

South Wales Baptist
Association Internship
Programme
2019

Internship Application Pack



Welcome to the South Wales Baptist Association Internship Programme.

We want to say thank you for your interest in this amazing opportunity to invest in a local church and community for the sake of the gospel. We're excited as an Association and as a church to offer a way to invest in you, a person who has a heart to serve and make a difference within South Wales.

We believe that having good communication and clear expectations are key for all parties involved to have a successful internship experience and have put together this pack as a guide to who we, as an Association and Host church, are seeking God for and for you to have an idea of whether that person could be you.

We hope this will be a very helpful tool to discern God's call upon your life. After reading the information there is an opportunity to apply with the enclosed application form.

Please contact us at any time with any questions – We are here to support you and we're praying for many lives to be reached, served and helped through this programme.

Bless you,

The South Wales Baptist Association Team and Bryn Sion Baptist Church



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Information for Intern

Contents

1. THE CHURCH

- a. About
- b. The local community
- c. Activities and Ministry

2. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- a. Youth and Community
- b. Families and Children
- c. Other opportunities

3. ROLE REQUIREMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- a. Skills/Character
- b. Cost
- c. Accommodation

4. APPLICATION FORM

1. The Church

a. ABOUT

Bryn Sion Baptist Church in Aberdare is a small to medium sized church with approx. 30 in membership with average Sunday attendance of between 80 – 100. Our church family is growing and we are now a community which comprises of every age bracket from babies, to toddlers, to primary aged children, to teens, to twenties, right through to our elderly ‘mothers and fathers’ in their late 80s and 90s.

We want to be a church family who are: “plugged into Christ's life, connected up in Christ's love, and shining out Christ's light”. We have 5 key purposes:

- We're alive to live for God;
- We're here to honour God;
- We're formed for God's family;
- We're shaped to serve God;
- We're made for God's mission.

Over the last few years the Lord has led us on an exciting journey. The Lord has helped us greatly and continues to do so. We have focussed on being a church family, discipleship, and developing ministries that reach out to families. We have also done some ministry, preaching and leadership development.

b. THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Church is located in Trecynon, Aberdare - part of the Cynon Valley in South Wales. Aberdare is a town with a population of around 35,000. The area has a rich church history (having twenty Baptist chapels by 1897) but also a cultural one, hosting the National Eisteddfod in 1861 and building a cinema funded by miners.

Despite the wonderful history, Aberdare suffered from the decline in the coal and iron industry and has been heavily dependent on commercial business as a major source of employment. Due to the lack of employment opportunities, 31.8% of the population leave school with no qualifications and the majority of crime within the area is anti-social behaviour (at 33.65% of all crime).

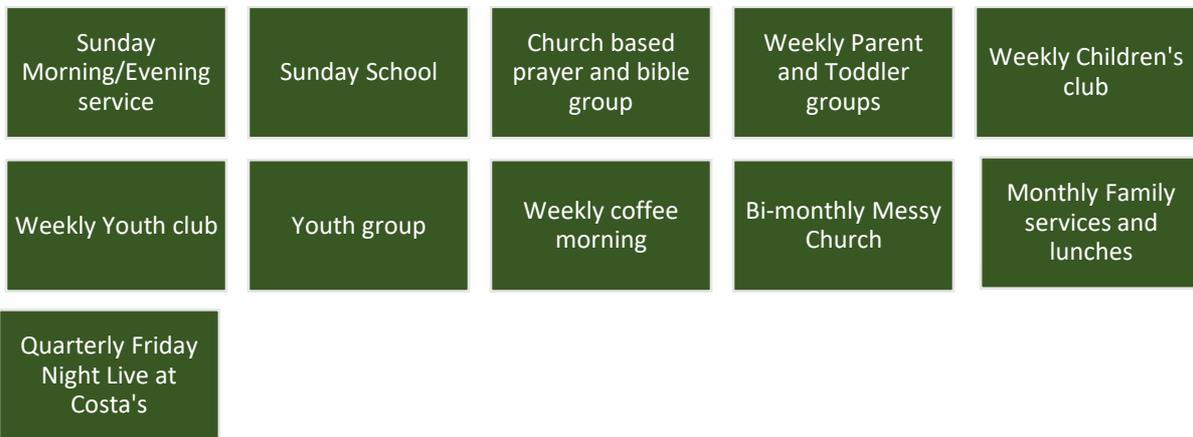
In recent years and with improvements to public transport and affordable housing, Aberdare (and specifically Trecynon) has become an attractive location for commuters. With 36.5% of people owning their own home, there has been a shift in culture. Young families can afford to buy their own homes and travel outside the valley for employment. This leaves an amazing opportunity for community-based outreach to stay-at-home parents, to children and youth struggling to imagine future prospects and for weekend activities within the valley for families to enjoy together.

c. ACTIVITIES AND MINISTRY

Bryn Sion are informal in gatherings, expressive in worship and spontaneous in prayer. We encourage everyone to feel free to participate and share and we have specific Sunday mornings where the whole service is given to people sharing and together hearing what the Lord is doing and saying in the Body.

The church has a range of activities throughout the year to facilitate opportunities to serve in church-based ministry and community-based outreach. We have a missional strategy which can be bracketed into 3 stages: the pre-seeker stage, the seeker stage, and the new believer stage, we are committed to running groups to meet this strategy and for continual discipleship within the life of the church.

Meetings



Groups



Other Activities



We are committed to the continued organic development of small groups with the purpose of life change and therefore ultimately group change.

2. Internship Opportunities

The duration of the programme will be a **6-month internship** which could be **extended to 12-months** depending on outcomes and a need for continual work, starting from (but not bound to) **January 2019**.

The internship is open to **those over the age of 18**, this includes coming just out of education to those in early or active retirement.

What you will gain from undertaking the internship:

- Develop your pastoral skills;
- Develop your communication and relational skills;
- Build your confidence;
- Apply your knowledge in a ministerial setting;
- Gain discernment for a call to ministry;
- Potential to study a short course at the South Wales Baptist College;
- Discern your gifting and purpose;
- Grow spiritually;
- Develop group leadership skills;
- Develop preaching and discipleship skills;
- Practical experience working in mission.

We have identified three key areas (youth, children and families and new believers' discipleship) - where we see opportunities for the growth and development of church-based ministry combined with community-based outreach. These areas give an amazing opportunity to someone discerning a call to Ministry to develop in their knowledge and experience.

The internship, however, is NOT fixed to these areas of opportunity. We very much believe that the programme will be influenced by the right person and their heart to serve. This means the programme could change over the course of the year or start off being something identified by meeting the potential intern, please do get in touch with us or apply even if you do not quite know what you would like to get involved in or be a part of.

a. YOUTH AND COMMUNITY

Bryn Sion currently have a church-based youth group, which meets on Sunday and during the week, and a community-based youth group that meets weekly. Having a heart to see young people reaching their God given purpose and gifts, interns will have the opportunity to work with young people developing relational and pastoral skills. You'll contribute to the nurturing of the youth ministry programme of the church.

In supporting the youth leadership team, there is an opportunity for your creativity to be used in integrating the community youth with the church youth and to the whole church family. Hands-on experience in serving the community through schools' outreach is a possibility.

b. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

We, as a church, are currently exploring an opportunity to deliver Open the Book Bible Society programme in our local primary school and we also want to developing/hosting parenting courses and other such courses/activities that support families.

With an open door into school outreach and our current weekly activities with young families, there is an opportunity for interns, with a passion for seeing families strengthened in their faith, to help develop and nurture this ministry.

c. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Besides the key areas listed above we are open to having interns serve in other areas too, such as:

- Work alongside those who currently lead groups/events for spiritual seekers and new believers;
- Preaching/teaching development opportunities;
- Pastoral care within our congregation and in the community (this could be visiting and delivering church services to the local residential homes);
- Possible Street Pastors type ministry;
- Develop online media;
- Practical help in developing our building and facilities as we currently face major challenges in having a building fit for purpose;
- Supporting and working with other Baptist churches in the valley;
- We would also expect the intern to play his/her part in wider church life by serving on some of our ongoing rotas that keep the church functioning.

3. Role Requirements and Contributions

a. SKILLS/CHARACTER

There is a requirement for this internship position to be filled by a committed and practicing Christian.

We are seeking God for interns with the following **qualities**:

- Have a passion to reach people with the gospel;
- Have a love for people;
- Have a heart to serve others.

Skills we are looking for:

ESSENTIAL

- Good communicator;
- Trustworthy and reliable;
- Can manage your own time;
- Willingness to learn, listen and remain teachable;
- Have a 'can-do' attitude, getting stuck in and using initiative;
- Approachable and comfortable approaching others;
- Good at relationship building;
- Happy to lead group discussions/sessions (even if you lack confidence in this area);
- Have a good understanding of the scriptures and the gospel message;
- Confident in using public transport;
- Have a desire to develop the skills the internship is offering.

DESIRABLE

- Access to a car;
- Musical;
- Have knowledge about buildings and building maintenance.

As you may be working with children and/or vulnerable adults a DBS check will be required and carried out and you will be required to attend Safeguarding Training provided by the Association.

b. COST

If cost is an issue for you please note that on the application form under the correct section, we do not want the cost to put off anybody discerning a call to be a part of this programme.

Each placement in the Internship programme is a voluntary, unpaid position. The cost of the internship is £1,000. This covers part of the food and living costs, the South Wales Baptist

Association also contributes towards food and living costs – with the combined cost interns are projected to live on £250 a month. To help with these costs we suggest interns to look to their sending church, friends and family as sponsors to support them.

Accommodation and expenses directly associated with the programme are provided by Bryn Sion Baptist Church (see about accommodation below).

c. ACCOMMODATION

A member of Bryn Sion Baptist Church is offering two bedrooms on the third floor of her house, room for up to three interns, and a shared bathroom in her home as accommodation for the internship programme. She and her late husband had a vision for their home to be used for such a purpose and it is located 100 yards away from the church building.

Kitchen and laundry facilities will be used in the home and there are additional kitchen facilities in the church building.

Trecynon has a SPAR convenience store, post office, cash point and surgery within walking distance and supermarkets Tesco and Asda within a mile which are both accessible by public transport. Sobell Leisure Centre and Aberdare Swimming Pool 1.5 miles away and also accessible by public transport.

If you have any further questions about Accommodation please do not hesitate to contact us. Or if you already live in the local area but would still like to be considered for the internship please indicate this on the application form in the correct section.

4. Application Form

Please complete the form and return it to: Association Administrator, South Wales Baptist Association, 54 Richmond Road, Roath, Cardiff CF24 3UR

1. ABOUT YOU

a. Personal Details

NAME:			
POSTAL ADDRESS:			
		POSTCODE:	
CONTACT NUMBER:			
EMAIL:			
DATE OF BIRTH:		GENDER: <i>(for accommodation purposes)</i>	

b. Marital Status: *there is opportunity for married couples to do the internship together*

Single Married Widowed Divorced Engaged

If engaged, expected date of marriage _____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

If married, is your spouse in full agreement to you attending this internship?

Yes No

c. Do you have any dependents? Yes No

If yes, are arrangements in place to allow you to be part of the internship process?

Yes No

d. How did you become aware of this internship programme?

e. Next of Kin/Emergency Contact

NAME:		
POSTAL ADDRESS:		
	POSTCODE:	
HOME NUMBER:		
MOBILE NUMBER:		
RELATIONSHIP TO YOU:		

f. Education

Please outline a summary of your qualifications (secondary/higher education/post graduate/additional qualifications) *250 words max*

Please list any learning needs you may have, i.e. Dyslexia, ADHD etc.

g. Previous employment/recent work history

Please describe any previous experience you may have had, give details of recent employment history and duration (this can include voluntary work) *250 words max*

2. CHRISTIAN LIFE

a. Are you a committed Church member at your local church?

Yes No

NAME OF CURRENT CHURCH:	
CHURCH DENOMINATION:	
SENIOR MINISTER/LEADER:	

b. Will this church be your sending church?

Yes No If no, please state sending church _____

c. How long have you attended your current church? _____

d. What involvement have you had in this church?

e. What ministry position(s) or responsibilities, if any, did you hold in your current church?

f. Briefly describe your Christian journey, including your conversion and ongoing spiritual walk. *250 words max*

3. INTERNSHIP

a. Why have you chosen to do the internship programme with us? *250 words max*

b. Which part of the internship are you particularly interested in?

c. What skills/gifts/talents/qualities can you offer to the internship programme? Please refer to the Role Requirements *250 words max*

d. Accommodation

Will you need Accommodation?

Yes No If no, please specify why _____

Are you willing to share a room?

Yes No

e. Cost

Will your sending church be contributing to the cost of the internship?

Yes No

Briefly describe how you plan to fund the cost of the internship

Will you have difficulty raising the £1,000 contribution?

Yes No

4. MEDICAL INFORMATION

Do you consider yourself to have a disability, impairment or long-term condition?

Yes No

Please list all known medical conditions including food and drug allergies, asthma, diabetes, etc.

Have you been hospitalised within the last 12 months?

Yes No

If yes to any of the above, please indicate any ongoing medication or support needed in managing your medical condition.

If you have listed a medical condition please outline how you feel this will affect your day to day living and internship life.

5. SAFEGUARDING/ CHILD PROTECTION DECLARATIONS

a. Have you ever had an offer to work with children/young people declined?

Yes No

If YES, please give details

b. Do you suffer or have you suffered any illness which may directly affect your work with young people?

Yes No

If YES, please give details

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions Order 1975)

Due to the nature of the work for which you are applying this position is exempt from the provision of section 4 (II) of The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions Order 1975) and you are therefore not entitled to withhold information about convictions which for other purposes are “spent” under the provisions of the Act and in the event of appointment, any failure to disclose such convictions could result in the withdrawal of approval to work with children/young people with Bryn Sion Baptist Church.

c. Have you ever been charged with or convicted of a criminal offence; or are you at present the subject of criminal investigations? (NB The disclosure of an offence may not prohibit your appointment).

Yes No

If YES, please give details including the nature of the offence(es) and dates.

d. Have you ever been involved in court proceedings concerning a child for whom you have parental responsibility?

Yes No

If YES, please give details and dates.

e. Has there ever been any cause for concern regarding your conduct with children?

Yes No

If YES, please give details

f. To your knowledge have you ever had any allegation made against you which has been reported to, and investigated by, Social Services and/or the Police?

Yes No

If YES, we will need to discuss this with you.

I confirm that the submitted information for safeguarding/ Child Protection declarations is correct and complete.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

NOTE: A full DBS check will be requested in the event of a successful application.

6. REFERENCES

Please provide contact details for the following referees:

Sending Church Referee

CHURCH LEADER NAME:	
CONTACT NUMBER:	
EMAIL:	

May we contact pre-interview?

Yes No

General Referee

NAME:	
CONTACT NUMBER:	
EMAIL:	

May we contact pre-interview?

Yes No

I have prayerfully considered all the information and insight I have gained about the South Wales Baptist Association Internship Programme so far and have fully and frankly completed this form to the best of my ability.

I hereby authorise The South Wales Baptist Association to obtain references to support this application and accept and release The South Wales Baptist Association and Bryn Sion Baptist Church and referees from liability caused by giving and receiving information. I confirm that the information given on this form is correct and any misleading or falsification of information may be proper cause for rejection, or if chosen, cause for dismissal.

I understand that the information given on this form will be held by The South Wales Baptist Association for the purpose of processing my application in conjunction with the Association's [privacy statement](#) and [Data Protection Policy](#).

Signed: _____

Date: _____