

MINISTRY INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



A VISION TO TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF GOSPEL WORKERS

I wanted to take this opportunity to personally introduce you to a new Ministry Internship Programme we are launching in Hill Street in September 2020.

Over the past few years our commitment to training and developing men and women for gospel ministry has increased and taken on new forms. We have had a number of interns attached to our congregation and have valued their contribution to the life of our church family. Equally I think valued their experience at Hill Street and a number have gone on to Theological College or are now doing gospel work in other churches.

The Ministry Internship Programme (MIP) reflects our commitment to training the next generation of gospel workers. We aim to train and equip Ministry Interns in the many and different areas in which they need to grow if they are to be effective leaders in the Church.

If you have picked up this brochure then I guess you may be thinking about some form of future gospel ministry. I do hope you will find what we are offering at Hill Street of great interest. I am personally very excited about our new Ministry Internship Programme (MIP) and am delighted to offer this training in partnership with Cornhill.

While the MIP is a new programme we have drawn heavily on the experience of similar programmes in Scotland and England. We felt it was important to learn from those who do these things well as we want to deliver a programme that is practical, relevant and prepares people for gospel ministry or further theological study.

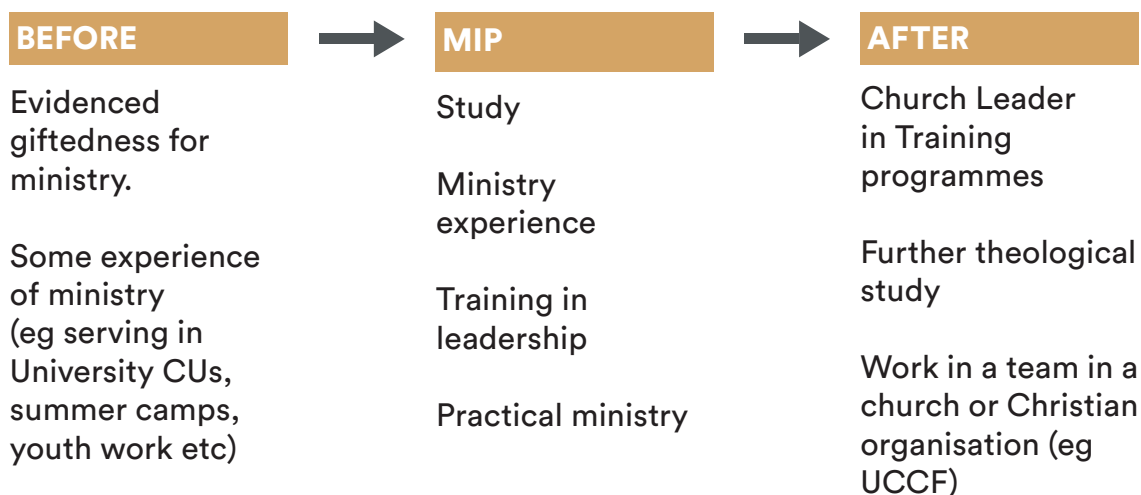
If you like what you read in this brochure can I encourage you to make contact with Peter Wright who heads up our new MIP programme. You will find Peter's contact details at the end of the brochure.

Yours sincerely,
Nigel McCullough

A STEPPING STONE TO CHURCH WORK

Pathways to Church Leadership

The MIP is an important step on the pathway to Church leadership.



While the MIP is a place for some to ‘test their gifts for ministry’ we would already expect to see evidence of some giftedness for ministry, e.g. some experience in Bible teaching, evangelism etc. It would be typical for an individual to be encouraged by their church to consider ministry because they have seen their gifts.

As part of the MIP we encourage Ministry Interns to engage in foundation study with Cornhill in Belfast.

Following the MIP, we would expect some will go into ministry, either in a church or with an organisation like UCCF. For those gifted in Church Leadership the next step might be Theological College in preparation for church ministry. Pathways to church leadership will vary with individuals



A CHURCH WITH A COMMITMENT TO TRAINING

Hill Street Presbyterian is an evangelical church based in the heart of Lurgan, Northern Ireland. We are a congregation within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and we desire to be a Gospel-shaped community of people who love God, each other and our local community.

We are a group of people of all ages, from many backgrounds, united in our desire to put God first, and to share His love with those who do not yet know Him.

We seek to teach the Bible as the Word of God. We understand that the central message of the Bible is that God has revealed himself to us through Jesus.

We believe that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, He now offers us the free gift of forgiveness and new life.

Our Sunday services take place at 11.30am and 6.30pm at our building in Hill Street.

As a church we also strive to develop community – on a Sunday but especially in our Fellowship Groups where we meet fortnightly to study the Bible and share our lives.

A supportive learning environment is less about the physical classroom and resources (though these are important) than it is about values and relationships. We aim to create a genuinely supportive learning environment where every Intern feels valued, welcomed and empowered to learn and grow.

Hill Street has a strong commitment to training. This commitment recognises the strategic long-term benefits to the wider church, both in this country and overseas, of training the next generation of Christian leaders. We must be ready to send our best people out into the wider church, in Ireland and beyond.

For a fuller description of the church, see our website.

THE ELDERS AND STAFF TEAM

Hill Street has 16 elders. Along with Nigel McCullough (Minister) they provide leadership, pastoral care and serve in different ways through the life of the church.

The staff team is Nigel McCullough (Minister), Peter Wright (Youth Worker), John Graham (Assistant Minister). Peter Leads the MIP, providing training and mentoring.

Below is some further information about the staff team each of whom will be involved in delivering various aspects of MIP



Nigel is originally from Kilkeel and studied in Aberdeen where he met his wife Katrina. He served as an Assistant in First Portadown Presbyterian before moving to Ballygrainey outside Bangor. He came to Hill Street in 2006. For a number of years he has been involved in the oversight of the training of students for the ministry and is committed to seeing a new generation of gospel workers raised up for ministry in Ireland and beyond. He and Katrina have three children who have grown up much too fast. He enjoys the odd long distance motorcycle trip though increasingly he's interested in the coffee shops along the way.



Peter grew up in Lurgan and has been part of Hill Street since his childhood. He has been on the staff team for 11 years and prior to working in Hill Street he studied at Lurgan College and Queens University, Belfast. Peter leads the Relate team on Saturday evenings and is passionate about seeing young people engage with the message of Jesus. He has been involved in teaching and training youth ministry students both at Union Theological College and through the Belfast based Centre for Youth Ministry (University of Staffordshire). He is married to Linda and is Dad to Tobias. As well as working with young people, Peter enjoys football, golf, reading and good coffee!



John grew up in Portadown and now serves as the Assistant Minister at Hill Street. He studied at Queen's University, Cornhill, and Union Theological College. John worked for a Christian charity before coming into ministry, and his time spent there has equipped him with a heart for community outreach and church planting. He also serves on the 'Strategy for Mission in Ireland' committee within PCI, and sits on the 'At The Castle' and 'NIMA' boards. Outside of church life you'll find him playing rugby, football or golf.

In addition to Elders and paid ministry staff we have a number of people at Hill Street working in different spheres of ministry (e.g. Theological Education, UCCF, Faith Mission, ministry in other churches). We consider every member of our church family to be 'in ministry' and encourage and equip one another to serve in the life of the local church alongside their day-to-day work.



CORNHILL: A TRAINING PARTNER

A core component of the MIP is partnership with an external training provider.

Ministry Interns will spend two days a week studying at Cornhill in Belfast.

The Cornhill training course began in Belfast in 2009, following the model established by David Jackman in London in 1991. The aim of Cornhill is to train people in how to handle and teach the Bible. We believe this is foundational study for ministry.

The course will be attended on a part-time basis, for two days a week over two years. The teaching days are Monday and Tuesday in the first year and Thursday and Friday in the second year.

More information about the course can be found on their website www.cornhillbelfast.org/

WHAT IS COVERED IN CORNHILL?

PART-TIME YEAR 1

MONDAY

Morning

Christian Doctrine – an introductory survey of the major doctrines of the Christian faith.

Afternoon

Practical ministry focus e.g. biblical counselling, youth ministry, evangelism

TUESDAY

Morning

In depth study of particular Bible books e.g. Genesis, Psalms, Malachi, 1 Peter and 2 Timothy.

Afternoon

Gobbet groups in which students give short presentations on selected passages of Scripture, outlining their primary purpose in their context

PART-TIME YEAR 2

WEDNESDAY

Morning

In depth study of particular Bible books e.g. Exodus, 1 & 2 Chronicles, and Mark.

Afternoon

Practical ministry focus e.g. the role of the pastor teacher, women's ministry or urban ministry.

THURSDAY

Morning

Principles of Exposition – how to preach and teach different biblical genres e.g. Old Testament prophecy, the gospels, or New Testament epistles.

Afternoon

Preaching groups in which students give full practice talks and receive constructive feedback.

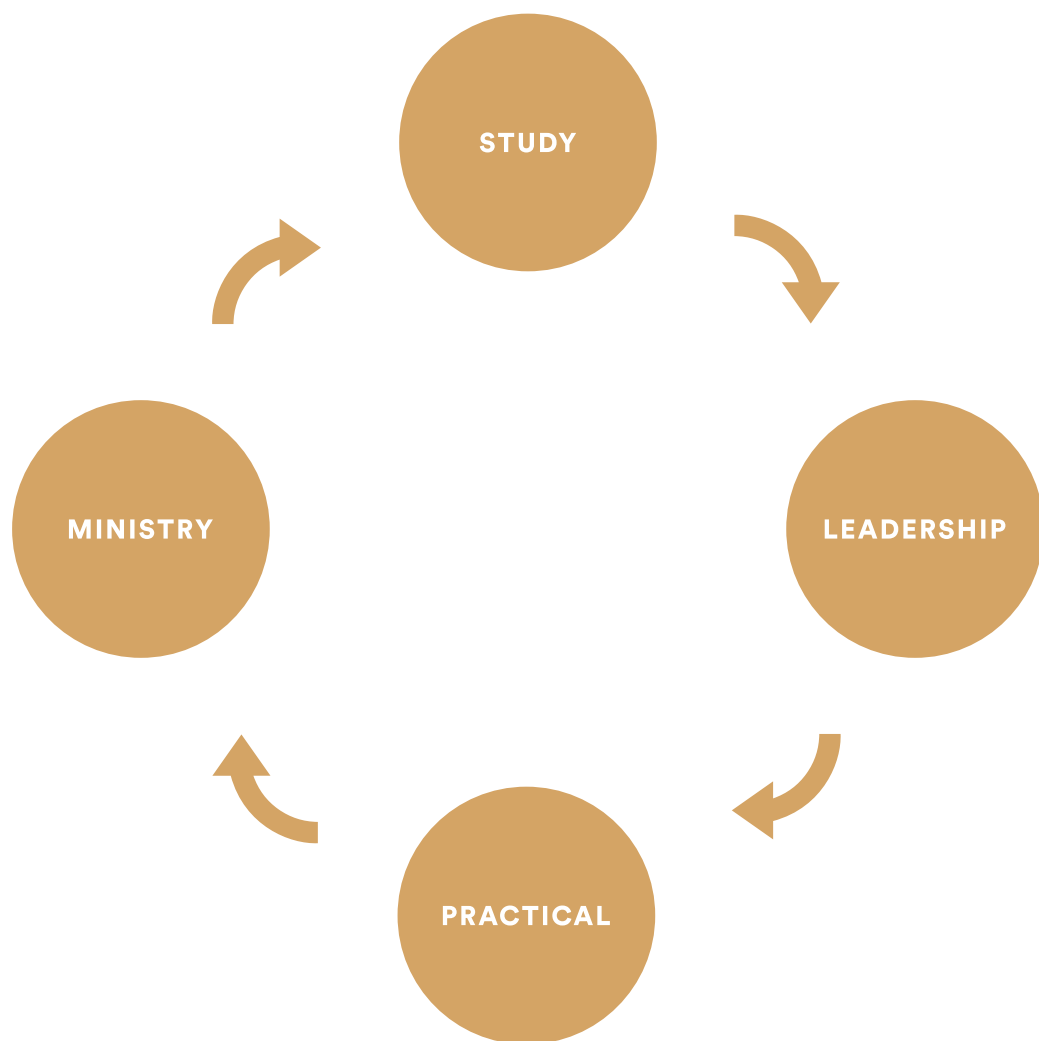
THE NUTS & BOLTS

The MIP is geared primarily to prepare and equip people for full-time vocational ministry, whether in this country or overseas. It will, however, also be of great value to those who go on to serve God in other capacities, and it should help Ministry Interns decide which avenues of service are suitable for them long-term.

The fundamental hope of the MIP is, under God, to grow increasingly Christ-like servants of the church. Thus a focus on growing in the knowledge and love of God and a desire for real progress in personal godliness underpins all that we do. We believe change and growth is first a heart matter and want to encourage Ministry Interns in that.

Beyond that, there are four components to the training programme:

1. Leadership component
2. Study component
3. Ministry component
4. Practical component





LEADERSHIP COMPONENT

Training through being
given responsibility

The ability to take initiative and develop an area of ministry are key to being a Christian leader. As part of their time at Hill Street, Ministry Interns will therefore be given particular responsibility for some area of work. For example, it might involve being tasked with establishing and running a Bible-study group for our older teenagers, or setting up and running an after schools club for young people or taking an aspect of our outreach programme and delivering it. Taking charge of something like this - always with appropriate oversight and support – teaches key skills like working with, motivating and leading others; and strategy and judgement in seeing how best to develop initiatives.

We also aim to give Ministry Interns insight into what leadership of a local church entails. They are, for example, deliberately exposed to the nuts and bolts of church life and leadership, talking with Nigel, John and Peter

about their work. Once a fortnight, Ministry Interns receive one to one mentoring with Peter or a suitable leader. Seminars look at wider church leadership, for example discussing how churches are led or how change can be managed in the life of a congregation.

Ministry Interns also receive personal feedback and guidance in their own character formation for Christian work and leadership.

STUDY COMPONENT



STUDY

Training through being taught

The second component is training through being taught. In this regard, Ministry Interns will receive training both internally and outside of Hill Street.

Externally, Ministry Interns take The Cornhill Training Course (part time and ideally over two years). For full curriculum see www.cornhillbelfast.org/. There are a number of benefits from going outside the church for the taught component, for example dedicated teaching staff, access to wider expertise and the opportunity to network with others.

As well as undertaking theological study through Cornhill, time will be given internally to explaining and discussing other aspects of what gospel ministry entails. In regular seminars MIPs will work together with on the following areas:

- Developing Godly Character
- Understanding How People Change
- Gospel Centred Leadership
- Principles of Bible Centred Ministry
- Evangelism - Personal and Door to Door
- Presbyterian Distinctives

MIPs will meet regularly together with the rest of the staff team to think about these areas and other aspects of what is involved in gospel ministry. Occasionally these discussions may take place in the context of retreat days/ weekends away. We also work through various ministry topics like how to plan and lead services, how to pray in ministry, and how to effectively lead small groups.

We will also fund Ministry Interns to attend some appropriate conferences through the year as part of their ministry development.



MINISTRY COMPONENT

Training through
involvement in ministry

The third component is training through involvement in Christian ministry. The best way to learn how to do Christian ministry is actually to do it in a supportive environment. Ministry Interns are given a significant amount of hands on experience of some of the key areas of Christian ministry. As they do this they have training and feedback from those experienced in ministry and benefit from working as part of a team.

The ministry a Ministry Intern does will depend on their experience and gifts, but normally every Intern will be involved in the following:

Bible teaching and pastoral ministry

Ministry interns are all given suitable opportunities to be involved in the ongoing work of the church. This might be teaching a group in Sunday School or in one of our youth organisations, leading a young people's Bible study, working with teenagers or going into a local school. We try to tailor this involvement to suit past experience and also to stretch those who are training with us.

Leading a small group

Our vision as a church is that everyone is part of a small group. A well led small group is a great way of building up Christians in the church. We therefore work hard to ensure that our small groups are led as well as possible. Involvement in this area will help Ministry Interns grow in the vital skill of leading a group and will help them develop as a Bible teacher.

Reading the Bible with a number of individuals

Working with someone individually is a great way to help a non-Christian understand the gospel, disciple a young Christian or train a potential leader. These are all core skills for anyone seeking to serve God.

Involvement in services

Ministry Interns may have a part in leading in services. Occasionally an intern might preach in a Sunday service or speak at another church gathering.

Most Ministry Interns will have additional areas of responsibility, including running evangelistic groups and giving talks in various settings.

There is also the possibility of Ministry Interns on the Programme doing some ministry in other churches / organisations, in particular in a situation where a church might not be in a position to fund a Ministry Intern themselves.

By the end of their time on the Programme, Ministry Interns should be able to engage in some of the most important areas of ministry in a church's life. They will also be much more 'mission and ministry minded' and be seeking in everything they do to serve God in advancing the gospel. If they go on to further theological study, their experience as a Ministry Intern will help them get much more out of their time at theological college.

PRACTICAL COMPONENT

Training through doing practical tasks



PRACTICAL

Ministry Interns spend the remainder of their time involved in practical tasks around the church. These include setting up rooms, and buildings for meetings, cleaning and performing administrative tasks through the church office. As well as being vital to the smooth running of the church, this enables Ministry Interns to grow in three important areas:

- It teaches Ministry Interns what is involved in running a church
- It develops a servant heart
- It teaches Ministry Interns to work as part of a team

DURATION AND FINANCE

Duration of programme

Ministry Interns will be with us for a year with an option to extend to two years. The programme starts September 2020 and runs to the end of August 2021 or 2022 if you opt for a second year.

Funding

Ministry Interns will serve on a voluntary basis and will be responsible for their own funding. We will help MIPs apply to a trust which we hope will be able to provide a basic living allowance. All training costs and expenses, including the cost of the Cornhill Training Programme, will be covered.

Each intern will be expected to secure pledged support of £1500 per year from other sources. These could be Christian friends or a supporting church. Support can be received from family members but they should not be approached and put under pressure. This modest level of external support is a good indicator that others recognise ministry gifts in interns and are willing to encourage them towards this end.

Further discussions about support can be had at interview.

Accommodation

We will seek to arrange accommodation for anyone who is not easily able to travel to Lurgan.





THE PEOPLE WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for committed Christians, male and female, who:

- Have an eagerness to learn and serve and a willingness to take on a variety of responsibilities and tasks around the church.
- Are committed to the authority of the Bible and the biblical gospel.
- Have the desire and ability to work as part of a team, both with other Ministry Interns and with the rest of the church staff and congregation.
- Are passionate about evangelism.
- Have the Christian maturity and gifts to be able to teach the Bible in small groups and one-to-one.

We would expect Ministry Interns to be a mix of new/recent graduates and possibly people who have been in employment. We anticipate that many, but not all, will become Ministry Interns with the intention of staying in full-time Christian ministry or going directly to theological college after completing the programme. Individuals join the programme to prepare for a variety of different ministries, including leading a church, women's ministry, student work and youth work.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?



We will start interviewing candidates
in April/May 2020 and will accept
applications until all places are filled.

If you are interested in applying for the
programme, or are looking for more
information, please contact Peter Wright.



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