

## What about financial support?

This is always a difficult question to answer because of the variety of schemes available; but most churches offering a scheme provide some financial support.

Some individuals are considered to be employees of the Church and receive payment for the service they provide at a level equal to or above the National Minimum Wage. Other schemes do not involve a contract of employment, but a bursary or grant is offered by the church to help with living costs; in some cases, accommodation may be provided.

A good indicator of the quality of the training you are likely receive from a scheme, is the degree to which the church demonstrates a concern to see that your basic needs are adequately met.

However, depending upon your living costs, you may still need to draw upon your own savings or seek financial support from family or friends or your home church. An SGP financial bursary may also be available to help with the costs.

When thinking about the financial aspects of joining a Ministry Training Scheme, it is important to remember that it is an opportunity not only to receive training but to test and develop your character, knowledge and skills. One of the biggest questions is whether, above all else, it is the Gospel that motivates you to join a Ministry Training Scheme.



**SUSSEX  
GOSPEL  
PARTNERSHIP**

## MINISTRY TRAINING SCHEMES

*designed for the future*

**Thinking about  
full-time Bible  
ministry?**



**Wondering if it might  
be for you?**



**Has someone  
suggested you  
look into it?**

**Are you ready?**

**What may it involve?**

**Please return this form to:**

Mrs Wendy Sands  
SGP Administrator  
c/o Christ Church  
New England Road  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex  
RH16 3LE

## Ministry Training Schemes within the Sussex Gospel Partnership

The Churches in the Sussex Gospel Partnership believe in the need to help develop the next generation of servant-leaders for the local church. For this reason, many of the Partnership Churches run Ministry Training Schemes.

These schemes are designed to train and equip Ministry Trainees in the key areas in which they need to grow, if they are to be good servants of Jesus Christ in the local church. These include Christian maturity and self-discipline; knowledge of God; understanding the Bible; ability to study; readiness to teach and care for God's people; and commitment to servant-heartedness.

Churches in the Partnership share common convictions that shape their training schemes. Firstly, that God works through His Word and so good servant-leaders of His church are those who can correctly understand the Bible, apply it first to themselves and then teach it well to others. Secondly, that by far the best way to learn how to do something is do it!

## What is the purpose of a Ministry Training Scheme?

For all the men and women who complete a Ministry Training Scheme, the experience provides beneficial training for future service in the local church. Many Trainees also use the time to explore whether they should take further steps towards long-term full or part-time ministry in the Anglican or Free Churches.

For some, this means further training at a suitable Theological or Bible College. Undertaking a Ministry Training Scheme provides excellent preparation for further study and training of this kind.

## What are the main elements of a Ministry Training Scheme?

Schemes differ and it is important to discuss the details of any particular scheme when you first make contact with the Church concerned. However, the Ministry Training Schemes offered within the SGP are generally one or two-year placements, incorporating three main elements: Practical Service; opportunities to gain experience in Bible-Teaching; and some Formal Training.

What each day holds for a Ministry Trainee can vary considerably, although your weekly diary may include the following:

- Regular meetings with your Training Supervisor.
- Attendance at the Sussex Ministry Training Course in Haywards Heath (a one-day-a-week course, for one or two years, providing structured training in understanding and teaching the Bible.)
- Attendance at a Sussex Evangelical Ministry Seminar in Cuckfield (5 mornings per year).
- Opportunities to give Bible talks and receive constructive criticism.
- Involvement in the planning and leadership of Sunday and mid-week meetings.
- Assisting with School Assemblies
- Weekly reading groups with private study
- Opportunities to pray with others for the work.

Trainees are usually supervised by an experienced individual who is often, but not always, the Minister of the Church. They will provide regular and ongoing support throughout your training.

## What is the next step...?

If you would like to know more about the Ministry Training Schemes available and whether one of them might suit you, please print your details below and send the completed form to the address on the reverse; or make use of the *Contact Us* page on the SGP website.

[www.sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk](http://www.sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk)

*I am interested in knowing more about the Ministry Training Schemes advertised by the Sussex Gospel Partnership Churches.*

[PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY]

Name:

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Address:

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Postcode: .....

Telephone numbers incl. landline & mobile:

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Email:

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