

It will be helpful if encouragement is given for this pattern to continue and for one or both churchwardens to be part of it, together with the Rural Dean on occasion.

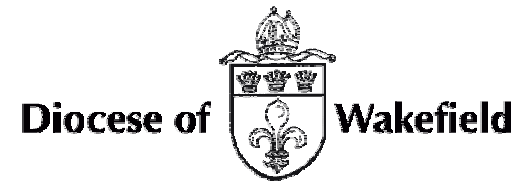
Advice and Support

The Dean of the Wakefield Ministry Scheme can provide background information about the Core Group and is available to liaise about support and oversight for them and offer advice about good practice and what parish ministry teams typically do and don't do or shouldn't do!

Where a parish is still in the initial three year WMS Programme, the Core Group will have a Diocesan Helper, usually a lay person from outside the parish who meets regularly with them and knows them well. WMS Commissioned Parishes should also maintain a link with a local Area Representative for ongoing consultancy and support when necessary.

Service of Institution or Licensing

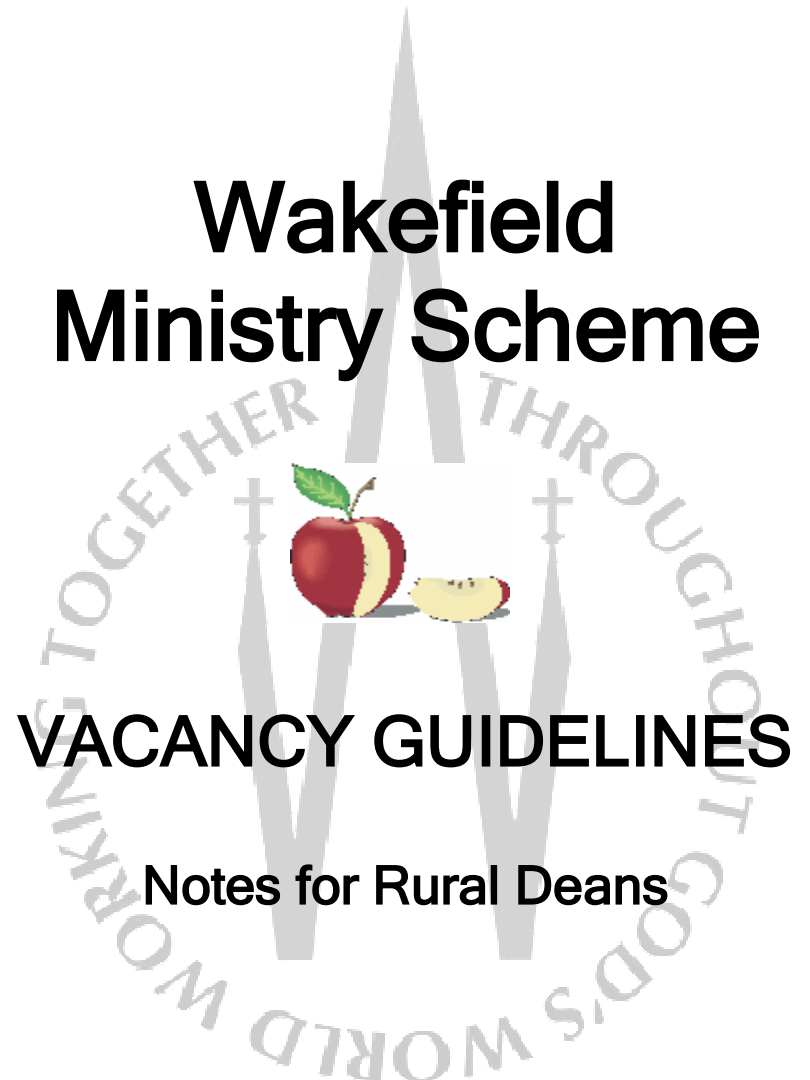
Responsibility for the production of the Institution Service rests between the parish, the priest concerned and the Rural Dean. They should ensure that the service includes explicit acknowledgement and affirmation of the Ministry Scheme in the parish. It is recommended that this be done on three levels. The general design of the liturgy and its wording should reflect a commitment to a collaborative understanding of church and ministry. There should be some direct reference to the Ministry Scheme as a feature of the life of the congregation as a whole (e.g. in the context of an Act of Dedication). Finally there should be some recognition of the specific ministry of the Core Group and any Ordained Local Minister(s) working alongside the incumbent.



Wakefield Ministry Scheme

VACANCY GUIDELINES

Notes for Rural Deans



Background Information

When the Wakefield Ministry Scheme is established in a parish or benefice it means that there is a practice of collaborative ministry in which the Incumbent shares leadership and co-ordination of ministry and mission with a 'Core Group' (Ministry Team) with the authorisation of the PCC. Some Core Groups have one or more Ordained Local Ministers among their members.

In the absence of an Incumbent, the work of the Core Group and any OLMs should continue as normally as possible, with informal supervision locally by the churchwardens and from beyond the parish by the Rural Dean.

The Core Group will give the Rural Dean a copy of any written Statement of Purpose and factual information about what they normally do. The Rural Dean, churchwardens and Core Group should hold a meeting to agree their respective roles and responsibilities during the time of vacancy.

A Wakefield Ministry Scheme Commissioned Parish has received the Bishop's recognition of a collaborative approach to mission and ministry in the parish. Core Groups are a tremendous resource for this: Rural Deans are asked to support, guide and work with them.

What do Core Groups do?

Every Core Group is a Team. However, all teams are different depending on the parish or benefice. There will usually be some form of Statement of Purpose setting out the Group's role in the parish. Typically:

1. They may have some shared team roles, for example:

- Co-ordination of pastoral ministry- who needs visiting, baptism preparation, bereavement visits etc.
 - Some regular responsibility for particular services or aspects of worship
 - Involvement in leading, co-ordinating or supporting courses or parish groups, e.g Emmaus, prayer groups, WMS training units
 - Mutual support and prayer for each other, the parish and community
2. Individual members may have specific roles, for example:
- One member might be a liaison person with Sunday School and youth work
 - Another will be Core Group administrator / co-ordinator, taking action notes and making sure things get done
 - Another might be responsible for rotas
 - Someone else might be co-ordinating schools work or baptism preparation and follow-up
 - There could be one or more Ordained Local Ministers, either deacons or priests with their particular roles

Meetings

Normally Core Groups meet at least monthly:

- To worship and pray together
- To tackle immediate concerns in ministry and mission
- To plan ahead, prioritise, and look for ways of promoting the ministry of the whole church
- To offer mutual support