

Confirmation 2010

in the
Diocese of Wakefield



Confirmation is a significant and memorable occasion for candidates, their family and friends and for the regular members of our congregations. It is a celebration of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and a time of personal commitment. Confirmation recognises the value of each person within the body of Christ.

Preparation for confirmation, the service and the encouragement of discipleship following the day are very important and should be undertaken by candidates, clergy and congregations with appropriate care and reflection.

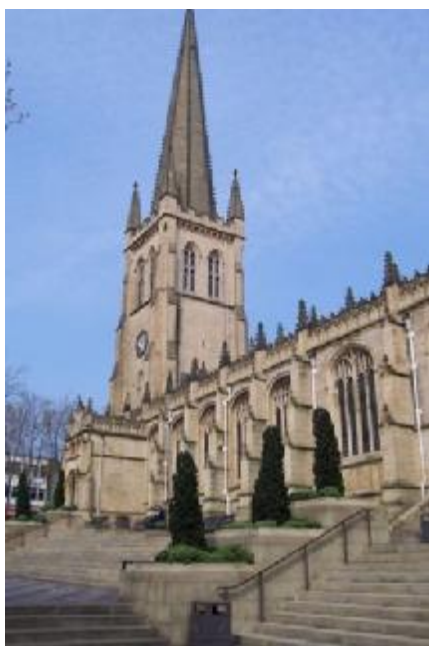
Confirmation is an opportunity to rejoice in the depth of God's love, to explore the breadth of the Christian faith and to set firm the foundations of faith for a lifetime.

+ *Sister Wakefield.*

+ *Tony Pontefract*

Booking a Confirmation Service

To book a confirmation service please contact Bishop Tony who organises the diary for all confirmations in the diocese. It is of value if those being confirmed can realise they are part of a much wider group. Joining together with nearby parishes or in deanery groups can provide support for candidates in preparation, on the day and in their continuing journey.



Cathedral Confirmation

Each year there are two Confirmations at Wakefield Cathedral. This year the Cathedral Confirmations will be on 15 May and 20 November. Candidates and sponsors gather at 3pm for a welcome and tour of the cathedral. The Bishop talks with everyone before a rehearsal at 4.15pm. There is then a tea and time of quiet preparation before the Confirmation service at 6.00pm. If you would like to book candidates into this celebration please contact Bishop Tony.

Sacred Space

In Spring each year the diocese hosts two events for young people who are considering confirmation. These are an opportunity for young people to meet and explore confirmation, spirituality and discipleship together.

The events take place in an afternoon and include refreshments. They are interactive and engaging and end with worship together.

One afternoon is for those aged 9 to 13 and the other is for those between 14 and 18 years. For more information please see the enclosed leaflet or contact the Children and Youth Team at Church House.



The dates for this year's events are:
Sunday 11 April for those aged 14 to 18 years
Sunday 9 May for those aged 9 to 13 years
The events will be at
Wakefield Cathedral from 2pm to 5pm

Preparation

Preparing candidates for confirmation is a considerable privilege. It is a task which should not be undertaken lightly. Those being prepared for confirmation will be expected to have spent a significant time exploring the issues that their confirmation raises. Some of their preparation will come from being part of the usual church life and worship and some will come from particular times set aside for their preparation.

Each parish may undertake this preparation in a form that it feels is appropriate for the candidates, but it would be expected that each candidate will:

- Explore the wonder of the promises of God
- Reflect on the story of Jesus
- Consider the work of the Holy Spirit
- Examine the promises they will make at their confirmation
- Appreciate the significance of the Holy Communion
- Discover how their faith will impact on their life
- Celebrate their part in the church family

The Confirmation Service

Before the Confirmation service each candidate should send some information to the bishop who is to confirm them. This should give a brief background about the candidate, their hopes for the day and their aspirations for future discipleship. Information could be sent in many forms and parishes should ensure that appropriate support is given to all candidates to help them complete this task.

Each candidate can be assured of the bishops' prayers in preparation for the service and as they seek to live out their faith following the Confirmation service.

Before each service there should be a rehearsal where candidates are able to "walk through" what will happen on the day. Candidates should be aware of the responses they will make and what they will be asked during the service.



After the Service

Confirmation is not an ending, but is a point marking a new phase in the Christian journey of discipleship. Those who have been confirmed should be encouraged to meet together to reflect on the service and to look to the future.

Those who have been confirmed should be encouraged to continue using their gifts as part of the Christian family. Parishes should develop and implement plans to continue to nurture and support those they have prepared for confirmation.

Admission to Holy Communion before Confirmation

Since June 2006 canon law has allowed parishes to apply to the Bishop for permission to admit children to Holy Communion before Confirmation. If you would like more information regarding this please contact the Children and Youth Team at Church House.