



THE VILLAGE  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees**  
**Friday October 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 7:30pm**

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
  - Pastor's report
  - Treasurer's reports
  - Pickle fund report
4. AOB for Item 11?
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Pride and Trans Pride – review.
8. Visit from Brandan Robertson (Oct 30<sup>th</sup>)
9. Meet-up Groups.
10. Budget for *Soul Safari 2018*. (Festival of LGBT+ Mind, Body, and Spirit)
11. AOB
12. 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 meeting of the board of trustees Friday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 at Keith's home.**

**Present:** Rev Michael Hydes (Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Simon Markham (Secretary), Sarah Barber (Safeguarding Officer), Mary Bacchoo (Health & Safety) Wendy Burgess (Board Member)

**Guests:** Dameon Loukas

**Opening Prayer:** Rev Michael opened in prayer at 7:35pm

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes from the last meeting were acknowledged. (As only Rev. Michael and Simon were present at the meeting there was nobody to vote on their accuracy)

**Pastor's Report:** Proposed by: Wendy Burgess Seconded by: Keith Fish Yes No Abstain

**Treasurer's Report:** Proposed by: Rev Michael Seconded by: Simon Markham Yes No Abstain

**Pickle Fund:** Rev Michael said he had made one payment of £20 this month.

**Safeguarding:** No issues.

**Health & safety:** Rev Michael said he had noticed the toilet seats were loose at the day centre, and was concerned for the more vulnerable members of the congregation. Agreed to check them on Sunday.

**Pride & Trans Pride:** Rev Michael said that Trans Pride had gone well. And Pride had gone very well and that the Community Safety Forum was extremely grateful for our help on the day. A matter of confusion had arisen as to the fact there are two MCCs and that the pastor of MCC Brighton was wearing a clergy collar and being referred to as Reverend. It was decided we needed a set script to deal with the situation, Rev Michael asked for ideas.

**New Printer:** The new printer bought to replace the old one, was working well with many new features.

**Guest Speakers:** Rev Alex Mabbs is our first speaker this coming Sunday. September is music month, Earth, Air, Fire and Wind. Guests for October are fine, except for the first one who cannot make it.

**Appointments:** Rev Michael said that Rev. Peta was joining us as a associate pastor and will be introducing him in. Dameon is our new hospitality host.

**Day Retreat:** Our retreat on October the 7<sup>th</sup> theme is healing. Wendy said that the council had started work on the complex and would let us know if we needed to change venue because of it.

**Brandon Robertson:** His visit is set for the 30<sup>th</sup> of October and all said they were looking forward to it.

**Meet up group:** Rev Michael said he had not been able to set up anything yet.

**Church Visioning:** Rev. Peta said that they had done visioning with MCC North London, so Rev Michael said he would talk to Rev. Peta about it.

**Rev. Peta:** Rev Michael said that he is there representing the Village MCC at the networking event. We agreed to contribute towards expenses. Keith Fish proposed £50 and Wendy Burgess seconded. All in favour.

**Soul Safari Budgeting:** Rev Michael said he was going to speak to Billie about having the space set out slightly differently this time. And is hoping the Rainbow fund will pay for us again.

**Membership List:** Rev Michael said that he thought only two people needed to be removed due to none attendance. And to invite some guests to become members.

**AOB:** Rev Michael said he would work on preparing a set response for the MCCs differences.

Closing Prayer: Sarah Barber closed in prayer at 9pm.

### **Pastor's report for September 2017**

Chris and I were away for a few days in September. Alas, it wasn't the break we'd hoped for and we returned more stressed than when we left, and ill to boot.

However, there's been lots that's good in September. Our music sermon series went well and Will Mason really pulled out the stops, theming each service with songs and taize'. Rev. Alex mabbs was a welcome guest, and both Sarah and Robert preached great sermons themed to fit the month.

During September we ormed Soul Safari Team: Rev. Peta, Keith Fish, Isla Munro, Dameon Loukas, and myself. We are looking at a two day LGBT Mind, Body, and Spirit festival at the B-Right-On festival in February. This time it's being held in Victoria gardens. The bar area will be used for workshops, with lots of activities going on in the main tent. Watch this space!

During the month we also formed the 'Christian outreach group' that will create a space for LGBTQ+ people to ask questions. Throughout lent the *Queerying Christianity* program, brought together by James Stewart, Charlie Notley, and myself, will run from the first Monday and continue for six weeks, (Feb 19,,26, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26.), finishing the day after Palm Sunday. It will pose questions like: *What is the good news really? Who was Jesus? What is the Bible? What is the trinity? Does God approve of you being LGBTQ? What is Easter?* on Easter Sunday we'll be holding a baptismal service at Nigel's pool. Thank you to Sarah and Rev. Peta for offering to help.

I'm so glad that Rev. Peta has joined the village as associate pastor. They've been with us five minutes and already caused a stir! Chris sent out a press release advertising Rev. Peta's first sermon this Sunday and it's been picked up by lots of organisations, some of whom are very supportive, but others that are overtly transphobic. Hopefully the attendees will all be supporters. I'm looking forward to Rev. Peta's installation service on November 5<sup>th</sup> and very happy that Rev. Kate Harford will be preaching.

During September I made one pickle payment of £50, (approved by Keith and the other team members), and one Sleepsafe payment of £280 to The LGBT Community Safety Forum for accommodation for a very vulnerable young man, (approved by Mary).

Sadly I saw my Spiritual director for the very last time. She has terminal cancer and isn't able to continue seeing me. It was a difficult meeting, and a very sad goodbye. Please pray for an easy passing. Her name is Aileen.

I did a funeral for a local community member. Apparently in the community I'm generally known as 'Rev. Bear'. I quite like it! The funeral went well and it had a *Lord of the Rings* Theme. I sang some of it in Elvish.

I did another two episodes of *Queersay* with Andrew Kay. I was on my way to the *Brighton and Hove Faith in Action* AGM when the exhaust fell off the car, so alas I never got there. I did receive an email confirming our membership and asking if I would join the board of trustees. I thanked them very much for the offer and declined, I really don't have the time right now for another commitment. However, if anyone else would like to represent the church on their board then please come and talk to me.

The Tuesday evening group continues the first Sunday of the month and attendance varies from 4 (this week) to sometimes 10-12. Those that participate talk of the special Spirit felt there, and the depth of sharing. It's can often be a very emotional time.

Much love

Rev. Michael.

Sept'17 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 31 August 2017 **£5524.72**

Income

| Collections    |        | Attendance |                |
|----------------|--------|------------|----------------|
| 03 Sep         | 43.00  | 24         |                |
| 10 Sep         | 41.90  | 28         |                |
| 17 Sep         | 32.00  | 21         |                |
| 24 Sep         | 12.00  | 13         |                |
| Standing Order | 406.50 |            |                |
|                |        |            | <u>£535.40</u> |

Expenditure

|                             |         |                 |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| <u>M. Hydes Aug</u>         | £400.00 |                 |
| Rent Sep                    | £144.00 |                 |
| Tithe Sep                   | £ 79.80 |                 |
| Costs/expenses Aug          | £414.35 |                 |
| Community Safety Sleep Safe | £280.00 |                 |
| Bank test                   | .01     | <u>£1318.16</u> |

*(conference transfer £50.00)*

Balance in Account as at 30 September 2017 **£4741.96**

Forecast

|                       |                |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Rev Michael           | £400.00        |                |
| Costs Exp. reimbursed | £135.00        |                |
| Rent                  | £144.00        |                |
| <u>Tithe</u>          | <u>£ 48.54</u> | <u>£727.54</u> |

allocated Brighton Cares **£500.00**

forecast Balance available **£3514.42**

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Keyboard fund</u>   | <u>£ 39.16</u>  |
| <u>PickleFund</u>      | <u>£727.42</u>  |
| <u>Sleep Safe</u>      | <u>£363.63</u>  |
| <u>Community Works</u> | <u>£ 00.00</u>  |
| <u>Conference Fund</u> | <u>£ 500.00</u> |

General funds Avail **£1884.21**