**The Salvation Army – Bedford Salvation Army**

**Gap Year Information and Application Details : 2021 - 2022**

The Salvation Army building in Bedford is situated on the edge of the town centre. Directly opposite the hall is our Community Cafe; The Woolpack Hub, above which is a three bedroomed furnished flat in which we can accommodate two Gap Year Interns. We also have a Sports cage attached to the Woolpack, a charity shop in the town centre, and another building in the heart of a local community 10 minutes up the road.

Members of the corps, our paid staff and strong team of volunteers run a very busy community programme which positively impacts the lives of many people. Key

elements of the community programme include provision of food parcels on a daily basis, a charity shop and various other forms of practical support focussed on the poorest members of the community. We run a Parent and Toddlers group, after school drop-in, and Sunday activities for the children. We also have senior brass band and choir (songsters) groups, and a worship band. During the school holidays we run

children’s holiday clubs in our building.

The Corps officers at Bedford Salvation Army are Majors Angie and Graham Bailey. Since taking up this appointment in September 2015 the CO’s, together with the leadership team, have continued to prayerfully consider the future of our church. One of the commitments they are eager to pursue this year is to train and equip young people, and the provision of the Gap Year opportunity helps facilitate this objective, while also enriching the church community.

**The Gap Year:**

This is an opportunity to commit 11 months (September 2021- August 2022) to

Christian ministry working alongside a small but well-motivated and committed team. It will be a life-enriching experience and will act as a springboard for the future.

The Salvation Army in Bedford provides accommodation, and basic living expenses, training opportunities and mentoring, within a supportive Christian community; complete with challenges, opportunities to show faith in action and equipping for ongoing ministry.

The expenses we provide will cover basic food and other essentials.  All bills relating to the accommodation and training will be covered by the corps.

The precise job descriptions and training opportunities will be tailored to suit the individual, but there will be the option for any applicants to chose either a Children’s & Family ministry stream, or a Community ministry stream. These two options would share elements of a similar working week, but would provide additional experience, support and training in their separate areas.
Bedford Salvation Army has had experience running a Gap Year programmes for the past 10+ years, and we have had students from all over the world! Here are what two of our gap year students have to say:

**Amanda - "Doing a gap year here was probably one of the craziest things I've ever done! I didn't know anyone when I came and I didn't have a clue what I was doing but I have learnt so so much and met some incredible people that I just couldn't leave!"**

**Joanne - "Have loved the opportunity to do some community work and get involved with stuff I have never done before. I love it."**

During the Gap Year there will be opportunity to take some holiday.  The amount of time taken away from the post will be negotiated in advance, but there will be flexibility during the year.

There will normally be one full day off each week.  This could be a weekday or Saturday and it could vary from week to week according to the corps programme.

**What to do next:**

Assuming, having read this far, that you are interested is pursuing an application, you will be able to download an application form which can be sent back either via email to: hayley.greetham@salvationarmy.org.uk or via post:

Gap Year Application, Bedford Salvation Army, Commercial Road, Bedford, MK40 1QS

An enhanced DBS check will also be required which we will assist with.

The information you send will only be shared with those who interview you for the position.

**And after this:**

Once we have received this information we will make contact with you by phone to update you on the progress of your application, to answer any questions you might have and to arrange an interview date.

***Important dates:***

Application Deadline - Friday 14th May

Interview week - week beginning Monday 31st May

Moving day - Friday 3rd September

Start date - Monday 6th September

We look forward to hearing from you!

God bless,

Bedford Leadership Team