



## **The Crowded House Sheffield Gospel Trainee Scheme**

### **Intro**

Looking to take a gap year in a traditional church setting? Then, keep looking! Otherwise, read on...

### **The Crowded House Sheffield**

The Crowded House Sheffield is a network of Gospel Communities (GCs). In our GCs we share life together; eating together, praying together and discipling one another with the aim of sharing the gospel with those who don't know Jesus. Our Gospel Trainee (GT) Scheme offers a unique opportunity to serve and be trained in the context of these GCs and the wider Gathering. Each trainee is placed with a Gospel Community, which will be the context for the majority of their mission and ministry.

*“The GT year has taught me a huge amount about pretty much all the things that I needed to learn: the Bible, the Church, the importance of drinking tea - and ultimately about the idols that rule my heart and how the Gospel can speak into every aspect of my life and the lives of every single person I know.” Tim, GT 2010-2011*

In addition to life in their GC, trainees have a variety of tasks and responsibilities each week. These vary depending on needs at the time and the gifts of each trainee. Things that former trainees have been involved in are:

- Handyman jobs
- Web updating
- Preparing projection displays for Gatherings
- Organising and helping with Conversation Club
- Making short films
- Setting up and running a lunch club for the elderly
- Research work
- Cleaning
- Establishing and building on links with local shopkeepers and the schools in the area
- Meeting up with students: to encourage them in their discipleship
- Developing the children's work within the context of the whole church community
- Responsibility for recording sermons and uploading the podcasts
- Helping people in the local church with the stuff of every day life (walking dogs, picking up children from school, washing cars, etc)
- Pastoral visits
- Helping run the network's football team
- Helping set up and run the Asylum Seeker initiative

*"The GT year was an invaluable experience. I learnt about real everyday service of Jesus and my church family. I was able to get stuck in to the nitty gritty of church." Claire, GT 2009-2010*

## **Training**

A variety of training comes as part of the Scheme:

**Porterbrook Learning** - trainees take part in this course which helps ordinary Christians learn how to serve Jesus and his people better. It's not theology for theology's sake. It offers concrete applications and examples, whilst allowing those studying to train in the context of ordinary life in their local community. For more information go to [www.porterbrooknetwork.org](http://www.porterbrooknetwork.org).

**'On the Job Training'** - trainees will work alongside more mature/ experienced members of the church with the intention that they'll be trained as they observe and 'do'.

**GC Training** - trainees will be 'gospelled' and trained as part of sharing lives with others in their GCs.

*"I'm so thankful for my year as a GT. I discovered more about the depths of my own sin and rejoiced more at the beautiful sufficiency of Jesus' grace than in any other year of my life to date!" Lucy, GT 2008-2009*

## **Funding**

Board and lodging are provided. Gospel Trainees are encouraged to find paid work for up to 15 hours per week, as a means of contact with non-Christians, and for extra funding.

## **Who should apply?**

We are looking for people who are willing to be very flexible and risk their sense of comfort, security and traditions – all for the sake of the gospel. We usually ask that those who apply have experience of holding down a job or have completed a university, or equivalent, course. Although not essential, those with technical skills are particularly encouraged to apply! The next start date is 1 September 2012.

*"(So far) I've found my time as a GT formative, rewarding and challenging. I'm thankful that I've had the opportunity to serve the church. It's taught me how to serve joyfully for God's glory (primarily in the mundane behind-the-scenes jobs) and given me a deeper appreciation of, and dependence on, Christ's finished work (especially when things go awry). Whilst I feel I've learnt a lot (knowledge wise) through the Porterbrook training course and suggested reading material I've been encouraged, at every point, to apply it on a heart level which I've found very fruitful." James, current year GT*

## **Want to know more?**

For further details, contact Beth Spink ([beth.spink@thecrowdedhouse.org](mailto:beth.spink@thecrowdedhouse.org)).