**The Barn Church - Prayer ministry policy and guidance.**

**Policy**The Barn Church places a high value on prayer and seeks to provide formal prayer ministry after Sunday morning church services which will help us to grow in our relationship with God through Jesus, experiencing His presence and love together.

**Guidance**
Prayer ministry will be appropriate to the context of praying for people after a church service in that it is short, to the point, focuses on what people ask for and models a style of ministry which reflects Jesus' example.

The prayer ministry team will comprise four people per week (adjustable to meet demand) and will normally be deployed as two teams of two. There will be both men and women in the team of four so that people receiving ministry will be able to have one person of the same gender praying with them.

The ministry team will pray together before Sunday morning church services to prepare themselves for ministry after the service. They will normally pray after the service with the people who request prayer and if possible pray together at the end of the ministry time.

If a prayer ministry team member thinks it appropriate to suggest a pastoral care visit or a Sozo appointment, for example, permission will be sought before speaking with the pastoral care coordinator or other ministry provider.

The Barn Church Elders will identify and ask people to serve on the prayer ministry team and those who accept the invitation will undertake a training course which draws on the Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) training course (note, HTB materials no longer in print). The training course will include practical sessions designed to be like real-life ministry sessions where trainees will be asked to self-assess against this policy and guidance and will receive feedback from other course participants.

Existing team members will normally attend a refresher workshop once per year and it will include practical sessions designed to be like real-life ministry sessions where trainees will be asked to self-assess against this policy and guidance and will receive feedback from other course participants. There will be discretion as to who attends refresher training, delegated from the church leadership (the Kirk Session) dependent on prior experience and training and current practice, to the Prayer ministry team leader.

At the initial and refresher training the prayer ministry team leader will have the authority to decline team membership based on participants ability to follow this policy and guidance.

Confidentiality is a very important part of prayer ministry and it will be maintained at all times. Prayer ministry team members will not share any information with others within or out with the team unless withholding information would lead to them breaking the law (e.g. Protection of Vulnerable Groups legislation).

It is recognised that it is always possible for mistakes to happen and for misunderstandings to arise on the part of people providing and receiving ministry. Both those receiving ministry and team members have to feel safe during ministry so breaches or allegation of breaches of this guidance will be assessed as quickly as possible by the Barn Church Minister, or in their absence, the pastoral care coordinator or prayer ministry team leader.