

CORNHILL TRAINING COURSE BELFAST  
CHURCH PLACEMENT SCHEME

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[cornhillbelfast.org](http://cornhillbelfast.org)

Students will usually require some level of support from the congregation, for example, covering the course fees, helping with accommodation or providing basic living expenses. The precise level of support will vary from church to church.

Those who take the course full-time can also benefit from a church placement and might be available for one or two sessions a week as well as Sundays. In this scenario, through the course of one year a student might visit the different organisations in the church, help with children's ministry and give occasional talks to the youth or women's groups.

Ideally, a congregation would have a Cornhill student with them for two years. The student would attend the course in Belfast two days a week (**Year 1** Mon-Tue / **Year 2** Thu-Fri), have Wednesdays as a study day, giving two days plus Sundays working with the congregation.

The placement would be akin to a voluntary ministry apprenticeship in which the minister would help to supervise the student and develop their gifts. The student might assist with the youth ministry, visit some members of congregation, assist in running a Christianity Explored course and be given occasional opportunities to preach.

For some of our students, there are great benefits to be had from experiencing a new church and ministry context during their time on the course.

Experiences like this can provide opportunities to put into practice the skills that are being acquired in the classroom and can play a vital role in the process of discerning whether a student should pursue full-time gospel ministry.

Together we can serve the church by helping to train the Bible teachers and preachers of the future.

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We would love to hear from any church willing to investigate the possibility of offering a church placement to a Cornhill student.

Please contact Moore Casement, the course director, to schedule a meeting.

One of the best ways to learn about Christian ministry is by actually doing it. Cornhill students are expected to be actively involved in the life and witness of the local church. We therefore ask you to consider whether there is a position in your church community for a Cornhill student in 2013-14.

## Ministers' Endorsements

**DAVID CLAWSON**  
WEST KIRK PRESBYTERIAN  
BELFAST



It was a real boost for our congregation to have Sarah, a Cornhill student, with us for the year. As a full-time student on the course she was available for a few sessions each week and also on Sundays. This allowed her to engage with some of our youth and children's work and help with some pastoral work.

Through our knowledge of the course we were confident that she was gaining the tools to handle and teach the Bible in a faithful and relevant way.

During the time she was with us, Sarah made a real impact upon our leaders and young people. Many of the young people that she worked with are more regularly involved in church life as a result of her work and influence.

I tried to meet with Sarah most weeks as she joined our family for dinner. This gave us an opportunity to catch up and share how things were going. One of the practical ways in which our church was able to help Sarah was with accommodation, through a family in the congregation with a spare room. Looking back on the year, it was a real benefit for West Kirk to be part of the work of the Cornhill Training Course by offering a placement to one of their students.

**DAVID MARTIN**  
IMMANUEL CHURCH  
DUBLIN



Under God, Cornhill Belfast has proved to be a rich blessing not only to our two interns, Dónal and Ivan, but equally so for us as a city centre church in Dublin today. From our church's point of view we are committed to training everyone in handling God's word better, and this has been massively helped by having our two interns attend Cornhill.

Each week they are able to demonstrate more and more to us as a congregation what it means to carefully, humbly and obediently understand God's Word as they apply their learning in many different Bible teaching contexts. The effect is contagious as others in church then see first hand how God still speaks to the world through his Word. Confidence in God's Word to do His work is growing through the congregation as a result.

Of course there are many other benefits too. As a church we get to rejoice in the progress of others who, God willing, will plant the gospel in new and different contexts all over Ireland, perhaps even further afield. The interns are exposed to real pastoral issues as they serve in the messiness of congregational life. They are provided with opportunities to explore teaching God's word both in Cornhill and the church. But above all, they get the privilege to speak for and we get the privilege to hear from God himself!

**MARTIN MCNEELY**  
BALLYKEEL PRESBYTERIAN  
BALLYMENA



My congregation have worked in partnership with Cornhill Belfast for four years. It has brought great benefits to us as a church.

Reggie, a part-time Cornhill student, is now in his second year with us and we have been able to see how the Bible handling lessons of Cornhill are applied in a *live* situation on a regular basis. This could be pulpit ministry, youth ministry, one-to-one discipleship or pastoral situations. For us as a small congregation, that flexibility has been key. Whatever context the student is involved in, we know that he has had a strong guide in how to use and apply the Word of God.

For the students, a congregational placement will allow them full exposure to the trials and triumphs of church life. It is a real primer for further theological study, mission preparation, planting or other forms of Christian service. In our congregation Cornhill students will get quality mentoring time and regular spiritual encouragement. For our church, having a Cornhill student has been a very edifying experience and one greatly used by God.