

Community Internship

With The Stowe at Wichelstowe



Welcome to The Stowe

The Stowe Baptist Church is a church for the unchurched based on a new build development in Swindon. We are neither urban nor rural but an interesting combination of the two.

Following a word from God, Ali Boulton moved to East Wichel in 2009 seeking to holistically bless the community of Wichelstowe, serving those of all faiths and none. Ali and her team began to serve the community as soon as more people moved in; through this engagement a church has emerged and people have come to faith. The Stowe remains focused on its call to bless.

We are looking for an intern to work with us in joining in with the Missio Dei. The role is heavily focused on community engagement but would also enable you as the participant to develop your own spirituality. You would have the opportunity to explore your faith through Bible Study, Prayer Walking, Retreats and of course through the Mission itself.

We would like to provide a positive and inspiring experience which is mutually beneficial. We want you to be able to explore the aspects of Pioneering which are most of interest to you, whilst gaining an overall understanding of Incarnational Mission in practice. You will also be encouraged and supported in developing your own practice.

The following pages will give you more information about the work we do and some ideas of what experience you could gain as The Stowe Intern. We would love to hear from you, so if you have any questions or would like to explore this opportunity further please do get in contact.



Blessings,

The Stowe Baptist Church





A Community Role

This role will involve working closely with the Children and Families Worker but will include activities with youths, families and adults alongside the work with children.

We run lots of clubs and activities which you will be involved with, this will give you good understanding of the planning and organisation involved with running these types of activities.

Community Qualifications

Our Children and Families worker is a member of GirlguidingUK, so if you are a female applicant and would like to be involved, we can make sure that during your time with us you gain your GirlguidingUK Leadership Qualification. This qualification takes you through planning a program, administration, health and safety including safeguarding, budgeting and accounts.

This qualification provides some concrete validation of your experiences with us and looks great on a CV!

If you are a male applicant, we can connect you with the local Scouting group for access to their Adult Training Scheme.



Community Engagement

Even without completing the above qualifications, you will still gain a practical understanding of how to run regular activities and one off activities through working with the Youth Clubs, the Youth Theatre, the toddler group and by helping to organise activities in the school holidays, as well as helping out with the Pamper Nights. We also work with the local primary school, so you will experience building lesson plans, running lessons, running assemblies and running reflection spaces. The reflection spaces will give you an opportunity to develop skills in listening, giving support and showing understanding as the children come to discuss their worries.

Administration

There is a lot of paperwork involved when you set up and run a group or club. This is the sort of paperwork that will be essential to know about in all sorts of different industries so will be invaluable knowledge to gain.

You will also learn that communicating effectively with your community is essential. We will work with you in developing your communication skills including demonstrating how we use social media as a community engagement tool.



Funding

Everything we do has a cost attached one way or another. You will learn how to work within budgets of varying sizes and will gain some experience of completing grant applications. Some activities are funded by the local housing association; you will learn how we are accountable to them and how to demonstrate to a funding partner that you are using their money in the way it was intended. If you would like to do more with the money side of running activities, then you could also be involved with keeping accounts for clubs.

Health and Safety

During your time with us you will gain a good grounding in health and safety practices. You will learn how to complete a risk assessment and how to ensure that your assessment is implemented and adhered to.

You will learn the importance of having policies and procedures in place and depending on your interests while with us you could be involved with writing or reviewing some.

You will gain a high quality understanding of safeguarding issues and learn the best practice methods of maintaining good standards of safeguarding.





Christian Practice

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sunday gatherings where there are various things to be involved with. We would like you to support the children's work, but this would not be every week as we feel it is important for you to also have access to the deeper, adult gatherings. You could also be involved with the music, the refreshments, the prayer and if you are interested there will be opportunities to develop in leadership of the gatherings.

Church Management

We would like to invite you to be part of our Vision and Prayer meetings where we attempt to discern in a group environment the direction that we should be taking. We also feel it would be useful for you to attend some of our Trustee Meetings so that you can gain an understanding of the practicalities involved with running our church. During your time with us it is also likely that there will be opportunities for you to visit other churches, this may be at a service where The Stowe has been invited to share, so you will be able to see how we work together with other churches.



Throughout the year we run various specifically Christian activities, especially around Easter and Christmas. There are also the Pamper Evenings which lots of women in the community are invited to, and faith is not discussed unless the participants bring it up, but we do let people know that we are looking to show the community that we love them by washing and massaging their feet and hands because Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. You will also be involved with Tea Time With God which is the Christian Discipleship group for children.

Personal Practice

It is important to us that during your time at The Stowe you are able to grow and develop in ways that are of interest and use to you.

We will support you in trying new things and practicing the skills that are important to you. If you have an idea, we want to hear it! If there is an activity you would like to run or a Bible passage you would like to explore or a particular group of people you feel called to, we will help you to achieve your goals.



Practicalities

Unfortunately we are not able to offer a funded post. However, as part of the Internship Package we would be able to offer you accommodation and meals in the home of our Minister, Ali Boulton.

What To Do Next

If this opportunity is of interest to you or you have any questions for us, please contact us using the details below, we look forward to hearing from you!

If this is not the right placement for you, please share this information so that we can reach as many people as possible.

Email: ali@boultons.org

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