

Mission Giving and Mission Policy - Keynsham PCC

All seven proposals were agreed by the PCC on 29th June 2013

Background:

Set up by the PCC in January 2011, the Mission Policy Subcommittee reported to the PCC in January 2012 with a fourteen page report. Since then the report has been talked about and referred to at various meetings of the PCC, Mission Committee and individual DCCs.

At the Mission Committee Meeting on 24th October 2012, the Team Rector said he would draft a paper to be discussed at both the Mission Committee and PCC. The resultant paper aimed to be a summary of the position(s) that seemed to be emerging from the various discussions, and went on to outline proposals as to how those discussions could be built upon to arrive at a coherent Parish policy.

Discussion of that paper by the PCC and DCC, led to very little change. The Mission Committee's discussions did lead to some additions and changes to points 4 and 6. This is the document before you...

There are two main areas: overall mission policy and mission giving to outside the Parish.

Mission Policy for the Parish of Keynsham:

1) The various discussions have all worked with, and built upon the five Marks of Mission¹ and the diagram from page 5 of the Mission Policy Subcommittee Report, is reproduced below:



In this diagram the outer circle (red) represents mission outside the Parish (e.g. supporting Ruth Radley our Mission Partner in Southern Sudan – predominantly Mark 2 in the outer, red circle). The inner (blue) circle represents mission inside the parish (e.g. the clergy officiating at funerals – Mark

¹ NB The five segments of the diagram are not all necessarily of equal importance. Segments one, two and three might be considered more important than segments four and five.

3, Youth Work –Mark 2 in the inner, blue circle). The most central green circle represents the core of Church life which is not mission (e.g. regular Sunday worship).

The first proposal is to adopt this description of Mission as Keynsham Parish policy.

2) The various discussions have more than once touched on the increased importance of mission in the UK. The historical idea of mission being a predominantly overseas activity is now no longer true. The decline in churchgoing and Christendom means that the Church of England needs to develop into a missionary church.

The second proposal is that the Parish of Keynsham continues to develop a mission mindset for its everyday activities

3) The Keynsham PCC is to oversee and facilitate mission within the all the areas of the diagram. i.e. The overall Mission strategy of the Parish is a Keynsham PCC responsibility.

The third proposal is that Keynsham PCC assumes the responsibility for Mission in its entirety.

4) The Mission Committee’s task has been to channel mission giving to mission projects overseas and within the UK. This is a task the Mission Committee would like to continue. Further the Mission Committee has functioned well in its current format and does not wish to be radically restructured or be over formalised.

It has perhaps been assumed in the past that the Mission Committee does the Parish’s mission. Whether or not this has been the case, it is proposed that the Mission Committee, as a subcommittee of the PCC, is given a specific remit.

The fourth proposal is that The Mission Committee is renamed the Worldwide Mission Committee, and is asked to be the Parish’s executive arm: a) in supporting mission in the outward red circle and b) encouraging the Parish’s involvement in mission in the outward red circle. NB This is mission both within the UK and abroad.

Further it is given autonomy to decide the recipients and amounts of mission giving, as a subcommittee of the PCC; the information about recipients and amounts being made available at least annually.

5) There is a need to oversee and co-ordinate the mission within the Parish, as represented by the inner blue circle on the diagram. Much of this mission is part of the work of the individual DCCs, but some co-ordination is required (e.g. of the development of St Francis and @One).

The fifth proposal is that the PCC in partnership with the 5 individual DCCs acts as co-ordinator and overseer of mission within the Parish (inner blue circle).

Mission Giving policy for the Parish of Keynsham:

6) The discussion over the last year has emphasised the desire of all the five individual churches to maintain their autonomy when it comes to mission giving to outside the parish. Each church reported their individual mission giving policy to the PCC in September 2012. These are summarised below:

Chewton Keynsham	10% of income to mission: 5% via the Worldwide Mission Committee, 5% directly from the DCC to mission
St Michael, Burnett	The giving from one Sunday service to mission (approx. 3% of income) direct to mission from the DCC or the Worldwide Mission Committee
St Margaret, Queen Charlton	£1,000 (approx. 9%) to mission: £500 via the Worldwide Mission Committee, £500 directly from the DCC to mission

St Francis	Not been financially possible recently, but the aim is 3% of income to mission some via the Worldwide Mission Committee, and some directly given by the DCC
St John	Not been financially possible recently, but the aim is to give away 50% of any financial surplus in the years 2013 and 2014, and beyond that to aspire to 5% of income being given away to mission. All mission giving to be via the Worldwide Mission Committee

The sixth proposal is to accept each church's autonomy in their giving to mission outside the Parish, with the recommendation that the DCCs inform (at least annually) the Worldwide Mission Committee and/or PCC of the recipients of their mission giving – in order to aid co-ordination.

7) Whilst recognising each individual church's autonomy in their giving to mission outside the Parish, it is also recognised that there is a parish gold standard for giving to mission outside the parish. This gold standard varies from individual to individual and from church to church.

The seventh proposal is that Keynsham Parish encourages each of the individual churches within the Parish to give not less than 5% of their income to mission giving outside the Parish.