

Dear Friends and family,

You may be aware that over the last 18 months I have been exploring the ways in which I can support The Church (broadly) in being a place that everyone can belong, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

During this time, I have had some very exciting opportunities such as being a guest with Through The Roof on The Faith in Kids Podcast, creating video resources and having a short interview on UCB radio. As well as this, through my role as SEND coordinator for REVIVE (Co-Mission's annual festival for churches) I was struck with how seeking to meet the needs of those with additional needs not only serves the individual, but the whole family. There have also been an increasing number of opportunities to visit other churches and deliver training to leaders and volunteers.

I have become increasingly convinced that making church a place that is accessible for all is a completely biblical principle. In 1 Corinthians 12 we are reminded that "those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable", showing us that not only should we strive to love and care for those around us with disabilities, but that they are indispensable to our church communities. Further to this we should be treating them with "special honour".

Whilst many individuals and churches are beginning to recognise this, and would love to do more to include those with additional needs and disabilities in their congregations, there is a gap between the heart for inclusion and the knowledge and skills to make church a place where those with SEND can not only access, but be discipled, serve, participate in all areas of church life and truly belong.

It is with this in mind, and after much prayer and consideration that I have accepted the position of Ministry Trainee at St Michael's Fulwell, beginning 1st September 2024. As a ministry trainee I will have the opportunity to learn more about church ministry, with a focus on SEND and accessibility. I will continue in my position as REVIVE SEND coordinator and seek to build on the work that has begun there.

I will also be looking at ways we can serve those with additional needs within St Michaels, and in our local community. I will also be undertaking training with Biblical Counselling UK (BCUK) to support this ministry. The Ministry Trainee scheme will be for 2 years, at the end of which I hope I will have been able to bring together my current professional knowledge and experience of supporting those with SEND, and a deeper understanding of ministry.

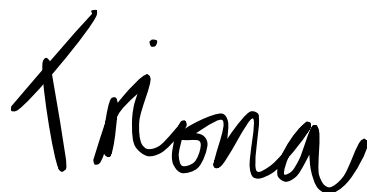
To be able to do this, I am looking for support from those around me. There are different ways that you can choose to support, the first being through prayer. It would be wonderful if you felt able to commit to praying for myself and this ministry as I begin this next season of life.

It would also be great if you were willing to sign up for newsletter updates, that will keep you up to date with what is happening during the next two years. This will be a great blessing to know that there are people interested and invested in the training and work that I will be undertaking.

I am also seeking to fundraise £21,425 to cover my living and training expenses. To do this I am applying to grant giving bodies, and asking individuals if they would consider being a supporter. This is the final way that you could choose to support me through this process. Of course this may not be possible for everyone, however I will not hesitate to say that no amount of financial support is insignificant.

If you would like to support me in any of the suggested ways, please follow this link: <https://www.stmichaelsfulwell.co.uk/triona/> and complete the form on the website, or alternatively email triona.brading@gmail.com with how you would like to support. It would be really helpful if you would be able to do this by Sunday 3rd March 2024. This is because I need to have a clear idea of what has been pledged in order to inform Grant Giving Bodies.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Triona". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'T'.

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT COULD LOOK LIKE:

£5 a month will cover **half of my Wi-Fi bill.**

£15 a month will cover my **phone bill.**

£50 a month will cover my **travel expenses.**

£120 a month will cover my **course fees for a year.**

£400 a month would pay for all my **groceries and personal expenses.**



HOW YOU CAN BE PRAYING:

- Grant applications- That I will use my time well and have the right words to say. That grant givers will understand the vision of a Church where everyone belongs fully.
- For an appropriate and affordable housing option for September (My current tenancy comes to an end in August!)
- For peace and trust in God and His provision.