



City Church Ministry Training Scheme 2020-21

Introduction to the church

City Church is committed to the task of glorifying God and taking the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. We believe that God's word changes lives and therefore put the teaching of the Bible at the heart of our ministry.

We have been meeting in Edgbaston, about a mile from the city centre since September 1999. We are affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, a network linking over 500 churches in the UK.

We are grateful to God for blessing City Church and not least in the growing numbers attending the church. Around 300 people attend the 10.30am service and around 150 the 6pm service. About a third of our congregation are British undergraduates from the five universities in Birmingham and we also have a busy International Student work. The hub of our student ministry is **StudentPlus**, a meeting for students after the evening service where we break into small groups for Bible study, food and prayer.



Our Ministry Trainee scheme started in September 2001 consisting of a one or two year programme designed for recent graduates. The scheme offers a great opportunity to serve the local church, to explore and develop your gifting, and is often a stepping-stone to future ministry opportunities. We aim to have four or five MTs each year, many of whom are new graduates, although others have come to the scheme from other employment.

Core components

The programme consists of three core elements:

- ***Doing hands-on ministry***
- ***Training and equipping for ministry***
- ***Facilitating ministry through practical service***

Doing ministry

A core part of the MT year is gaining hands-on experience of gospel ministry. The primary ministry area of the MTs is among university students, including leading a small group at StudentPlus, doing 1-to-1 discipleship with students, and other opportunities throughout the year (e.g. helping to plan and run guys/girls getaways in the summer term). Each MT then will be assigned a second ministry area (e.g. children, youth, international students, evangelism etc) where they will work alongside a different ministry team within the church. Each MT typically is released to participate in a university mission week, and also a summer camp or cross-cultural mission trip. In addition to this, MTs will typically have the opportunity to be exposed to other ministries that will stretch and explore their gifting.

Training for ministry

Whether or not an MT is thinking of paid Christian ministry as a future vocation, we want to equip and train all of our MTs with skills and aptitudes that will enable them to serve the church in future, wherever God takes you. Each MT attends a local ministry training course for Bible handling training, giving talks, theological and doctrinal formation, and more. Over the year MTs typically attend at least two training conferences, take part in weekly guided reading and discussion groups, and receive further weekly training as part of the StudentPlus team.

MTs will attend monthly staff meetings alongside the senior church staff and be assigned a mentor who will meet with them on a weekly basis for discipleship, pastoral care and further development.

Facilitating ministry

City Church could not function without the work of many people serving practically to facilitate others doing ministry. MTs take a particular lead in this practical service, especially on a Sunday around our church services (MTs will typically be 'first in' and 'last out') and in office-based administration for part of the week (e.g. producing resources, data management, website and audio processing, various office administration). MTs also run a crèche for the mums' mid-week group. These practical tasks enable the various ministries of the church but also develop and build skills that will carry over into future Christian service or other employment.

Developing Christian character

Throughout each of the three core components, we are seeking to develop the MTs as mature disciples of Christ. To that end, trainees meet each week with a mentor usually to read the Bible together or a Christian book; reflect on how life and ministry is going and to pray together. Apprentices find this part of their week invaluable, as it provides an opportunity to reflect on their experiences and understanding of ministry, and to talk through encouragements and challenges. It also helps them think through how the training scheme is preparing them for a lifetime of service to Christ and his church, as well as providing opportunities for a trainee to discover, articulate, and then work through how their own personality, character and gifting shape them as individuals. This mentoring process is kept separate from line management to enable a focus on the MT's own development and spiritual state.



Length of post

The ministry trainee position is initially for 11 months (September to July) and could be extended to 2 years by mutual agreement during the first year. The first year of the ministry trainee scheme is divided into roughly equal thirds: ministry (e.g. leading a Bible study group, reading the Bible one-to-one etc.), practical (e.g. printing and folding service sheets; setting up church on a Sunday morning etc.) and training (e.g. Midlands Ministry Training Course etc.). Because the second year of the scheme is designed for those people who are considering set apart gospel ministry more seriously, the practical side is reduced so that more time can be given to hands-on ministry experience.

Availability for 2020-21

We typically have four or five MTs in any given year and expect to have between 2-3 posts available for Year 1 Ministry trainees in 2020-21. The start date for the scheme is Thursday 30th August 2020.

Finances

We pay each MT £9,200 over a year and we ask successful applicants to try and raise £4,000 of that (trainees can raise support throughout their year with us, and we will provide fundraising training from 6 months before the post starts). The amount of money an MT receives each month from City remains the same and isn't dependent on how their fundraising is going. Finances and fundraising are discussed at interview.

So who are we looking for?

The role would suit:

- Recent graduates or those coming from a secular workplace;
- Candidates with or without degree-level education;
- Candidates considering full-time Christian ministry, and those wanting to be equipped as Christian leaders in secular vocations.

Essential characteristics for candidates to demonstrate:

- A desire to serve Jesus and His body, the church;
- People who have a commitment to the importance and centrality of God's words in their own lives, and a desire to share and develop that in others;
- A Christian humility that is shown in an eagerness to learn and willingness to wholeheartedly serve in a whole variety of different contexts;
- A level of Christian maturity that would enable trainees to meet with and lead students in Bible study and manage basic pastoral issues;
- The ability to work as part of the church staff team.

What now?

If you are interested in applying you may like to visit the church on a Sunday. We would be happy to provide hospitality and even a bed for the night. If you would like to apply please fill in the attached application form by **Saturday 30th November 2019** (which is the deadline for the first round of applications) and return to:

Craig Summers (MTS applications)
City Church Office
1 Greenfield Crescent
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BE

Alternatively, please email a completed form to craig@city-church.org.uk

Interviews will be conducted from December 2019 onwards. For further information regarding City Church please visit www.city-church.org.uk/ministry-trainee-scheme. If you have further questions about our scheme contact Craig Summers on craig@city-church.org.uk.