

Training for Ordained Local Ministry

There are three strands to this:

- a) the practical work done in the parish as part of the basic Wakefield Ministry Scheme programme
- b) participation in the Diocesan School of Ministry alongside candidate Readers and Pastoral Ministers, studying for the York St John University Foundation Degree in Theology and Ministry, for academic learning
- c) participation in Yorkshire Ministry Course (formerly Northern Ordination Course) residential weekends with other ordinands, for ministerial formation



Further details are contained in leaflets ILA6 and ILO4, and further information can be obtained from the Dean of the Wakefield Ministry Scheme, Revd Dr John Williams, 6 Stonecroft Gardens, Shepley, Huddersfield HD8 8EX, tel. 01484 608703, email john.williams@surefish.co.uk



Wakefield

Ministry Scheme



The Call to Ordained Local Ministry

Vocation to Ordained Local Ministry

There are three principles involved.

- 1. Discernment of the vocation by the congregation*
- 2. Owning of the vocation by the individual*
- 3. Affirming of the vocation by the wider church.*

The first two may come in either order

Sometimes the call is mediated in the first instance by the congregation who discern ministerial qualities in the individual concerned. The individual then has to ask, "Is this the call of God to me?"

Sometimes the individual has been aware of a call for some time and this is confirmed by the local church.

In any event once the parish is ready to put an individual forward that call will be tested in the diocese and, if everything points in that direction, at a national Bishops' Advisory Panel (formerly Selection Conference).

Discerning the vocation (the congregation)

Year One of the Basic Parish Programme of the Wakefield Ministry Scheme is designed to encourage reflection about ministry and to focus on the gifts and talents of congregation members. A consensus may emerge that someone may well be called by God to ordination. Such a person will need the widespread respect, love and prayerful support of the congregation as a whole.

Owning the vocation (the individual)

This will be done in prayer and through conversation with a spiritual companion or trusted friend. Such an owning may take weeks or even years to come to fruition.

Affirming the vocation (the wider church)

This is the point at which the potential candidate is presented to the diocese and through the diocese to the wider church. The individual meets initially with the diocesan director of ordinands. If the time seems right he/she will then go on to be interviewed by three other people in the diocese. If all seems still to be pointing in the direction of ordination the candidate will attend a three day Advisory Panel and the people there will make a recommendation to the bishop who will decide whether or not the person should commence training.

Further details about this process and about other kinds of ordained ministry are available from the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Revd Dr Susan Penfold, Church House, 1 South Parade, Wakefield WF1 1LP
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