



A brief overview for churches and circuits

“She’s going to go far and I feel that the year has kick-started that. It’s awakened something in her.”

Mentor

“My project has started to stretch me as a person and make me look outside of the box.” Intern

“I’ve grown as a Christian, but also as a person. It’s been great to spend time with the other interns and grow in friendship.” Intern

The ONE Opportunity Programme gives young people aged 16-23 years the opportunity to be involved on a part-time basis in the development of the mission and ministry of their local church. It offers a salaried position of 3 hours per week (on average) on a one-year project that will enhance the life and mission of the church and enable the intern to work out their discipleship in new ways. The interns are supported by a district team of three staff – coordinator, administrator and presbyter.

The programme aims to:

- Provide an opportunity for young people to journey within an intentional community exploring together what it means to be a disciple.
- Create a space for interns to discover and take ownership of their own unique Christian identity.
- Generate expectancy within the church for young people to live out their faith and discern and use their gifts.
- Develop projects in partnership with the interns that cross generations and influence their church.

It enables the interns to:

- Feel the value of being part of a Christian community.
- Feel accepted for who they are.

- Know their unique identity as a child of God.
- Know more about the wider Christian community and opportunities for serving Christ within it.
- Develop a spiritual toolkit, for prayer, engaging with scripture, discernment and reflection.
- Increase confidence in taking their place within their home church community.
- Become active in shaping their future discipleship.

It aims to help **participating churches** increase their confidence in nurturing young people as active disciples within their church family.

How does it work?

Each intern is part of a local team with a project enabler and a mentor from the local church or circuit. Project enablers act as line managers, supporting, guiding and encouraging the intern in their project. They also help liaise between the church and the intern and between the district team and the church. The mentor's role is to walk alongside the intern to help them develop in their personal journey and discipleship; allowing time for reflection on the project, the residential weekends, their faith and anything else they wish to discuss and share.

Alongside their paid hours all the interns attend an induction day and three residential weekends during the year, enabling them to be part of a community of young people learning and reflecting together.

How is the Programme funded and supported?

The funding for the programme is shared between the District and the interns' churches and circuits. The District funds the main running costs of the programme, including the salaries of the programme staff and interns. The cost of the weekend residentials is shared equally between the District, churches and circuits.

"It was great to be able to continue to engage with the group despite the current restrictions, and so encouraging to hear how they are adapting and innovating in response to the situation."

Revd Kerry Tankard, Chair of the Yorkshire West District, after joining our virtual residential weekend in lockdown.

For more details and an intern application pack please contact:

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Or visit <http://yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk/mission-ministry/youth-and-children-s-work/one-opportunity-programme>