

Diocese of Wakefield

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Who's who?

Diocesan Director of Ordinands:

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Diocesan Vocations Adviser:

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Members of the Vocations Team who help run the Fellowship of Vocation:

The Revd Paul Cartwright, Priory House, 24 Kirkland Gardens, Monk Bretton, Barnsley S71 2GD (01226 285209)
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The Revd Gill Butterworth, Outwood Vicarage, 424 Leeds Road,

Selection and Training for Ordained Ministry

A brief guide for Incumbents and Candidates

Discernment and Selection Process

There are three stages to exploring a vocation to ordained ministry:

Informal exploration

Begins when someone contacts the Diocesan Director of Ordinands or a Vocations Adviser to find out what is involved. Usually this contact is made through the incumbent.

A time of fostering spiritual growth and exploration of different types of ministry. This may involve guided reading, spiritual direction, attendance at the Fellowship of Vocation, opportunities to meet with individuals exercising different ministries, a placement in a different type of parish, attendance at a vocations conference, etc.

Diocesan Selection

When the DDO believes the person is ready to proceed, the candidate fills out an application form and has interviews with three diocesan assessors. The assessors advise the DDO whether someone should be sponsored by the Bishop for a Bishops' Advisory Panel.

All candidates are sponsored for Ordained Ministry but there will be additional information: whether they are candidates for diaconate or the priesthood; whether they are likely to be deployable nationally or locally (and whether local is their home parish, or further afield); whether they are likely to be incumbents, or in chaplaincy of some type, or to pioneer new forms of church; whether they will be in stipendiary ministry.

Bishops' Advisory Panel

These are organised and run on behalf of the House of Bishops by the Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council and normally run from Monday evening until Wednesday teatime. There are approximately 50 panels a year in different parts of the country. Candidates are sent a booklet explaining what is involved so that they can be as well prepared as possible. At the end of the panel the advisors make a recommendation to the Bishop as to whether a person should proceed to training or not.

If a person is not recommended for training reasons for this will be discussed with them. Support for non-recommended candidates will be offered by the diocese but the primary support must come from the incumbent and members of the local church. People do not normally return to a panel within two years but may, at the discretion of the DDO and Bishop, attend up to three Bishops' Advisory Panels.

Training

Candidates for stipendiary ministry who are under 30 train residentially at one of the 11 English Theological Colleges or at St Michael's College, Llandaff. Those over 30 may train residentially or on the Northern Ordination Course. Those for non-stipendiary ministry train on the Northern Ordination Course. All candidates called to serve in their home parish train as part of the Wakefield Ministry Scheme.

Recommended candidates receive grants to cover the cost of training from the Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council. Family support grants are given by the Diocese, when necessary, to candidates training residentially.