

## WELCOME

In the meantime, it has been good to welcome to the Diocese our new Director of Training, Mission and Ministry, the Reverend Gavin Wakefield. He will be working on our behalf and with us to develop the new training material which will be offered from the autumn onwards to help clergy and Readers with developing collaborative ministry, team building, identifying gifts and ministries, and managing change and conflict. There will also be offered training for congregations, not in “church jobs”, but in the spiritual ministries that undergird the whole work of the church as the Body of Christ. All of this, of course, will be on-going for some time into the future.

## 2010

Later this year, work will begin on a Diocesan Lent Course for the spring of 2010. This will concentrate on how we develop the *organism* of the church as the Body of Christ, without which the *organisation* of the structures of the church have little purpose. Although this is a little in the future, it may be good to make a note of this with your own PCC. Then later in the autumn of that year will come a second review pack, this time to help us explore issues to do with our church buildings.

## FOCUS

In all of this, our focus is quite rightly on what we are doing as churches, but only in order to enable our mission in the world. If we are not doing all this in order to share better the love of God, it will feel as if we have rather lost direction.

As we all keep that in mind, please continue to uphold us in your prayers, and our firm hope is that God will use us all to extend his kingdom. God bless you as you use the material in “Refreshing Worship” later this year.

Rt Rev Martin Wallace  
January 2009



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[www.dioceseofyork.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk)



# A WAY AHEAD

MISSION AND MINISTRY FOR THE FUTURE

## Progress Report 2



THE DIOCESE OF  
YORK

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## **BEHIND THE SCENES**

Since the first Progress Report was sent out in June 2008 it may seem that everything has gone very quiet. A number of individuals and parishes have asked what is happening, not least because they are keen to be working now on the issues raised in *A Way Ahead* as they develop their own church life. That is wonderful.

In recent months, I have been invited to several Deanery Synods to speak about it, and have been really encouraged at the level of engagement. There seems to be gratitude for an honest acknowledgement of the urgency we face, together with a ready willingness to move forward in developing a truly collaborative approach in ministry. I have also met with some of our Diocesan committees and groups and with some PCCs.

In the meantime, preparations have also been made for phase one.

## **REFERENCE GROUP**

A small Task Group has been formed from among those who have the vision and commitment to take us forward. This comprises: Rev Neal Barnes, Mr Paul Davidson, Fr Andrew Howard, Rev Peter Horsley, Dr Nick Land, Mrs Tessa Oram, Mr Alan Selby and Canon Sue Sheriff.

Between them they represent the three archdeaonries and different social contexts, and of course in their own right each has a great deal to offer. Their contribution already has been extremely valuable and the meetings are sparky, exciting and very constructive.

## **REFRESHING WORSHIP**

The first part of the programme to be offered to parishes will be a pack to help congregations review their provision of worship. This is deliberately the starting point as worship is at the same time both the key to our engagement with God and also the major “shop window” of the church as people look at us.

The pack will take us into twelve different but related issues, encourage us to face key questions and invite us to come up with brave responses.

The first part will ask the often “un-askable!” - “When you were in church last week, how did you meet with God, and how did you go home different as a result?” It will then move through areas such as how we relate our weekday devotions to our Sunday experience, who we include and unwittingly exclude...and on to the question “who could lead our worship?” This means the first part has a very spiritual focus taking us into the area of exploring the gifts and ministries in our congregations, but all within the framework of our own relationship with God.

The second part will then (and only then) move into the areas of music, teaching and preaching, and ask how appropriate are the traditional assumptions about how often, when and where we meet for worship. The results could be very far reaching as we leave no stone unturned.

## **PRACTICALITIES**

We are very excited about what this could open up and obviously churches will use the pack in any way they choose. Ideally, because it may work best as congregational Away Days we want to offer suggestions for venues and possible facilitators if they are needed. Alternatively, it may be that the material could be used for a series of sermons, PCC meetings or home discussion groups. Consequently, we also hope to include some help with each of these possibilities to go with the Leaders’ notes.

## **SUPPORT**

All this we aim to send to clergy, Readers and churchwardens around the end of March. There is obviously no fixed timetable and while some churches will wish to use it very soon, for others it may fit better into their programme a little later in the year. The important thing is not *when* we do it but *that* we do it.

One of the things we realised early on is that mutual support is really valuable. This can come from particular resource people in the Diocese, but often the most helpful support comes simply from knowing you are not alone in your journey and are able to compare notes along the way.

## **OPT-IN**

We are therefore offering to help with this, but we need your help too.

When the pack is sent out, there will be a small response slip for you to let us know roughly when and how you intend to use it. We will then simply compile the list and circulated it amongst those who have been in touch. This would enable you to contact others if you so wish (perhaps within your own Deanery, those geographically near to you, or those who are part of some other network to which you belong).

You will be relieved to know that what we will definitely not be doing is creating extra paperwork for you! There will be no forms to fill-in and return at the end of it all: the material is entirely for your own local use