

# Information for Candidates



## TIME FOR GOD

### THE ORGANISATION

Our mission: 'Time For God aims to provide quality volunteering opportunities through which God changes lives.'

- Established in 1965 to support young adults in serving local communities
- About 100 volunteers at any one time
- People and projects in other countries all around the world
- Christians from many different denominations and backgrounds
- Over 60 placements in the UK

### THE VOLUNTEER YEAR

A volunteer:

- Is prepared to live simply during the year by doing without and serving others
- Serves to the best of their ability
- Shows commitment
- Explores the role of Christian faith within their life
- Commits to serving between 10-12 months in a TfG-approved placement
- Works up to 37.5 hours per week

A volunteer receives:

- Two days off each week (not necessarily together)
- Food allowance money, if meals are not provided
- Accommodation at the placement (usually including a private bedroom)
- Two days annual leave for each month worked (these dates must be negotiated with the placement)
- Some sending organisations give pocket money every month (you need to check with your sending organisation)

A volunteer is supported by:

- Supervisor
- A member of staff at the placement who has regular meetings with each volunteer, and is responsible for their professional and pastoral care (this may be the same person as the supervisor).
- Other volunteers, friends, sending organisation

- Many different people in and around the placement, in the host country or back at home.
- And last but not least....

### The TfG Team



**Mary Makoni**

Interim Director  
& Operations



**Neil Ashton**

Financial &  
Administration  
Officer



**Stephen Adamson**

Field Officer



**Becky Burdon**

Field Officer &  
Operations

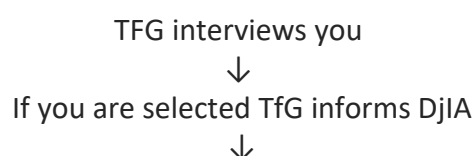
## HOW THE YEAR LOOKS

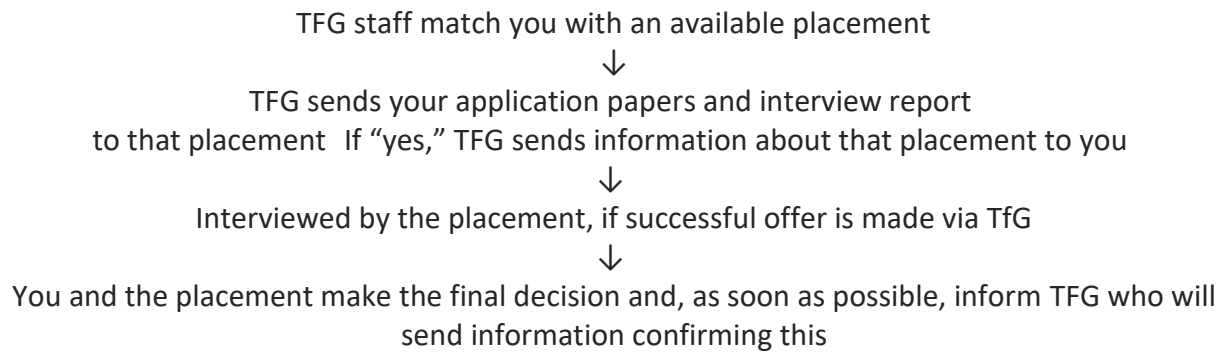
- ⇒ TFG Preparation for Service conference (September/October)
- ⇒ First visit by TfG Field Officer
- ⇒ Mid-Service conference (January/February)
- ⇒ Final Regional Training Day (July)
- ⇒ Return Home

## PLACEMENT TYPES

- Church Communities
- Activity Centres
- Retreat Centres
- Caregiving Projects- Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Projects with Vulnerable People

## FINDING YOUR PLACEMENT





Remember:

- Make sure TfG can contact you easily
- Be patient – the process does take time
- Be open to different placement possibilities
- Contact the placement as soon as you can after receiving information
- Ask lots of questions and listen carefully to the answers
- Think and pray, then commit to a decision

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

You need to consider:

- Money (fees, travel, insurance, visa, police checks)
- Your current commitments (financial, academic)
- Your relationships (family, friends, romance)
- Your expectations about life as a volunteer (surviving on pocket money, etc)
- Your health and related issues
- Only LIMITED luggage – check weight restrictions on all flights (including connections)

Don't leave these until the last minute!

You must arrange:

- Your passport (valid for at least 6 months after the end of your volunteering)
- Your visa (this process takes a long time and needs to be begun as soon as possible)

If you have any questions please ask:

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[neil@timeforgod.org](mailto:neil@timeforgod.org)  
[stephen@timeforgod.org](mailto:stephen@timeforgod.org)  
[becky@timeforgod.org](mailto:becky@timeforgod.org)



TIME FOR GOD



## Types of Volunteer Experiences we Offer

We partner with various placements around the UK that offer a rich and varied experience for your volunteer year. Each placement is unique and we work hard to match volunteers to the placements they are best suited to.

# Church Communities

We partner with churches of every type you can imagine! TfG volunteers serve churches that are urban and rural, large and small, traditional, contemporary, and everything in between. For example, we have church placements that are Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, non-denominational and more.

## The needs

TfG church placements need help with an exciting variety of projects and groups that serve people of all ages both inside and beyond the church community. We would place you in a role that fits well with your skills and areas that you would like to grow.

For example, you could be involved in some of the following:

- work with children such as in a play group, school assembly, Sunday school etc.
- work with youth such as mentoring, Bible studies, sports groups, holiday camps etc.
- work with vulnerable people such as helping at homeless night shelter or foodbank
- work with elderly or disabled people such as a coffee morning or music club
- other work such as worship band, tech/AV support, social media, community development projects, serving in café, university student outreach etc.

## Work-life rhythms

You would probably live with a local host and share some of your meals with them or share a flat with other volunteers with the option of cooking for yourself. Each placement is different. Your personal life and work life would usually overlap quite a lot. It is a great opportunity to immerse yourself in a community and to make it home for a year.

Your weekly timetable would have a lot of variety and would not follow a typical Monday – Friday, 9am-5pm pattern. You would have two full days off each week but you would probably work part of the weekend and some evenings. You would need to embrace the flexibility of your role and make the most of the free time you have to rest and have fun.

## Considerations

- Come as you are - be ready to share your faith journey and learn from others.
- Be open to connecting with God and putting your faith into action in a new way.
- This is a great opportunity to explore a variety of projects and be involved in the community.





# Activity Centres

We partner with some unique Christian activity centres spread across the UK. These centres host groups for a day or several days at a time. They offer a varied programme of outdoor pursuit activities, sports and games. Some offer sessions to help children and young people express and grow in their faith.

## The needs

These placements need volunteers to serve as activity instructors and small group leaders.

For example, you could be involved in some of the following:

- work with children leading activities such as high ropes, abseiling, archery
- work with youth leading activities such as sailing, camp fire building, tennis
- planning faith-based retreats, activities, games etc.
- some maintenance and cleaning of equipment and activity areas
- participate in staff prayer/worship times and possibly with guests as well

Related experience is helpful but not required and you would receive extensive training at the placement.

## Work-life rhythms

You would live on site in community with other volunteers from around the world. Usually meals are provided with the option of preparing simple food and snacks for yourself. These placements are very sociable places to live and work and offer a great opportunity to grow in leadership skills.

Your weekly timetable and days off would vary depending on the season and can be especially busy with longer hours during the summer months, so a willingness to be flexible is important.

## Considerations

- The work is physical and many outdoor activities will continue in the winter. So it is important that you enjoy being active and being outside.
- The volunteer role may involve some domestic tasks which are essential to running the centre.
- Many of these projects are in beautiful rural locations but that also means there may not be easy access to nearby towns and communities.



# Projects With Vulnerable People

We partner with some amazing Christian projects that work with vulnerable adults who need support to change their circumstances. Clients at these projects may be homeless, unemployed and/or recovering from addiction.

## The needs

These placements need help on different teams with a whole range of responsibilities and tasks. As long as you are interested in this work and learning new skills, no relevant experience is necessary. You would receive any specific training that you need for your role at your placement.

For example, you could be involved in some of the following:

- Befriending clients by running activities such as a sports competition, a photography workshop or prayer time.
- Communication and administrative work such as answering the phone or helping clients to complete paperwork etc.
- Helping clients to develop practical skills such as cooking, landscaping, computers.
- Supervision of clients ensuring they follow the project's policies and boundaries.
- Accompanying clients during meals, on outings or to church.



Some of these programmes incorporate Christian faith as an important part in the recovery programme, so sharing your personal faith would be part of the volunteer role. At other projects, the faith element is shown through actions but might be unspoken.

## Work-life rhythms

You would probably live at or near the project with other volunteers in a shared flat and cook for yourself. It is a great opportunity to be part of a close staff and volunteer team and to build a personal life outside of work. You could choose a local church community and other social groups to join.

You would have regular days off, but you may work some evenings and weekends and you may work shifts.

## Considerations

- While it is very rewarding, serving vulnerable people is also challenging.
- You could encounter extreme situations including difficult behaviour.
- You will be part of a supportive team that is working together to bring hope to the vulnerable.
- It would be important to develop healthy boundaries between your work and personal life.

# Caregiving Projects

We partner with some Christian residential projects that either care for elderly people or adults with learning disabilities. Learning disabilities refer to conditions such as Down's syndrome, Autism, etc. These caregiving projects provide a warm and supportive environment that the residents call home.

## The needs

These projects need volunteers to help and befriend the residents in their daily life. Each resident has unique needs and a personal story that you would soon get to know.

For example, you could be involved in some of the following:

- Supporting residents emotionally and socially
- Encouraging residents' faith by praying with them or accompanying them to church
- Planning activities and outings
- Assisting clients with cooking, tidying up, shopping, using public transport, etc.
- Helping the staff with housework such as cleaning and food preparation



No specific experience is required, just a heart to care for people. You would receive specialised training and support as you develop new skills for your role.

## Work-life rhythms

You would live in a flat with other volunteers at the placement. Your meals would probably be provided with the option of preparing some simple food and snacks in your own accommodation. It is a great opportunity to live with your co-workers in the community that you are serving.

You would most likely work according to a shift pattern and your duties will include a variety of practical help and on-going relationship building with the residents. You would receive your weekly timetables in advance so that you can make the most of your time off to rest and build up a personal life outside of work. For example, you may work a long week (6 days) followed a long weekend (4 days) when you could explore another part of the UK.



## Considerations

- Though not all residents will need it, you may be asked to offer some degree of 'personal care' – which could include feeding, bathing and/or dressing people.
- Some (not all) of these projects are located in quiet, rural locations so you may be living further away from a local town or city.



# Retreat Centres

TfG volunteers support Christian retreat centres across the UK that work to create special spaces where guests can enjoy taking time out of their normal busy lives.

## The needs

These placements need volunteers to join them in serving the individuals and groups who come to the centre to recharge and connect with God. The work is all about serving through hospitality.

For example, you could be involved in some of the following:

- Serving meals and refreshments
- Welcoming and caring for guests during their stay
- Help with maintenance projects such as gardening and painting
- Housekeeping such as tidying and cleaning when guests leave
- Participation in staff prayer/worship times and possibly with guests as well



## Work-life rhythms

You would live on site in community with other volunteers and staff. Usually meals are provided with the option of preparing simple food and snacks for yourself.

You would have regular days off but may work some evenings and weekends. It is a great opportunity to meet lots of new people and improve your English while serving within a Christian project. In your free time you could also join a local church and other groups outside of the placement community to make friends and grow in your faith.



## Considerations

- Some of the work would be physical.
- Retreat centres are often located in more rural settings, so you may be living further away from a local town or city.