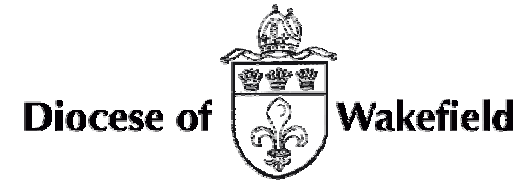


As with any candidate for ordained ministry, OLM candidates should be looking to their incumbent for support and advice, in addition to seeking advice from outside the parish. As part of the discernment process the DDO will meet with the candidate several times, and will also meet their spouse. However incumbents are often in a better position to know if there are difficulties or questions.

The first year of the three year training course is an exploratory year, in common with Reader Training. Candidates who have not already done this are usually advised to start it while the discernment process is under way, to save time at a later date. Ideally such candidates should be in contact with the DDO from the beginning of that year, if not sooner, as the diocesan and national selection process can take several months.

Each candidate considering a vocation to OLM will be in regular contact with the Director of Ordinands, or with an Assistant DDO. The relevant DDO will liaise with the parish over this process, and is always happy to discuss issues. If there are any questions or any cause for concern, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We would particularly value any comments which would enable us to improve our information leaflets.

Sue Penfold



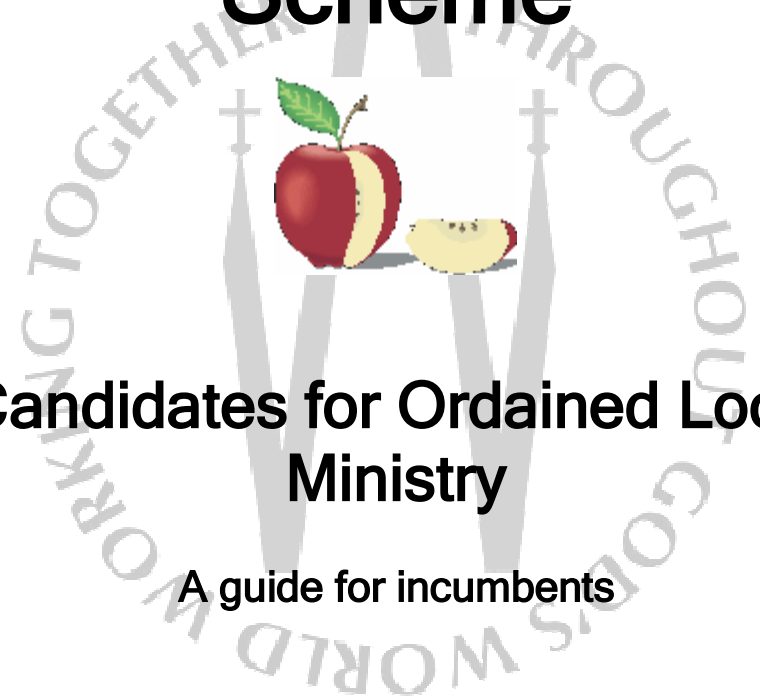
Diocese of Wakefield

Wakefield Ministry Scheme



Candidates for Ordained Local Ministry

A guide for incumbents



What's needed for a parish to have an OLM candidate?

If a parish is to put forward a candidate for Ordained Local Ministry, it needs to be part of the Wakefield Ministry Scheme. OLM is distinctive because the candidate serves in their home parish, specifically as part of a collaborative ministry grouping, typically the Core Group. It is vital that careful consideration is given in the parish to any candidate considering OLM, as the candidate would expect to be serving there for the whole of their ordained ministry, which could be for some considerable time, and could span the ministry of more than one incumbent.

Usually a parish will join the WMS and explore a wide variety of possibilities for ministry, including OLM. However, it does sometimes happen that a parish which is already operating a collaborative style of ministry without joining the WMS produces a candidate for OLM. In such cases the WMS staff will be happy to negotiate with the parish a route through the Basic Parish Programme adapted to take account of their prior experience. However, it is vital that discussions about involvement with the WMS proceed in parallel with the candidate's exploration of vocation to OLM, as unless the parish is prepared to join the WMS it will not be possible for such a candidate to attend a selection conference.

Please remember that candidates for Ordained Local Ministry could be considering the Distinctive Diaconate as well as the Priesthood.

The following central pages of this leaflet are available separately and might be useful in discussions about OLM in the parish, both of the principles of that ministry, and in relation to specific candidates.

Candidates for OLM go through the same discernment and selection process as other candidates for ordination, both in the diocese, and at a Bishops' selection conference, as described in the guide for candidates and incumbents. However, throughout the process the particular parish in which they serve (whether in a lay or ordained capacity) and the ministry they are likely to exercise is always taken into account. In order to help selectors appreciate this context, the following information is needed from the parish:

- A copy of the parish profile, usually that written when the parish enters the Wakefield Ministry Scheme, updated if necessary.
- A draft job description, giving some shape to the particular spheres of ministry the candidate is likely to exercise in the parish, with an indication of how much time is likely to be available for this ministry. (For instance, how much scope will there be for leading Sunday and midweek worship, for conducting occasional offices, or for other particular responsibilities?)
- A copy of the PCC minute expressing support for the candidate exercising ordained local ministry in the parish, including the precise wording of the resolution and the voting figures.
- The usual references from the parish, from the incumbent and a suitable lay person, will be taken up, as for any candidate for ordained ministry.

Before any of these stages are reached, incumbents are advised to take informal soundings in the parish. (It could be particularly difficult if a PCC refused to support a candidate. Discussions with Churchwardens, Core group or other appropriate people might shed light on the process before it reached that stage.)