

Newsletter

Supporting Gospel work, in Glasgow, for Christ.

The conviction of the founding trustees of the John Paton Foundation is that God is building His kingdom in the world today through the faithful, prayerful scattering of the word of God, as taught by Jesus in his parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-20). In Glasgow and across Scotland, there is a great need for a fresh explosion of biblically faithful, prayerfully dependent, Christ-centred ministry, and to this end we are delighted to report on the progress made during 2025.

During the year the Foundation has approved the following:

- Two grant applications from St Silas' Church which helped fund the costs of employing a Minister in Training and Cross-Cultural Worker in Training at the church.
- Four individual grant applications from Ministry Trainees entering their first year of training at St Silas to contribute towards their training costs for the 2025/26 academic year; and
- Two individual grant applications from a Ministry Trainee at Harper Church, Glasgow and Hope Community Church, Barlanark, to contribute towards their training costs for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 academic years.

The Foundation has been steadfast in its commitment to providing grant funding to support these dedicated individuals and the past year has been particularly crucial for offering this support. With the ongoing budget constraints faced by the church and capacity challenges of other foundations that support gospel ministry training, the existence of the John Paton Foundation meant that we could continue to provide a pipeline for faithful, committed, gifted individuals to train to be the next generation of church leaders.

Considering the increasing cost of living, the trustees decided to increase the average grant size compared to prior years. Overall, this means we granted £33,500 to support the training of gospel workers. Encouragingly, this was more than in previous years, and all of this is only made possible through the ongoing faithful support of those who support the foundation.

On behalf of the trustees and all the ministry trainees, thank you for your ongoing partnership in the gospel. Your support remains vital as we invest in the next generation of church leaders for Glasgow, Scotland and the nations. Jesus commanded his followers, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38).

As we look ahead to the coming year, we are filled with hope and anticipation for what God will do through the John Paton Foundation. We are committed to continuing our support for gospel ministry training and to expanding our reach to support even more individuals. We invite you to join us in this mission, to pray with us, and to consider how you might continue to support this vital work.

We hope that this update encourages you to continue partnering with us so that many more gospel workers would be trained up and that through their ministry many others would come to know the Lord Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Martin Brandmeier

John Paton Foundation, Chairman



Andrew MacKenzie,
St Silas, leader in training

What have been some of the encouraging highlights of the last year?

A real highlight of the last year has been seeing my small group grow in their love of God's word and the understanding of the person and work of the Lord Jesus. It's been really encouraging to see many of them grow in their faith and be moving on this year to take on positions of leadership or more responsibility.

Another highlight has been growing in my preaching and teaching skills.

The skill and thoughtfulness shown by the Cornhill and St Silas teams in giving feedback that helps me to keep taking the next step forward as well as the opportunities given has been a great blessing to me. As has being able to spend so much time in God's word wrestling with it and working hard at how to teach it well.

Why have you decided to pursue further training as a minister-in-training?

I'm pursuing further training as a Minister in Training over the next four years for a few reasons; A range of Christians from those at Cornhill and St Silas to family and close friends encouraged me to keep training; the opportunity was there to stay on at St Silas and to keep growing under familiar leadership and to work with a church family I already know and love; and I'm deeply passionate about the need for many more ministers in Scotland to help our communities have healthy gospel churches in them.

What will being a minister-in-training involve for you?

As a Minister in Training, I'll train formally at Edinburgh Theological Seminary for a Bachelors of Theology part time and work at St Silas with the rest of my time. At church I'll have a particular focus on our welcome and integration of newcomers to church, leading one of our small group nights for students and young workers, and preaching semi-regularly.

How can we support you in prayer this year?

Please pray for me as I create new habits and routines for spending three days a week in Edinburgh, that I would protect and use my study days well while also working hard with the time I have at church. Pray that during busy challenging semesters I'd rely on God not my own strength or understanding and in those times of stress I'd prioritise time with the Lord and personal holiness. I'd also appreciate prayer for adapting back to writing essays and sitting exams in my studies, particularly as I attempt to learn biblical Greek this year!



Joanne Leung,

St Silas, women's worker in training

What has encouraged you most last semester?

Being part of the Youth Weekend Away and leading the Sept Welcome (HK & international students) have been the highlights for me. I find it really encouraging when the St Silas family steps up, recognising a need and desiring to see people come to church and grow in God's word. I enjoyed seeing both the youth, HK, and international students asking questions and exploring faith. God is really at work!

Cornhill has been an absolute delight because, this term, we are doing the salvation module, and I got to tackle the big questions. How are we different from the Catholics? From the Arminians? I particularly enjoyed discovering how "Arminian" my ministry practices were back in HK, as I joked in class, "I should repent!"

What does your role as a women's worker in-training look like?

It's a highly relational role with many opportunities to teach the Bible. Being the coordinator of our HK Ministry at St Silas means being the "bi-cultural" person, fostering cross-cultural communication and making things happen.

My role includes mainly four areas of ministry: Evangelism (Sept Welcome, CNY Event), Discipleship (1-1s, leading Roots and Youth, supporting Growth Groups), Running the Ministry (Decoding our Bible teaching, applying the theological principles and contextualising to the HK audience, creating cross-cultural integration opportunities like Link Up Lunch), and Expanding the Ministry (giving seminars to equip people and exploring external partnerships). All of this is a fancy way to say it's a lot of meeting people for coffee/bubble tea, tracking verses in a bilingual Bible, cooking, WhatsApp, emails, and Google Translate.

Why have you decided to pursue this kind of training and ministry?

I think there's nothing more precious in this world than knowing Jesus, and people know Jesus through hearing his word. However, Jesus is not known if people cannot hear, read and understand his word. Systematic, good expository Bible teaching is very hard to find in the Cantonese world. Many HKers, including myself, came from a church background back home, where good Bible teaching is not available. I grew up living a dry, fruitless Christian life because I didn't know God's word. Hence, I have always had a desire to receive training, to really understand the Bible, and to reflect theologically on ministry. So, when the opportunity rose, I threw myself at it. I think setting up the HK ministry opened doors for St Silas to reach a previously unreachable people group and made good Bible teaching accessible to HKers who yearn to be taught.

How can we pray for you moving into this new year?

I have a busy term ahead, with exciting opportunities I am looking forward to. Please pray for the Roots Weekend Away in Jan, the Chinese New Year Event and the Friends International Weekend Away in Feb, and the Roots+ Seminar in Mar. Please pray that these would be good opportunities for people to grow in God's word with God's people, and pray that I teach God's word faithfully. Thank you!

Find out more:



Support the work of John Paton Foundation:



THE JOHN PATON FOUNDATION

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