



November 2021

Dear friend,

We are thankful for your interest in Greenview Church's *Apprentice Scheme*. There is considerable excitement at Greenview as to how the Lord might use this program to equip people (just like yourself) for future ministry.

Here in this *Information Pack* we will outline the most important details of the scheme. If after digesting the information you want to apply for the scheme, please find the **application form** online at this address: <https://greenviewchurch.co.uk/grow/apprentice-scheme/>

In this document you will find:

- Why here? Why now? (the background to the scheme)
- Scheme overview
- Financial matters
- Next steps

If you require more information or have any further questions, do get in touch with me. I'll be more than happy to help.

Yours in Christ,

Colin Adams
Pastor (on behalf of the elders)

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Why Here, Why Now?

The background to the scheme

Scottish context

Our *Apprentice Scheme* is set in the context of the UK generally and Scotland in particular. Once enjoying an unrivalled Christian heritage, Scotland now ranks among the most secular countries in Europe. Scotland is setting trends in all the wrong directions.

The number of born-again Christians in Scotland is estimated to sit somewhere between 1.5 - 2% of the population. Over the last five decades, churches have been gradually emptying and closing. From any rational point of view, Scotland should be now seen as an "unreached nation." This land doesn't just need revival, it needs to be completely re-evangelised.

In 2015 the Barna Group carried out a wide-ranging survey of Scotland's spiritual state. A key recommendation in their report ("Transforming Scotland") was to prioritise the training of new gospel workers. If we are to plant new churches, revitalise dying ones and sustain the existing crop, we must prioritise training. Encouragingly, across Scotland, there appears to be an increasing desire to do just that. A growing number of churches are taking up the mantle of equipping the next generation.

Greenview Church

In its 140 year history, Greenview has always had a heart for supporting gospel workers. Whether heading to the mission field or to ministry more locally, Greenview has often dug deep in supporting individuals. As well as backing members who have studied at Bible colleges, Greenview has invested in in-house training (in particular a series of *First Serve* placements).

The *Apprentice Scheme* at Greenview is the next stage in our training evolution. It sits well with the 'culture' we are trying to instil in Greenview. From the eldership team, to every church member, we want to be committed as a church to ongoing learning. Our desire is to *grow* in our likeness to Jesus, using our gifts for his glory and renown.

As a medium sided church (we have approximately 150 attending each Sunday) we are in a position to support a program of this nature. There are also a number of staff who enable us to manage a scheme like this: Colin Adams (Pastor/Teacher), Zach Watt (Elder / Projects Administrator) and Laura Porteous (Pastoral Assistant).

The 100% support of the scheme from church members highlights the desire across the church to see the *Apprentice Scheme* flourish.

Location and contacts

Greenview benefits from being located in the city of Glasgow, which situates us near Cornhill Scotland (only a brief train ride into the middle of town). As part of the *West of Scotland Gospel Partnership* and *FIEC*, we have close connections to other churches that are running similar schemes (such as the Tron Church / Harper Church). We also have developed contacts with the *Bonar Trust* who have considerable experience in the running of apprentice schemes. It is helpful too that we have a handful of members within Greenview who have completed apprentice schemes. Two of our present elders have also completed Cornhill training.

Scheme Overview

The Apprentice Scheme is a two-year programme (with a review at the end of year one).

The scheme is designed to grow the apprentice in spiritual maturity, to equip them further for service, and to assess their character and gifts for future ministry. The apprentice must be someone who is keen to grow spiritually and who is open to how God may lead them in the future.

Our desire is to see apprentices growing in

- *Conviction* – understanding, loving and submitting to God’s word in life and ministry.
- *Character* – personal godliness lies at the heart of the apprenticeship. As our hearts are changed, this should affect our attitudes, behaviours and relationships inside and outside the church.
- *Competence* – in using the gifts that God has given us in a variety of different spheres.

While the scheme is ultimately run by the local church, the apprentice will practically divide their time between church and college. There is a deliberate desire to balance theory and practice in an apprenticeship.

The apprentice scheme is five days per week. It involves two full days at Cornhill and working at Greenview over three days (Sunday may be included, either in whole or in part). There will be some core elements, while other aspects will be tailored to the individual and their gifts.

The church programme will include:

- Mentoring - fortnightly with the Pastor.
- Involvement in regular ministry responsibilities, relating to the person’s interests and gifts. These will be supervised and there will be regular feedback given.
- Reading suggested articles and reviewing books with staff team.
- Involvement in some “shadowing” of pastoral work (eg. joining an elder on pastoral visits).

- If appropriate: leading of services and public preaching (likely to be limited / and more in year two).
- Working alongside the pastor in sermon prep and reviewing sermons.
- Help in preparing materials for studies (eg. Community Group studies, youth-related).
- One to one discipling.
- Some practical service-related duties (may be included on certain rotas etc).

The Candidate

Must be able to give wholehearted agreement to the FIEC statement of faith and its 3 ethos statements. These are listed here: <https://fiec.org.uk/who-we-are/beliefs>

We are seeking someone with a growing degree of spiritual maturity but who is most importantly teachable.

Should ideally have a recommendation from their church leadership.

Financial Matters

Apprentices are volunteers and are not paid by the Church.

The church will offer support to the individual of up to £6,000 per year. This will help offset the fees of Cornhill (currently £3,270 per year).

There is no accommodation as part of the package. If help with accommodation is required, we will seek to provide any assistance we can.

We anticipate that upon acceptance, it will be highly likely that funding will be available from the Bonar Trust on a means-tested basis (this could be up to £5000).

There are several other trusts that sometimes give grants for Christian study. We can offer assistance in applying for these.

The individual would be encouraged to raise some money for their own support. Starting to build a 'supporter base' may become important for further steps in the future. Greenview would be happy to help in the putting together of letters etc.

Next steps

We would encourage you to pray about the possibility of applying for our scheme and to seek the counsel of wise Christians in your life. Do they see this as a step that would make sense for you?

If you wish to apply for the scheme, the application form can be completed online here:

The provisional deadline for applications is **28th January 2022**, but don't wait till then if you are seriously considering joining us. The sooner we know of your interest, the better, as we prayerfully seek God's will on the way ahead.