope that we may be involved, but the reality is that the politics of the situation might make it impossible this year. However, there is always the possibility that we may be able to be involved in some fashion and I continue to look for ways to be of service.

I had a meeting with the new CEO of Switchboard, Daniel Cheesman, about ways of collaborating on support. We looked at help line support for those damaged by religion, and homelessness in the LGBTQ community. Daniel hails from a Baptist background and will be coming to speak at the Village soon.

Our line up for Mental Health awareness month preachers includes Alistair Appleton, Mindout's Kate Webb, our own Stephen Crowther. Pride Month includes Rev. Jide Macauley from House of Rainbow, AJ Nuggets Patterson from RISE, Rabbi Elli Tikvah from Brighton's progressive synagogue, with Alistair Appleton very generously bringing our message on Pride Sunday. Finola Brophy and Felice Rhiannon are both speaking in October, and June is a set of interviews on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our church retreat day is October 7th. Thank you to Wendy and Sarah for facilitating the space.

Our worship has changed very slightly in that our welcome and prayer is now not attached to the reading. This allows me to encourage more people to take part in the service as the introduction and prayer are quite short.

I have been asked to be a trustee for the *LGBT Community Safety Forum* and have accepted. I believe that my role as pastor in an LGBTQ focused church ministry connects well with the goals of the organization.

The sleepsafes application form is now ready and I am connecting with the *LGBT Community Safety Forum* and *Mindout* to explore how we move forward.

I'm looking forward to all the exciting worship that's coming up. I hope you are too!

Rev. Michael.

Apr '17 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 31 March 2017 **£5408.28**

Income

Collections		Attendance	
02 April	33.00	19	
09 April	30.50	14	
16 April	108.90	17	
23 April	27.00	17	
30 April	24.35	15	
Standing Order	£ 446.50		
Seder collection	156.00		£826.25

Expenditure

<u>M Hydes Mar</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

(conference transfer £50.00)

Balance in Account as at 31 Mar 2017	£5252.02
Cash in hand	<u>24.35</u>
Balance as at 30 April	<u>£5276.37</u>

Forecast

<u>M Hydes Apr</u>	£400.00	
<u>M Hydes Cost/ expenses</u>	£269.31	
<u>Rent May</u>	£144.00	
<u>Tithe</u>	£ 45.14	
<u>Global Justice</u>	£108.90	<u>967.35</u>

allocated Brighton Cares £500.00

forecast Balance available _____ **£3809.02**

<u>Keyboard fund</u>	£ 39.16
<u>PickleFund</u>	£512.00
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	£643.63
<u>Community Works</u>	£ 00.00
<u>Conference Fund</u>	£ 300.00

General funds Avail _____ **£2314.23**