



## **An invitation to funders to partner with us for thrive25**

We are excited to announce that the **Thrive national conference** will be held in Scotland from the **13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025**. We are organising a series of events across **Glasgow, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness and Edinburgh** across eight days. We are seeking to *inspire, equip* and *connect* a new generation of Christians in the workplace through local city networks and a multi-site national conference. The roots of Thrive conference go back to the first conference in 2019 in Aberdeen, run by [The Business Connection](#) (TBC), Thrive25 is a partnership between TBC, [Transform Work](#) and [Solas CPC](#).

The Business Connection was established in 2014 in response to two main drivers - firstly the devastating impact of the oil price crash in late 2014 that rocked Aberdeen and caused many people to lose their job (many multiple times!). We saw that the corporate culture at many companies was unhealthy and even destructive to family life, marriages and mental health. Secondly, we also saw that there were many people in our offices that would likely never darken the door of a church, some of them were antagonistic and highly sensitised and we had a heart to reach these individuals. We did this through a Foyer-type model where we created events that were professional and would make businesspeople feel comfortable, easy to enter and easy to leave, with zero pressure and zero cringe, whilst they built relationships with the Christians who attended.

We saw many people helped by providing highly practical seminars (i.e. CPD type events). The work has expanded to Dundee since 2021, and our pattern is to have monthly breakfasts for building relationships and 3 or 4 topic-based events each year. Speakers may be Christian or non-Christian; however, each must endorse our ethos and philosophy i.e. they don't have to believe in Christianity, but they do have to speak respectfully about it. Talks are intentionally low in spiritual content as we model our approach in a similar way to Rob Parsons' *The Heart of Success*, seeking to display winsome wisdom, integrity, vulnerability and love; believing that the Holy Spirit will do the rest through the connections and conversations we make. We are intentionally cross-denominational and have trustees from a variety of church backgrounds.

Our vision is for similar networks to be formed across each city in Scotland, especially Glasgow, Inverness and Edinburgh. ***We want to restore the confidence of the scattered church in the Scotland.***



The first [Thrive conference](#) was in 2019 and was dedicated to celebrating what God is doing in the workplace in Scotland. We asked ourselves: *How can we help Christian's thrive in their workplace?* Thrive has become a catalyst in galvanizing a broad coalition of likeminded people and organisations seeking to see Christians in the workplace across Scotland thrive. Our aim is to leverage the expertise, resources and network of this coalition to equip, encourage and empower Christians to live out the gospel in and through their workplace across Scotland - impacting the kingdom through transformed lives lived in their companies, churches and city.

***Would you partner with us to bring Thrive25 to hundreds of Christians across the country?*** We are holding events in the following cities:

- **Glasgow** Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September; 9:30am – 4:00pm
- **Dundee** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September; 6:30pm – 9:30pm
- **Inverness** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September; 6:30pm – 9:30pm
- **Edinburgh** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 9:30am – 4:30pm
- **Aberdeen** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September; 6:30pm–9:30pm

In addition to encouraging and connecting individual Christians we are seeking the following outcomes:

- Establish grass-roots gatherings of people from the workplace to come together in community – this would be through a similar model to the one that already exists in Aberdeen and Dundee.
- Build deep relationships with Christians in the workplace to provide the coaching, resources and guidance to enable the creation of new Christian Workplace Groups (CWGs) within Scottish organisations.
- Strengthen local churches in their workplace and city ministry

***Would you be willing to partner with us in raising the financial support required to deliver this vision?***

To achieve our goals for 2025 we are seeking to raise £30,000 to appoint a Project Manager on a part-time 12-month contract as well as all the costs associated with producing five high quality events.

- [Donate](#) here
- A further £15,000 would fund a City Advocate, part-time for 12 months for one of the five target cities to stimulate the growth of the work in that city.
- During January TBC have committed to ***match funding*** of any individual donation.

To be part of the Thrive25 project or to find out more about other ways to support us, please contact [martyn@linkadvisoryltd.com](mailto:martyn@linkadvisoryltd.com)

On behalf of *The Business Connection trustees*: Tony Dinozzi, Alan Dunn, Ian Ferguson, Martyn Link

And the *Thrive Scotland Advisory Board*: Tony Hodges (City Vision), Ken Janke (City Table), Ros Loaker (Transform Work), Colin Stewart, Gavin Matthews (Solas CPC) and Adom Otoo (Clan Childlaw).

***Supporting the scattered Scottish Church to live the gospel in & through their workplace***

