

(FORGE)  
LEADERS IN TRAINING



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DIocese of  
Down & Drómóire



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Forge: Leaders in Training is a new development within the Forge: Ministry Apprenticeship Scheme that seeks to grow the faith and skills of young leaders who volunteer regularly in youth and/or children's ministry.



Forge: L.I.T. is designed to grow ministry leadership in a flexible way to complement your existing commitments to work and study. Aimed at young adults aged 17-21 the programme will begin in October 2024 and finish in July 2025 with an overseas mission team.

## What is FORGE L.I.T.

Forge: L.I.T has 5 main elements specifically designed to improve your leadership skills and experience and strengthen your faith:

### 1. Church Placement

Each Leader in Training will be expected to volunteer in a parish (usually their home parish) on a regular basis in a youth and/or children's ministry. For instance, as a weekly volunteer in a Sunday School.

### 2. Extended Leadership Placement

In addition to your involvement in your usual church setting you will be offered short-term supervised leadership roles designed to expand your leadership experience and gain new skills. These will include, but not be limited to, diocesan programmes such as youth events, residentials and children's days . and will offer leadership experience in areas such as planning and organising, speaking, small groups, activities/games, and worship.

### 3. Training

During the 9-month programme there will be 3 central training days. At these training days all the L.I.T. participants will gain key knowledge in biblical leadership and practical ways to implement this into their ministry. In addition, we will provide a training bursary to each person for additional training that will benefit their leadership. This could include First Aid training, Food and Hygiene certificate, Makaton or other relevant training of your choice.



#### 4. Discipleshipship

A vital component of this L.I.T. programme is the spiritual development of each leader. We will intentionally seek to grow faith through:

- Mentoring: We will provide an experienced Christian leader who will meet or call you monthly to discuss how you can better lead following the example of Jesus Christ and support you in overcoming obstacles to achieve this.
- Spiritual Reflection: We will ask you to complete short reflective assignment on your leadership that will help you see more clearly where God is at work in your ministry.

#### 5. Overseas Mission

Each participant will be offered the opportunity to bring all this experience learning together in an overseas mission team that will be subsidised by an L.I.T. bursary. The mission team will take place in July 2025 for a period of 7-10 days and have a focus on mission to children and young people.

### Who can apply to Forge: Leaders in Training?

Open to all young adults in the diocese aged 17-21 who are currently helping in leadership in a parish church or ministry in Down and Dromore. Spaces are limited to 10 and awarded after application and informal interview.

### How much will the programme cost?

The programme is free to successful applicants except for the overseas mission team which will have a bursary provided. We anticipate that this team will cost participants approximately £100p.p.

### How do I apply?

To apply please complete an application form. Applications can be obtained from the Down and Dromore webpage.

## *What is required of me in terms of time?*

In addition to your ongoing help as a parish leader you will be asked, over the 10-month period of the programme, to commit to:

- 3 Saturday afternoon and evening (2 sessions) of training. A total of 6 sessions.
- 4 sessions minimum in an extended leadership placement outside of your church.
- 2-4 sessions on a training course of your choice (this will depend on the course you choose).
- 1 session to complete the Spiritual Reflection assignment.
- 1 hour mentoring each month; on the phone or in person.



## *When does it start and finish?*

October 2024 to July 2025.

## *What else will I get out of this?*

In addition to the training and investment from an experienced group of youth and children's ministry workers you will also get an incredible Forge sweatshirt!

