

Weekly Newsletter: 18 November 2025

Reflection: Exciting Times

By Joe Barnard

Special Congregational Meeting

Bends in a road can be dangerous; they can also be exciting. They can be dangerous because you need to make sure that you don't take them too fast. It's possible to spin out of control if one is careless. But they are also exciting. A turn in the road means a new point of view, a new direction, and possibly a new stage in a journey. Some of my favourite views in Scotland come just after a dramatic turn. One moment you are trundling along uphill with little to see but the road in front of you; the next a curtain of granite is pulled back and you are gliding down toward a magnificent glen.

Holyrood Church, I believe, is at a bend in the road. Long ago, we were Holyrood Abbey- a large, anchor church in the city with a clear role among students and missionaries. Those days are gone. Then we were Holyrood Evangelical, a brave congregation, rediscovering its mission in a new building and tenderly caring for its membership. We are now Holyrood Church, a congregation that is emerging with a new role and a new identity in the city.

I believe that we are at a critical juncture with a variety of exciting changes in the New Year that will affect the pace and impact of our ministry. Rather than outline these changes in the newsletter, I want to invite you to a special congregational meeting on **Wednesday, 3rd December** in the church building. On that evening we will be thinking about what it means to align our mission and our finance, possible new additions to the staff, and unveiling a new logo that will be part of a new digital identity. My hope is that the outcomes from the meeting will be unity, excitement, and a shared sense of responsibility. Put the date on your calendar; you don't want to miss 3rd December, 7pm.

Christmas Appeal 2025

Each year we do a special appeal during the month of December. Over the last couple of years we've tried to bring our Christmas Appeal into closer alignment with the developing mission of the congregation. We've sought to invest more deeply into ministries that connect with our passions and interests as a congregation.

The elders have decided that this year's Christmas Appeal will go towards the following ministries.

1 - Women's Workers for Tranent Community Church

As a congregation, we want to be involved in church planting. Healthy churches are planting churches. They invest in gospel needs that go beyond the boundaries of their own building and congregation.

Tranent Community Church has a shortfall in funding for its two women's workers, Jen and Morag. These faithful women provide practical and spiritual care for women in the church and evangelism among women in the community. Jen and Morag function like missionaries having to raise personal support. A contribution from the Christmas Appeal will help in meeting their overall needs for 2026.

We already have a close relationship with TCC. What a privilege to deepen this relationship and to invest more in planting a gospel church in Tranent.

2 - Cross Training Ministries

Scotland needs to be re-evangelised. There is much on this front to give thanks for. Churches are being planted; the schemes are being reached; and the training of gospel workers in Scotland is exemplary. But there are still gaps. None is bigger than the need to train and develop men who are qualified for eldership and spiritual leadership. There are countless places in Scotland that will not have ordained ministry in the near future. These places need to find leadership on the ground. Revitalisation (as was the case in Kiltarlity) will begin with one or two men on the ground who have the vision and character needed to be elders, in the deepest and most impactful sense of the word.

The mission of Cross Training is to raise up such men. The ministry has come a long way in the last year. It is now a charity in Scotland; it has an outstanding set of trustees; and it has moved forward to employ Andy Murray, a friend of the congregation, two days a week to advance the work.

Part of the Christmas Appeal this year will be given to Cross Training. This ministry is inspiring and training men in every corner of Scotland. What a joy to be able to invest in the effort to re-evangelise Scotland by investing in men's discipleship.

3 - Craig Anderson and the Church Plant in Galashiels

The Borders needs the gospel. Craig Anderson has taken on the challenging work of planting the first Free Church in the Scottish Borders since 1900. He needs prayer; he also needs a building.

Recently, the church has put in an offer on a building. A smaller contribution from the Christmas Appeal will go to the purchase of this building and be a great encouragement to Craig and his core team.

Again, let's begin to see ourselves as part of the vital movement to plant new gospel churches in Scotland.

4 - East of Scotland Gospel Partnership

It's wonderful to be affiliated with the East of Scotland Gospel Partnership. The partnership gives us a real connection with churches like Chalmers, Redeemer, Carrubbers, Charlotte Chapel, Gracemount, Ferniehill, and an ever-increasing number of others. It's exciting to be collaborating with other likeminded churches for the sake of discipleship and evangelism.

This partnership is in a relaunching phase and would greatly benefit from having some funds to develop its work. A smaller contribution of the Christmas Appeal will go toward supporting the work of the EOSGP.

Details of how to give will be in next week's newsletter. Let's give thanks for all of the ways this Christmas season we will be contributing toward the great effort to re-evangelise Scotland!

Mary McIntyre

Mary's Thanksgiving Service will take place on **Thursday 27 November** at 11.30am in Holyrood followed by light refreshments. Everyone is warmly welcome. There will be a private burial for the family beforehand. Please pray for all the arrangements and for Joe as he prepares for and takes the service.

Responding to the Rebirth – this Saturday

Please sign up [here](#) if you are coming on Saturday so that we have an idea of numbers, thanks!

Don't miss Responding to the Rebirth—a one-day conference with Glen Scrivener and Justin Brierley. The conference is taking place in London but we are **livestreaming it in Holyrood on Saturday 22 November**. Please bring your own lunch and hot and cold drinks will be provided.



Here are the timings for the day –

- 10:00- 11:15- Session 1: What's Happening?
- 11:15- 11:40- Break
- 11:40- 13:00- Session 2: Why is it Happening?
- 13:00- 14:15- Lunch
- 14:15- 15:25- Session 3: What's Next?
- 15:25- 16:15- Q&A and Commissioning
- 16:15- Finish

Warm Space

Warm Space will not be starting on Monday (as previously advertised!) but will open its doors on Monday 1 December from 12 noon until 3pm and run for three consecutive Mondays. Thanks

December Dates

Here are dates for your diary and the plans for December:

- 1, 8 and 15 December: Warm Space from 12noon – 3pm
- 10 December: Last Home Group for this term. They are back on Wednesday 14 January.
- 12 December: Holyrood Youth Christmas Party from 7-9pm in the church
- 15 December: Last Baby and Toddler Group for the term from 10 – 11.30am
- 16 December: Carols by Candlelight in the Park from 6.30 – 7.15pm
- 17 December: Prayer Meeting from 7-8pm
- 21 December: Worship service at 10.30am and Christmas Carol Service at 6pm
- 28 December: Worship services at 10.30am and 6pm
- 31 December: Hogmanay Ceilidh in the church 7-10pm

Please note there will be no Home Groups on Christmas Eve or a service on Christmas Day. Thank you

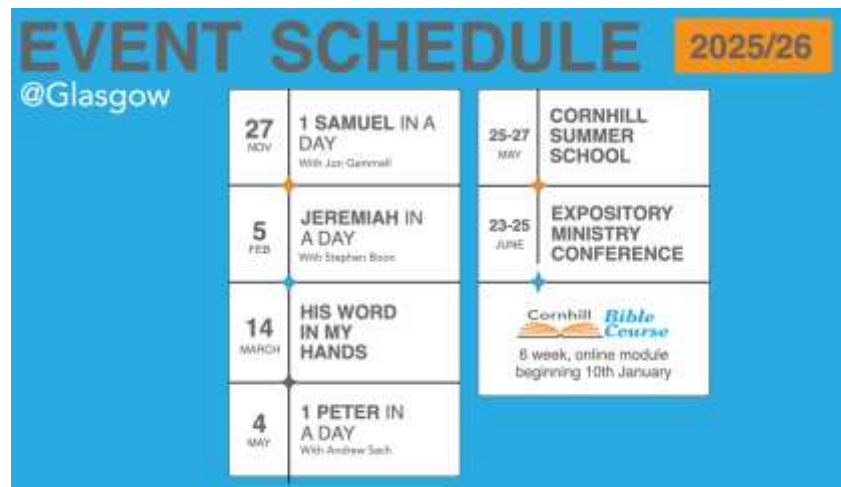
Cornhill Scotland – Conferences 2025/2026

Cornhill Scotland have wonderful conferences planned for this year and 2026. These are open to everyone, please save the dates and come along!

BOOK IN A DAY

'Book in a Day' events are a great opportunity to learn key Bible handling skills, to grow in your understanding of the Bible and all whilst enjoying warm fellowship with like-minded brothers and sisters. These days will be helpful for pastors, elders, women's workers, lay preachers, Bible study leaders, youth and children's workers or anyone wanting help with reading the Bible.

- **Thursday 27th November 2025** – 1 Samuel in a Day, with Jon Gemmell. To book a space go [here](#).
- **Thursday 5th February 2026** – Jeremiah in a Day with Stephen Boon
- **Monday 4th May 2026** – 1 Peter in a Day with Andrew Sach



EVENT SCHEDULE		2025/26	
27 NOV	1 SAMUEL IN A DAY With Jon Gemmell	25-27 MAY	CORNHILL SUMMER SCHOOL
5 FEB	JEREMIAH IN A DAY With Stephen Boon	23-25 JUNE	EXPOSITORY MINISTRY CONFERENCE
14 MARCH	HIS WORD IN MY HANDS	Cornhill Bible Course 8 week, online module beginning 10th January	
4 MAY	1 PETER IN A DAY With Andrew Sach		

CORNHILL BIBLE COURSE

The Cornhill Bible Course is a fantastic opportunity to learn about God's word. It is designed for those who are keen to develop in the joy of studying and teaching the bible, but who cannot (yet!) commit to doing the full Cornhill Training Course.

The course is delivered by Cornhill Scotland lecturers and runs on Saturday mornings (beginning on **Saturday 10th January**) from **08:00 to 09:15 for six weeks** on Zoom. Our focus in January 2026 will be on a selection of the major biblical songs. Sign up [here](#).

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting from 7-8pm with Israel Guerrero (Cornerstone - Spanish church plant)
- Saturday: Live stream of the Responding to Rebirth Conference (10am to 4.15pm)
- Sunday:
 - Worship Service at 10.30am – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
 - Christmas Choir Practice after the morning service
 - Evening Service at 6pm – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
- Monday: Baby and Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am



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