

A photograph of a stone church building with a large arched window and a cross on the roof. White blossoms are visible on the right side of the image.

Weekly Newsletter: 24 June 2025

Reflection: UK Chooses Death from Beginning to End

By James Mildred, Director of Communications and Engagement at CARE (taken from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/uk-abortion-assisted-suicide/>)

Two literal life-changing votes were held in the UK Parliament last week, one concerning the beginning of life and one centering on the end of life. On Tuesday, MPs voted 379 to 137 to “decriminalise abortion.” And on Friday, MPs backed an assisted suicide law by 314 to 291.

As a result of these two votes (and provided both laws are approved by the House of Lords), we will experience two of the biggest social changes in our country for generations. In both cases, Members of the UK Parliament have further undermined the intrinsic dignity of human beings made in God’s image. More lives will be needlessly lost.

Loss at Life’s Beginning

Even by UK standards, with one of the most permissive abortion regimes in Europe, this new law allowing abortions as late as birth is extreme. Since the 1967 Abortion Act, the number of abortions has been increasing. The latest official figures show a record of more than 252,000 abortions in England and Wales in 2022, an increase of 17 percent from 2021.

This new law harms women as well as their babies. More women will suffer deep regret and worse. Decriminalization doesn’t address any of the diverse reasons many women choose abortion, including poverty, absent fathers, peer pressure, and anxiety that sometimes accompanies pregnancy.

We have witnessed a devastating, desperate, and dark turn for our nation and a further retreat from the beautiful, better story we find in God’s Word. According to the wisdom of our Creator, life begins at conception, and every human is “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps. 139:13–14), crafted by the Lord in the womb and granted the glory and honour of being his image-bearers (Ps. 8:5). The prophet Habakkuk expresses what many Christians now feel, when he asks the Lord how he can tolerate such wickedness (Hab. 1:2–4).

Loss at Life’s End

As if the abortion vote wasn’t bad enough, in the same week, MPs approved an assisted suicide law that applies in England and Wales.

Many MPs changed their minds since voting for the legislation in November last year. We praise God for the diligent prayers and letter writing of Christians across the UK ahead of the vote. Tragically, not enough of the House of Commons heeded these warnings. Unless the House of Lords blocks it, expect to see assisted suicide offered on the National Health Service from 2029 onwards.

MPs have voted to allow patients who meet broad criteria the option of an assisted suicide. Shockingly, and despite many warnings from experts and constituents, MPs even rejected an amendment that would have made it explicit that a person is not eligible for assisted suicide if substantially motivated by feeling a burden, a disability, or depression.

For the first time in UK history, lawmakers have granted the legal right for doctors to help patients kill themselves. The constitution of our NHS will have to be rewritten, and that is to say nothing about how this law change undermines the Hippocratic Oath where doctors promise to give no deadly medicine to patients. Under this law, doctors will even be able to raise assisted suicide with patients who meet the criteria, even if the patient has not asked for it.

In the United States, some states have already legalized assisted suicide and are living with its consequences. I grieve that we have taken the same path. The “right to die” will become a duty to die for some. How many desperate souls will be prematurely ushered into a lost eternity because of this change?

Taken together, both votes show that the cultural landscape of the UK is moving further and further away from its Christian roots. We have seen signs of what is being called a “quiet revival,” especially among younger people. But politically speaking, we are continuing to dismantle the final remnants of our Christian heritage.

These laws result from making individual autonomy an idol. We are not made to live free from God, but made for him to live in gospel freedom under the law of Christ. Echoing the whisper of Satan, society tells us the Christian way is restrictive and harmful. But true freedom is only found in following God’s design. Living subject to God’s Word is not limiting. It is the only path to abundant life (John 10:10).

Call to Pray

So, what now? The church is still salt and light in this world (Matt. 5:13–16), and we are still called to be a voice for the voiceless (Prov. 31:8–9). The work of organizations like CARE will intensify as we hold out biblical truth and call for justice. Pray that the evangelical church in the UK might be alive and alert to the true state of our society.

Pray also that we might have the courage and hope to act by speaking God’s better story into our broken society. Pray that we might show the love of Christ practically by adoption, fostering, supporting crisis pregnancy centres and hotlines, giving to hospices, and serving the ill and suffering.

More than a decade ago, Stanley Hauerwas said, “I say in a hundred years, if Christians are known as a strange group of people who don’t kill their children and don’t kill the elderly, we will have done a great thing.” May God spare other countries from traveling the same road as the United Kingdom. And may our God give us all wisdom as we seek to speak with truth and grace even in a degrading culture.

Summer Plans

Joe and the family are away in the US and return on Thursday 24 July. We are grateful to the following men for covering our Sunday services:

Date	Morning	Evening
29 June	John Pickering (Holyrood)	Andrew Yong (Chalmers)
6 July	Joshua Kellard (Banner of Truth)	Joshua Kellard (Banner of Truth)
13 July	Joshua Kellard (Banner of Truth)	Joshua Kellard (Banner of Truth)
20 July	Jon Gemmell (Holyrood)	Jon Gemmell (Holyrood)

Over July and August, our home groups will take a break and there will be a prayer meeting in the church every **Wednesday at 7pm**. No refreshments will be served before the prayer meeting over the summer months.

Summer Sunday Club and Creche will run over July and August. We're very thankful to all the volunteers who serve over the summer months.

Please note that there will be **no communion at the beginning of July** and speak to one of the elders if there are any pastoral matters that arise in Joe's absence.

Liz will be on holiday from Friday 4 July to Friday 18 July. There will be no newsletter or prayer bulletin for those two weeks.

Summer Appeal 2025

The current total is **£5405**. Each year our Summer Appeal goes towards the support of our three Holyrood missionaries – Lorna Ferguson (serving with OMF in Japan), James Stewart (serving with OMF in Singapore) and the Sorsamo Family (serving with Wycliffe in Finland). The appeal runs until the beginning of August. There are two ways you can give:

1. Electronically via BACS payment to the church account:
Sort Code 80-22-60, Account number 12345666 and use the reference 'Summer Appeal'
2. By cheque or cash in the offering box marked 'Summer Appeal'

Please speak to Nick Archer if you have any questions about how to give. Thank you!



The graphic features the Holyrood Evangelical Church logo, a sun icon, and a group photo of missionaries. It lists the names and locations of the missionaries: Hannu & Hazel Sorsamo (Finland), Lorna Ferguson (Japan), and James Stewart (Singapore). It also includes the Wycliffe Bible Translators logo. At the bottom, it provides instructions on how to contribute: via bank details on holyroodevangelical.org or by cheque/cash in the offering box.

Summer Appeal 2025

Hannu & Hazel Sorsamo
Finland

Lorna Ferguson
Japan

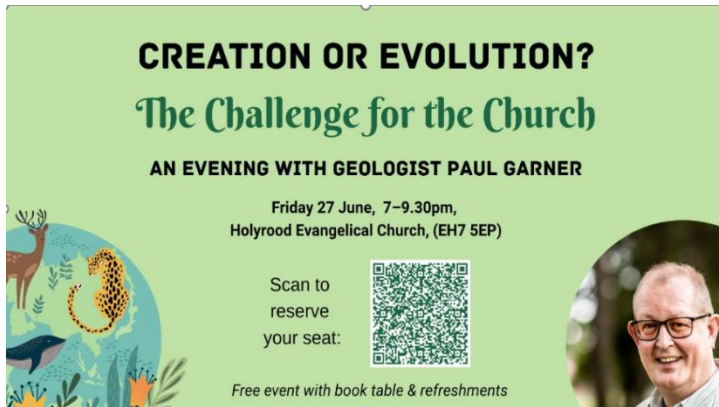
James Stewart
Singapore

To contribute please use the bank details on
holyroodevangelical.org (use reference 'Summer Appeal')
or cheque/cash in the offering box marked 'Summer Appeal'

Book Group

The book group will meet on 5 July (note change of date!) at 9 Craigentenny Avenue at 3.30. This month we are reading *God on Mute* by Pete Greig. Please contact Anncris if you have any questions.

Creation or Evolution?: The Challenge for the Church



How should Christians think about the issue of origins? Does it matter what we believe? How do we deal with claims that evolutionary theory has conclusively put paid to the notion that God created the world?

If you've ever wondered about any of these questions, then **Creation or Evolution?: The Challenge for the Church** has been organised for you! Come along to Holyrood this Friday (27 June) from 7-

9.30pm to an evening with geologist Paul Garner. We'll be exploring the great relevance of the creation and evolution debate to the life of the Church today. Tickets are free and available [here](#).

The Pursuit of Holiness - Cross Training Men's Conference

Digital messaging is calling men to run after countless things: wealth, fitness, sex, comfort, materialism. But there is one thing that our world has no time for, holiness. Are you struggling with spiritual motivation? Do you wish you had a band of brothers to keep you focused on what matters most? Do you hunger to know God- really know God?

Join us this September for a weekend gathering focused on the theme of how we can pursue holiness. Speak to Joe for further details.

When: 12-14 September

Where: Gowanbank (Scripture Union)

Cost: £95



Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Home Groups (last ones for the term)
- Friday: Creation or Evolution?: The Challenge for the Church, 7-9.30pm
- Sunday:
 - Morning service at 10.30am – John Pickering preaching (live streamed)
 - Evening service at 6pm – Andrew Yong preaching (live streamed)



www.holyroodevangelical.org

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