

Growing Churches Programme

Wales Leadership Forum

Supporters of the programme,
John & Harriet Funnell from
Noddfa Church, Abersychan

Our vision, in partnership with others, is to see every town and village in Wales served and supported by a gospel community

The need is great.

In the last decade the number of church members in Wales has seen the biggest fall of the four nations of the UK. Between 2010 and 2020 church membership has shrunk by 20%. *“Growth requires a passion for mission and a willingness for the commitment in undertaking fresh risks”* (Peter Brierley “UK church statistics 2018”)

The opportunity is now.

In an effort to reverse this shrinkage and to foster a passion for mission the Wales Leadership Forum is launching the Growing Churches Programme. Our prayer is that under God and in partnership with other churches and organisations that share this passion and are willing to undertake fresh risks for the sake of the gospel, we can help the church of Jesus Christ in Wales grow.

The programme is simple.

By September 2021 we hope to identify and place at least three candidates, men or women, who have a heart for evangelism in local churches which have a missional vision and that will inspire and develop their gifting to make Jesus known.

Wales Leadership Forum will facilitate this by:

- Arranging a year's placement for the candidate in a suitable church context.
- Providing bespoke training for each candidate which will be tailored to their individual needs and experience with a focus on evangelism.
- Developing the Convictions, Character and Competencies of the candidates through a mixture of theoretical and practical learning
- Arranging up to six weeks practical experience in a different context from the church of their placement. This will include participating in a mission team under experienced leadership in six other churches in Wales.

The support is ongoing.

As well as being mentored in their placements, the candidates will be encouraged by the support of the ministry coordinator of the Wales Leadership Forum who will oversee their training.

The group will meet together regularly to reflect on their experiences, encourage each other and pray together.

Wales Leadership Forum will partner with other agencies with a focus on training in evangelism to benefit from their good practice and expertise and to widen the candidates' experience of different missional initiatives in Wales.

A bursary of up to £10,000 is available through Wales Leadership Forum to each successful candidate and will be administered through their placement church.

So what should you do?

- Meet and pray with your church leaders to share your heart and calling with them if you are interested in joining the programme.
- Contact Wales Leadership Forum by emailing the ministry coordinator at phil@wlf.org.uk and tell us your intentions. We will arrange a meeting with you and your church leaders to discuss the way forward.
- Complete the application form.
- Begin your year's training on placement in September 2021.

Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:37

You spell faith R - I - S - K!