

PARISH:

In recent years diocesan Local Ministry Schemes have become widespread in the Church of England. Most provide training for lay people to share in ministry within the life of their local church. Many offer a route to Ordained Local Ministry, where candidates are selected, trained on a nationally approved diocesan programme, and deployed as non-stipendiary clergy in their own parishes. The majority of Schemes comprise both elements, and this is the case in the Diocese of Wakefield.

The Wakefield Ministry Scheme provides a three year programme of exploration and training in shared ministry for participating parishes. The programme is taken forward in the parish through the work of a 'Core' group, typically of six to nine people; in the case of a church with its own resident incumbent, he or she will normally be a member of the group. Individual vocations to particular ministries including ordination to diaconate and priesthood, may arise as the programme progresses.

The national Report on Ordained Local Ministry, **Stranger in the Wings** (published in 1998) made some firm recommendations about what should happen during the process of appointment of a new incumbent to a parish which has a Ministry Scheme in place, as follows:

- a) *The Diocesan Bishop should have unequivocal evidence of a prospective incumbent's commitment to shared ministry, and be sure that it is not merely a commitment to delegation.*
- b) *The papers describing the parish should state clearly the present nature of collaboration in the parish and include information about any existing Local Ministry Team and Ordained Local Ministers (either already or in training).*
- c) *The prospective incumbent must meet any OLMs in the benefice (ordained or in training) and the OLM(s) must be given the opportunity to make their view known to the bishop before any offer is made.*
- d) *Where there is an established and commissioned Local Ministry Team or one in the course of training, it must be made clear to the prospective incumbent that this is a 'given' in the parish.*
- e) *New appointees should undergo training in the diocese before moving to their new post, and must commit themselves to ongoing training.*

The purpose of this document is to help ensure that these requirements are met in the process of making an appointment in the parish of

Specific details of the Wakefield Ministry Scheme in the parish are given overleaf.

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

2. OPERATION OF THE SCHEME IN THE PARISH

About the Core Group:

Who are we?

What do we do?

What is our Vision for the future?

3. USEFUL CONTACTS