

AND THEN...a summary of what lies ahead

The first year of the Basic Parish Programme is mainly a process of **exploration, learning together** and **developing vision**. The overall aim is to make sure the Core Group is up and running.

The topics are:

WORKING TOGETHER: the call to all Christians to share in the common life, mission and service of the Church

EXPLORING MINISTRY AND VOCATION: the discernment by every church member of the focus of God's particular call for them

The Basic Programme leaflet (IL A4) gives more details of all this. A variety of materials are available to take parishes through this process. Every effort is made to help them choose the most suitable material for them and to work at their own pace.

There are some 'checkpoints' along the way where Core members from all parishes at the same stage come together. These are the Diocesan sessions to launch the successive topics of the Scheme:

SEPTEMBER (3rd Saturday) on COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY

NOVEMBER (date as announced) on SPIRITUALITY

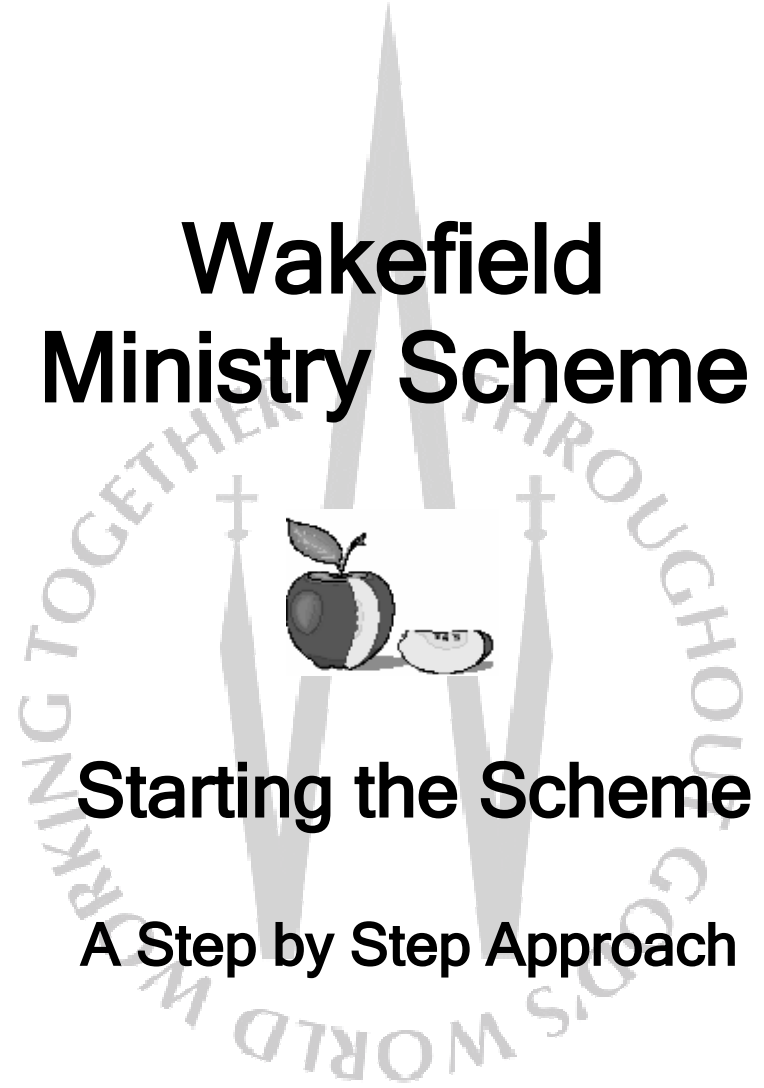
MAY (2nd Saturday) on MINISTRY AND VOCATION

The aim is that by the second year every parish has completed the initial cycle and has begun to identify training needs, practical ministry and mission initiatives and individual vocations. These are developed during the second year of the Parish Programme, which deals with the church's **WORSHIP, OUTREACH** and **PASTORAL CARE**. The overall aim is to extend the scope of shared ministry in one or more of these areas of the church's life.

By year three the focus moves to the church's **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**, including opportunities to explore being a Christian in today's world and approaching the ethical and social questions raised by the local context.



Wakefield Ministry Scheme



Starting the Scheme A Step by Step Approach

This leaflet explains how a parish becomes part of the Wakefield Ministry Scheme.

The aims of the preparatory process are:

- to ensure that as far as possible the whole congregation understands and supports what is happening
- to begin to identify the key groups and individuals who will have a leading role in the parish's participation
- to establish a relationship with the WMS staff and a Diocesan Helper
- to help the church to look ahead and plan how the Scheme will fit in with its development over the coming years.

The steps which follow describe a 'typical' process. In some parishes there may be good reason for parts of it to vary.

STEP 1. A member of the WMS Staff Team has an exploratory meeting with the Incumbent. (Leading lay people such as the churchwardens or an existing ministry team may also attend this meeting.)

STEP 2. A member of the WMS Staff comes to speak to the PCC. Ideally at least 45 minutes on the agenda should be given to this. The PCC will usually want to discuss it further at its next meeting.

STEP 3. A Staff member comes on a Sunday to speak to the congregation about the Scheme. There may be time for questions during the sermon slot itself, or after the service over coffee.

In some parishes the order of Steps 2 and 3 may be reversed.

STEP 4. At this point the PCC needs to vote whether to proceed further. A favourable decision could be a final one to join the Scheme, or a provisional one to explore further.

STEP 5. A Core Group is drawn together to be the main focus of leading and co-ordinating the Scheme in the parish and making sure that things happen. *It need not have a fixed membership at this point.*

At around this stage some parishes may wish to undertake a Preparatory Unit to help people explore the parish context, its social characteristics and needs; the church's history, life and ministry; the present situation and hopes for the future; and how the Wakefield Ministry Scheme can help with all this. A WMS Staff member can be invited to the fourth session to answer questions. Alternatively, there are other Exploratory Courses available on request to help parishes with the process of developing a vision and handling change in the church. (*For details see the WMS Handbook.*)

At some point the PCC needs to vote to go ahead if its previous decision was provisional. The decision means that the parish's proposal to join the Scheme can be formally put to the Ministry Scheme Council for approval. However if the PCC prefers to defer a 'final' decision until it gets a sense of how things are going, the Council may be happy to admit the parish on a provisional basis, to enable it to begin the Basic Programme.

The whole of Steps 1 to 5 could be spread over a year or more. Allowing more time will enable the preparation to be more thorough.

STEP 6. The parish prepares to begin the WMS programme (see over). The WMS staff visit the incumbent to help determine the way forward.

A Diocesan Helper is appointed to accompany the Core Group through the programme. He or she meets with the Core on several occasions, as needed, to fix up various practicalities and get to know people.

As a prelude to the main programme a short course can be provided if necessary to train Core members and others in leading small groups for discussion and learning.