



THE BONAR TRUST

TRAINING GOSPEL WORKERS
FOR THE CHURCH IN SCOTLAND

www.bonartrust.org

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“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).

Key Highlights – March 2021

- The work of the Trust is growing year on year.
- The partnership model of ministry training developed by the Bonar Trust and others, recognises the importance of the local church in training, as well as the seminary. Partnership training is now the established pattern in Scotland, embraced by the training churches, training providers and by the emerging generation of gospel leaders.
- In 2020-21, 59 grants were awarded (2019-20: 43 grants, 2018-19: 32 grants). Grants are split evenly between Apprentices and Leaders in Training.
- The grant total for 2020-21 is £252,500 (2019-20: £192,500, 2018-19: £136,250).
- The Trust operates a shared or matched funding model, so every £1 invested by the Trust generates a minimum £3 investment in training. Trust funding is very often the catalyst for additional investment. The overall investment for 2020-21 is £757,500 (2019-20: £577,500, 2018-19: £408,750).
- A great encouragement is growth in the number of training churches. In 2020-21 the Trust supported people training in 29 training churches, including a number of new training churches, e.g. Bellevue in Edinburgh, Central Baptist in Dundee, Hope Church Bingham in Edinburgh (20 Schemes) and Glenrothes Baptist. In 2020-21 the Trust was delighted to be able support, for the first time, a number of people training at the Tron Church in Glasgow.
- Of the 29 training churches, a smaller number of ‘hub’ training churches are emerging. These are churches with rigorous training programmes and a proven track record of training leaders. In 2020-21, approximately 50% of the Trust’s funding went to people training in 6 hub training churches. While hub churches are similar in terms of the rigour of their training programmes, they represent a broad constituency – Independents, Free Church of Scotland, Didasko and GAFCON.
- The Trust is working with a number of churches developing training programmes to begin later this year. These include churches in urban and rural settings, in the Central Belt and the Highlands.
- The diversity of training churches is matched by the diversity of training providers the Trust is associated with: Cornhill Training Course, Cornhill Pastors’ Training Course, Edinburgh Theological Seminary, 20 Schemes Ministry Training and Crosslands Training.
- The Trust’s investment across this broad constituency of training churches and training providers is an important driver in developing a national vision and strategy for training in Scotland.

For 2021-22, the Trust projects an increase in grants to 75, totalling £310,000, generating an overall investment in training of £930,000.

Current grant capacity for 2021-22, based on support already committed, is £270,000. The growth in training across Scotland creates a significant financial challenge for the Trust year on year, with the need to keep growing our support base.

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