

## Code of Practice for 'EvNet'

### 1. **Mandate: we accept the 'EvNet Purpose Statement', and affirm that:**

- 1.1. We believe that God in his love seeks to reconcile the world to himself and to make Christ known to the people.
- 1.2. We believe God has called us – directly and indirectly - to share in Christ's work of evangelism and has equipped some as evangelists by the Holy Spirit with particular gifting to fulfil that calling.
- 1.3. We believe that our call to ministry is a call to service, and we will not be motivated by a desire for personal gain. Rather we embrace a sacrificial lifestyle of availability to the direction of the Holy Spirit.
- 1.4. Every aspect of this work should be considered and undertaken only after prayer.

2. **Context.** All members of EvNet shall embody the principles and best practice of Christian love within the Missionary Diocese of Wakefield. These include submission to God's will, truthfulness, honesty, support for equal opportunities principles, and race and gender equality, received as being in harmony with the teaching of Scripture. We support and will endeavour to uphold the Codes of Conduct for Diocesan Evangelists and for the Church in relation to Evangelists, Appendices A and B in *Good News People*.

3. **Evangelists.** Evangelists have a special, distinctive calling within the Body of Christ, gifted by God and commissioned by the Church. The 'work of an evangelist' is always at the cutting edge of mission, attempting new things and to move into new territory to bring people to a living Christian faith; it also overlaps from there into ministries of nurture and pastoral care.

4. **Evangelism.** The Diocese of Wakefield sees the whole process of contact, nurture, faith, and growth as the basis of evangelism, in which the quality of relationships and devotion to Christ are core values. **Noting that** we work in a multi-faith and multi-cultural environment, we agree that all who are active in evangelism should undertake to grow in knowledge of and loving sensitivity towards those of other faiths, whilst maintaining the distinctiveness of the Christian faith received and

expressed by the Church of England.

5. **Confidentiality** Information of a confidential nature will be shared in pastoral and missionary situations, and there may also be confidential information about Diocesan policy or personnel. In such cases, the normal rules of absolute confidentiality should apply: information received in confidence, or in a pastoral context, should be divulged to no-one without permission of the person concerned, except a person appointed in a relationship for the purpose of pastoral supervision (technically rather than managerially defined).
6. **Ministry** Members of EvNet will inevitably, from time-to-

## The Purpose of EvNet

### *EvNet exists*

- § to bring together those who want to share in, support and encourage the work of evangelists and evangelism;
  - § to help those who want to explore their own calling in terms of evangelism;
  - § to recognise those with the special gifts and calling of evangelist, offering them support, and developing their ministry, through training and mentoring
- in and with the parishes of the Missionary Diocese of Wakefield.*

time, be perceived as offering an authorised ministry. The qualities of love, service, and self-sacrifice should be to the fore; using the ministerial role to manipulate, dominate, or control others or situations is an abuse which is unacceptable, even if no personal advantage is gained.

- 6.1. The ministries of preaching, evangelism, words of knowledge, teaching, giving counsel and encouragement are particularly vulnerable; no-one may minister in these ways without the goodwill of the incumbent of the parish.
- 6.2. Words of knowledge and tongues should be dealt with corporately: words of knowledge being first communicated privately to the person in leadership of the specific event, before being given publicly; tongues, if spoken, should be followed by an interpretation, and

space should be allowed for this.

7. **Worship** should always be of the highest quality possible in the circumstances, allowing for the need to train and encourage those exploring their gifts. The aim of worship should be to facilitate an awareness of the presence of God, and a response of devotion to Christ, under the empowering guidance of the Holy Spirit.
  - 7.1. Those who lead worship should both be prepared to attend suitable training to further enhance their leadership, and to seek constantly to involve others in planning and leading worship, encouraging not judging their gifts and abilities.
  - 7.2. Under Canon Law and the Church's Representation Rules, final decisions in matters of worship rest with the incumbent.
  - 7.3. Diocesan practice on worship issues (e.g. regarding the admission of children to Holy Communion) should be followed. Where a parish has passed policy resolutions provided for in Canon Law, e.g. in relation to the ministry of women ordained as priests, that policy shall be respected.
8. **Structures.** EvNet members work within the legally constituted and authoritative Anglican structures of PCC, AGM, Synods, etc. Under God our aim is to develop vibrant Christian communities with a missionary ethos governed by Anglican structures (as many other vibrant Christian communities are).

***I wish to be accepted as a member of EvNet, and sign this paper agreeing to abide by the purposes and code of practice shown here, and my name being entered in the EvNet Register for the Missionary Diocese of Wakefield:***

***Signed:***

***Date:***

***Print Name:***

*The following Codes of Conduct are taken from the General Synod Report 'Good News People: Recognising Diocesan Evangelists' and were adopted by*

## GOOD NEWS PEOPLE:APPENDIX A

### Code of Conduct for Diocesan Evangelists

As Christians, born again by the Spirit of God, we must ensure that our message is incarnational, and that our lives speak as loudly as our words. We will therefore endeavour to work within the ethical framework outlined below.

#### Mandate

- § We believe that God in his love seeks to reconcile the world to himself and to make Christ known to the people.
- § We believe that God has called us to be evangelists with Christ and that he has equipped us by the Holy Spirit with particular gifting to fulfil that calling.
- § We believe that our call to ministry is a call to service, and we will not be motivated by a desire for personal gain. Rather we embrace a sacrificial lifestyle of availability to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

#### Means

- § Our methods must stem from a conviction of the need to incarnate the gospel, and a recognition that all of humanity is made in the image of God, with inherent value and dignity.
- § In recognition of the dignity and responsibility given by God to humanity, we will avoid manipulation and coercion, acknowledging that we are fellow-workers with Christ himself.
- § It is our commitment to work ecumenically with local churches of all denominations and we will not undermine the ministry of local church leaders.
- § Our actions will display an awareness of the importance of differing contexts and culture.
- § We will endeavour to ensure that those who become Christians as a result of our ministry are fully integrated into a local worshipping community.
- § As servants of the God who is Truth, in integrity we will strive for absolute accuracy in our publicity and in the reporting of statistical data.
- § We will maintain accurate and open financial records and avoid any misuse of money.
- § We will seek to be efficient in administrative matters and extend Christian courtesy to all.
- § We will endeavour at all times to maintain a lifestyle that reflects the gospel, living lives of moral purity and joy.
- § We acknowledge that our families are a gift given to us by God, and we will be faithful in serving them and

fulfilling our responsibilities to them, giving them love, care, respect and time.

- § We accept the oversight of the Church, recognizing our need for care and support and our need of accountability in ministry. We will seek to ensure that appropriate support is given to us and that we honour those who are in positions of leadership in the church.
- § We will be faithful in prayer and Bible reading and seek further opportunities to enlarge our knowledge of the faith and to deepen our spiritual life.

## GOOD NEWS PEOPLE:APPENDIX B

### Code of Conduct for the Church in Relation to Evangelists

- § If an evangelist is recognized by the Church there should be a mutual accountability by which the church supports the evangelist as someone gifted by God in the communication of the gospel. This will include:
  - § helping the whole church to honour and respect the evangelist and his or her particular ministry and informing the church so that it is aware of his or her work;
  - § encouraging both public and private prayer for the evangelist; ensuring that the church is aware of the particular gifts of the evangelist and that they are used to the full;
  - § providing clarity of accountability so that the evangelist knows to whom he or she is primarily responsible. There should be regular times for appraisal, and for discussion of the most appropriate forms of support;
  - § ensuring that the evangelist has a spiritual director, mentor, support group or similar means of encouragement, prayer and guidance;
  - § giving the evangelist the greatest degree of freedom so that, subject to the accountability structure that has been established, he or she is free to experiment and venture into new areas of ministry;
  - § providing suitable initial training and subsequent continuing opportunities for learning, together with appropriate funding;
  - § ensuring that all appropriate expenses are paid promptly; ensuring that the evangelist has sufficient time for relaxation and
  - § for his or her family. In particular, the evangelist should not be burdened by tasks within the life of the church that hinder his or her evangelistic ministry.



*This leaflet sets out the purposes and Code of Practice for the Network*

Those who offer themselves as a resource for Evangelism have agreed to be bound by this Code. Parishes may use their gifts and time confident that members of EvNet will hold themselves accountable to these standards.

*“...keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry”.  
(2 Timothy 4.5)*