



THE STEEPLE CHURCH

A church at the heart of the city with the city at its heart

October
2020

On a Sunday morning we have two services (10.30am and 11.45am). A booking system is in operation. If you would like to attend one of the services please reserve a seat by 12noon on the Friday by email to thesteeplechurch@gmail.com or by telephoning the church office. Please give your name, the number of seats you want to reserve, first service or second service and a contact telephone number for Test & Protect.

A recorded service is available online or on a CD for those who are unable to attend church.

Many of our other weekly church gatherings continue using Zoom - see the back page for details. Please contact the church office if you would like more details about any of our events.

Items for the December magazine should be sent to the church office by the end of November



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My dear friends

2020 will be remembered for a very long time! I imagine this conversation in twenty years' time: "Dad, what did you do when the coronavirus came?" "Son, I just tried to survive." Not impressed with his father, the boy turned to his mother, "Mum, what did you do when dad tried to survive?" to which she replied, "Son, I tried not to murder him!" A little dark humour can help!

What will 2020 be remembered for? Maybe the year that the world took climate change seriously. China has committed to end harmful carbon dioxide emissions. The Chinese president announced to the U.N. General Assembly that emissions into the atmosphere would be cut to zero by 2060. This is a wonderful surprise from the biggest producer of these gases.

In 2020, the Steeple Church changed the way decisions are made. We have put our basic policy into everyone's hands by creating teams for everything we are involved in (p5). We want to empower church members and remove any mystery of the role of the Kirk Session. In the newsletter, you will see some notes on how the elders are reviewing our vision as a city-centre church (see p9&10).

2020 will be remembered by many young people as the year that their first year at university did not quite take place. We feel for all students coming to study in Dundee and especially those international students who come from a greater distance. The pressures you face 'pale into insignificance' when I compare them with my own first year at Dundee University in 1974. The biggest problem I had was falling asleep on the bus and missing my stop at Wormit where I had my 'digs'!

By now, you will have heard of my intention to retire in April 2021. This difficult decision was made necessary by the fact that I still experience weakness and lack of energy more than a year since being hospitalised at Ninewells. After battling with infections, health over the last twelve months has not improved as I had hoped. I find that it's not easy to maintain the vision and energy that a minister of the Steeple Church needs to.

Finally, let me know if you would like to become an official member of The Steeple Church Dundee. It is possible to prepare and aid you in this direction through 'zoom'. Also since fellowship over coffee on Sunday mornings is not yet possible, you can be part of a zoom conversation on Tuesdays or Thursdays (details for joining available from the church office) or a home group.

Your friend and pastor,

Robert Calvert

SUNDAYS AT THE STEEPLE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Text</u>	<u>Theme</u>
11 Oct	Shepherds wanted	Ezekiel 34: 7-16	Parish Nursing
18 Oct	Harvest in Crisis	Revelation 16	Climate Change
25 Oct	Bible Society Sunday	2 Timothy 3: 14-17	Elaine Duncan
01 Nov	Communion of saints	Hebrews 12: 1-3	All Saints Day
08 Nov	Lament for our loss	Lamentations 1: 1-5	Remembrance
15 Nov	United in shutdown	Hebrews 13: 1-3	Prisons' Week
22 Nov	King of compassion	Matthew 25: 31-46	Communion(?)
29 Nov	Waiting in the dark	Psalms 80	Advent 1
06 Dec	In the wilderness	Mark 1: 1-8	Advent 2
13 Dec	Mystery of the Messiah	John 1: 6-8, 19-28	Advent 3
20 Dec	God's ridiculous plan	Luke 1: 26-38	Advent 4
25 Dec	Peace of the manger	Luke 2: 1-20	Christmas
27 Dec	The family of faith	Luke 2: 22-40	

**Services continue to be at 10.30 & 11.45 am for 30-45 minutes
until further notice**

FINANCE TEAM UPDATE

Is it easier to cope with difficulties when a lot of other people are in a similar position? I am not sure whether there is an easy answer to this question but it is relevant to The Steeple just now. Most Churches, and indeed charities generally, are feeling the impact of the pandemic on their finances. In a way we are better placed than many Churches as a high proportion of our income comes from regular giving by standing orders. However, as you can see from the figures below we are having to cope with reduced congregational giving.

In addition, our other main source of income has been hall lets but there have been no lets since lockdown and the future for this source of income is uncertain.

Congregational Giving January to August 2020

Total to 31/8/2020	Total to 31/8//19	Percentage Change
£60,074	£66,956	-10%

The reduction in income has not been matched by a similar reduction in expenditure as most of our costs are fixed regardless of whether or not the Church building is in use. This year we will be facing a deficit as our budget was set without knowing the impact of Covid. There are many uncertainties about what will happen in 2021 but we will be planning on the basis of reduced income and continuing to pray for wisdom as to how best manage the situation.

Thank you to all those who have continued to financially support the work of The Steeple which continues despite the ongoing and varying restrictions.

Bob Potter

AUDIO CDS

Although services have now resumed in the church, we still continue to offer an audio CD of the service. The audio CD is ideal if you don't use internet technology with a computer or smartphone. All you need is a CD player and you can leave it playing while you shut your eyes!

STREAM & TEAM LEADERS

From the list below you can see there are several gaps for Stream Coordinators and Team Leaders. We are also looking for people to be involved in the work of the various teams. As the congregation looks to the future and to how we can seek to best serve God in this, the Kirk Session would love you to keep praying and thinking about how you are being called to be involved. Some folk have more time and energy to give than others, but whatever your circumstances, you have an important part to play. If you would like to volunteer or to receive more information about the remit of the teams please contact the Stream Coordinator via the church office.

Nurturing Ministries Stream Coordinators: (1) Alistair Emslie-Smith (2)

- Prayer:
- Developing Worship: Robert Calvert
- Music: Mark Parsons
- Kids & Teens:
- Young Adults: Dan Spencer
- World Mission: Jim Robertson

Local Mission Ministries Stream Coordinators: (1) Barbara MacFarlane (2)

- Community Engagement: Dona Robertson
- Café Church:
- Alpha: Jim Robertson
- Connections Café: John Clark
- Parish Nursing: Barbara MacFarlane

Fellowship Ministries Stream Coordinators: (1) Bob Potter (2)

- Pastoral Care: Christine Stibbles
- Social Fellowship: Rosalind Alexander
- Steeple Men: David Grainger
- Home Groups:

Support Ministries Stream Coordinators: (1) Lynda Forte (2) Alison Cartwright

- Finance: Bob Potter
- Building Management: Robin Liddell
- Hall Marketing & Management: Helen Fettes
- HR: Alison Cartwright
- Data Protection: Lynda Forte

FROM THE PARISH NURSES ...

GREAT NEWS - after six long months, we have been able to re-open the drop-in session at The Steeple on Monday afternoons. It is so good to be back, open for business again. Thanks to the Kirk Session we are now able to meet in the Sanctuary area. We've been open for four weeks now, and it has gone really well. We only have eight tables up, so a max of 16 folk in at any time, plus staff in the hall. We are really strict and very good at sticking to all the regulations because we certainly don't want to become a 'super-spreader' event! I must say, it looks a bit empty, and it is a bit harder to be really welcoming. No hugs allowed.



Not one of our folk

We try to explain to our folk as they arrive that it's a bit like 'puppy training class'. They have to come in, sit when and where they are told, and stay there. Masks are given out and temperatures checked before folk even get in the main outside door. A bit of humour is a real help in keeping things from feeling draconian. Then they order their food from one of our team and it's brought to their table (waiter/ress service-style). Only problem, by the time I got from the table to the serving area I had forgotten if it was tea or coffee, a cheese or a ham roll, how many sugars etc, so now I have a waitress-style notebook.



Folk are really appreciating getting the home-made soup, and hot drinks again, and today's mince rolls were hugely popular (best steak mince, no less).

It's also **BRILLIANT** to have many of our Volunteers back helping on Mondays. They keep everything running like clockwork, and it feels like family again. AND the team of from **EAGLES WINGS** is helping us on Mondays too (and Douglas Street stays closed on a Monday). Big virtual hugs and thanks to Mike, Tony, Alison and Marc.

The **NHS HOMELESS TEAM** send a Nurse when they can, and the **DENTAL VAN** is back again too, fixing folks' gnashers.

Rachel, Kirsty and I are continuing to go to Eagles Wings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. It is getting cold, working out there on the pavement. But folk are coming, with diverse and complex needs, and 'Parish Wings' are there to help. Hallelujah!

If you want any more information, within reason, we are really happy to give that, and we are **ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR PRAYER SUPPORT**. Please pray that applications for funding grants will be very successful, so that we can continue our work without money worries. Pray too, that we will be able to do something really good for a Christmas meal, somehow...

*****NEWS FLASH** Try to watch SONGS of PRAISE on BBC1 on Sunday 01 November, if you can. The Steeple Church, Parish Nursing and Eagles Wings will feature in this episode.



DUNDEE NATIVITY – THE MOVIE

No live performances this year, because of Covid restrictions. Instead, we're making a filmed version, to be put online.

There's still time to join the cast, as a singer, instrumentalist or in a small acting role. All rehearsals take place on Zoom.

Individual items will be recorded with appropriate social-distancing, then edited together in a recording studio, in time for Christmas.

For more information: musicians, contact Jason at jmcauley@kilgraston.com

Aspiring actors, contact Jerry at averillcreatives@gmail.com

VISION/VALUES AT THE STEEPLE CHURCH

This is an exercise that the minister has recommended to the Kirk Session. You might like to try it yourself Whenever we consider what the church is and does, we find many areas of crossover and overlap. Take a piece of paper and draw three overlapping circles in a triangular arrangement for 'Worship', 'Community' and 'Mission'. The area around it is the city-centre of Dundee. The central area (where all three circles overlap) resembles a 'heart' and represents our values (or spirituality). Take the name of each 'team' in the Steeple (see below) and try to place them into this circular diagram. As you try to put the different teams somewhere in these circles, you will find yourself asking if it is more about worship, community or mission. It depends on how your 'vision' of the Steeple Church. Think about what it is and what it should be. Is, for example, 'small groups' in worship, community or mission? You might think that it is mainly about community but if they should be also for reaching out to new people you might place it in the area for 'community/mission'. These are some 'teams' at The Steeple:

Within "Nurturing Ministries": **Prayer, Developing Worship, Music, Children & Teenagers, Young Adults, World Mission**

Within "Local Mission": **Community Engagement, Parish Nursing, Café Church, Alpha, Connections Café**

Within "Fellowship Ministries": **Pastoral Care, Social Fellowship, Steeple Men, Home Groups**

Within "Support Ministries":
Finance, Building Management, Hall Marketing, Data Protection, Communication, Catering, Technology, Human Resources

As I try to do this, it is not easy and I find myself asking bigger questions such as 'what is mission'? Prayer is at least one of the teams in 'my' centre.

Robert Calvert



THE VISION STATEMENT OF 'THE STEEPLE CHURCH DUNDEE':

"Our vision is of a Bible-based church that is vibrant with prayerful people who worship and serve Jesus Christ and attract others to follow Him."

Our objectives in achieving this vision are:

- Becoming a people renewed for Christian service through personal spiritual growth in Christ.
- Becoming a people prepared for Christian service through training in discipleship and evangelism.
- Becoming a people, inspired by God's love and renewed by his Spirit, who will respond to the many opportunities of mission in our community and worldwide.
- Becoming a people who by seeking to impact the community around will endeavour to develop our church life in a way that is non-threatening and accessible to those of all ages and lifestyles.
- Becoming a people who are committed to youth ministry within both the church family and the wider community.
- Becoming a people who will be willing to serve Jesus Christ through appropriate partnerships with city agencies, Christian organisations and other churches.
- Becoming a people who will seek to provide appropriate buildings which are flexible for the ministry needs of the church.

The Vision Statement above is a slightly amended and updated version of the 2002 Vision Statement prepared by the Kirk Session. The above version was adopted in 2012 at the time of redevelopment of the building. As mentioned in Robert's letter the Kirk Session is currently reviewing our vision as a city-centre church in 2020.



If you would be interested in joining (or forming) an online Steeple Home Group, using Zoom, (from the convenience and comfort of your own home), please let Brenda in the Office know and we can put you in touch with others.

STEEPLE STRETCH

Jim Robertson, new World Mission Team leader.

Over the next year I'd like to put together a world map which shows how far we stretch. The families we belong to are dotted about all over the place: Dundee, Scotland, UK, Europe, Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, India, the African continent, the Middle & Far East.... and on and on we go.

The places and people we are connected with may be haphazard and not especially planned but they are not accidental. We find ourselves, providentially, with the God-given calling of being what Jesus (Mark 11:17) called "[God's]...house of prayer for the nations". I wonder how wide our stretch is! Once I gather the information I'll let you see on a world map how far our global reach is. This will give us a welcome focus for our prayer life and reveal the openings where we can expand the kind of prayer vision Jesus loves.

I'm working at devising a **STEEPLE STRETCH** survey form which should be in circulation before the end of the year. When it arrives please complete and return it so we can all catch a vision for the places and people God would like us to pray and hold in our hearts.



Despite the difficulties that they face every day, through poverty, illness, disability, or other disadvantages, receiving a shoebox brings such joy to children and adults in Eastern Europe, that their faces light up with huge smiles. You can make such a difference to lives that are otherwise almost hopeless.

If you are having a problem sourcing an empty shoebox this year then please use a drawstring bag (no plastic ones please) instead. Maximum size 400mm x 300mm. These are available in a number of shops, especially sports shops.

Our Kirk Session has formed a Steeple Church family link with a UK and Dundee network called Mahabba (love).

The vision statement on its website reads:

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO & WHAT MAKES US TICK

OUR VISION: *To see ministry among people of Muslim heritage as a normal part of church life.* This is the picture of the future that inspires and drives Mahabba. When the Mahabba Network is successful in its mission, churches engage well with people of a Muslim heritage.

OUR MISSION: Mahabba operates as a relational network, which gives people of Muslim heritage the opportunity to find and follow Jesus.

Encouraging prayer: Helping to grow regular, persistent prayer for Muslims (core value of persistent prayer).

Enabling all Christians: Helping to see the opportunities, grow in confidence, build friendships and share Jesus with Muslims (core value of mobilising 'everyday' Christians).

Envisioning the Christian community : Inspiring church leadership with what God is doing and helping churches see their own vision fulfilled for Muslims to have the opportunity to follow Jesus (core value of church leadership championing the vision).

Engaging with Muslims: Helping local churches to build bridges with local Muslim communities in order to reach out in love; share Jesus and nurture Christ-followers who reach out in their own community (core value of growing disciples).

You can download a checklist of items to include in your box and instructions for filling it on the website www.shoeboxappeal.org - you can also view videos about the shoe box appeal. Download a checklist and decide on the age of the person you want to fill a box for. There are certain essential items that should be included and a range of suggestions for other things.

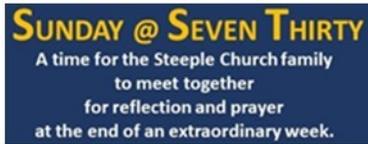
Boxes will be received at St James Church, Fort Street, Broughty Ferry from Monday 9 to Thursday 12 November. Open daily 10am to 5pm.

For further information please contact local representative Louise 01382 775671.



As well as our Sunday services at church, a pre-recorded service can be found via the Church website, www.thesteeplechurch.org.uk, Steeple Facebook Groups or The Steeple Church YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3No73xjivpUfQwdw1vbj2g>



Every Sunday evening at 7.30 pm, we are meeting using Zoom to pray together.



Folk are also meeting to keep in touch and to chat via Zoom, at our regular Thursday Coffee Morning (10.30am) and Tuesday Afternoon Tea Break times (3pm).

The Zoom links for the above events remain the same each week. Please contact the church office if you need the links.



Several of our Home Groups are also using Zoom to continue meeting for bible study and fellowship. If you would be interested in joining one of these, please let Robert or the Office know and we can put you in touch

The Steeple Men Group on Thursday mornings and the Connections Café to support those new to Dundee with learning English are using Zoom. John Clark would be happy to tell you more about these: johndrummondclark@gmail.com



We have set up private Facebook and WhatsApp Groups for the Steeple family so that folk can easily and quickly inform others in the Steeple community of any prayer requests or practical needs, in particular if they become unwell or are needing to self-isolate.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities but don't know how to access them, please contact the Church Office.