

Vocation, with a particular view to establishing the Core Group and its way of working.

Year Two- Worshipping Together, Developing Outreach, and Developing Pastoral Care, with a particular view to extending the scope of Shared Ministry in the church.

Year Three- Exploring Discipleship, Developing Community Awareness, and Approaching Ethical and Social Issues, with a view to building the church's relationship with the local community.

From their exploration of these broad topics parishes identify their specific areas for local ministry development and practical training, so that this element of the programme will be different for each parish. The WMS Handbook sets out all this in detail.

What should happen in the parish as a result?

The aim is that by the end of the three years a pattern of collaborative ministry will be well established in the parish, and so the momentum will continue once the set diocesan programme has ended. Core groups will still meet and fresh training initiatives will be sought from time to time. Additionally, there may well be a further emergence of people to train for individual ministries: as Readers, Lay Pastoral Ministers, or Ordained Local Ministers on the Diocesan School of Ministry.

For more information please contact

Dean of WMS :

Dr John Williams
6 Stonecroft Gardens
Shepley
HUDDERSFIELD HD8 8EX
01484 608703
john.williams@surefish.co.uk

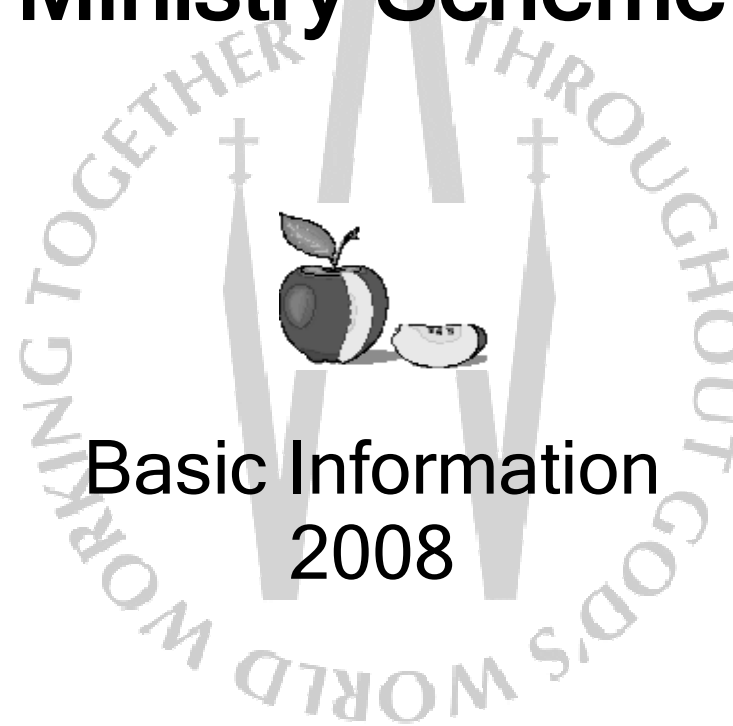
Secretary:

Rachael Salmon
The Mirfield Centre
Stocksbank Road
MIRFIELD WF14 0BW
01924 481916
rsalmon@mirfield.org.uk

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Wakefield Ministry Scheme



Basic Information 2008



What is the Wakefield Ministry Scheme?

The Wakefield Ministry Scheme is a Local Ministry Scheme offering parishes training in shared ministry together with an option for Ordained Local Ministry. There are sixteen such diocesan schemes with House of Bishops' approval in the Church of England. The Wakefield scheme received approval in 1999.

How does the Scheme provide for both lay and ordained ministry?

Diocesan schemes vary in structure and content. In common with many others the WMS is committed to the development of a collaborative pattern of ministry in the parish. This is facilitated by a local ministry team, usually referred to in Wakefield as a Core group. This element is fundamental to the Scheme and thus a parish can participate in WMS as essentially a lay training programme. The other strand of the Scheme is that candidates for Ordained Local Ministry may emerge from participating parishes. Such candidates, once recommended for training through normal procedures, undertake an ordination training programme to prepare them for service as non-stipendiary ministers within their own parishes. From September 2008 candidates will be trained within the regional Yorkshire Ministry Course.

How many parishes are involved so far?

The Wakefield Scheme began with a pilot project launched in 1995. Over seventy churches have now completed the three-year Basic Parish Programme and are recognized as Ministry Scheme parishes. A further 20 churches are currently working through the programme. Since 1999 over forty Ordained Local Ministers have been ordained, with several more currently in training in 2008.

For whom is the training designed?

The Basic Parish Programme is designed firstly for the ministry team or Core group, but also includes elements to involve the wider congregation. The intention is that the vision and practice of a shared pattern of ministry is being promoted and extended throughout the whole church. It is not only about training a Core team (typically 6-9 people) to share ministry with the incumbent. Thus the Scheme does not single out a Local Ministry Team for commissioning, but recognizes the church, the congregation, as a collaborative ministry parish.

How is the programme structured to reflect this?

Each year Core members attend a number of Diocesan Sessions which introduce the basic themes of the programme. In the parish a selection of material is made from a menu of options offered on each theme. In some cases this material includes course units intended to be run in the parish for as many people as possible. In other cases there are study sessions designed for the Core, sermon series and other possibilities. Units include practical questions about the local application of the material explored, so that as time goes by each parish identifies the particular areas of ministry it wishes to develop. Throughout the process the Core group meets regularly with a Helper, a person with appropriate listening skills and group-work experience assigned to them from outside the parish. Together they monitor progress, ensure that course units are delivered in the parish, plan ahead, identify parish ministry training priorities and call in the necessary resources with the help of the WMS Staff.

In line with this overall structure the three-year WMS Basic Programme covers the following topics:

Year One- Working Together and Exploring Ministry and