



## THE DIOCESE OF WAKEFIELD

### *Ministry in Retirement*



The Diocese of Wakefield welcomes the valuable ministry offered by retired clergy and encourages them to exercise their ministry. The bishop welcomes news of their retirement addresses and applications for his **Permission to Officiate** (PTO) both from those who have previously ministered in the diocese and those who come to live here in retirement. It is useful also to know which church/parish a retired minister regards as his/her home church/parish.

Those who request **PTO** receive such permission (subject to a 'safe to receive' for those entering the diocese and the appropriate CRB checks) on a five year basis and on the understanding that they will respond to reasonable requests from the rural deans. Those with PTO are listed in the diocesan directory where an attempt is made to indicate which clergy regard themselves as capable of exercising an active ministry.

The following points may be helpful:

- the diocese has a statutory fee of £20 for services conducted during an interregnum and expects PCCs using retired clergy for sickness and holiday duty to offer remuneration at the same level. If long periods are involved special arrangements may be made.
- interregnum fees are made payable by the diocesan office (Church House, 1 South Parade, WAKEFIELD, WF1 1LP) together with travelling expenses at the authorized rate, following a monthly return submitted through the churchwardens.
- retired clergy ministering in their 'home' church/parish should not expect fees (except for interregnum, holiday or sickness duty) unless their presence enables the incumbent to undertake diocesan duties (this would be after consultation with the bishop or archdeacon).
- retired clergy taking weddings and funerals should receive the full minister's fee and expenses for their services. These occasions should not be of a regular nature and incumbents are reminded that fees paid in this way diminish the total collected by the diocese for parochial ministry. No fee should be paid to retired clergy for weddings and funerals in the 'home' church/parish except for interregnum, holiday or sickness duty, or to release the incumbent to perform diocesan duties.

All occasional offices conducted by retired clergy should be with the full knowledge and consent of the incumbent and should include full visiting and pastoral support.

- the bishop has appointed an honorary RCO for each archdeaconry (see below) to be available to visit retired clergy if requested and to offer advice over any appropriate issue.
- incumbents should also have a special but not intrusive pastoral concern for retired clergy, clergy spouses and widows/widowers living within their parishes or who regularly worship with them. **It is the parish priest who has the prime responsibility for retired clergy.**
- the bishop warmly welcomes retired clergy at the Chrism Mass on Maundy Thursday for the blessing of the oils and the renewal of ordination vows in the cathedral and invites them to robe
- the diocese welcomes the prayers of retired clergy and the diocesan prayer list will be sent from Church House via *Update*.
- provision is made in the church representation rules for the election of one retired priest to each Deanery Synod.
- retired clergy are not normally members of PCCs unless specifically co-opted.
- retired clergy need to be aware of the importance attached to all forms of lay ministry in the diocese and we hope that they will help to support our lay leaders when they minister in any parish.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

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