



The Steeple Church

May 2019

a church at the heart of the city . . .



. . . with the city at its heart

The Steeple Church: Dundee (Church of Scotland)

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Dear friends

Defeat or victory?

On the evening of 18 June in 1815 a man stood in the tower of Winchester Cathedral looking anxiously out to sea. At last he found the ship he was looking for as everyone wanted to know the outcome of the war between the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon Bonaparte of France. The signal came just as a heavy fog was rolling in. It simply read: "Wellington defeated" and the man relayed the sad news across the country. But then as the fog lifted, the message was seen in full: "Wellington defeated the enemy"!

Easter 2019

Easter Day is a great day when Christians celebrate the victory of the cross. It is the day when we learn that God is real. The Son of God who was crucified for our sins is now alive from the dead. On Good Friday it seemed the message was "Christ defeated." The resurrection on Easter Day reversed this and we see "Christ defeated the enemy!" This year we again celebrated Easter Day with an all-age service at the Steeple Church and a baptism in the river Tay opposite St. James' Church in Broughty Ferry. It was good to welcome Joe Robson's parents from the isle of Arran together with other visitors. In the last few years I hear lots of people ask if they can be baptised. Some watched the baptisms next to the Lifeboat House while others have come to a place where they don't want to return to the past.

Baptism

Easter is when people have traditionally got baptised as Christians. The very visual impact of going down into the cold waters of the silvery Tay and back up again is a picture of death and resurrection... death of the old life and risen to a new one. It takes courage to do this – but baptism is less about what 'we do' and more about what 'God does'. I seek sincerity as my task is to try to prepare them about Christian faith beforehand.

Baptism is 'into Christ', not into the church. That means that we accept everyone's baptism whether it was in a different kind of church or as a baby. Every church should recognise this and not require people to be baptised again. The scriptures remind us that there is "one Lord, one faith and one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). Baptism is a 'once and for all' event where we repent of the past and put on the badge of Christian faith. Whether you are baptised as a baby or later in life, it shouldn't be repeated. I once wrote to a pastor of a Pentecostal Church in South America for a couple who had

been baptised and had served Christ in an exemplary way in the Netherlands. I asked him to accept my testimonial on their behalf so that when they joined his congregation that they didn't need to be baptised again. Baptism is a badge of belonging to God's people, not any one church.

Psychological health

God cares for our physical, mental and spiritual health. Baptism is psychologically important for everyone, especially for those suffering from poor mental health. Martin Luther, for example, who suffered severe bouts of depression would cry out "I have been baptised!" I also love to baptise children where we claim God's covenant love upon them from their earliest days. Baptism is psychologically important for parents and grand-parents.

In the Steeple Church we recently baptised Cheryl Ferguson's daughter Rio. In St. James Church we recently baptised a baby where her grand-parents made vows. Baptism reminds us that God has undertaken to watch over our children and guard them. But sometimes those who have been baptised as babies, when older, want to mark their new experience of Christ in some way. So last year we created a liturgy called 'affirmation of baptism' where we invite their parents to be present. Those who want to commit their lives to Christ can now rejoice in taking vows made for them by their parents.

God's family

In the past, when we baptise adults or teenagers in the church on a Sunday morning, it was often followed by being welcomed as members of 'God's family'. We still do that but it can be healthy to have a period of time between baptism and joining the church. This time gives space to reflect on what God has done and another opportunity for a public commitment.

"O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou for ever near me, my Master and my Friend.
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide."

Your friend and minister,

Robert Calvert

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES – FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Ukraine – thanks you for your prayers when I was in the Ukraine. I had a wonderful time there and found speaking for two weeks to be rejuvenating. I spoke to pastors in Kiev and Odessa about how to get a vision for their city and how to overcome obstacles. I also got to talk with secular students at the Law Academy about drugs, studying different cultures and the meaning of life. All of the messages including preaching on Sundays were translated into Russian, (though Ukrainian is now the official language). Ukraine has the largest single land mass of any country in Europe and is important for its grain and metal-working industries. Please pray for the development of Ukrainian identity with its new president, problems of corruption and the Russian occupation in the east of the country.



Peter and Krisztina Somogyni – from the Fasor Reformed Church in Budapest, Hungary. We are delighted to welcome these pastors of a busy and effective city ministry that has many young people and a kindergarten. They have five children and their youngest daughter Johann joined them for two weeks over Easter. They return to Budapest at the end of May.

Café nights & Alpha course – this is a reminder that we are splitting this to create a separate Alpha night from September for those who have never attended it and a different interactive evening where we aim to disciple and support one another. The first of these Café nights start up in May and June before we take a break in July and August.

Personal news – I expect to be away from 5-11 June (incl. Sunday 8th) to take part in a ‘walking football’ festival in the Netherlands with ‘Ardler Wanderers’. I will also be away on the weeks leading up to 14 and 21 July the wedding of our youngest son Daniel to Emilie at the Glen Clova Hotel.

Governance is a big word to describe how we make decisions! The Steeple church is in the process of moving to a new way of making decisions and organizing our affairs. With responsibilities of data protection, health & safety and safeguarding, we want more people to be involved in teams that focus on different areas of ministry. At some point in the near future we will consult about and outline these new opportunities for involvement.

FINANCE UPDATE

The accounts for 2018 show that expenditure exceeded income by approximately £18,000. There was a marginal decline (2.3 %) in congregational giving but the main reason for the deficit was increased expenditure. A one off annual deficit is not a major problem as there have been some surpluses in previous years. However, it does become a problem if it is repeated. We are monitoring expenditure carefully in the current year to try and ensure it is within budget and there is currently a restriction on any improvements, this will be reviewed in the summer.

Congregational Giving January to March 2019

Total to 31/03/2019	Total to 31/03/18	Percentage Change
£24,880	£24,058	+3.4%

Members of the congregation continue to give generously both financially and in terms of volunteering to assist with hall lets. Without hall letting income we would not be able to fund many of our activities. This year hall lets income is specifically being used to fund the Caretaker post and make a £5,000 contribution to Parish Nursing costs.

We are grateful for all the donations to the Church and would remind everyone that if you are a taxpayer your contribution will be increased by 25% if you agree to Gift Aid your donation. Please see me if you have any queries regarding Gift Aid.

If you wish to make a donation specifically for mission outreach work then please advise the Treasurer and this will be added to the specific fund (The Charles Smith Fund) which we hold for that purpose.

Bob Potter

FAMILY PLAYGROUP continues on the first and third Saturday morning each month 10am - 12noon at The Steeple. We are always grateful for new volunteers to help with activities, crafts and making the families feel welcome! Speak to Fiona Dixon (community@thesteeplechurch.org.uk)



CONGREGATIONAL DIARY

MAY			
01	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Barnabas as mentor"
		19.00	Hot Chocolate's 'Open Night'
		19.30	Kirk Session
05	Sunday	10.30	Worship: "God guides" (Genesis 45)
		13.00	'Out & About' to Reekie Linn (R. Calvert)
08	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Paul as tentmaker"
09	Thursday	19.00	Nardia's induction at Balgay Parish Church
12	Sunday	10.30	Worship: "God speaks" (Num. 1), Workplace
		13.00	'Out & About' Meigle Pictish Stones (R. Alexander)
14	Tuesday	18.00	Local Mission team
		19.00	Café night
15	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Paul on slavery"
		19.30	Building Management team
19	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Casting lots" (Joshua 18), Lunch
		13.00	'Out & About' to the Sidlaws (C./A. Jollands)
22	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Paul growing up"
26	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "God's will" (Judges 6), Communion
		13.00	'Out & About' to Murton Farm (D./H. Forbes)
		19.00	Prayer gathering
28	Tuesday	19.00	Café night
29	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Paul's career change"
JUNE			
02	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "The Question: Why?" (Job 7)
		13.00	'Out & About' cycle to Arbroath (Johnstones)
05	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Our Father in heaven..."
		19.30	Congregational Board

08	Saturday	10.00	'Out & About' to Birks o' Aberfeldy (R. Toth)
09	Sunday	10.30	Worship, Pentecost, Dr. Katy Emslie-Smith
11	Tuesday	19.00	Café night
12	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Your Kingdom come..."
16	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "In God's image" (Genesis 1), Lunch
19	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Your will be done..."
		19.30	Kirk Session
23	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Love", Communion
25	Tuesday	19.00	Café night
26	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Give us today..."
30	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Joy"
		19.00	Prayer gathering

JULY

03	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Forgive us our sins..."
07	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Peace"
10	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Deliver us from evil..."
14	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Patience", Rev. Allan Webster
17	Wednesday	10.30	Mid-Week Service: "Kingdom, power & glory"
21	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Kindness", Rev. Jim Robertson

CONNECTIONS



Coffee and Conversation at the Connections Cafe

This project (a joint venture between the Steeple Church, Meadowside St Paul's Church and St Andrew's Church) is open every Monday from 10 -12 at Meadowside St Paul's to provide a safe space for the 'New Scots' and others to meet, to make new friends and practice their English. If you want to know more, please speak to John Clark or email ccdundee@outlook.com. There is also a FB page at <http://bit.ly/2Cyzb22> where you will find more information.

FROM THE PARISH NURSES

Kirsty, Rachel and I are all feeling a bit ‘conferenced out’ – March to April has been a busy time for us, of fruitful learning and fellowship, we hope. The UK Parish Nursing symposium was great, down in Derbyshire; there was a lot of very interactive learning together with our speakers, so we came home with new skills, and also had the opportunity to refresh other specific practice topics. The Queen’s Nursing Institute for Scotland conference was at Murrayfield. There were inspirational speakers, plus further learning acquired by all of us. The Scottish Homeless Inclusion Health Conference (hope I got that long-winded title correct) was also in Edinburgh, and was again very good value for the day in terms of networking in particular.

The numbers of folk coming to the drop-in sessions always fluctuates, and we can never tell how many will come. But numbers are between 25 and 44 this year, which is maybe up a bit on average. We are seeing more people who are having difficulty because of Universal Credit. We are really grateful to staff from the City Council and from Shelter, who can give expert advice about housing and assistance with benefits and with appeals about benefit non-awards. We are always glad to have The NHS Homeless Team with us – Hazel is really one of us nowadays; and the Dental team are a great benefit to our folk as well.

Many of the folk we see and listen with have real spiritual needs as well as all the physical, mental and social issues, and we pray with them quite often, specially when they feel bogged down in hopelessness, fear and guilt. This is an important part of our work, and often an opportunity to witness to God’s caring and forgiving love for all who repent. Pray for us as we are involved in frontline mission among our folk very frequently, and get to know some of them very well.

We have welcomed a couple of new Volunteers to our team in recent months, and in the same time a couple have retired from regular volunteering. We could not do this work without their cheerful and loving support – Thank you All.

The Thursday morning group is growing and thriving, with crafts, music and activities that help the women to feel welcome and cared about; 7 or 8 women are attending. And RecoverSing is also very well-attended, with up to 30 people having a really good singalong. We are so grateful to Claire for her work and the changes it is achieving week-by-week in those attending. There is a real sense of belonging and gently-growing self confidence.

From Rachel, Kirsty and Barbara

"Stronger"

*(The following poem by Gideon Heugh
came from TEAR Fund's UK office.)*

We're all searching for something true.
Surrounded by fake news, extreme views, everyone's confused,
But I've seen that love is stronger than fear, haven't you?

Sometimes it feels like there's nothing we can do,
We don't know who to trust, systems are being abused –
It can be lonely when you're searching for something true.

We long for hope, we long for something new,
We long for that bitter mountain to be moved,
Yet I've seen that love is stronger than despair, haven't you?

Society seems to be in crisis, and perhaps our hearts are too,
But there's a different perspective you can choose
When you're searching for something true:

If you peer behind a veil that's been torn in two
You'll see the promise of a world renewed –
I've seen that love is stronger than hate, haven't you?

Maybe that's not enough. Maybe we need another clue.
Maybe there are some things that will never be proved.
Yet we're all searching for something true,
And I've seen that love is stronger than death, haven't you?

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PRAY FOR FRIENDS SERVING THE LORD OVERSEAS...

Elspeth Paterson, returning from Pakistan this month

Steve and Catriona Bennett at Gahini hospital in Rwanda

Kate McDonald in Israel

Laura and Adam Gordon in Uganda



Join us on ...
the last Sunday of the month 7 - 8pm
Come and pray for our city, overseas prayer partners and wider concerns.

Out and About dates for your diary

The following Out and About Steeple activities are being offered in the next couple of months to anyone who would like to participate:

Sunday 5 May Reekie Linn walk with Robert Calvert

Sunday 12 May Visit to Meigle Pictish Stones with Rosalind Alexander

Sunday 19 May Sidlaws walk with Clive & Alice Jollands

Sunday 26 May Murton Farm visit with Doug & Hannah Forbes

Sunday 2 June cycle ride to Arbroath with David & Debbie Johnstone

Saturday 8 June Birks o' Aberfeldy walk with Rachel Toth

More details will be available in the noticesheet nearer the time.

Don't worry if you don't have transport.

Please see the organiser for that week and lifts will be arranged.

Please also offer spaces in transport if you are going.



Saturday 15 June

Perth Concert Hall

With special guest Graham Kendrick

Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 June

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

Presenting a programme of both contemporary and traditional songs of praise The Praise Gathering Choir are returning to Perth & Glasgow this summer with over 300 singers from many churches throughout Central Scotland.



National Prayer Gathering

24 May 7 - 9.30pm-

25 May 9.30am - 4.30pm

Letham St Marks Church
Rannoch Road, Perth PH1 2HH

The key scripture for 'Preparing the Highway' is Isaiah 62:10

Sessions will be led by Fred Drummond, Andy Hall and Maggie Lane.

Cost: Adult £15, Senior Citizen/
Student/not working £10



Open Church

The church is open every Monday and Friday between 12noon and 4pm. This is a great opportunity to welcome and engage with locals and visitors alike. Some people like to come in for a bit of quiet reflection, others like to chat.

If you would like to find out more about how you can be involved in this important ministry please speak to Robert Calvert.

Hall supervisors and catering

During the week we welcome many groups who use our building for meetings and conferences. The groups vary in size from 2 to 102 (and sometimes more!). Helpers are always needed to provide a warm welcome. We also provide catering for many of the events and again helpers are required to serve tea & coffee and lunches and of course to tidy up after. Please speak to Helen Fettes if you would like to know more.

PA & Projection

More volunteers are needed to help with PA and projection on a Sunday morning. Training is available. Please speak to Stephen or Brenda Elwell-Sutton if you would like to help.

Sing!

Sing! with Keith & Kristyn Getty

Usher Hall, Edinburgh

7pm 20th June 2019

JOIN THE CHOIR! Choir is limited to 350 so sign up as soon as possible.

<https://forms.gle/Eh17BYELrvk6ACt7>

Rehearsals: Mondays, 7.30pm-9pm
Starting 6th May

Venue: Platform Arts, Riverside Drive,
Dundee, DD1 4BX
(opposite the Discovery)

Tickets for the concert available from
the Usher Hall box office
<http://www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on/sing-scotland>

tearfund

SATELLITE SESSIONS

We're delighted to bring you an evening of music with some of the best Christian singer songwriters from across Scotland, featuring a collection of unique and homegrown material.

Friday 17 May
Panmurefield Baptist Church
Lawers Drive, Broughty Ferry DD5 3TZ
Doors open 7pm. Starts 7.30pm
Tickets £6 available from the venue or
www.tearfund.org/satellite

Newsletters and prayer diaries are always available at church. Please pick up a copy and find out about all the amazing work that is being done through Crossreach. Why not visit their website www.crossreach.org.uk to find out how you can get involved in supporting their work or sign up for regular email updates.



**WORK PLACE
CHAPELAINCY
Scotland**

Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland is hosting an introduction evening to Workplace Chaplaincy, **16th May 7 - 9pm** Blend Coffee Lounge in Reform Street

This is open to anyone who simply wants to know more about Workplace Chaplaincy, or may like to get involved. Everyone is welcome! A lovely cup of Blend's best will on tap

This time will include:
introduction to WPCS
stories of chaplaincy
how chaplaincy works
how it works with your church
the next step

If you just want to find out more, or to get involved, please register by emailing :
liz.mackie@wpcscotland.co.uk

Or contact Geoff Findlay,
Geoff.findlay@wpcscotland.co.uk

mary's meals

a simple solution
to world hunger

Event: Planet Ganet:
Culture, faith and friendship!
Date: Saturday 11 May
Time: 7.30 - 10pm
Venue: The Steeple Church
Tickets: £5 adult (includes light international supper)
£2 children (5-16)
Under 5s free

This event raises funds for Mary's Meals which sets up school feeding projects in some of the world's poorest communities, where hunger and poverty prevent children from gaining an education.

For more information please contact cchangeete@yahoo.co.uk

MAGAZINE OPTIONS

The magazine is available in paper format or by e-mail in pdf format. Please contact the church office if you would like a pdf copy. It is also available on the church website

Joining God's mission in the city centre – thoughts from the Local Mission Team

God invites you to join Him in His mission to the city centre; not just the Local Mission Team (LMT) whose remit from the Kirk Session is “*to reflect, supervise development, and make proposals to the Kirk Session on the development of our mission activities such as Open Mondays, Messy Church and Café Church. The LMT would also interface with Hot Chocolate and Parish Nursing. Over and above this, they could look at training, advise on or plan special events and form the nucleus of a support group for a new worker. The LMT would not be made up of elders only, but drawn from those with a heart for mission, and who are already involved in some aspect of local mission*

The LMT first met in June 2017 and comprise, as the Kirk Session suggested, people with a heart for mission, who are ‘already involved in some aspect of local mission’ but no one is excluded; all Steeple people are welcome, and notification of upcoming meetings is given in the Sunday notice sheet. The challenge of accommodating the Kirk Session’s wide-ranging remit for the LMT, whilst giving space for thoughtful reflection, was addressed to some extent by sharing a meal together during a three-hour evening meeting.

Throughout our conversation around the many mission activities within the orbit of the Steeple community, we have sought to keep at the forefront, three foundational questions: Who are we as members of the Christian Community at the Steeple? What do we mean by the gospel? And, what do we mean by mission in our city centre context?

Who are we, the Christian Community at the Steeple?

Peter writes in his epistle (1 Peter 2:9) that Christians are “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

The royalness makes reference to our responsibility as God’s vice-regents to reflect his love and just rule into the world. The priesthood refers to our responsibility to reflect the world’s praises back to God and also bring the pain and needs of the world into the presence of God through prayer and by working to alleviate it.

We are to be like an angled mirror. The point of an angled mirror is that it reflects one thing to another; in this case God to the world (engaging the ‘other’) and the world back to God (worship and bringing the pain and needs of the world into His presence)

If we really grasp the significance of this and the significance of Easter as the ‘the day the world became a whole new place’, and begin to understand more of who we are in Christ we will see the ‘other’, our neighbours, the world, and ourselves a little better and perhaps help us to more accurately envision God’s invitation to join him in His mission to our city. Jesus rescues us from everything that’s getting in the way of our being fully human. He enables us to be fully human again. Jesus enables damaged, broken and hurting people to be flourishing human beings again.

What do we mean by *gospel*?

The good news is that the creator God has acted decisively to put the world to rights. The message which announces that Jesus is Lord and calls us to obedience, contains the remedy: forgiveness, unearned and freely given, because of his cross, to which all we can say is, “Thank you.” ...The good news that Jesus is the one true “emperor,” ruling the world with his own brand of self-giving love. The good news entrusted to us in the Steeple community.

What do we mean by *mission*?

The word “mission” comes from the Latin for “send”: “As the father sent me,” said Jesus after his resurrection, ‘so I am sending you’ (John 20:21).

As Christians, we exist for mission: to announce to the world that Jesus is its Lord. This is the “good news” (gospel) and when it’s announced it transforms people and societies. God intends to put the world to rights; he has dramatically launched this project through Jesus. Those who belong to Jesus are called, here and now, in the power of the Spirit, to be agents of that putting-to-rights purpose in whatever context we are including the city centre.

In Jesus' own teaching, it is clear that people who are called to be agents of God's healing love, putting the world to rights, are called also to be people whose own lives are put to rights by the same healing love. The messengers must model the message. The LMT would love to see more helpers in our regular outreach, for example Family Playgroup, Open Mondays and Fridays and Connections Cafe and also in special events.

A forthcoming opportunity for mission in the city centre

The city centre will be busy in June! The schools are on holiday, many visitors will come to our city and the sun will shine (perhaps). In addition, the World Community Development Conference will be held in Dundee from 24th – 26th June with delegates from all over the UK and beyond.

Between 24th and 30th June the Steeple will host several events during the Scottish Refugee Festival which will begin on the afternoon of the 24th with an official opening event for all the family. During the week the work of two gifted young refugees who have made a home in our city will be on display as well as a contribution from further afield. A new art installation from Alistair and Katy Emslie -Smith will be augmented by an installation from a young artist in London. Material from organisations supporting refugees in a variety of contexts across the world will be displayed during the week. In the midst of this busyness there will be space for reflection and prayer during Wednesday afternoon and on Sunday evening. Our Erskine prayer room will be available throughout the week for those who wish to pray or be prayed for. In addition to these Steeple-based activities Connections Cafe will welcome visitors for coffee and Arabic snacks. On Friday 28th at the Blend Coffee Lounge, 'Refugee Voices' will provide an opportunity to listen to an evening of music, performance and sharing stories. All these events will be promoted in the World Community Development Conference programme.

A busy time, but a God-given opportunity for us in the Steeple community to engage with locals and visitors from across the world who will be in and around the Steeple. All of us have a part to play, whether on Reception, or being around to welcome and chat to visitors. More details about the opportunities to be involved in will follow soon. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact John Clark if you would like to know more.

CHURCH OFFICE

The Church Administrator can be contacted by e-mail
office@thesteeplechurch.org.uk
or messages left on the church answerphone
(01382 200031).

Please note that items for the Sunday noticesheet or projection should be submitted by 1pm on Thursday

Helen Fettes deals with all enquiries about hall bookings—she can be contacted by e-mail
info@thesteeple.org.uk
or 01382 843069

MAGAZINE DEADLINE



Items for the **July** issue of the Newsletter should be given to Brenda Elwell-Sutton or sent to the church office by **Sunday 23 June**

The Newsletter will be available from 7 July.

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