

## Widcombe Baptist Church Apprenticeship

Widcombe Baptist is an FIEC church, near to the centre of Bath, with about 300 attending our Sunday morning service, made up of a whole range of families, students, young people, retired people and international students. With two universities in the city, we have a number of students in the congregation, and a particular focus on work with international students as well. We are committed to 'declaring the whole counsel of God' through the expository Bible teaching of our ministers, and have a strong history of supporting missionary work overseas and in the UK. Our aim is to grow together under the teaching of God's Word and to seek to reach out with the gospel to those around us.

This year we have been pleased to host the local Passion for Life events in our building, as a part of our partnership with other evangelical churches locally to reach Bath with the good news. We are a part of the South West Gospel Partnership, with a number of people in the church attending or having attended the local SWGP Ministry Training scheme.

We have benefitted from having had ministry apprentices serving our church over a number of years, and believe that the apprentices themselves have enjoyed their time on the scheme, as well as being well prepared to better serve Christ. We currently have two apprentices and are keen to appoint a replacement to join us in September 2010 for an apprentice who is finishing this summer, who has had a special role with international students.

### The Apprentice Role

The Apprentice role is designed around practical service, personal study, Bible training and ministry opportunities, supervised by the ministers, Rupert Bentley-Taylor and Jonathan Skinner.

#### 1. Ministry

The role involves a full immersion in the life of the church, and offers a great opportunity to serve in the church in a wide variety of ways. It involves participation in the weekly church meetings, including morning and evening meetings on Sunday, and prayer meeting or home group on Wednesdays (alternate weeks). Alongside this, apprentices usually help at one of the youth groups.

We have significant opportunities to reach international students and it is anticipated that the person appointed will work closely with our international student worker and attend our Cafe International event each Tuesday evening as well as meeting up with individuals.

The apprentices at Widcombe are particularly important to our broader student ministry, meeting with and seeking to disciple the students who are part of our church. The main meeting for students is Underground, which runs after the evening service on Sunday. It is expected that apprentices will:

- seek to welcome new students at Sunday services
- attend Underground each week (which will often involve leading a discussion group)
- seek to meet weekly to read the Bible 1-2-1 with two or three students and with others as the need or opportunity arises
- (occasionally) give talks on issues of doctrine or the Christian life

## 2. Bible Training

Our apprentices receive weekly training through three methods:

- The South-West Ministry Training course ([www.swgp.org.uk/training](http://www.swgp.org.uk/training)). The course is one day per week of lectures and tutorials on Bible books and ministry issues, with the opportunity to give practice talks and take part in discussion groups.
- A weekly seminar with the minister, Rupert Bentley-Taylor, which covers a wide range of ministry issues and usually involves each apprentice preparing a short talk or presentation.
- A weekly Bible study with our apprentice trainer going through a book of the Bible in depth

Beyond this it is expected that full involvement in ministry in the church, with the opportunity for feedback will provide invaluable training on the nuts and bolts of Christian work. There will also be many informal discussions and the chance to closely observe Word ministry in action, particularly with respect to our full-time ministers.

## 3. Practical service

One important aspect of being an apprentice is serving in a number of practical ways such as setting up for various events, helping with some general cleaning to be done around the church building and ensuring the security of the building. A willing and serving spirit is a key part of fulfilling the role.

## 4. Personal Study

The various training activities undertaken require time set aside for personal study on Bible books and theological issues. As well as planning this into the week, the church is willing to contribute to the purchase of books and study materials for this purpose.

There may also be the opportunity to attend conferences or weekends in the course of the year for training purposes.

## Other details

Widcombe will provide each apprentice with accommodation for the duration of the scheme. Further to this, the church will supply a £3000 subsistence grant towards living expenses. We do ask that apprentices seek to raise a target of £2000 of personal support, and also to organise prayer support.

The core hours of the scheme are 9-5 Monday-Friday and Sundays. In addition, home group and prayer group, youth group and occasional events will take place during the evening. Inevitably, meeting with individuals will also sometimes take place outside of core hours.

The scheme commences on 1 September 2010 and last for an initial period of one year, with the potential opportunity to extend for another year.

**Due to the fact that the accommodation we have available for a new apprentice will involve sharing with our male international student worker, we are needing to look for a male apprentice.**

**For more details, please contact Rupert Bentley-Taylor on 01225 835 047 or at [rupertbt@aol.com](mailto:rupertbt@aol.com)  
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