

# Ministry Areas: parishes are embracing the vision - Archbishop

**Ministry areas may not be optional but there is no 'one size fits all', members of the Llandaff Diocesan Conference were told.**

During his annual presidential address, Archbishop Barry said he was raising the question of what Ministry Areas could be formed during his ongoing series of deanery visits throughout the diocese.

"I take the view that although I, as bishop, can tell you that ministry areas are not optional, the form they take has to depend a great deal on local input and knowledge.

"That means different answers in different places and a certain untidiness in structures but that is because each part of the diocese is different from other parts. There is no one size fits all."

He said that Ministry Areas were already in existence in Llandaff – although they had different names.

"There are Rectorial parishes which reflect the concept of what a ministry area is, that is a number of clerics and lay people working together and pooling their talents for the good of the mission of the church in that particular area – an end if you like to a lone ranger approach to ministry," said the Archbishop.

He told members:

- Cowbridge will have two more small parishes added to the benefice;
- Eglwysilan now forms part of the new Rectorial parish ministry area of Caerphilly;
- Four separate parishes will form one parish in the centre of Pontypridd;
- The two parishes in Penarth will work together eventually to form a new ministry area;
- The three parishes in Barry are collaborating closely in all kinds of ways;
- Rhondda has zoned itself into four

ministry areas;

- The whole deanery of Neath has decided it wants to be a ministry area in its own right and the Church Army is setting up a mission centre to make that possible;
- Pontlottyn in this diocese and Rhymney in the diocese of Monmouth will form a ministry area.

"So things are on the move and what has been fantastic about all this is how the parishes concerned have got excited about the prospect, embraced the vision and seen for themselves the advantages that accrue. That is much better than a centrally imposed plan that people do not own."

In a wide ranging address which covered topics ranging from the refugee crisis and poverty to same-sex relationships, the Archbishop raised the

question of the Archiepiscopal See.

"I know it is a difficult subject but it will not go away. I will not be affected but I am concerned for whoever succeeds me, as have four previous archbishops been concerned.

"At a Diocesan Conference some years ago you said you believed the Archbishop should be located in Cardiff but you were not in favour of having that person also as Diocesan Bishop of Llandaff with an assistant to whom most of the work would be delegated."

Archbishop Barry told members that he had put forward a different model and had tried to deal in depth with the issue – with the details being available on the website.

"All I ask is that when the Provincial Standing Committee asks us whether we want to look again at this matter, our own Standing Committee will be open to



that request. Let me be clear what I am asking – open to having a provincial group to again look at the issue without in any way tying their hands to any particular model."

To read the full version of Archbishop Barry's presidential address and for more news from conference visit <http://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/dio-inf/diocesan-conference/>

