



WAKEFIELD MINISTRY SCHEME

JOINING THE CORE
Information for Potential Members

Spirituality sessions: two per year, one in November and one in June, all with a choice of dates, times and venues.

Core Group Meetings. About once a month throughout- a little more frequently during the first few months.

Ministry Scheme Courses being run in the parish. Typically one course of four or five sessions each year specifically for Core members, and one for the wider congregation.

Training for particular ministries. This would vary according to individual and church needs, but a Core Group member who went on to Reader Training or the Bishop's Certificate in Pastoral Ministry would make this a priority and not be expected to undertake additional parish involvements.

Hopefully this leaflet has given you the information you need to help you decide whether to take up the invitation to be part of your church's Core Group. It would be great if you said 'yes': you would be playing a really valuable and significant part in the ongoing development of your church's life and mission, as lay people and clergy work together to discover more of what God is calling the church to do and to become!

If you would like more detail about any aspect of the Scheme referred to in this leaflet, please consult the Dean of the Wakefield Ministry Scheme, Revd Dr John Williams, on 01484 608703 or email john.williams@surefish.co.uk, who has a wide range of information available.

The Vicar has approached you about becoming a member of your church's Core Group in the Wakefield Ministry Scheme. You want to know what's involved. This leaflet will answer some of your questions. But remember that every parish is different, and so you will probably find that some details vary in your particular situation.

The **Wakefield Ministry Scheme** is a resource from Wakefield Diocese to help churches develop shared ministry. Over a three year period it takes the church through a series of topics including Ministry, Worship, Discipleship, Outreach and Community Awareness. Along the way new initiatives in ministry and mission will happen in the church's life. Study courses and practical training are offered. Some people may discover a call to particular ministries such as Reader, Lay Pastoral Minister or Ordained Local Minister.

The **Core Group** is set up at the very start of the process to be the focus for the Scheme in the parish. The members are appointed by the PCC after consultation involving at least the Vicar and the PCC. During the three year programme the Core Group work through the successive topics by attending some Diocesan input for each one (at a central location together with Core Groups from other parishes), and following this up with some form of study, training or action in the parish, chosen from a list of options. They may help to lead some small group study courses set up for the wider congregation. The Core will also do some work on learning to be a Ministry Team for the parish, working together with the Vicar in planning and leading forward the ministry and mission of the church.

At the end of the three year process, your parish becomes a **Wakefield Ministry Scheme Commissioned Parish**. This is the diocese's way of saying officially that yours is a church where a shared and collaborative pattern of ministry has been established and is ongoing. The Vicar and Core

Group will probably be meeting regularly to review progress and plan ahead. The Core Group may have specific areas in which it is active, such as Worship or Pastoral Care. The PCC will review the Core Group membership each year.

So what would be involved? There will probably be a Core Group meeting about once a month, where the Group looks at current ministry needs in the parish and areas for new initiatives and training, monitors ongoing initiatives, plans ahead and prays together. Once or twice a year there will be study units designed specifically for the Core Group, to help their development of team working. It is also likely that the group will be involved from time to time with study courses for the wider congregation using Wakefield Ministry Scheme material. *Don't be put off by the thought of 'study courses': all the material comes in a user-friendly format designed to be easy for small groups to use, and you don't have to write any essays!*

To sum up. As a Core Group member you would be expected to take part, as far as possible, in the following:

Wakefield Ministry Scheme Diocesan sessions: In Years One and Three of the Scheme these are generally held on the third Saturday in September and the second Saturday in May. In Year Two they take place on a range of dates in the autumn and the New Year, with both evenings and Saturday mornings. Over the three years these sessions offer input on:

- Working Together: an introduction to the Scheme
- God's Call to Individual Ministries, Lay and Ordained
- Worshipping Together
- Outreach in the Parish
- Developing Pastoral Care
- Community Projects
- Workshops on Ethical and Social Issues