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MISSION YEAR

the gateway to urban mission

The guide

missionyear.org.uk

what is mission year?

Mission Year, an initiative of ACT network, is the answer for Christians who are looking to be involved in intentional community and to make an impact in inner-city areas, but might not know how to take the first step. You may have been struck by God's heart for the poor in the Bible or read a Shane Claiborne or similar book and are wondering how you can put it into action — if so, then Mission Year is for you!

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood."

[John 1:14a , The Message]

Against a backdrop of escalating poverty, unemployment and social turbulence in the UK, Mission Year is equipping Christians to live in community and serve local churches that are operating in the places of most need in London. While some Christians go overseas to do mission, we believe that there is also great need in our neighbourhoods right here in the UK.

Mission Year is not a gap year, but a gateway to living out your faith in a more radical and adventurous way. We're looking for energetic and passionate Christians who have a willingness to learn and an eagerness to get stuck into the local community. We don't promise it will be easy, but we can promise it will be an adventure of community living and deepening relationships.

FAQs

How do I apply?

It couldn't be easier— just fill in the 'I'm interested' form at missionyear.org.uk and we'll be in touch with an application form, which will be followed by an interview.

When can I start?

The majority of teams start in September, but this can be flexible.

What church will I be placed with?

When we place you in a church we will always try to take into account preferences for location in London, as well as requests for being part of particular denominations. You will also be able to visit the church before you start.

Who will I live with?

You will be placed in a team of around three to four other Mission Year participants. You can also apply to join with a group of friends. Most teams will need to find their own accommodation—your local church and Mission Year office will help with this process.

How does the finance work?

There is a payment to Mission Year to cover training, support and administration. House teams are also collectively responsible for their rent and bills, which we encourage to be paid from a 'common pot'.

What topics does the training cover?

The training is designed to equip you for urban mission and covers a diverse range of topics, from workplace mission and faith in politics to avoiding burnout and community engagement. Participants can also attend the School of Theology courses at St Paul's Theological Centre .

what will i be involved in?

Act Network works to equip and resource local churches to tackle issues of social exclusion in the areas of high social deprivation.

Act Network supports Mission Year host churches to replicate proven and effective social action ministries and ensure long-term growth in areas where they are needed most.

Mission Year participants receive training and equipping to help serve their host churches As a passionate and energetic Mission Year participant, you will make a lasting difference for good by meeting the needs of your neighbourhood.

During the year participants reach out to their community and make a tangible difference through the ACT approved ministries at their host church (below).

Current participants are also involved in homeless night shelters, local sports and youth clubs, children's holiday clubs, teaching English as a foreign language and planting an inner-city orchard.

CAP Money

TLG

REGENERATE

XLP

network foodbank

Mission Year gets you on the frontline of urban mission straightaway, while supporting you with comprehensive training throughout the year. This includes orientation and retreat weekends, fortnightly training sessions from specialist speakers and on-going pastoral support.

Mission Year participants are connected with an inner-city church to serve the local area and are placed in teams to live together in a local community house.

The house is the key place where intentional community is lived out and is a place where you can pray and eat together, while practising hospitality and befriending neighbours.

Currently we have Mission Year teams serving around 15 local London churches across various denominations. While we only ask for a year's commitment, we have been encouraged that 80% of participants are choosing to stay serving their local church when the year is over.

how does it work?

Mission Year is designed to be flexible.

You can join whether you are single or married, and be part of it while working full or part time, or as a full time volunteer.

This mix allows those in employment to enjoy being connected to a community and being involved in ministry where they can (and often offering more towards rent and bills) , while the volunteers can be empowered to spend their days getting stuck into the local area.

thoughts on mission year

"Jesus calls the Church to be light in a dark world. Mission Year is answering this call. It's an opportunity to shine brightly and shine together. The future of our nation will be shaped by local church – I can't commend the heart behind Mission Year highly enough."

Andy Croft, Associate Director Soul Survivor

"Mission Year is a fantastic opportunity to really engage with and serve the local community and local church."

Pete Hughes, Leader of KXC

"When I found out I would be moving to London I was excited at the chance to get involved with an inner-city church serving the local community. Mission Year provided this opportunity."

Stephen Tunstall, 2011 Mission Year participant (employment stream)

"Life has stayed exactly the same post Mission Year. We still live in the same flat, on the same estate, with the same hearts for this area and the people we live alongside. Mission Year facilitated intentional community and a missional structure to our lives that we didn't know how to start on our own. It seemed to plant something in us that will just continue to grow; a longing for simple living, sharing of resources, learning about our community, our neighbours and their culture. A sense that life is more important than ours.

Matt and Beth House , 2010 Mission Year participants (part-time stream)

"Mission Year people at St Peter's Bethnal Green are a key ingredient to meeting the needs of our neighbourhoods, to our creative collaboration with other local churches and also to helping build our church as authentic community."

Adam Atkinson, Vicar of St Peter's Bethnal Green

"Mission Year is the gateway drug to revolution. May we all continue to become the church we dream of so that we can build the kind of world that we are proud of. It begins by diving full on into the pain, perhaps for a year, and asking how our deepest passions connect with the world's deepest pains."

Shane Claiborne, Author, Activist & Speaker

"We feel our life is so much richer now. We've learnt so much about ourselves living in a community where we are the minority trying to act out beliefs in practical ways."

Jemimah & Ewan McAlpine, 2010 Mission Year participants (employment stream)