

"They will be called oaks [*derwen*] of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of his splendour."

Isaiah 61:3

Equipping a new generation of pioneers for Wales

# DERWEN PROJECT

## PROSPECTUS

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

This training programme exists to develop a generation of pioneer leaders who will take the gospel to people groups and places in Wales where there is no viable gospel witness. It will catalyse a new expression of Christianity in Wales. It is not an academic programme, rather it seeks to develop the character and skills of the leader. It will equip participants with experience that other programmes, internships, movements and denominational training can build upon.

The Derwen Project is a **Waleswide** initiative that has grown out of an organic relationship with **Souled Out Cymru** and is collaborating with other movements and denominations in Wales.

## SOME DISTINCTIVES...

It isn't an academic programme, though it will include some theological teaching...

It isn't just for one denomination or movement but to serve all, though it could partner with some in particular...

It isn't general training but focused on developing pioneers who will take the gospel to people groups and places in Wales where there is no viable gospel witness...

It isn't an advertised public event but an invitation or recommendation only learning community...

So, how does it work?

# OUR STRATEGY

A trainee pioneer will be part of the programme for two years. During this period there will be time for learning, fellowship, prayer and personal development at a national and regional level, alongside local mentoring relationships and placement experiences.

## NATIONAL GATHERING

The national gathering is to be a learning community rather than a conference. It will exist to deepen relationships and create a wave of learning for the term ahead. Experts, pioneers or leaders who are contextually aware will be invited in to shape the weekend's teaching.

These gatherings will not only feature classroom style learning but the highly relational emphasis of the weekend will encourage peer learning as we enjoy intentional time with mentors and relational experiences over dinners, bonfires or drinks in the evening.

The Derwen team will be responsible for creating a high quality residential experience conducive to learning, relationship building and making memories.

### WAVES OF LEARNING

FAITH & the pioneer gift

PRAYER & worship for pioneers

LEADERSHIP & setting vision/direction

EMPOWERING & being led by the Spirit

MISSION & sharpening the evangelistic edge

HOLINESS & endurance - staying on course

## REGIONAL

Smaller regional groups will gather together trainee pioneers for fellowship and prayer. Here they will continue the discussion from the national gatherings, applying the teaching to their local context. These would take place at a mentor's home or in a local church where prayer, worship, teaching, food, relationships and learning are all enjoyed.

The frequency and time of these meetings will vary from one region to another (depending on the members of the group). The purpose is to continue fellowship and encourage learning and growth together.

## LOCAL MENTOR

Each trainee pioneer will be required to have a local mentor who is able to commit his or her support to the trainee throughout the two year programme. The mentor will seek to ensure that the trainee pioneer makes the most of the programme, as well as encouraging and providing further opportunities for growth and development, including placement experiences that take them out of their context.

The mentor will attend the national and regional gatherings, and meet regularly with their trainee pioneer. More on this later on the 'Who are the mentors?' page.

## KEY DATES

- 25th - 26 September, 2020 - First National Gathering
- 27 - 29 November, 2020 - Equip
- 19th - 20 March, 2021 - Third National Gathering
- 24th - 25 September, 2021 - Fourth National Gathering
- 26 - 28 November 2021 - Equip
- 18 - 19 March, 2022 - Sixth National Gathering

*The gatherings will be held by video conferencing when required by government restrictions*

# ABOUT THE PIONEER

Whilst no Christian leader or pioneer will be excelling in all of these areas, here are some foundational qualities that may be evident in the life of an emerging pioneer. We will hope to build on these during the two-year programme.

## FOUNDATIONAL QUALITIES

- 1 Oaks of Righteousness – individuals with character that have potential to be strong and resilient. Individuals rooted deeply in God's grace and able to withstand pressure and challenge.
- 2 Burden for Wales – sensing the call of God to mission in Wales and commended by their pastor for this programme.

## QUALITIES TO BUILD UPON

**Rooted in Christ** – evidence of a strong personal walk with Jesus.

**Self-leadership & self-feeders** – committed to prayer, scripture & fellowship.

**Faith for what could be** – a holy discontent with the way things are in Wales and a confidence that things can change by God's grace.

**Heart for mission** – a love for the lost and a desire to share the gospel.

**Endurance** – emotionally robust and not fragile or prone to quitting.

**Entrepreneurial skills** – natural leaders who get new initiatives going and are catalysts for change and innovation (within the church or outside).

**Teachable spirit** – a willingness to be accountable and enter into a covenant commitment to the learning community process.

# ABOUT THE MENTOR

CPAS's resource Mentoring Matters, defines mentoring as 'a dynamic, intentional, voluntary relationship of trust in which one person (the mentor) enables another person (the mentee) to maximise the grace of God within their lives and develop their potential in the service of God's kingdom purposes.'

The mentor would commit to prayerful investment in the pioneer, taking the time to build and deepen relationship, identify areas of necessary growth and shape the learning for the term.

## FOUNDATIONAL QUALITIES

The mentor will be someone who is growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ, displaying Christlike character and depending on him in daily life.

In many ways, the mentor will act as a model for the mentee, helping them to deepen their relationship with Christ, grow in Christlike character and discern God's particular call for their lives and leadership.

## CHOOSING A MENTOR

As soon as an emerging leader has been accepted on to the programme, a conversation will be had with them and their church leader (where possible) regarding a possible mentor. Some may already be benefiting from an existing mentoring relationship, which, if both sides agree, could continue over the duration of the programme. In other cases, the Derwen team will prayerfully seek to match the emerging leader with a local mentor.

**For more information about choosing a mentor, or if you have been asked to be a mentor, please contact us to receive the "Mentor Qualities" outline.**

## IS THERE A COST?

A two year cycle will cost approximately £900 for each emerging pioneer, which includes all residential costs, learning materials and placement grants.

The Derwen Project will be subsidised by Waleswide but we invite sending churches and the emerging leader to consider how they can contribute towards these costs.

## NEXT STEPS...

- 1 You are invited to complete the application form.
- 2 After a conversation with your pastor / church leader (where possible), you will be invited to an informal interview with two of the Derwen team to discuss the programme.
- 3 Following our conversation, if we invite you onto the programme we will assign you a Derwen mentor.

## CONTACT US

If you would like to know more about the programme, how to apply or partner with us or receive a detailed breakdown of the costs do not hesitate to get in touch.

[derwen@waleswide.org](mailto:derwen@waleswide.org)