

**Funding your Intern**

A briefing document for Church Leaders and Interns

Scripture gives us a rich vision for our conversations. The people of God are intended to build one another up, bear each other’s burdens and speak the truth in love. The goal of the Biblical Counselling UK Church-based Intern Scheme is to further support and nurture those kinds of conversations across the life of your church.

Having an Intern is an investment. Rather than draining your resources, our prayer is that your resources will grow over the two years and beyond. The Intern will function much like a worship leader on a Sunday morning – their skills in singing enable the entire body of Christ to sing better. In a similar way, we hope that the Lord will use the Intern’s gifts in personal ministry to help the entire body of Christ grow in confidence that Scripture speaks to the realities of life, and that confidence will then ripple out in wiser, Gospel-centred conversations across the life of the church.

­­However, we recognise that many churches may not have the funds in place to support an Intern. The purpose of this document is to help you as church leaders consider how you might raise that support, in conjunction with the individual themselves.

For Church Leaders

Fundraising

Identify the amount needed

This may seem like an obvious step, but you may find it helpful to walk through the following questions:

* Taking into account the Intern’s personal circumstances, the amount of time per week that will be given to the Intern Scheme and the available resources within the church, how much money is needed to sustain the Intern for two years of ministry (and hopefully beyond)?
* What room is there in the church’s budget? What approval is needed from the leadership body?
* In addition to living expenses, what (if any) funds are required for training and resources?
* Next, can you break down the final total into different categories?
	+ Suppose Jill needs £12,000 per year to give 2.5 days per week to the Intern Scheme. Jill and her church leaders decide:
		- The church will aim to raise £4,000 per year and draw an additional £2,000 per year from the church’s reserves.
		- Jill will raise £6,000 per year from friends and family

Raise awareness among church family

* We encourage church leaderships to think about a commissioning service or a short focus in a Sunday service where a church leader interviews the Intern about their plans - what being an Intern will involve, how it will benefit the church, etc - and prays for them. This kind of opportunity allows the individual to speak about their need for support and / or for the church leader to add their own blessing / encouragement for others to consider support for the individual. Or they might “soften the ground” for the individual by indicating that they are looking for support and will be approaching the congregation. Other ideas include making use of annual church meetings or Giving Days.
* Help the Intern identify people within the church who may be interested in supporting the work of the Intern. Be open-minded about who to include! Help them draft the text for cards / emails / letters where appropriate.
* In terms of promotional content, the video explaining the work of Biblical Counselling UK may be helpful to play for church family. You can [find that here.](https://www.biblicalcounselling.org.uk/about/) You can find other information about Biblical Counselling UK on our website or if you require additional information, please get in touch with the Director of the Intern Scheme at interns@biblicalcounselling.org.uk
* Where practicable, the Director of the Intern Scheme could attend a church service or prayer meeting (either physically or virtually) to talk about biblical counselling and the vision of the Intern Scheme.

For Interns

The idea of raising financial support may feel like an unwelcome task or even an obstacle to ministry. However, the challenge of raising support also provides an opportunity to mobilise a community of people within your church who share the vision for deeper, richer, Gospel-centred conversations. The need to raise financial support gives you a platform to explain to people what you are hoping to do over the coming years and build a sense of partnership.

Fundraising[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Identify the amount needed** – this has been covered under the section for church leaders above, but it is helpful to consider your own finances, what you need to live on and your current or ongoing financial responsibilities.

**Break down** **your target** - for example, a target of £12,000 per year could be broken down into:

* 4 partners at £100 per month
* 10 partners at £50 per month
* 10 partners at £10 per month

Not only does this help you know how many people you should approach, it is also a way of giving people a variety of options from which to choose.

**Draft a list of names** of people you might approach to ask for support.

* Work with your church leadership to consider who you could approach within the church family
* Consider who has been influential to you and who you have influenced
* Consider family and friends outside of your church

**Setup a means of receiving**. How will people give once they have said yes?

* This is something to discuss with your church leadership
* Stewardship have an Individual Recipient Account designed for people to receive support from friends, family and trusts. It provides a measure of accountability and givers can tax-efficiently.
* Consider asking someone in the church family to help you administer pledges of support

**Be able to articulate what you want to do**. You need to know what you are asking for support for. This might seem obvious but can you answer clearly and succinctly questions like:

* What exactly are you looking for support for?
* What is biblical counselling?
* Why our church?
* Why are you doing this?
* Why now?
* How is this a good use of your time and gifts and education?
* What kind of training are you doing?
* How much do you still need?
* Is it just for two years?
* What will you do afterwards?

**Consider how you will ask people.** Some people will welcome a phone call, others are best approached with a letter or email, and some will want to meet up and hear about your plans in more depth. Don’t discount the low-tech approach - handwriting a card is personal, accessible, can feel less daunting and allows you to share your request in the wider context of your relationship with the person.

**Fundraising Resources:**

9.38 have produced an [excellent guide to raising support](https://ninethirtyeight.org/download/raising-support/) for ministry trainees. Though it will be different in nature, the biblical principles and practical information are still very applicable to raising support for your participation in the Intern Scheme.

[An Introvert’s Guide to Support Raising](https://omf.org/us/an-introverts-guide-to-support-raising/) –seven common fears about raising support from mission organisation OMF.

Example text for a letter, card or email. Tailor to your context and ideally work with your church leadership to draw up a final draft.

Dear XXXX

{Insert greeting as appropriate to your relationship with the recipient)

We live at a time when many are struggling and are badly in need of the wisdom and whole counsel of God. {Expand on the need for wise biblical counsel, tailored to your context}

With the full support of our church leadership, I have been accepted onto the two-year Church-based Intern Scheme run by Biblical Counselling UK. Biblical counselling may be an unfamiliar term, but it happens whenever God’s word speaks into people’s lives. As a church, we want to grow in being able to have the kinds of conversations that have a fuller understanding of people and the difficulties we experience, and a fuller understanding of Scripture, so that we might be able to listen and speak well to each other.

As an Intern, I will have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ {days per week} to further encourage a culture of wise one-anothering in our church. I hope to run seminars/courses, training for small groups, and be available for 1:1 conversations. I will have a mentor from Biblical Cousnelling UK, and a local supervisor from our church and receive monthly training meetings and peer supervisions from Biblical Counselling UK.

In order to take up this role, I will need to step back from \_\_\_ {employment} and our church does not currently have enough funds to support me financially to do this ministry. I appreciate that you will have many calls on your giving but my hope is to raise the support I need by to gathering 24 people giving the following amounts:

* + - 4 partners at £100 per month for two years
		- 10 partners at £50 per month for two years
		- 10 partners at £10 per month for two years

I know that this is not a regular request and I hope that you are not offended by my writing to you. I know that other priorities mean we cannot support everything we would like to, so please do not feel embarrassed by needing to give a negative or “not now” response.

If you would like to give any amount as a regular contribution or make a one-off gift, I will provide you with the details of \_\_\_\_\_ {The process of how people will give money}

I welcome any questions you may have and look forward to hearing from you.

{Give details of how they should respond – eg your email address, or a form – and a deadline to respond.}

1. Much of the content in this section is drawn from 9.38’s *Raising Support* document, linked under the *Fundraising Resources* section. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)