

The **Western Wards Internship** is a one year programme, suitable for people aged between 18-29 who wish to explore their vocation through a combination of hands-on ministry experience, theological training and vocational discernment.

The vision of the Western Wards Internship is to provide the opportunity for young people to:

- **Explore**...it is not a 'job on the cheap', or a stepping-stone apprenticeship, but a chance to explore a sense of purpose and direction.
- **Learn**...about themselves & other people, to think about faith & ministry at a deeper level, develop new skills and experiences, observe others in action
- **Try**...to 'have a go', step outside the comfort zone, develop in leadership
- **Belong**...to be part of a group of others on a similar journey of exploration, supported by the Church locally, regionally and nationally
- **Grow**...to find encouragement, challenge and growth through the active supervision and mentoring from ministers who are committed to developing ministry in others.

'**Success**' is seeing all participants clearer about how their faith motivates their life in the world.

The **Western Wards Internship** is a new Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme for young people who are exploring a call to Christian leadership of all kinds, including ordained ministry. The Scheme is based in the churches of the Western Wards which is an area to the west of Fareham in the Diocese of Portsmouth, and welcomes participants from throughout the U.K.

The **Western Wards Internship** has been designed to give young people an opportunity to experience and to participate in ministry through placements in local parish churches. Additionally, interns will undertake some theological training to help them to explore their faith more deeply and to prepare them for leadership in ministry and mission. Interns may also take advantage of opportunities to participate in projects based in the wider diocese and to experience other forms of ministry such as hospital chaplaincy, religious orders, pioneer ministry etc. as part of their Intern experience.

The **Western Wards Intern Scheme** is intended to help participants actively explore their sense of call to Christian leadership. This is facilitated by fortnightly 'one to one' sessions with their placement supervisor, a weekly time of group discipleship with fellow Interns and a monthly meeting with the Scheme Co-ordinator. Additional advice and support will be offered by the diocesan vocations team, particularly in the discerning of a sense of call to ordained ministry, and Interns will be encouraged to attend conferences and events relating to young vocations.

As well as being a blessing to a local church and receiving plenty of opportunities to participate in parish ministry, Interns will also be encouraged and challenged in the growth and development of their own faith as they explore vocation through prayer, guided reflection and study. Participants will gain a good experience of both leadership and discipleship as they explore their sense of call to Christian ministry.

Western Wards Interns will be involved in all aspects of parish ministry and mission, gaining as wide a perspective as possible. Notice will be taken of a particular participant's past experience and desire to explore a specific aspect of ministry. Such opportunities to experience these may be available and appropriate, but the Western Wards Internship is intended to give a wide experience of mission and ministry. St. John's Church, along with the scheme's partner churches and the wider Portsmouth Diocese, are well placed to be able to offer participants an experience of other aspects of ministry within the local community, and outside of the local church. For example, in Warsash, one of our placement parishes, there is an area of new housing called the Strawberry Fields Estate which the local church has not yet begun to impact. An Intern on placement in Warsash could be part of ascertaining the needs of the estate and developing a response to meet those needs.

The **Western Wards Internship** exists in order to allow a possible sense of call to some form of authorised Christian ministry to be tested and explored through

supportive exposure to and experience of ministry and mission within a local church setting. The scheme's placement churches are committed to investing time with Interns to ensure that issues that arise during this exploration are worked with and God's will be discerned.

Placement Parish: St John's Locks Heath (Scheme Hub)

Supervisor: Revd Gavin Foster

Ministry Opportunities:

The Vicar of St. John's is the Reverend Gavin Foster. Gavin was previously Chaplain to the Bishop of Winchester and before that was in parish ministry in the Salisbury Diocese. Prior to Ordination Gavin worked as a Lawyer and he has a particular interest in the ministry of reconciliation and mediation. He is married to Hazel and they have three young boys.

St John's is a friendly, lively family church in Locks Heath, with services and activities suitable for everyone at every stage of life. St. John's vision is to release people's gifts and to equip them for ministry. Collaborating with other churches St. John's desire is to provide radiant witness and community outreach, reaching those "on the edge" with the love of Jesus. St John's welcomes diversity, inclusivity and accessibility to all through its welcome, and seeks the involvement of children (including local schools), young families and youth, with music as a particular vehicle.

On Sundays, said Holy Communion is at 8.00am and Sung at 9.15am with Informal Worship starting at 10.45am. Refreshments are served from 10.15am. Sunday evening worship is varied and includes contemporary style contemplative prayer, charismatic worship and prayer, and Iona style worship on different Sundays. There is also a well-attended midweek communion on Wednesdays. The music at St John's is varied, involves a wide range of people, and includes an organ, a robed choir, an orchestra and contemporary worship bands.

Interns at St. John's would have many opportunities for involvement in ministry including varied styles of worship, preaching and teaching, schools work, St. John's Fellowship Group, Lunch Club, Toddler group, Messy Church, Godly Play, the growing Children and Youth ministry, Home groups, pastoral visiting, Care Home ministry and Alpha.

St. John's is the 'hub' church for the Western Wards Internship scheme and has set aside a designated, comfortable room where all the Scheme's Interns can gather to study, pray or just hang out together.

The Revd. Gavin Foster makes an ideal Placement Supervisor at St. John's as he has excellent leadership and management skills, and is a natural enabler of others' vocations.

Placement Parish: Whiteley Church

Supervisor: Revd Philippa Mills (Vicar of Whiteley and Pioneer Minister)

Ministry Opportunities:

The Reverend Philippa Mills has pioneered as part of her role as vicar of Whiteley Church. She lives in Whiteley with her husband Tom and has 2 children who are currently away at University. Whiteley contains a large area of housing, retail units, restaurants, a cinema and a business park. The building of Whiteley began in the 1980s and grew rapidly in the 1990s. As with many large new developments the community has experienced problems due to the slow provision of local amenities. Whiteley is expected to expand northwards in the coming years, with a further 3,500 houses planned, and has an overwhelmingly young population (under 44).

In keeping with its ecumenical history Whiteley Church, which is a Conventional District, aims to be a home for all and provides a variety of service styles and service times. Whiteley Church doesn't have a building of its own but meets regularly at Whiteley Community Centre. The diocese does however have a long lease on a piece of land in the heart of Whiteley which the church looks after and uses as the 'Church Without Walls Garden'. Whiteley Church has a weekly Bible Study Group which meets in a church member's home, it hosts a monthly Informal Breakfast Church, a monthly afternoon Messy Church and a Monday Night Prayer group, it operates the Open Door Café on Tuesday mornings and runs Monday Minis – an under 5s toddler group run by Whiteley Church and local parents on behalf of Whiteley Community Association. One Sunday a month Whiteley Church is 'Outside the Box' in place of a traditional worship service. This is in its early days and at the moment takes different forms each month. For example, they might meet at their 'Church Without Walls Garden', take a gentle walk in the woodland around Whiteley looking for God's handiwork in creation and then end up at a local café to share their thoughts over a cuppa. Whiteley Church has strong links to Cornerstone Church of England (VA) Primary School and there are plans to have a small chapel built as part of the new school building when the school relocates to North Whiteley from its current temporary buildings (the current proposed date for the school to relocate is September 2020).

Interns at Whiteley Church would have opportunities for involvement in worship, preaching and teaching, House Groups, schools work, Messy Church, children's ministry and experience pioneer ministry in a rapidly expanding area of housing development.

Placement Parish: St. Mary's Church, Warsash

Supervisors: Revd Nicky-Sue Terry & Revd Mike Terry

Ministry Opportunities:

St. Mary's is unusual in that it has two Vicars who are part-time, joint Incumbents, and who also happen to be married to each other. Mike spent 31 years in the Navy before ordination and both Mike and Nicky-Sue give of their time to support international military Christian leaders, alongside their parish ministry. Having both originally come from more charismatic, evangelical backgrounds, Mike & Nicky-Sue found that God called them to minister in a village church where they bring their passion and enthusiasm to the more traditional forms of worship: the church has both a robed choir and music group.

St. Mary's is a beautiful Victorian village Church situated by the mouth of the river Hamble and at the edge of a nature reserve. There are strong maritime links in the parish and Sea Sunday is an important event in the church calendar, along with Remembrance Sunday. Warsash has retained its village identity, despite the ongoing addition of extensive housing developments, with sailing being a significant characteristic of the local culture. The Church is still seen as having an important role in the Warsash community. Good links exist with the local Church of England Primary school, which holds several services in the church each year. There are home Bible study groups, a mums' and toddlers' group, monthly Messy Church, an established pastoral support team and good relationships with other local churches. At the time of writing the part-time Families' Worker post is vacant but it is hoped to recruit again later this year. The church completed the LYCIG course 18 months ago, with a significant number of people attending, and is now in the process of implementing a plan for growth that resulted from the course.

One of the retired ministers who assists is the Revd George Gebauer who grew up in Nazi Germany, fought against the Allies during the Second World War, and was taken prisoner. After the war, he settled in England, married a Hampshire farmer's daughter and became a British citizen before he felt God calling him to become a priest. The opportunity to hear George's story first-hand is a valuable experience for anyone discerning their own vocation.

Interns at St. Mary's would have opportunities for involvement in a wide variety of worship services, preaching and teaching, schools work, ministry to the retired, families and children's ministry as well as chance to talk about vocation and have fun!

Placement parish: St. Paul's Church, Sarisbury Green

Supervisor: Revd. Sandy Matheson

Ministry Opportunities:

Sandy has been the Vicar of St Paul's Sarisbury Green since the autumn of 2003. Prior to ordination Sandy worked as a Sales Manager in the IT and Telecoms market. Sandy is also an expert in Myers Briggs and is able to assist Western Wards Interns to deepen their understanding of their own personality type.

St. Paul's is a welcoming church with congregations of all ages. Sunday morning services are complimented by many opportunities for people to come together for prayer, bible study, mutual care and support, or simply to enjoy being with each other over a meal, a coffee or other social occasions during the week. St. Paul's has just completed a major building project which has provided them with an exciting new space which they plan to use to grow in their engagement with the wider community. The first new initiative is a community cafe called 'Coffee@TheGreen' this runs for three hours every Thursday morning and attracts people of all ages.

An area of growth at St. Paul's is their Sunday Tea Services which are an opportunity for families to meet and worship together. The service starts with crafts then moves into a time of Bible stories, prayer and singing which is geared towards younger children and families. The service ends with a 'bring and share' tea and a chance to catch up with others.

Another area of growth is working with those in retirement with a monthly bring-and-share lunch. Stepping stones to faith beyond this social setting are starting to be explored.

Interns at St. Paul's would have opportunities for involvement in worship, preaching and teaching, schools work, Alpha, and youth and children's ministry.

There are also other churches in the Fareham Deanery which would make suitable Placement Parishes and which could be added to the scheme should the need arise.

General Placement Information

So that the aims of the Western Wards Internship are achieved, each placement church will ensure that:

1. There is a job to be done. (a) That opportunities exist for ministry and mission experiences in a wide range of areas and activities (b) That opportunities exist for participants to exercise some leadership responsibility.
2. There is local support available for each Intern. (a) There is a local Placement Supervisor (usually the incumbent) (b) Appropriate pastoral care and support is available locally.
3. Each Intern will work to an agreed Role Description.
4. Each Placement Supervisor will be guided by a Role Description.
5. Each Intern will work a normal working week, with time set aside for study and reflection. They will have at least one full day off each week.

The placement churches will ensure that there is adequate insurance cover in place for the Interns including Employer's and Public Liability and personal accident indemnity. Also, that Interns are given sufficient time to prepare and participate in their personal development, training and vocational discernment processes.

Other opportunities

The Sisters of Bethany is a religious community based in Southsea, within Portsmouth Diocese. Interns will have the opportunity to spend some time reflecting on their vocation, worshipping with the Sisters and will also get to enjoy their very generous hospitality.

Harbour Church, a new and rapidly growing HTB plant, is based in the heart of Portsmouth with a particular mission to reach out to university students. Interns have the opportunity to spend some time with Harbour Church's own Interns for worship and fellowship and to learn more about church planting from Harbour Church's Vicar, the Revd. Alex Wood.

We like to think that Portsmouth has one of the most welcoming and friendly Cathedrals in the country. Interns have the opportunity to get involved with the worshipping life of the cathedral and to spend time with some of the Cathedral Team.

There are also further opportunities including spending time with hospital chaplains, pioneer ministers and Portsmouth's Older Person's Advocate.

The communities of the Western Wards provide plenty of opportunities for Interns to get involved and to make a difference.

Vocations

It is hoped that Western Wards Interns will help to promote a culture of vocations in their placement parishes and in the wider diocese by sharing their experiences with their congregations, volunteer teams, small groups etc.

Theological Study

Western Wards Interns will undertake appropriate theological study using St. Mellitus training material. We will stream two modules from the first year of the St. Mellitus BA Course in 'Theology, Ministry & Mission' - which is delivered by a wide range of world-class scholars, first-rate practitioners and visiting professors. This unassessed course of high quality training will assist Interns in exploring what it means to live out their faith as Christian leaders.

The supervisor for the theological strand of the scheme will be Revd. Gavin Foster.

Accommodation

The Western Wards Intern scheme will identify an appropriate host family for each intern. The Intern will live with this family for the duration of their time on the scheme. The majority of the intern's meals will be provided by the host family but on Thursdays all the Interns will gather together at St. Johns for a shared lunch.

Support

Western Wards Interns will benefit from a network of support over the course of the Internship, including:

- 1) The Scheme Coordinator, who plays an important role in liaising between the Intern, the diocese and the placement parish, and ensuring that the various component parts of the Scheme are in place.
- 2) The Placement Supervisor, who will be a vital local support for the Intern. They will make fortnightly supervision sessions a priority.
- 3) Each Intern will be allocated their own Personal Mentor for the duration of their Internship who will be available for 1 to 1 conversations as and when required.
- 4) It is envisaged that a genuine and helpful peer support dynamic will occur as the Interns meet together weekly to undertake theological training and ministry experiences as appropriate.
- 5) Members of the Diocesan Vocations Team will also be available to meet with Intern Scheme participants, supporting them in the exploring of any sense of call to ministry. Where appropriate this process will include time with the Portsmouth DDO.

The end of the placement

A Western Wards Internship runs from September to July. It is important to us that Internships 'end well' and so as the end of the Internship approaches, Interns will be offered 'exit interviews' where reflection upon vocation and personal development

will be given. The local Placement Supervisor, as well as others who have shared ministry and mission with the Intern will play an important role in ensuring that these times of reflection will be open and honest, as well as affirming and positive.

As a Western Wards Intern you will be fully engaged in Christian ministry of a broad and diverse nature whilst based in the local church; living, learning, and discerning God's call in an encouraging and supportive environment on the south coast of England. Why not come and join us!