

## 1. Aims and Objectives of the Course

To offer training in theology and practice of pastoral ministry to a depth comparable to that offered by the Reader's course in the ministry of the Word.

To help diversify the pastoral ministry of the local church by encouraging individuals to develop a Christian understanding of the needs of others and some skills with which to minister to them.

Candidates are encouraged to see the outworking of theology in practice. Practical pastoral experience, normally parish based, is seen as the core of the training programme.

As far as possible the course components are tailored to the needs and previous experience of the candidate. The course is open to those with pastoral gifts regardless of academic ability.

Those who complete the course satisfactorily will be authorised as Pastoral Ministers who will be able to work under the authority of the incumbent of a parish within the Diocese of Wakefield.

## 2. Selection for Training

The PCC of the sending parish is asked to give its agreement, and references are required from the incumbent and two lay persons.

The candidate will then be interviewed and a report sent to the co-ordinator. If all this is satisfactory, the candidate will be accepted on to the course. A fee of £45.00 is then required from the PCC. The fee includes paperwork, teaching, and some meals.

## 3. The Course

This is a three year course. The main form of teaching is at the Wakefield School of Ministry (please see separate leaflet). Students and Pastoral Ministers are encouraged to attend Diocesan Quiet Days, as well as those which may be arranged with a specific focus for those in training for the BCPM.

Tutorials in small groups each with their tutor, back up and supplement the work done on the School of Ministry teaching days.

## 4. Course Requirements

The candidate is expected to be engaged in significant pastoral work before beginning the course. We see the course as training a gift which is already in use, and not the starting point of ministry.

The candidate is expected to attend the year group sessions and tutorials as arranged.

While this is essentially a practical course, there will be some written work, the most significant of which is the Pastoral Diary. This is the candidate's reflection on pastoral work undertaken and also takes in reflection on School of Ministry teaching.

It will be seen that the role of the tutor and the incumbent is crucial in this course and that good communication with them is vital. The incumbent will identify areas of need in which the candidate could be used and which fit their own skills. Both the incumbent and the tutor will be a support both practically and spiritually to the candidate.

## 5. Terms of Reference for Pastoral Ministers

Those commissioned to be Pastoral Ministers will work alongside and under the authority of the incumbent to whom they are authorised. They are to give practical support in any area of pastoral care identified in consultation with the incumbent and the PCC. For some this will mean working in their own parish which may also include hospitals, prisons, old people's homes, hospices or other institutions. In this case the Pastoral Minister will be authorised to work under the authority of the incumbent or ministerial team of that parish. Others may work in a particular institution, in which case they will work under the authority of the chaplain of that institution. A Pastoral Minister will be authorised to serve only in the Diocese of Wakefield.

The certificate of authorisation will be for three years, and at the end of this time each Pastoral Minister will be appraised. If incumbent, PCC and BCPM co-ordinator are satisfied, each candidate will be re-authorised.

Authorisation will remain in place during an interregnum and for six months afterwards, and then re-authorisation will be on the recommendation of the new incumbent and PCC together.

---

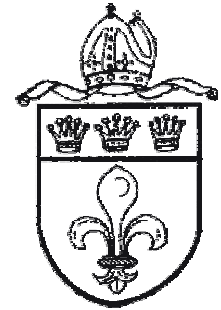
**Application forms and further information are available from:**

**Rachael Salmon  
BCPM Administrator  
The Mirfield Centre  
Stocksbank Road  
Mirfield  
WF14 0BW  
Tel: 01924 481916  
Fax: 01924 492738  
email: [rsalmon@mirfield.org.uk](mailto:rsalmon@mirfield.org.uk)**

**Application forms and completed references to be returned by  
31st May 08.**

**Interviews will be held from June.**

**Diocese of Wakefield**



# **BISHOP'S CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL MINISTRY**