



# THE STEEPLE CHURCH

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



2021

We meet together on Sunday mornings at 10.30am using Zoom.

After the service we go into small breakout rooms to chat and share news with one another.

If you would like to be sent the Zoom link each week, please contact the church office.

A recording of the service is put on YouTube on Sunday afternoon

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 June magazine should be sent by email to the church office by 23 May.



The Steeple Church: Dundee (Church of Scotland)

Nethergate, Dundee DD1 4DG

**Minister: Rev Dr Robert Calvert**

email • [minister@thesteepchurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@thesteepchurch.org.uk) / mobile • 07532 029 343

**Church Office**

t • 01382 200031 / e • [office@thesteepchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@thesteepchurch.org.uk)

[www.thesteepchurch.org.uk](http://www.thesteepchurch.org.uk)

Registered Scottish Charity SC 014314

Dear friends

Easter is here! “Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!” The Orthodox Church’s traditional greeting is one that will resound on 4<sup>th</sup> April when I ask you ‘un-mute’ yourselves at our Easter zoom service. Thanks to Allan Webster and Jerry Averill, we’ll make known a 40-minute online film for Easter that will be available from Palm Sunday (or thereabouts).

Nicola Montgomery, who finishes her placement with us this Easter, will preach on Palm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March. I will lead a short zoom service at 7pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Rev. Emma McDonald, our interim-moderator, will preach on Easter Sunday and I will lead you in a short communion service afterwards. So, please be ready with some bread and juice!

My final service at the Steeple will be by zoom on 11<sup>th</sup> April when we read from Mark 16. I’m writing an extra verse for the hymn “Fairest Lord Jesus” with which I’d like to close the service. I have always loved that hymn and its tune – but regretted that it focusses solely on the countryside. God is visible in buildings and structures if you have the eyes to see.

A Dutch theologian once put it in this uncompromising way, “We must claim God’s presence and disclaim his absence from the city. God is no romantic rural God. We cannot find him by going back to nature.” I have to admit that I’ve seen God’s love and presence most ‘writ large’ in people living under pressure in Glasgow, Rotterdam and Dundee. Over the years I’ve seen and heard how real God is to people in poor urban communities.

In case you are wondering, at last I’m beginning to see signs of old energies returning. For the rest of this year, I won’t try to do much more than drink coffee with friends, go fishing and watch the stars! Lesley-Ann and I look forward to settling in ‘Courier Country’ and to keeping up with friends in Dundee. The cottage, which looks out onto the hillside of the West Lomond, reminds me a lot of my childhood home in the Borders.

Please try to look out for those who are not ‘at the party’. Charles Schultz’s cartoon ‘Peanuts’ once pictured Charlie Brown telling Lucy about how his team beat the other team at American football and of high emotions at the end of the game. When Lucy asked: “How did the other side feel?”, Charlie Brown was flattened and speechless! The Steeple Church seeks to be welcoming, biblical and missional in the heart of Dundee. But Lucy’s question remains relevant to communities with longstanding relationships.

Finally, Lesley-Ann and I thank you for your fellowship and prayers. I am grateful for the trust you placed in me. Since 2014 we have come together to worship in lines, circles and crescents and sought ways to use the refurbished building to the glory of God. But who'd have thought that from time when we tied up the 'snagging' and sought to use the space creatively that today we wouldn't be using for the purpose for which it was intended?

Your friend always,

Robert Calvert

## WHAT COMES NEXT?



As you draw closer to the end of Robert's ministry and to saying goodbye to both Robert and Lesley –Ann no doubt you will be wondering what will come next and what God has in store for you as a congregation. Well, I can answer some of those wonderings. As your Interim Moderator I will be assisting the Kirk Session with the processes that are required by Presbytery. The Kirk Session have been active with tasks that can be carried out at the moment such as attesting the roll which, is essentially ensuring that all who wish to be associated with the church as members or adherents is up to date, and thinking about what a parish profile might contain.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> April a meeting has been organised with the Vacancy Advisory Committee from Presbytery to meet with the Kirk Session at which time information will be shared and the process set out as to what needs to be done by the Kirk Session and by the congregation during the vacancy. Until the current restrictions end or lift adequately to allow us to meet in person many of the meeting may need to be held online. However please be assured that congregational input will be necessary going forward and that this will not be done entirely online. When we get to the time to involve the congregation the Kirk Session will advise how this will be done. As to what God has in store for you as a congregation well, clearly I cannot answer that but won't it be interesting to find out. If at any point you wish to speak with me, I can be contacted on 01382 322746.

Wishing you God's blessings

Emma



## FROM THE PARISH NURSES

It was really sad to say farewell to Rachel at the end of February as she moved on into her new job, We were not able to have any form of celebration, but we definitely will be having a tea-party as soon as possible. Rachel is settling into the new job, and thanks folk for their prayers – the staff are very caring with the folk for whose well-being they are responsible, and Rachel has been made most welcome. After a couple of months, once she ‘knows the ropes’, she hopes to keep her links with Parish Nursing very much alive, doing just a wee bit of volunteering when her shifts allow.

On Monday 5th April we start to invite folk back into the Steeple on Monday afternoons for food, fellowship and care. We’ll be following all the Covid-19 regulations. This does make our work a lot easier, both for the folk who need support and for ourselves. We are grateful to our volunteer army who are planning to be back with us again.

At present we are seeking God’s will about how to continue working closely with Eagles Wing, because we cannot see ourselves going away in separate directions after this year of working together so effectively. Please pray that we’ll listen to God and follow His plan rather than our own aspirations. We are giving God thanks for major funding that has come in so far this year from the Joseph Rank Trust and The Robertson Trust, both providing towards our expenses for

the next three years. There have also been other donations coming in for which we praise God with all our hearts.

From the beginning of June, Kirsty will be working full-time with us. She and her husband Marc have prayed about this, because giving up an NHS post to work for a small charity is not an easy choice. Please pray that Kirsty will be blessed in making this decision to effectively become a full-time ‘missionary nurse’ here in the Steeple. I hope that at some point we may have some sort of dedication or commissioning service for her once the church is open for services again.

Late last year we had funding to prevent repeat homelessness, from the Scottish Government. We were able to buy lots of household essentials, from televisions to toilet cleaning brushes. Most of these items have now gone to their new homes. We had a report back recently from a man who got the last television set – he was totally overwhelmed, because he was expecting a small, used old TV set, and he received a brand new smart TV in its box. He said he was amazed and felt really valued as a person to get something that was so beyond his wildest dreams. Do you think a television is an essential piece of household equipment? There cannot be many folk who would not agree that in particular, for a single person living alone, a television is a really important household gadget!

Kirsty and Barbara

## STEEPLE STRETCH SURVEY: FEEDBACK PART 2

At the end of last year I showed you the 53 countries on a map of the world where responders to the survey had connections. This was either via family, work or a charity mission interest

### AGENCIES WE SUPPORT

Here's a random list of the 39 + agencies the survey connects us to. They operate beyond U.K. borders.

Church of Scotland Department of World Mission, TEAR Fund, Vine Trust, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Open Doors, Mercy Ships, Interserve, Overseas Missionary Fellowship, Bible Society, Brooke UK (Equine Working animals), Chhahari Nepal for Mental Health Street Worker, Edinburgh Medical Missionary Fellowship, Medical Aid Palestine, Mahabba, Embrace the Middle East, Friends International, Leprosy Mission, Oxfam, Christian Aid, Amos Trust, Barnabus Fund, International Care Hong Kong, Signpost International, Velemegna Hospital India, Joan Hua Foundation, World Vision, Mission East, Church Missionary Society, MedAir, Kalabar & Nigerian Churches, The Living Water Link Project - Nigeria, Ma Flo's Orphans - Cameroon, Pretoria Community Ministries - Tshwane Leadership Foundation (South Africa), Scripture Union, Water Aid, Ethiopiaid,

The Smile Train, CitizenGo, Engineering Mission International (plus Climate Change organisations we have linked with since the survey was carried out)

### PRAYER

In our Church family life we make a special point of praying with a global stretch vision. Each Sunday morning service and at the evening Prayer Meeting we speak with God about his trans-national Church and the needs of the world. Also our Mahabba network Prayer Meeting on the last Monday night of each month takes to heart not only more recently arrived "New Scot" refugees but also overseas students and workers. Prayer and practical friendship and support for "foreigners" is a wonderful way of showing how attractive it is to be a follower of Jesus. As well as formally organised prayer times there are also all our own individual daily prayer offerings on behalf of our neighbours on earth - especially where trouble and need looms large.

### VALUE

The extent of our Steeple Stretch that's visible on the surface is easy to represent in words and numbers. Our annual accounts publish some of the sums of money we invest in the work of the Kingdom of Heaven. What can't ever be calculated is the true value to God of the hidden investments we make in our hearts, prayers, unseen financial giving and time. Nobody can or should know how much heart and money we collectively give back to Jesus to bless our neighbours. We trust that we / agencies we support will make a difference to the people and places Jesus calls us to serve.

Jim Robertson  
(World Mission Team Leader)



## NEWS

The last newsletter from **the Bennetts in Rwanda** can be found via the link below: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/resources/catriona-and-stephen-bennett-link-letter-no-18-february-2021/> Pray for Steve & Catriona with Hannah and Rachel as they leave Gahini in late summer and return to the UK.

The latest from **the Gordons in Uganda** can be found via the link below: <https://us17.campaign-archive.com/?u=761e62421702aba9822341df6&id=b0a964a796>

### KATHMANDU CELEBRATION

*Jim Robertson - Note: I have visited Bijay, his Christian Mum and brother Sanjay numbers of times in their Kathmandu home. [I once played a clip in church of her singing "This is the day that the Lord has made" in her own first language, Newark] Bijay fractured his spine eight years ago when he jumped out of a third floor window due to him refusing to take his medication. Chhahari (pronounced "charee") Street Worker support has been invaluable in his healing and rehabilitation. The message below is an e mail from Bidya, the project manager. You can tell that our support and prayer make a difference! The "coke" referred to is of the Pepsi variety!*

"The good news is our client Bijay. Diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, we have been working with him for over 5 years. Bijay depends on his elderly mother for food, medication and hygiene. Low self-esteem and feelings of anxiety cause a reluctance to engage socially. He is one of our regular weekly Welcome Centre attendees. He loves music, art and drawing. **As you know for the past few years we have been working towards getting a Social Security Identity Card from the government for many of our clients with chronic mental health problems.**

In Bijay's case Asmita, Hikmat and Sanjeev worked extremely hard for over 2 years and finally last week Bijay received his Social Security Identity Card. Now, he has his own bank account and will have to go to Nepal Bank to get his allowance. His elderly mother and Bijay were extremely happy to receive this support from the government after a long time-consuming struggle (see attached Bijay's Social Security Card in Nepali and his own chequebook for his own bank account). To celebrate with Bijay and family we had a small momo and coke party at his home. More detail on this later. (also picture of Bijay learning to use mobile phone provided by Chhahari)

All the influential hard work by our field staffs Asmita, Hikmat and Sanjeev and their commitment to following up persistently finally came into practice. And Thank you for all the prayers and continuously supporting us.

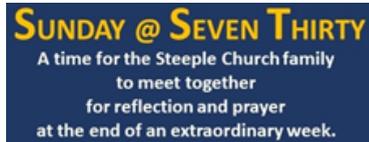
Thank you so much.

Best,  
Bidya



We meet on Sundays at 10.30am via Zoom for services. After the service we meet in small groups to chat. A recording of the service is available later on our YouTube channel

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



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



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](mailto:johndrummondclark@gmail.com)



There is a 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.