

The Diocese of Wakefield

Pastoral Visits 2008-2009



Supporting Ministry and Mission

Pastoral Visits are intended to enable the bishop and clergy to exercise their joint ministry more effectively

Some questions for the priest to consider before a Pastoral Visit

What have been the major features of your ministry over the last two years, or so, and how do you evaluate your part in them? (Please include any ministerial responsibilities outside the parish.)

Which parts of your ministry do you find most and least productive, where do you find the greatest rewards and frustrations, and what do you find difficult in ministry?

Which parts of your ministry are aimed at people outside the church congregation? Which tasks do you see as priorities? What is your vision for the future in your current ministry?

How does your ministry interact with your relationships with family and friends?

What are the main points of your strategy for sustaining and developing your spiritual life?

How would you like to see your ministry develop, whether in the same parish, another one, or in developing extra-parochial responsibilities? What do you need to be working on for personal development during the next 12 months? What sort of continuing ministerial education might help accomplish this?

Is there anything else you would particularly like to discuss?

4. Review of Ministry
 - a. In the month before the visit we would ask you to reflect upon your ministry using the general questions provided in the Review of Ministry leaflet which will be sent to you. (A copy of the questions is also included on page 7 of this leaflet)
 - b. A week before the visit we ask you to send a completed copy of the leaflet to the reviewer who will be visiting you. This reflection will help you to think about those areas you want to cover in the review session.
 - c. After the pastoral visit the reviewer will produce a short summary of the review which he will send to you for your approval.
 - d. A copy of the summary will then be passed to the Bishop of Wakefield and any relevant requests to the Continuing Ministerial Education Officer.

What are Pastoral Visits?

Pastoral visits are one of the key means of *supporting* ministry and mission in the Diocese. A bishop or an archdeacon will spend most of a day with you in your own working environment. He will be able to offer support and encouragement to you in your increasingly demanding work. Part of the day will involve a review of your ministry.

When will the next round begin?

The next round of visits will take place over 2008 and 2009. All those of incumbent status will receive a pastoral visit from a bishop or an archdeacon.

Sector ministers and chaplains will also receive a visit from a bishop,

Non stipendiary assistant clergy including OLM's will be included in visits to their incumbent.

Curates (all those in their first three years) will continue to receive support throughout their training and curacy from the Bishop of Pontefract, the Dean of Ministry and the Continuing Ministerial Education Officer.

What is the theological rationale for pastoral visits?

The ordained ministry is a vocation. Living out this vocation is our life's work. There is a job to be done in a variety of different contexts, both in pastoring the faithful and in mission among those apart from the church.

The ordinal describes the character and role of diaconal and priestly ministry. It sets out for us both a pattern of life and tasks for our ministerial work. Just as all the people of God are called to reflect upon their baptismal calling, so ordained ministers are required to review the ministry to which they have been called and for which they have been ordained.

God gives us various gifts to use in serving him and his people. The Review of Ministry helps us look at what each individual does with the gifts he or she has been given. It acknowledges that clergy are gifted in a variety of different ways and that some have gifts in specific areas of ministry. It is hoped that a regular review will help each of us to see how to make best use of our gifts, and to improve our service in areas in which we are less satisfied and content. It will enable us to seek courses and formation better suited to our needs. The people we serve, the local church and diocese, and the Church at large will also then benefit from the process.

How does the process work?

1. The visits will take place two year cycles. If the first visit is from a bishop then the next will be an archdeacon and vice versa.
2. About two/three months before your pastoral visit we will send you a letter telling you who will visit and offering some possible dates.
3. Together with the reviewer a programme for the day will be agreed.

It should include:

- time for prayer and worship
- visits which will help the reviewer to understand the parish
- where appropriate, the opportunity to meet with your family
- visits which may strengthen existing contacts or help open new opportunities in the community
- up to two hours for the Review of Ministry
- a meeting with the Churchwardens
- a meeting with NSM/OLM colleagues

It may also include:

- a meeting of the PCC.