

Over the three years the cycle of topics covered in diocesan sessions is:

- Working Together: an introduction to the Scheme and to Collaborative Ministry
- God's Call to Individual Ministries including Ordained Local Ministry
- Worshipping Together
- Outreach in the Parish
- Developing Pastoral Care
- Exploring Lay Discipleship
- Community Projects
- Christian Ethics and Social Issues
- Exploring Prayer and Spirituality

The Scheme also offers a range of resources for *Collaborative Ministry and Team Training*, some of which could well be used at the point of incorporating new members.

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, who has a wide range of information available.

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# Wakefield Ministry Scheme



## Joining the CORE Information for New Members

The Vicar has approached you about becoming a member of your church's Core Group or Ministry Team. 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 need to check out some of the finer details about local practice by asking other Core Group members.

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 original members will have been appointed by the PCC after consultation involving at least the Vicar and the PCC. During the three year programme the Core Group will have worked through the successive topics by attending a Diocesan Training Day for each one (at a central location together with Core Groups from other parishes), and following this up with some form of study or training in the parish, chosen from a list of options. They may also have helped to lead some small group study courses set up for the wider congregation. The Core Group will also have been doing 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 will have become 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: you will need to check what your local situation is. But the PCC will be reviewing the Core Group membership each year, and that's the point at which you will have been approached about joining.

**So what would be involved?** There will probably be a Core Group meeting about once a month, where the Group takes care of its 'business', looking at current ministry needs in the parish, areas for new initiatives and training, monitoring ongoing initiatives, planning ahead and praying together. Then, as an individual Core Group member, you may well be there because you have a specific ministry or responsibility of your own within the church's life, and so there could be fresh training or new work relating to that. It is also possible that the Core Group may be involved in putting on from time to time further study courses in the parish using Wakefield Ministry Scheme material, to revisit the original topics of the three year programme.

If you go ahead and become a Core Group member, there will need to be an **induction process**. As well as finding out more precisely what your parish Core Group does, you should arrange to attend some of the Ministry Scheme Diocesan sessions as they come up, as the best way of becoming familiar with the basic topics (see overleaf). It would probably be best if at least one other Core Group member agreed to come with you- the session isn't likely to be identical to when they did it previously! Details of forthcoming sessions are circulated as they come up, but in general there is usually something on the third Saturday in September and the second Saturday in May, with spirituality sessions in November and June and other events at a variety of times and venues in the autumn and the New Year.