



The Steeple Church

January 2019

a church at the heart of the city . . .



. . . with the city at its heart

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Registered Scottish Charity SC 014314

Dear friends

I wish a happy New Year to all in the Steeple family! It is a real joy to daily walk the road of faith with you. In 2019 I want the Steeple to be a people and place of hope for everyone – beginning in Sunday worship. You know there is a tradition in Reformed churches of having a ‘call to worship’ at the beginning and a ‘benediction’ at the end. They have been described as the ‘book-ends’ of worship. We remind each other why we are there to worship and close by blessing the world of which we are a part. Previous ministers opened with a scripture sentence and closed with a biblical blessing.

Today in the Steeple we begin with a responsive reminder of the goodness of God. Then at the end of the service we stand together to offer our ‘praise’ to Jesus Christ – we bless His holy name! Then we pronounce ‘hope’ on the universe. ‘Cosmos’ is a Greek word (used in John 3:16) that refers to all that has been created. Then we pronounce ‘peace’ on the city. Dundee is tiny compared to the megacities of the world but most people on this planet live in cities of under half a million. Then we urge the church to have ‘courage’! We need to act boldly in response to the trials and tribulations of our times.

After Sunday morning worship we do not have to wait for Monday morning to feel the force of secular culture. For Sunday is now as busy a shopping day as Saturday. The High Street ‘hustle and bustle’ of Winter, Christmas and New Year sales give people hope of a bargain. Shopping online and in stores has become a kind of therapy. But Jesus has promised contentment and never to leave us if we keep ourselves from the love of money. (Heb. 13: 5-6) No amount of purchases can buy us into God’s presence. For God has already made the greatest ‘Special Offer’ the world has ever seen. When it seems that our credit balance is empty, God comes to all who seek Him.

The Steeple provides that opportunity. Thank you for helping to make the refurbished space so attractive and flexible. Thank you that in November we could celebrate the paying off of the loan to General Trustees with a ceilidh. While we let the space out to local authorities and organizations, we have also seen its potential to engage people. It provides a place where we can personally talk with people (whether they are local from Dundee or visitors for the V&A). What was said by the Japanese architect of the V&A could also be applied to the Steeple.... it can be a ‘living room’ for everyone!

Your friend and pastor,
Robert Calvert

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We are glad that **Fiona Dixon** will be employed until the end of March while we seek further funds. Our aim in the Steeple is to create safe and welcoming space where stories can be shared. The church continues to be open on **Monday and Friday afternoons** (12-4 pm), on Saturday mornings fortnightly for the **playgroup** and at other times for self-help groups. While we can draw upon support from the Overgate Centre and Abertay University, we really need more **church volunteers** who can give an hour or two. The Steeple offers space for people to meet, to relax, to find support and to make new friends.

Lauren & Artur, our interns from the Netherlands, leave at the end of January for the United States to explore opportunities for pastoral ministry. Thank you for your support to us and to the Episcopal Church in Dundee. They have been helping regularly at the Café Church at St. Luke's in Downfield and there may be a spin-off for the Steeple. We are looking with Rev. Kerry Dixon at a new kind of monthly worship event on Sunday mornings with the help of Hot Chocolate. Watch this space!

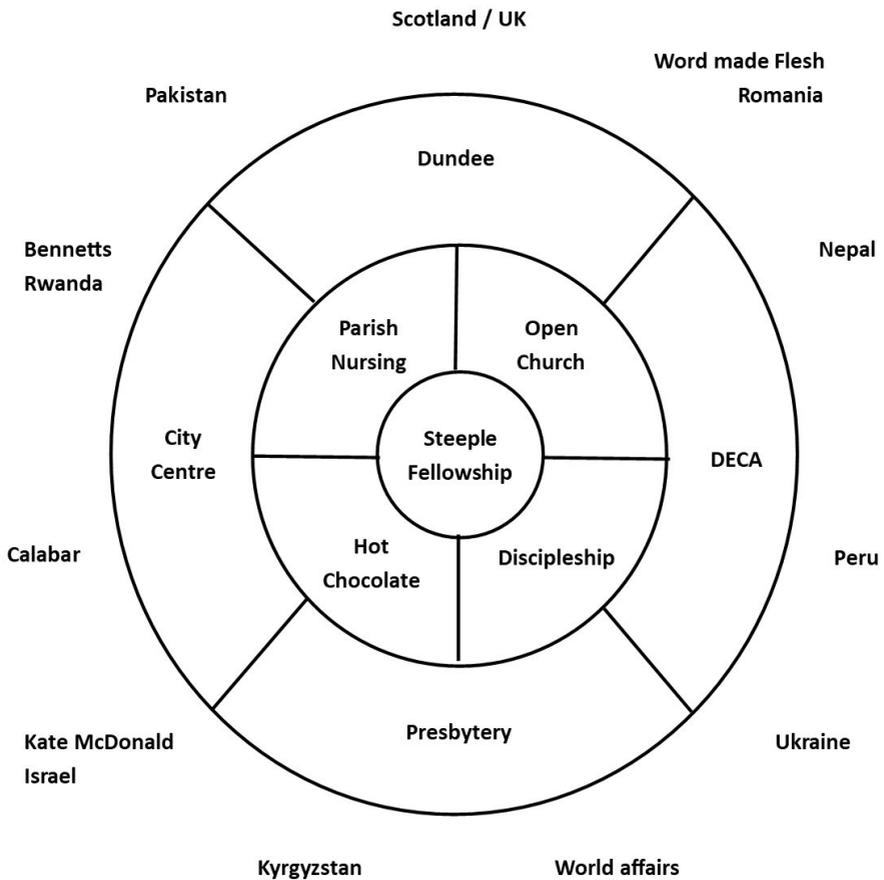
For anyone who would like to get baptised, we offer five **'Baptism prep' classes** from 1-2 pm over five Sundays leading up to Easter. Come along if you are interested for there is no obligation!

The weekly **Mid-week services** from 12.30 to 1 pm on Wednesdays focus on bible characters from the Old Testament that demonstrate the difference when our 'faith goes public'!

Congratulations to **Nardia Sandison** on completing her final placement and we look forward to following her movements.

Thanks to **Tom Ramsay** for leading the monthly intercessory prayer meeting for twenty years! We continue to meet on the last Sunday of the month at 7.00 pm. The **'prayer grid'** opposite is designed to prompt us to pray for a variety of concerns (rather than be a full list).





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 Emily McKay or Fiona Dixon

(community@thesteeplechurch.org.uk)



CONGREGATIONAL DIARY JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2019

JANUARY			
06	Sunday	10.30	Worship (Psalm 134, R. Calvert)
08	Tuesday	19.00	Alpha Review
09	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week: "Abraham: Rescuing City People"
12	Saturday	14.30	New Year Party
13	Sunday	10.30	Worship (Romans 1, J. Robertson)
16	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week: "Joseph: Faith in the Marketplace"
20	Sunday	10.30	Worship (Romans 3, J. Robertson, Lunch)
22	Tuesday	19.00	Alpha night: "How does God guide?"
23	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week: "Moses: Chosen & Called"
		19.30	Kirk Session
27	Sunday	10.30	Worship (Rom. 4, R. Calvert, Communion)
		13.00	Baptism Prep. (1)
30	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week: "Moses: Growing in Maturity"
FEBRUARY			
03	Sunday	10.30	Worship (Romans 5, R. Calvert)
05	Tuesday	19.00	Alpha night: "What about the rest of my life?"
06	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week: "Joshua: spy and leader"
10	Sunday	10.30	Worship (Romans 6, R. Calvert)
		13.00	Baptism Prep. (2)
13	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week: "Deborah: female leader of Israel"
17	Sunday	10.30	Worship (Romans 7, R. Calvert, Lunch)
19	Tuesday	19.00	Alpha night: "How can I resist evil?"
20	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week: "Samuel: planning the future"
24	Sunday	10.30	Worship (Rom. 8, R. Calvert, Communion)
		13.00	Baptism Prep. (3)
27	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week: "David: spiritual planning"

MARCH			
03	Sunday	10.30	Worship (Romans 10, R. Calvert)
05	Tuesday	19.00	Alpha night: "How to tell others?"
06	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week: "Solomon: success story?"
		19.30	Kirk Session
10	Sunday	10.30	Worship (Romans 12, R. Calvert)
		12.30	Stated Annual Meeting
		13.00	Baptism Prep. (4)

FINANCE UPDATE

Congregational Giving January to November

Total to 30/11/2018	Total to 30/11/17	Percentage Change
£88,175	£90869	-3%

Our congregation continue to be generous givers but there has been a reduction in giving from 2017. Taking into account inflation the effective reduction is approximately 6%.

In addition to financial support many people give of their time to help with hall lets. In the current year hall lets income is predicted to be in the region of £50,000. We have managed to finance a number of improvements in 2018 but next year we are expecting to fund remedial works for the organ. In addition, expenditure is exceeding budget in the current year so any improvement work is being put on a temporary hold until we can assess ongoing income and expenditure in 2019.

A commitment has been made to assist with the running costs of Parish Nursing by transferring £5,000 to the project in 2019. A part-time Caretaker is in post and this is being funded from hall lets income.

There has recently been a comprehensive report on storage in the Church and Mary Slessor Centre. The Congregational Board will be looking at this in the new year including the financial implications of any decisions taken.

Bob Potter



Jim Robertson gives a snapshot of his recent visit to his sister in Nepal and the work of the mental health Street Project run by the charity Chhahari Nepal in Kathmandu.

KATHMANDU : FACES November 2018.

Asmita, Christian Street Worker. She and colleague Hikmat look for, then supports mentally ill people they find on the streets in Lalitpur district of Kathmandu. They offer advocacy on behalf of their families and assist with connecting to medical services.



Helpless Despair

On the top floor of a concrete tenement block is a man in a desperate condition. His family despairs because he has totally withdrawn into his own world.

Isolation. A 20 year old with no one to look after her mum who needs 24/7 care. No money, can't work and with a seriously ill mentally brother who has disappeared and very seldom is caught sight of. She finds the Chhahari Welcome Centre on Wednesdays a great source of personal help.



If you would like more information about this project please speak to Jim.

PRAY FOR FRIENDS SERVING THE LORD OVERSEAS...

Elspeth Paterson, serving in Pakistan
Steve and Catriona Bennett at Gahini hospital in Rwanda
Kate McDonald in Israel



Sound desk operators

Do you sit in the congregation thinking, “I wish there were some way I could help out in the church? I am sure there is something I could do...” Well yes there is! We need people like you to help man the sound desk on Sunday mornings. We are few in number and generally

overcommitted. Would you like to feel really useful??

You do NOT need to be technically minded (although it doesn’t do any harm). There are a few skills that are useful: LOVE for the people you deal with, JOY at doing a good job, PEACE of mind knowing you’re really valuable, PATIENCE with musicians and the minister, KINDNESS even early on a Sunday morning, GOODNESS just being helpful, GENTLENESS when people make suggestions about the sound being both too loud and too soft etc, FAITHFULNESS to turn up on time on Sunday mornings and SELF-CONTROL when things don’t go according to plan.

Err, you don’t necessarily need to have all these qualities all the time...

Please do get in touch with Stephen Elwell-Sutton or anyone else on the team. There is training provided both in the church and away at Rock-Tech. It is FUN!!



CHURCH FLOWERS

If you would like to help out arranging flowers in the Sanctuary for a Sunday morning (experience not necessary) or if you would like to make a donation to the flowers on display on a Sunday morning please speak to Sheila Melville. There are still some vacant dates during the year.

STEEPLE MEN

Steeple Men meet weekly on a Thursday morning 10am - 12noon. We play pool and other games as well as chat over hot drinks. If you would appreciate company you are welcome to join us.



CrossReach (Church of Scotland Social Care Council) was launched in June 2005 and continues the Kirk's long tradition of providing care and support. In fact, this work started back in 1869, so we will celebrate **150 years** of providing care and support in 2019.

We employ 2,000 staff in 70 care and support services stretching from Shetland to Ayrshire, making us one of the largest social care agencies in Scotland. Our services help thousands of people in need every day of the year. Our work is split into 3 main areas:

- Adult Care
- Children and Families
- Older People

CrossReach produce a number of publications including a magazine and prayer diary. Copies are available at the back of church and in the Reception area. There is also an eNewsletter available - details on the CrossReach website www.crossreach.org.uk/resources/publications.

There is also an interesting report on Children & Family Services Conference and YOYP2018 (Year of Young People) as well as details of all CrossReach services and how you can support them.

There are a number of fundraising events organised eg zipwire challenge, freefall skydive, Forth Bridge abseil and kilt walks in various locations including Dundee - speak to Moira Bell for more information or check out the website for details www.crossreach.org.uk/events

The Church of Scotland Social Care Council (operating as CrossReach) reports every year to the General Assembly and has the following remit:

- To offer services in Christ's name to people in need as part of the Church's mission.
- To provide specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church.
- To identify existing and emerging areas of need, to guide the Church in pioneering new approaches to relevant problems and to make responses on issues arising within the areas of the Council's concern through appropriate channels such as the Church & Society Council, the Scottish Executive and others.



PLATFORM ARTS

New Scottish Arts is celebrating their 20th year as an arts organization by opening a new venue in Dundee.

Platform Arts, located on Riverside Drive, has a small gallery for art exhibitions, a café, and a 60-seat performing area.

FROM US, TO YOU, WITH LOVE: an original musical comedy celebrating Valentine's Day – performing 14 & 15 February 2019.

JOHN, HIS STORY – an original play based on the miracles in the Gospel of John. Four actors play 26 different characters – performing 12 & 13 April 2019.

WOMEN IN THE ARTS – workshopping an original production on Lillias Trotter, a painter mentored by John Ruskin and poised to be one of the leading artists on the early 1900's. – performing 14 & 15 June 2019.

Sing!

Sing!

with

Keith & Kristyn Getty

Usher Hall, Edinburgh

20th June 2019

Would you like to sing on-stage with Keith & Kristyn Getty?

We will be creating local choirs to make it easy for you to join - there will be one in Dundee.

Simply sign up (contact the church office for details) and we will be in touch with further information.

Pass the word around as we seek to have over 300 singers taking part in the wonderful conference and concert - Sing!

Rehearsals start for 8 weeks at the end of April, however, one-off choir workshops will happen beforehand as we build towards the event.

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.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE



Items for the
November issue of the
Newsletter should be
given to Brenda Elwell-
Sutton or sent to the
church office by
Sunday 17 February

The Newsletter will be
available from 3 March.

CHURCH OFFICE

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

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