



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday October 11th 2019 7:30pm

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
 - Pastor's report (written)
 - Treasurer's reports (written)
 - Lay delegate report (verbal)
 - Associate pastor's report (Written)
 - Pickle fund report (verbal)
4. AOB to be scheduled in for this meeting?
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Charitable status.
8. World Aids Day service.
9. James Ledworth Service.
10. Christmas service
11. Anniversary service
12. Worship space
13. Retreat 2020.
14. Networking gathering.
15. AOB -
16. Close in 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 July 6th 2018 7:30pm at Keith's home.

Present: Rev Michael Hydes (Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Dameon Loucas (Lat eelegate). Rev, Peta Evans (Vice chair)

Guests:

Apologies: Sarah Barber (Safeguarding Officer), Wendy Burgess (Board Member), Simon Markham (Secretary),

Opening Prayer: Rev. Peta

Minutes of the last meeting: Only me present – minutes deferred until the next mtg.

Proposed by: Seconded by: Yes No Abstain

Pastor's report:

Proposed by: Seconded by: Yes Keith Prop – Peta yes **No Abstain**

Treasurer's report:

Proposed by: Seconded by: Mike prop – Peta yes. Yes No Abstain

Lay Delegate – Verbal report. Nothing to report

Associate Pastor – written report. No comments

Pickle fund report: One payment by Isla

Safeguarding: none

Health and Safety: none

We talked about the all church retreat and the problems finding a space. We will approach the day centre and then if that is not available look at other options.

Also talked about st. Mary's as a possible permanent venue but decided there were not enough advantages to make the move worth the hassle.

AOB Eastbourne. Decided to explore the possibility of a monthly service with the interested persons.

Closing Prayer. Rev. Michael

tracey.buckingham@sussexbeacon.org.uk

Action:

Michael to talk to Hattie and Tracy at the Beacon about the pickle fund being used by the Beacon. Perhaps they need toiletries too?

Michael also to check if g-scene will advertise our world aids day service and pursue our charitable status.

Pastor's report

This past month has been unusually challenging, so I've been very grateful to Rev. Peta and deacons Isla, Wendy, and Charlie, for their prayers and support.

We have had two retreats, one for planning and one for recharging the batteries. At the planning retreat I think we designed a really lovely liturgical year, with some exciting guests, and I'm looking forward to that unfolding as we move forward. And the healing retreat was very special. At one point there were games being played at one table, crafting and planting seedlings at another, and in our worship area Taize' singing with various participants singing in tongues. It was a really blessed day, and I'm very grateful to everyone who helped out in some way. I am so grateful to Wendy and Sarah for providing the perfect space for a planning retreat, and Mary's unit was perfect for a healing retreat, thank you to all for your very generous help. There were 15 at the planning retreat, and 16 at the healing retreat.

During September I attended the annual Martin Fisher stakeholders meeting. I was excited to see that their HIV infection prevention strategies are working well and the infection rate has been dropping. However, there is still a long way to go and we had an in depth conversation about reaching out to those churches that still treat infection with judgmental attitudes. *Lunch Positive* provided some great food.

Alas, the last few weeks have presented some very difficult challenges. Chris and I lost our eldest dog, Pebbles, after a short illness. She was 15, and her presence has defined our story over the years. Besides which I came down with a nasty dose of sinusitis, which led to a chest infection. After 4 weeks and a strong course of antibiotics I continue to struggle with it. Also, plantar fasciitis created an imbalance that got worse and caused some severe pain and joint damage in my knee and hip. It's been challenging but your prayers and support have helped enormously.

Also, after a short illness, James Ledward died. I am helping to facilitate the funeral as the pastor of *The Village MCC* and not as an independent funeral celebrant. I can't think of a more appropriate way of supporting the community that being there when times are tough. Of course we've already had two recent deaths, Richard Tredgett, and Mark Slater-Hyndman, both central community members and singers with the *Actually Gay Men's Chorus*. James' service will take place at St. Mary's on Saturday October 19th at 12pm, followed by a private committal at the crematorium and a reception at Legends with tributes from local performers. The hope is that BGMC and the Actually's will sing at the service, and the Rainbow Chorus sing at the tribute event at Legends. Your prayers would be greatly appreciated, especially since the amount of pastoral care needed by the community has risen enormously.

Last Sunday we had 30 at our regular Sunday service. Although in general attendance has been very slightly down on last year, if everyone who comes regularly were to come at the same time we would not have enough seats. As I look forward to our Christmas service, as well as the Choir that Chris and Sheila are assembling, but I do wonder where we'll sit everyone. I'm sure we can get inventive, and continue to look for a suitable place to meet that is a little larger than our present space.

I have touched base with Ines-Paul and they will be coming to celebrate our 5th anniversary with us in February.

During the past month I gave out two pickle fund payments and continue to minister to folk mainly over the phone and by email. I have talked with the staff at the Beacon and the Lawson Clinic and they have copies of our pickle application form and contact details when needed.

It feels like it will be just a few short weeks before we are into the remembrance events of November, our AGM, Advent, Christmas, and the new year. I think we have a busy season ahead.

Love
Michael

Associate Pastor's Report October 2019

I'm fairly sure both retreats have happened since my last report, and they were both successful and inspiring in their different ways. I'm very grateful to Wendy and Sarah and to Mary for their hospitality, and everyone for their hard work.

Last Sunday I represented the Village at an event for LGBT students in St Mary's, and spoke to them about the Village and what we do. While only a small number of students attended, I think I got to speak to all of them, and also much valuable networking with ministers and volunteers from the university and from other churches around Brighton and Hove.

Prayer Team continues to work hard, and we pray that Wendy will feel well enough to join us again soon, as her wisdom and experience are a valuable part of the team, and we miss her! There have been some new ideas for the prayers, including Sheila's lovely work with the finger labyrinths, and lots of ideas coming up for the harvest through to Christmas season.

The Garden has been going well, though has just entered a bit of a lull as the summer crops tail off and the winter crops aren't quite coming in yet. Gary has been very pleased with the donations so far. I am putting together a plan for applying for funding next year, to get more accessible pathways and raised beds put in, and if possible a functional greenhouse. Meanwhile we have been donated a large amount of astroturf for flooring the seating area, which I think will make a huge difference.

I was guest preacher for MCC Brighton for their service marking the Trans Visibility March on Washington, although in the end the high winds meant that the usual outdoor service could not go ahead, and I ended up preaching my sermon in St Mary's, where it was recorded to be put online for those who hadn't been able to hear it. I have been invited to preach at Northern Lights MCC in Newcastle in November for their TDOR service, which happily does not clash with ours.

I have continued to provide online pastoral support to some trans individuals, and am helping the Beaumont Trust to update their information and to add a faith perspective to their work. I was delighted to receive an email from a transman I was supporting earlier this year, who was kind enough to let me know how well things were going for him now.

I am also pleased to let everyone know that Marshall and I will be getting married, although we're just doing the legal bit in the Town Hall for now, and leaving the big ceremony-and-party side of things until we've got some actual money.

As far as secular work is concerned, I haven't found my dream job just yet, but I'm working on it!

God Bless,

Peta

September '19 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Balance in account 31 August 2019 £6009.83

Income

Collection

01 Sep	66.10	27	
08 Sep	42.80	16	
15 Sep	33.00	14	
22 Sep	29.00	20	
29 Sep	80.00	22	
Standing Order	901.50		<u>£1152.40</u>

Expenditure

Rev Michael	500.00	
Rev Peta	50.00	
Ufmcc tithe	86.07	
Costs /expenses	185.61	
Rent Sundays	180.00	<u>£1001.68</u>

(conference transfer £100.00)

Balance in account 30 September 2019 £6080.55

Cash in Hand £80.00 £6160.55

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Rev Michael	500.00	
Rev Peta	50.00	
Ufmcc tithe	100,24	
Costs /expenses	242,42	
Rent Sundays	144.00	<u>£1036.66</u>

forecast Balance £5123.89

- Allocated

<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£1246.27</u>	
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£345.53</u>	
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 209.48</u>	
<u>Pride</u>	<u>£. 60.74</u>	
General funds	Avail	<u>£3261.87</u>