



# School of Compassion and Justice

2018/19 Info Pack

**BCV School of Compassion and Justice**

**Belfast City Vineyard**  
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Thank you for showing an interest in the BCV school of compassion and justice for 2018/19. Enclosed is an information pack along with an application form. Can I encourage you to take some time to prayerfully read and consider the exciting opportunity on offer? I am personally expectant of God impacting our lives and the lives of those around us in deep and significant ways throughout the year as we seek to better understand and live out his heart for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Our term will run from Sep 2018 to the end of June 2019 so to allow for us to plan well I would ask that, should you wish to apply, you return your completed application form as soon as possible but no later than Friday 29th June 2018. Following receipt of your application we will schedule an interview and seek to finalize student placements as quickly as possible. All completed applications should be returned to the above address.

If you have any questions regarding the application process or the year ahead, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Blessings



Alan Carson  
Associate Pastor  
Belfast City Vineyard



## Compassion at BCV

We are excited to be offering a unique training environment within Belfast City Vineyard's compassion ministries. BCV compassion ministries all sit on the foundation that every individual in our city (and beyond) is of unique significance with a God given value and purpose regardless of their story or current circumstances. We believe that poverty of any kind physical, emotional, financial, relational or spiritual most often steals a person's dignity and understanding of their significance to God. We therefore set out not to simply provide for physical needs but to see dignity restored. That means we look not to "fix" people but to create environments where we can connect. Where their story can intersect with ours, where we can call out the good things that Jesus has placed in each other, where we can learn from one another and where we can reach together for a better future.

*"Oftentimes, the only difference between the poor and the rich is that the poor have no resources with which to cover their flaws, sins and addictions. There is much to learn from this brutal honesty"*  
David Ruis

We are not stagnant, as the needs of our city are constantly changing. We don't wait for crisis but look to lean in to the preferred future for Belfast and in doing so seek to create spaces and places where no-one has to live under a false ceiling; where no one is denied the opportunity to "live life to the full" (John 10:10) by our lack of faith or ability to see how freedom and wholeness might be possible. That means we are always on the move, always asking what next. We seek to build slowly and sustainably, with wisdom and stewardship but we also don't fear risk, don't shy away from what hasn't been done before and look always to what our father is doing across the city. More and more we are being invited into rooms of influence across the city and so what we offer below is a rough guide to how time will be spent in a typical 20hr week but the details may well change depending on the current needs of the ministry.

## Current Environments

### Storehouse ([storehousebelfast.com](http://storehousebelfast.com))

Much of our compassion ministry at BCV flows through Storehouse, a separate charity we established in 2010. Storehouse provides emergency goods to around 80 households per week partnering with over 180 referring bodies, bringing together close to 50 churches, schools and businesses and around 200 volunteers, including placements from the justice department and probation, all in the pursuit of seeing hope released from the heart of our city. Storehouse was birthed almost 10 years ago in BCV and you will have the opportunity to learn from, and be part of, the journey alongside those who have been there from the beginning.

*At the heart of Storehouse sits a deep desire to see dignity and hope restored to those caught in cycles of poverty. We believe that everyone in our city deserves to be seen, loved and celebrated regardless of their current circumstances.*

### Provision

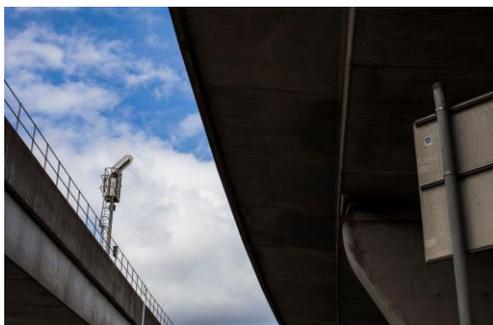
At Storehouse we provide the basic essentials of life for those who are denied them. Each week we give away food, clothes, furniture and household goods

### Community

We don't want to stop at provision but instead develop environments of connection and friendship. Every week we host a breakfast and social environment called Storehouse Home. Once a month we have an extended dining table where anyone can come together to cook and share a meal. We are also just in the process of developing a community gardening space.

### Development

In 2017 we brought on a new staff member to pioneer a one on one development programme called Storehouse Works bringing together coaching, structured volunteering, work placements and skills training to help people move towards flourishing.



### Friday Church

Just under 5 years ago God impressed upon our hearts a deep desire to create a space where those we were encountering in Storehouse could explore life with Jesus in a relevant and accessible way. Today we have a thriving community averaging 50 coming together to worship Jesus, learn together and minister to one another every Friday afternoon.

For many Friday Church is their home every bit as much as Sunday morning is for other members of BCV and we want to see those who find themselves on the margins of society introduced to Jesus, discipled and raised up to be leaders, exercising their God given gifts and callings, amongst their peers. You will get to be part of this beautiful community, serving, leading and helping minister to the wide variety of individuals that Jesus entrusts to us.

### Addiction Recovery

We have recently released Laurie (Associate Pastor) to help us to respond to the increasing numbers of people caught in addiction within our city. We are not ok to stand by and watch lives ravaged by drugs, alcohol on any other habitat which holds people back from stepping in to the life they were designed for. We want to see addiction broken within the context of friendship and care, so everything we do starts from a place of relationship. We want to know the addicted in our city, as friends, and journey with them in to freedom. You will get the opportunity to partner with street teams and engage with recovery courses throughout the year.

*"What we seek is a compassion that stands in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than in judgement at how they carry it."*  
Father Gregory Boyle





### Breakdown of Responsibilities

**7 hrs per week in Storehouse** – helping within current storehouse sessions both within our city centre venue and our warehouse environments moving towards leading at least 1 session per week, overseeing volunteer teams, helping develop volunteer leaders and helping develop the vision and values of storehouse across all our environments.

**3 hrs per week in Friday Church** – working alongside Alan and Laurie and the current team of leaders and volunteers to help develop a unique setting where those we encounter in Storehouse and beyond have the opportunity to experience community and life with Jesus in a safe, relevant environment. You will help set vision and direction, help build teams, learn to pastor and minister to some of the most vulnerable and marginalised in our communities and have the opportunity to experience church in a different and surprising form.

*“Compassion, then, can never be separated from community. Compassion always reveals itself in community, in a new way of being together.”*  
Henri Nouwen

**3 hrs per month serving the wider church** – compassion ministry sits inside the body of church as a whole. We are committed not to growing healthy ministries but being part of a healthy, thriving church where the whole body “wins and loses” together. To this end you will be expected to attend Sunday morning services weekly and serve on a team at least once a month.



**Up to 7 hrs per week personal study and growth** – you will get to spend time each week within a classroom environment with our Associate Pastor (Alan Carson) who oversees our compassion ministries and other key leaders, exploring the theology, vision and heartbeat behind all we do. You'll have the opportunity to spend structured time with Jesus each week exploring the calling on your life and how Jesus has uniquely shaped you to see his kingdom come. You will, from time to time, get to sit in on strategic meetings and other events Alan is attending. Within this there will also be time to help dream for our city's future, exploring and establishing potential new compassion projects. Together as a group we will read a book each month and practice a spiritual discipline.

**Once a month mentoring** – as part of the year you will also be required to meet once a month with a mentor who will help you process what you are learning and how you are growing as a passionate pursuer of Jesus and his kingdom.

*"When you give somebody a thing without giving yourself, you degrade both parties by making the receiver utterly passive and by making yourself a benefactor. But when you give yourself, nobody is degraded – in fact both parties are elevated by a shared joy."*  
Philip Hallie

### Requirments

To facilitate this you will need to be available from 9am to 4pm on Fridays and on either a Wednesday or a Thursday as well as attending BCV on Sunday mornings. We will endeavour to keep all other school activities to evenings to allow part time work to be obtained.



## Student Commitments

As detailed above each student will be required to commit to roughly 20 hours per week with Friday, Wednesday or Thursday and Sunday morning availability being essential. Within this time will be included personal study and homework assignments etc. There is no cost for the year but each student will be expected to purchase their own books for required reading (8-10 within the year) and there will be the option for one or two ministry trips within the year which will require finance for travel etc. We will endeavour to keep the costs down as much as possible. Above and beyond that we hold our students to a high standard within their personal lives and we expect the following:

### Personal Commitment

It is vital that all students are pursuing a growing, intimate relationship with Jesus and that He is first within their lives.

### Code of Conduct

Students will seek to 'be imitators of God' with 'not even a hint of sexual immorality, or any kind of impurity,' living as 'children of light' and finding out 'what pleases the Lord' (Ephesians 5:1-12). This standard governs our personal and public life.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes, groups, events, sessions, small group and church services regularly and punctually and with all necessary preparation.

*"Love casts out fear but we have to get over the fear in order to get close enough to love."  
Dorothy Day*



### Expectations

A ministry school is not for those who are looking for a place of recovery, classroom learning only or for people who are coming out of lifestyle sins. Students come to serve and grow in mission towards others, where the focus is primarily outward not inward. As such the year is not suited to those who do not have a healthy inner life with Jesus or those currently recovering from physical or mental illnesses.

### Discipline of Students

The freedom of the school environment requires a high level of self-management. Any student struggling to make wise choices will receive quick and direct confrontation, which is designed to help draw out the greatness within.

In the unlikely event that a student's placement must be cut short we operate a "3 strikes" procedure.

- Strike 1: An official verbal warning
- Strike 2: An official written warning
- Strike 3: Asked to leave the school

## Financial Information

This is a brief explanation to make you aware of the financial implications of taking part in a ministry school with Belfast City Vineyard. It gives a rough breakdown of estimated costs of living.



### Self-Financing

Students will need to work out in advance some form of ongoing financial support to cover their entire living expenses for the year. We recognise that there is a level of faith required in raising support but our value of personal responsibility and self-management means that students should take full responsibility for meeting their financial commitments. This could be from personal savings or from ongoing support through work, friends or family. Please note: there is no remuneration or financial help from BCV towards fees or living costs.

### Living costs

You will be responsible for your rent and all other living expenses. We have tried to estimate a rough guide of monthly living costs for necessities per person. Everything has been priced monthly and is simply an estimated cost for each expense.

### Estimate of Living Cost

Monthly Cost (per person based on shared accommodation)

Rent: (ie. Sharing a 4 bedroom house)	£200
Utility Bills: Electricity	£20
Heating	£30
Transport: (ie Bus costs twice a day)	£75
Food:	£115
Miscellaneous: (Emergency expenses)	£60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£500</b>

We estimate that roughly £500 a month is reasonable living expenses for necessities... but it could be less if students can live simply. Non essentials are not included in the estimate! Students may like to also budget according to their need for non-essentials such as entertainment, leisure, phone, clothes etc.

#### Financial Commitment

Students will be required as part of the application form to sign a commitment agreeing to the financial implications of completing a BCV Ministry School as outlined previously; that they agree to organize their support in advance of starting and that they agree that it is their responsibility to cover their entire living expenses for the year on team.

