

Procedures with regard to curates

Identifying training parishes

Fifteen months before the ordinations the DDO, in consultation with the Bishop of Pontefract, prepares a paper for Bishop's Staff. This paper identifies:

- 1) those from within the Diocese whom we are expecting to ordain;
- 2) existing and recent training incumbents and parishes;
- 3) possible new training incumbents and parishes.

The Bishop's Staff discuss and amend this paper and try to identify suitable parishes for Wakefield ordinands who wish to return to the diocese. The incumbents of these parishes will be asked to prepare a brief profile.

After the interim report arrives (due June 20), 12 months prior to ordination as a deacon, the Bishop of Pontefract interviews all Wakefield ordinands hoping to return to the Diocese.

In the light of those interviews incumbents are approached to see if they would be willing to have a curate and a suitable ordinand put in touch with them.

If the diocesan allocation of deacons, which is determined by the Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council on behalf of the House of Bishops, allows for more people than we have ordinands returning to the diocese, the Bishop's Staff identifies those incumbents who will be invited to prepare a more detailed Parish Profile which will be sent around the Colleges and Courses in October.

Any ordinands coming into the Diocese are interviewed by the Bishop of Pontefract prior to being formally offered a title by the incumbent.

Process of review during training

In the February preceding ordination to the priesthood, the Bishop of Pontefract writes to the training incumbent and the curate inviting both to reflect on the curate's first eight months in ministry. The Bishop then interviews the curate and writes a confidential report to the Bishop of Wakefield, a copy of which goes to the DDO, indicating whether the curate should proceed to ordination to the priesthood.

Length of curacies and procedures for second appointments

The length of the curacy for stipendiary clergy in the Wakefield Diocese is three years. NSM curates are also licensed for three years after which it may be right for their licence to be renewed for a further period or for there to be a change of parish. Incumbents will not be invited to look for another curate until their present one has found a new post. It is therefore highly unlikely that one curate will follow immediately upon another. OLM curates are also licensed for three years in the first instance, after which there will be a review instigated by the Wakefield Ministry Scheme Council prior to renewal (if appropriate).