

prepared to **preach**

This section of our guide is to help you if you want Bible training and are wondering if a Cornhill Training Course might be the best way for you to get it. There are now three Cornhill Training Courses, based in London, Glasgow and Belfast.

PT Cornhill
Cornhill Scotland
Cornhill Belfast

2011/12

What does Cornhill aim to do?

Our primary aim is to train preachers. We believe that faithful, prayerful and expository preaching is God's chosen instrument to build Christ's church and to change lives and nations. Alongside this primary aim we train men and women to teach the Bible in other contexts such as youth and children's work and women's ministries. So we aim to serve local churches by training the preachers and Bible teachers of the future.



What kind of people is Cornhill suitable for?

To apply for Cornhill you ought to be:

- A Christian, not just religious or interested in religion, but living a life committed to daily repentance from sin and the service of Jesus Christ and his gospel.
- An evangelical Christian, convinced that the Bible is utterly trustworthy and authoritative for the Christian life and Christian churches.
- Actively involved in regular Bible teaching, perhaps by leading church or Christian Union Bible studies, or being a member of a youth or children's work team. You do not need to have experience of preaching or giving 'up front talks'.
- Encouraged by leaders in your church that you may have the gifts and godliness for further training for Bible-teaching ministry in future.

You do not need to be:

- a member of any particular denomination or association of churches. Our courses contain a wide spread of evangelical Christians from different denominations and independent churches.
- any particular age. We take some straight from university, some who have not been to university, others at early retirement, and all stages in between, from the 'green' to the 'grey'!

For more guidance as to whether this is for you, see the article *How do I know if preaching is for me?* on the PT website.

Where can a Cornhill course be taken?

There are three Cornhill Training Courses. One is in central London, close to London Bridge station (PT Cornhill). One is in central Glasgow (Cornhill Scotland), and one is in Belfast (Cornhill Belfast).

How may Cornhill training courses be taken?

The course runs for four days in the week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in London and Belfast, and Monday to Thursday in Glasgow) for 30 teaching weeks in the year. It is non-residential; students live close to their placement churches and travel in to the course for teaching days. The course day runs from 9.00am to 4.30pm.

At PT Cornhill (London) the course may be taken in one of three ways:

- The Cornhill Ministry Scheme is the most popular way to take the course. Students take the course two days a week over two years (Monday and Tuesday in the first year, Thursday and Friday in the second year) while working as ministry apprentices for a church in the remainder of the week (with half a day of study time for Cornhill and a day off). This means that students get the intensive training of Cornhill together with a full immersion in local church ministry under the guidance and mentoring of an experienced church leader. A list of some churches that have had Cornhill Ministry Scheme students in recent years can be viewed on the PT website.
- The course may be taken part-time while continuing part-time in a secular job. Like Ministry Scheme students, Cornhill is taken on Mondays and Tuesdays for the first year, and Thursdays and Fridays for the second year. Ideally the secular job commitment is only two or two and a half days a week, leaving time for Cornhill study and preparation plus a proper day off. As with full-time students, there is a church placement and supervisor with regular church ministry involvement.

- Although the London course is structured as a two year part-time course, it may be taken full-time, four days a week for one year, with Wednesday being kept free as a day for study and preparation. Full-time students also have a church placement and supervisor, although the extent of their ministry involvement is necessarily less than Ministry Scheme students.

There are half-term breaks which coincide (as far as possible) with school half-terms. In London there is also a mission week in February during which teams go to local churches, overseas churches or university Christian Unions to help with missions.

At Cornhill Scotland (Glasgow) we currently offer:

- The full-time course for four days a week over one year, with a church placement.
- Ministry Apprentice schemes (with some churches) where students attend Cornhill full-time for the year, then continue as an apprentice with the same church for a second year, or, in some cases, two days a week over two years as in London.
- Cornhill Ministry Scheme as above. The course may be taken part-time over two years, as at PT Cornhill.

At Cornhill Belfast, the course runs for:

- one academic year (30 teaching weeks) of full-time study, alongside a church placement for practical ministry experience and input.
- Alternatively it is possible to study part-time, for two days a week over two years. This can be combined either with part-time work in a church or in some other context. If the course is taken over two years, then the teaching days are Monday and Tuesday in the first year and Thursday and Friday in the second year.



Where will I live?

You can live wherever you like, so long as you can manage the travelling on course teaching days. Please note that those taking the course on the Ministry Scheme or part-time can live a considerable distance from London, Glasgow or Belfast, if they arrange to spend one night with friends or wider family. In London in recent years we have had students from the Isle of Wight, Bristol, Worcester and Brighton. It is of course best to live close to your placement church.



How does a Cornhill course differ from theological college or Bible college?

Cornhill is distinct from a formal theological training in a theological college such as Oak Hill, Wycliffe Hall, WEST (Wales Evangelical School of Theology), the International Christian College in Glasgow, or London Theological Seminary. For example, we do not attempt to give an academic grounding in the Bible languages (apart from an optional introductory NT Greek course in London), nor in Church history, important though these are.

At Cornhill we aim to give a thorough and practical grounding in Bible exposition, supplemented with Christian doctrine, so that when students go on to formal theological study they have the right instincts and know why they are studying Bible languages, Church history etc. Our major distinctive contribution is training to preach.

How does a Cornhill course differ from regional apprenticeship training courses?

People sometimes think that a regional training course offers much the same as a Cornhill course, but this is misleading. When deciding which is more appropriate for you, it is important to be clear about the differences. The following are among the distinctives of Cornhill:

- **Intensiveness.** The major difference is that a Cornhill course runs for four days in the week. Whether these four days are covered in one year or two, the

course immerses students in expository ministry much more deeply than one or even two-day courses are able to do. This means that Cornhill will not be suitable for some. For example, those who will end up as housegroup leaders or members of voluntary youth work teams in churches may be better served by regional courses that are less expensive in time or money. But those who will end up as preachers in full-time pastoral or missionary ministries may be better served by the unique intensiveness of a Cornhill course.

- **Focus.** At Cornhill we focus single-mindedly on expository Bible ministry. We study some doctrine, some apologetics, and some practical ministry topics, but only insofar as they feed into a ministry of the Word that is centred on expository preaching.
- **Speaking practice.** We are able to offer a unique amount of speaking practice. On average a Cornhill student will give about 20 presentations from Scripture during their time on the course (in addition to their speaking opportunities in their placement church). These vary from short explanations to full practice sermons or talks. Each is followed by constructive criticism and feedback.
- **Preaching taught by preachers.** All our regular teaching staff and almost all the visiting teachers are active in preaching ministry. Our agenda is the practical one of spoken ministry rather than the written one of essays. We want preaching to be taught and modelled by experienced preachers.
- **Dedicated teaching staff** who are freed up from the day to day responsibilities of leading a local church. This means we can devote more time and energy to preparation and training than those who have to juggle this with local church leadership responsibilities.



- **High quality visiting speakers.** For example in London we are privileged to welcome a wide variety of experienced evangelists, local church leaders and leaders of specialised para-church and mission agencies.
- **A rich and varied peer group of fellow-students**, including internationals. One of the most enriching things about Cornhill is meeting and befriending students from other national, ethnic, social, educational, and denominational backgrounds. This rubs the rough edges off some of our prejudices, challenges some of our preconceptions and opens our eyes to other ways in which faithful gospel ministry can be done with creativity and flexibility. There is something very healthy about being taken out of whatever our particular church context is for some part of the week.

Who teaches at Cornhill?

At PT Cornhill (London) the teaching staff are **Christopher Ash**, **Tim McMahon** and **Stuart Allen**. At Cornhill Scotland the teaching staff are **Edward Lobb**, **Bob Fyall**, **Willie Philip** and **Agnes Brough**. **Moore Casement** is the Director of Cornhill Belfast. Further staff details can be found on pages 124 to 127.

What is in a Cornhill training course?

A typical week in London looks like this:

	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10-9.30	Student exposition and prayer together			
9.30-12.30	Bible book	Doctrine etc	Bible book	Principles of exposition
12.30-1.30	Lunch and fellowship groups			
1.30-1.45	Student exposition			
1.45-4.30	Ministry topic	Presentations in groups	Ministry streams	Sermon classes
4.30-5.30	Beginners' Greek (optional)		Continuing Greek (optional)	

Both morning and afternoon begin with a short student exposition in front of all the students and staff. Each term we work through a Bible book together, each student explaining what they think the big idea of the passage is, in its context, and what the purpose of the passage is. This is an invaluable student exercise, and is always followed up with constructive criticism and feedback from a member of staff. In London, the second year men preach a short sermon in the exposition time. After the morning exposition we pray together in small groups for one another and for one or more former Cornhill students who send in news of their lives and ministries (both in the UK and overseas).



The main morning teaching runs from 9.30am to 12.30pm with a coffee break.

On Monday and Thursday mornings we work through a range of Bible books, always with a view to being equipped to preach and teach them. In recent years these have included Genesis, Exodus, Judges, Job, Isaiah, Malachi, Mark, Luke, Acts, Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, James, 1 John and Revelation.

We use Tuesday mornings mainly for Bible overview work and doctrine for preachers (doctrine studied so we know how to expound faithfully and consistently with the rest of Scripture, and how to teach doctrine through exposition).

On Friday mornings (Wednesday mornings at Cornhill Scotland) we work through all the major genres of Bible literature (the gospels, the NT letters, OT law, OT narrative, prophecy, wisdom, apocalyptic), being trained to understand and to preach accurately from each genre.

The afternoons run from 1.30 to 4.30pm, beginning with the second student exposition.

On Monday afternoons we mainly tackle practical ministry topics such as bereavement, pastoral counselling, evangelism amongst postmoderns and ministry in the workplace.

On Thursday afternoons in the autumn we run a women's ministry stream (coordinated by Carrie Sandom at PT Cornhill and Agnes Brough at Cornhill Scotland) and a pastor-teacher stream. In the spring we spend half a term having an introduction to youth work and half a term on evangelism, with teaching from experienced visiting speakers. In the summer students choose either the evangelism stream (covering subjects like cross-cultural work and church-planting, amongst others) or the youth work stream (co-ordinated by Trevor Pearce in London).

Tuesday and Friday afternoons are devoted to practice work in small groups of about a dozen students. On Tuesdays we move from five minute presentations in the autumn (on the theme of a text in context) through seven minute presentations in the spring (on the theme and the aim of a text), to full ten minute talks in the summer. On Fridays we do twenty minute sermons and evangelistic addresses. This is the most important part of the course and is when students really begin to put what they have learnt into practice.

In London there is an optional beginners class in New Testament Greek from 4.30 to 5.30pm on Monday afternoons, and a continuing class at the same time on Thursdays. In Glasgow and Belfast the details of the timetable are slightly different but the same syllabus is covered.

What sort of church placement will I have?

All sorts! In London we have links with about 100 churches in a wide variety of social settings and different ministry contexts. In Glasgow and Belfast the situation is similar, but with fewer churches involved. Some students are sent to us by their church for training, and remain placed in that church. Others apply for training to one of our linked churches, and then apply to Cornhill with the support of that church. Again, others ask us to place them, and we work with them to find a church in which they will flourish and where the church will be glad to support, train and mentor them. It is usually easy to find a suitable church; we have more churches wanting Cornhill students than there are students to go around!

A list of churches who have recently had Cornhill Ministry Scheme students placed with them while studying at PT Cornhill is available from the PT website or by contacting the London office. If other churches would like to be added to the Ministry Scheme church list, please ask them to e-mail us. You can read the brief for church supervisors at the PT website.

Does going to Cornhill commit me to long-term paid ministry?

Not at all! Obviously we are praying that many of our students will be equipped for longer-term ministries of the word, and most of them do leave either to paid Christian work or further formal theological training. But the year or two at Cornhill is an important time for them to discern (with us and their church leaders) whether or not this is the best way forward for them. Some quite rightly conclude that it is not, and return to serve Christ in secular work, better equipped to teach the Bible in their local churches. We put no pressure on students to go either way, although we may well offer advice!



How will I pay for Cornhill?

The 2011/2012 termly fees are:

	PT Cornhill	Cornhill Scotland	Cornhill Belfast
Part-time	£740	£740	£630
Full-time	£1,160	£1,160	£1,050

The fees for Cornhill Scotland are awaiting final confirmation.

The termly fees for 2012-2013 will be set during autumn 2011. In addition you will have travel costs (for which you may be eligible for a student discount in London), accommodation and living costs, all of which can vary widely.

Ministry Scheme students are usually supported partly or fully by the churches who employ them. Some other students may be supported by their placement churches or home churches. There are various Christian trusts that may sometimes be willing to offer supplementary support to suitable students. We can give you details of these. If you are given a place at a Cornhill course we will support your application to trusts.

When should I come to Cornhill?

It all depends. For some it will be appropriate to come straight from university or college, if you have been advised to get going as soon as possible with your training for ministry. For others it may be better to work at a secular job for a year or two. Others will make the move from secular work at all sorts of different stages of life, from your mid-20s up to early retirement. If in doubt, why not apply to Cornhill and then discuss at interview whether a postponement might be advisable?

Can I get a taster of Cornhill?

Yes. All three Cornhill courses run a joint 'taster' week each July at the Cornhill Summer School, held in central London. Details of the course are on page 32.

Can I visit to see what Cornhill is like?

Certainly. Please contact the course administrator in London, Glasgow or Belfast to arrange a suitable day to visit. This will give you a feel for a typical course day and the kind of fellow-students you might be working with.

We ask students to keep all Cornhill teaching days a top priority. In London we ask students also to be available for a mission week, which usually takes place in February. We also ask all students on the London course to be available to help with the Evangelical ministry assembly which takes place at the end of June each year.

Provisional Term Dates 2011-2012

PT Cornhill

Autumn 2011	12/09-16/12
Spring 2012	09/01-30/03
Summer 2012	23/04-22/06

Cornhill Scotland and Cornhill Belfast dates will be similar and confirmed later in 2010

How do I apply to Cornhill?

We ask for details of three referees who know you well. One must be your church minister, and (if you are in employment) one must be your employer or line manager.

PT Cornhill (London)

You can apply online at the PT website or you can contact the office to request an application pack.

PT Cornhill
The Proclamation Trust
Willcox House
140-148 Borough High Street
London SE1 1LB
t +44 (0)20 7407 0562
e ctc@proctrust.org.uk

Cornhill Belfast

You can download an application form from the Cornhill Belfast website or you can request an application form by post from the Cornhill Belfast office.

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66 Kings Road
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Cornhill Scotland

You can download an application form from the Cornhill Scotland website or you can contact the office to apply for an application pack.

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