

## Ministry Trainee Role Description

### **An introduction to Cornerstone**

Cornerstone Church Portsmouth is a young independent evangelical church, committed to glorifying God through bringing the gospel of Christ to the people of Portsmouth.

Cornerstone was planted in September 2016 with a launch team of 14 adults and 2 children. Nearly all of the launch team were previously members of Christ Church Southampton. Christ Church, in cooperation with the Solent Gospel Partnership and the FIEC, had been keen to see a church planted near Portsmouth city centre. With over 200,000 residents, the island city of Portsmouth is the most densely populated city in Britain. It has a thriving and fast-growing university which already has over 25,000 students and with significant development planned for the coming years.

In November 2015, Christ Church Southampton appointed Jon Shulver to lead plant. Jon trained at Oak Hill College and then served as Associate Minister at Farnham Baptist Church. Before moving to Portsmouth he was the full time Director of Contagious Bible Ministries - heading up the work of arranging Bible conferences for young people.

Since Cornerstone began to meet formally in September 2016 a number of people outside the launch team have joined the Sunday and Midweek gatherings. The average attendance on a Sunday is now around 80 people (adults and children) - mainly made up of students, those in their 20s and young families.

Visit our website for more information on Cornerstone Church and our activities:  
<https://www.cornerstonechurchportsmouth.org/>

## The Cornerstone Ministry Trainee Scheme

The Ministry Training Scheme is intended to prepare men and women for a life of faithful and effective gospel ministry in whatever context they find themselves.

It aims to provide training and nurture in three key areas.

### 1. Understanding

Ministry Trainees will have a directed reading and study programme for the year. Attendance at the weekly training day at the South Central Ministry Training Scheme ([www.southcentralmtc.org](http://www.southcentralmtc.org)) will seek to sharpen skills and grasp of biblical doctrine and allow for discussion on issues connected with ministry. In addition to the training day, Ministry trainees from Cornerstone will regularly join with those from Christ Church Southampton and Redeemer Church Winchester to look at other areas of doctrine and ministry. Some preparation for the training days will be required during the week. There is also an expectation of attending at least one conference during the year.

### 2. Character

Each Ministry Trainee will meet regularly with a mentor to pray and discuss different aspects of the Christian life. Feedback and help will be given in areas of godliness which need addressing. In addition, a servant approach to ministry should be fostered through various practical areas of service (anything from helping with chairs or the crèche rota to photocopying and washing up). Sundays, in particular, will be busy days! Ministry Trainees will work very closely with Jon and his family - allowing them to see a ministry lifestyle close-up.

### 3. Ministry skills

Ministry trainees will need to be prepared to serve in various ministries. Student ministry will definitely feature - with each Ministry Trainee expected to meet 1:1 with students each week in term-time. Ministry Trainees will also likely be involved in children's work and will be appropriately DBS checked.

## Practicalities

- **Finance.** The scheme is voluntary and therefore there is no formal contract of employment or salary. However, Ministry trainees are typically able to access funds of around £6,000pa for living expenses and accommodation. This comes through different sources, but we will walk you through the steps to access this support. We will also cover all your training costs and you will be given a book allowance to purchase ministry related books.
- **Time off.** You will be expected to take one full day off each week, and will be given 1 further rest day per month, in addition to 6 weeks' holiday in total during the university vacation period. In addition to this, you will be encouraged to attend at least one conference and at least one camp (or similar) during the year.
- **Office.** Ministry trainees will be based at the Cornerstone office in central Portsmouth.
- **Term.** The scheme is ideally run for a 2-year duration. An initial commitment for one year is made, beginning 1 September 2021. It would then be extended to 2 years by mutual agreement.

## Who we are looking for

First of all, please note that the nature of Cornerstone Church as a new church will make the experience of a Ministry Trainee slightly different from what is typical in a large and established church. It may therefore appeal to a different kind of person and require certain qualities that may be less crucial in another context.

In particular, you are likely to be

- **Flexible.** Your ministry will not have a tight focus and may change and develop during the year.
- **A self-starter.** You will get plenty of opportunity to talk and pray with others, and a lot of access to Jon during the week, but you will also need to initiate friendships and ministry opportunities. It won't be handed to you on a plate.
- **Disciplined.** You will be treated as an adult and left to get on with things. You won't have every minute of the day planned out for you. So you need to be able to organise your time well so as to get everything done.

There are other qualities we are looking for which are common to most similar apprenticeship schemes. For example, you need to be

- **Bible-oriented** - committed to being shaped by God's word and keen to share it with others.
- **Humble** - willing to learn new things and to roll up your sleeves and get stuck in wherever you're needed.

- Competent - able to handle the Bible and to communicate it to others reasonably proficiently.
- A team player - secure enough to ask for help, caring enough to offer it, able to take direction and correction, more interested in the outcome than personal recognition.

## Application

Still interested after all that? This really is an exciting opportunity - so please prayerfully consider finding out some more...

The first step is to get in touch with Jon by email ([jon@cornerstonechurchportsmouth.org](mailto:jon@cornerstonechurchportsmouth.org)). Please provide contact details and a brief self-introduction. Jon will reply and suggest a time for an exploratory telephone conversation.

After this, by mutual agreement, he will send an application form and invite you for interview.