



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday November 8th 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. Training in congregational life.
8. Charitable status.
9. World Aids Day service.
10. Christmas service
11. Mary's advent beach hut event
12. Anniversary service
13. Worship space
14. AGM, accounts, & 2020 budget.
15. Retreat 2020.
16. Networking gathering.
17. Eastbourne – responses to reaching out.
18. AOB -
19. 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.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING WAS CANCELLED AS WE WERE UNABLE TO REACH QUORUM. THIS WAS DUE TO ILLNESS.

Friday September 6th 2019 7:30pm at Keith's home.

Present: Rev Michael Hydes (Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Dameon Loucas (Lay delegate). 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

Pastor's report

October was a key month, and busy. The main work revolved round James Ledward's funeral service. We held it at St. Mary's church and there were around 500 present. Fr. Andrew and I led a mainly 'non-religious' service that focused on a celebration of his life. The *Brighton Gay Men's Chorus* and the *Actually Gay Men's Chorus* sang together. David Raven and Jason Sutton sang *Somewhere over the rainbow*, a tearful duet. Good friends read poems, and both Chris Gull and Andrew Kay gave moving tributes to his life and work. After the service I led a private committal at the crematorium.

Although I earn a living as a funeral celebrant this work was done solely as a representative of *The Village MCC* and no charge was made. All the feedback I have received has been positive. I believe that it was a really positive example of the work of the church supporting the LGBT+ community.

In October Jules left her job as manager of *The Somerset Day Centre*. I was able to say goodbye at her farewell dinner and thank her for all of the support she has given *The Village MCC* over the last 5 years. There is not yet a new manager in place yet, but Jude is covering for the time being and doing a great job.

There was much pastoral work to be done throughout the month as I met with Bessi (James' husband), as well as some of James' family and friends. I was pleased to see what a natural resource we have become.

I talked with staff at *The Beacon* about the Pickle fund, and both they and the Lawson Unit will call us if there is a need. They have asked that we collect toiletries throughout Advent – mainly Shower gel, toothpaste, and other sundry toiletry items. I will arrange for this to happen from Dec 8th. (Thank you to Wendy for the idea).

Our World Aids Day service is mostly planned, and will take place at 4pm on Dec 1st at Dorset Gardens Methodist Church. I'm looking forward to working with Heather again. Although G-scene were not able to change our ad in the magazine (my fault for going to them too late) the service is mentioned in the World Aids day's events.

Over the month I have spent some time connecting with prospective board members. The need for congregational care has been higher as the weather changes. With the change of clocks SAD sets in. There has been some illness in the congregation, beyond those of us who struggle with ongoing conditions.

I have made a start on the charity status application but have left it to complete until December when we have a set of board members who will be able to see the process through. Continuity is important throughout the process as the board members are signatories to the constitution. (As it has been amended since first written it now needs re-signing).

All told it has been a challenging few months. One of Matthews Carers, Balint, died suddenly of pneumonia. It was totally unexpected as he was only in his early 40's and had been in good health. Also Peter Howes, who had been coming to *The Village MCC* regularly until he became seriously ill in August, also sadly passed away late September. Please continue to hold Balint's family, and Peter's friend Sarah, in your prayers.

There are many changes in MCC denominationally. A number of long standing staff are leaving and the structure is changing. We still do not know if Chris will have a job in the new year so I would welcome your prayers for Chris and I, as well as for all of those affected.

As we move into the new year I've become aware that we are facing challenges for which I have no concrete Solutions. The male bias in our congregation. Congregational health and growth. Spiritual education. A suitable worship space that can handle growth. From the new year I plan to hold a bi-weekly Tuesday evening prayer group in my home, with the option to skype or call in if someone is not able to be there in person. We will lift our future to the one who has *all* the answers. Also, we will hold a bi-weekly bible study group, grounded in a study of the book of Genesis. With summer breaks it will take us *two years* to cover the study workbook – which I can make available in pdf form free of charge. Charlie has graciously agreed to host this group.

As we move into the new year I'm excited about all the God has in store for us. I hope you are too!

Associate Pastor's Report November 2019

The prayers continue to go well, but unfortunately the team meeting was cancelled due to illness, so I've been writing up the prayers for the time being, but hopefully we will meet soon to plan interesting prayers for World AIDS Day, TDOR and advent.

The Garden is in a quiet phase as far as crops go, although the winter crops are coming along nicely and as soon as we've had a frost the parsnips can be harvested. Mainly the work is clearing and tidying and planning for the next year. I met with Mary on the 28th to discuss plans.

Besides Sunday sermons, I also gave a talk and question and answer session to the Faith, Sexuality and Gender Group at St Nicholas church (CofE) about The Village, MCC, and ways in which LGBT+ inclusion in the churches can be improved. They seemed very interested in our work and in its impact.

There are a lot of significant events coming up that I have been working on: TDOR, membership class, and also I will be travelling to Northern Lights MCC in Newcastle to preach for their TDOR event. As it looks like it will be very busy, I've begun preparing December's sermons and prayers already!

October '19 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Balance in account 30 September 2019 £6080.55
Cash in Hand £80.00 £6160.55

Income

Collection

06 Oct	78.00	30	
13 Oct	43.00	19	
20 Oct	56.00	26	
27 Oct	55.00	17	
Standing Order	1061.50		
Retreat Donation	51.00		
Fellowship Sunday	151.00		£1495.50

Expenditure

Rev Michael	500.00		
Rev Peta	50.00		
Ufmcc tithe	100,24		
Costs /expenses Sep	242,42		
Rent Sundays	144.00		
Costs Expenses. Oct	118.60	£1155.26	
<i>(conference transfer £100.00)</i>			

Balance in account 31 October 2019 £6500.79

Est Mthly Exp

Rev Michael	500.00		
Rev Peta	50.00		
Ufmcc tithe	124.45		
Rent Sundays	144.00		
Fellowship Sunday	151.00	£969.45	

Forecast Balance _____ £5531.34.

- Allocated

<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£1306.27</u>		
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£345.53</u>		
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 309.48</u>		
General funds	Avail		£3570.06

Pride Bal **£60.74**
Retreat Bal **£17.50**