



Inspire – a year serving the church and growing in faith

We are delighted to announce that Leeds Vineyard is offering the opportunity of a year serving the church as an intern. This is a new and exciting step in the life of our community and one that we feel will be of great benefit to both the church and those who serve over the year.

What's the point?

Our aim is two-fold.

Firstly, the purpose of the year is to **equip you for service**. It sounds a bit old fashioned these days to talk about service. And yet that is what God calls all of us to. A life of service – Jesus said freely you have received, freely give. As God laid down his life for us, we lay down our lives for others.

What does that mean?

It means: Serving God. Serving the church. Serving our families & friends. Serving those in need. Serving our communities. Serving those in our workplaces. Serving those overseas. Maybe serving overseas?

Our aim is to support you as you explore your place in God's plan for serving him and his world. We will enable you to try out different areas of service in the church, whilst giving you time and space to pursue other areas to serve in outside of our church community.

Secondly, and of equal importance, the purpose of the intern year is to support you as you grow **in faith, life and leadership**. The year will provide an opportunity for you to build firmer foundations in your faith; through time spent alone with God; by stepping beyond your comfort zone - taking risks and stretching your faith; and by regular contact time with those mature in their walk with God and in leadership.

When is it happening?

The year will begin in September 2017 and finish in July 2018. There will be three terms with opportunity for breaks in between. We would ask that no holiday is taken in the term time as this will disrupt the flow and dynamic of the group and the year. Terms will run as below (exact dates will be sent out closer to the start of the year):

Sep – Dec 2017 -16 weeks

Jan – April 2018 - 14 weeks

May – July 2018 - 12 weeks

How much will it cost?

No cost for candidates to participate, but lots of training and input. As part of the training, a place at the Vineyard National Leaders Conference will be provided – this normally happens at the end of January.

How will it work?

The year will be part time - approximately 20 hours per week. These hours will be mainly on Monday & Friday in the day and Sundays serving at weekly worship. There will be also some evening commitments as required.

We would expect that you will find part time work as a way of partially or fully supporting yourself financially over the year. There is no charge to the year in the hope that this will help in keeping costs down for you.

The hours will be split across a variety of settings and formats. There will be a mix of alone time, one on one mentor time, teaching in house, through Hub and other external formal courses dependent on your choice of focus, as well as serving in church and out in the community. There will be opportunity for focussing on particular ministry areas you might feel a calling to.

You will be invited to register with HUB (the national vineyard training scheme) and attend the training evenings and intensive days (monthly evening meeting and once a term Saturday day away). You will also be asked to sign up to or, if appropriate, lead a small group.

Time will be available for enrolling on a course that will provide training in the area of your choice. If you are keen to get more theological training, vineyard institute modules are available. If you are wanting to train in other areas, we can work with you in finding appropriate external courses to sign up to.

A sample week might look like:

	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon	Evenings
Monday	Serving with the admin or pastoral team	Joining staff meetings	Ministry areas (kids / T4:12 / students / worship / Reach Out / Sundays)	HUB
Friday	Alternating between: Ministry areas Or Doing the Stuff (Headingley / Gardening & Decorating / Vine) Or Book reviews / guest teaching	Building cleaning / maintenance before lunch	Intern team lunch then peer led teaching (doing a course together / VI module)	
Sunday	Serving on a team!			

Other activities	Attending a growth group Leading a small group (optional) Meeting up with mentor periodically Attending leaders' meetings (once a term) Attending other meetings as required based on the ministry area
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What will we aim to achieve together over the year?

The purpose of the year is to equip you for service and help you to grow in faith, life and leadership. As such, the exact details of what will be covered is going to be a little different for each intern. There will be a few core requirements and topics for every intern to aim to complete and these include:

Attendance

- Attendance sounds like an easy requirement to keep but can become harder when the novelty wears off. In order to make the most of the year for both yourself and for the church, we would expect interns to attend all core training and serving sessions as outlined above – interns will be expected to notify the session leader as soon as possible beforehand if they are unable to attend. Frequent non-attendance or unexplained absences will be fed back to the intern coordinators.

Bible reading & regular times alone with God

- We would expect all Interns to start or continue a habit of regularly reading the bible – ideally on a daily basis – having times of both reflection and study of the bible.
- Interns will be expected to read the bible over the course of the year
- We don't expect all interns to have a passion to academically study the bible; for those that do wish to pursue study, this can take place through vineyard institute or another approved academic institution
- We would hope that the intern will develop or continue to have regular times of praying, reflecting and waiting on God.

Core leadership training

- We will cover the core values of Leeds Vineyard
- We will provide periodic teaching on core leadership skills such as handling conflict, managing change, coaching others, leading teams and so on. The exact topics will depend on the requirements of the interns who sign up.
- The teaching will take place through a variety of routes.
 - Hub – the vineyard training scheme nationally.
 - Intern group teaching
 - One on one with mentors or ministry leaders

Doing the stuff

- All interns will be given the opportunity to serve in a particular area of ministry gaining experience and one on one teaching in that area with a ministry leader
- You will also be encouraged to take risks and try out different ministries as well as take opportunities to stretch your faith through doing the stuff; the exact details will depend on the intern, but may include a gardening or decorating project, doing healing on the streets, helping in the vine child contact centre, taking a trip overseas possibly?
 - So it may be you focus on one ministry area for the year or potentially work in up to 3 different areas!
- We will also provide opportunity to serve on Sundays – both regularly and, as is appropriate, occasionally hosting or teaching or running an all age service.

Encouraging each other

- We would hope that the intern group will function as a support group – encouraging one another through the year – helping each other to be equipped and to grow in faith.

Feedback

- Feedback is a really important part of growing in character and faith, as well as learning to serve in the most helpful way possible.
- We will expect interns to be ready to receive and also to give constructive feedback over the course of the year

Growth groups

- All interns will be expected to attend or lead a growth group during each of the 3 terms
- The exact group will be up to you. This will be on top of attending the core sessions on Mondays and Fridays

Health

- Creating a way of serving that is sustainable will be an important priority for the year.
- We will encourage all interns to:
 - Have a regular day off each week
 - Look after themselves in regards sleep, exercise and healthy eating
 - Seek professional help as required – medical, social, psychological etc...

Individual

- Everyone will have their own individual learning needs, development areas and interests. We hope that there will be enough flexibility within the programme to accommodate each intern's needs and interests.
- Each intern will have an individual mentor, with whom they can meet up regularly and receive support and encouragement. You will meet up on a periodic basis; the mentor will be available to listen, support and pray with you as you grow in your faith. If you have any administrative issues, you will need to speak to the intern programme directors. If there is a more significant pastoral issue, you will need to liaise with your growth group leaders.

Setting Expectations for the Intern Year

Before considering applying, it is important to recognise the following important points:

- You will be representing Jesus and the Vineyard community – 24/7
- You may be challenged in every area of your lives – ministry, leadership, interpersonal...
- You will very quickly understand there is:
 1. Very little glory of being on staff
 2. No greater access to personal pastoral care than anyone else on staff or in church and that includes access to the senior pastors
 3. A tough year ahead – including living in a “glass house”, the never-ending job, front-line pressure, etc.
 4. Joy in seeing God work in other’s lives because of your sacrifice

Who can apply?

Anyone of any age and stage can apply but successful applicants would need recognise the time commitment involved as well as being able to be support themselves financially over the year.

We can accept applications from those who meet the following criteria:

- Follower of Jesus
- Able to provide a positive reference from a church leader recognised by Leeds Vineyard or from your small group leader if within our church
- Have completed Discovering Vineyard and servant leadership school (or equivalent in another vineyard church) – or in process of completing.
- Available on the days agreed
- Able to fund their own way
- On completion of application form

When can I apply?

Applications open from March 2017. You are welcome to contact Matt & Anne Button before then, or at any point, if you would like to chat through things further.

Closing date for applications will be 31st May 2017.

How do I apply?

If you interested in this year, then first please speak to your church leader or small group leader. If after considering the commitments involved, you are interested, then we would appreciate if you could complete the application form (available to download from the website or on request from the church office) and be available for an informal chat with Matt & Anne Button.

Please don’t assume you have a place on the year until we have written to you confirming your place. Only after successful completion of an interview with Matt & Anne Button, satisfactory references and DBS checks can we confirm a place has been given.

For more information on:

Hub – <http://www.hubtraining.org.uk/>

Vineyard Institute <http://vineyardinstitute.org/main/uki/>