



The Steeple Church

November 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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Registered Scottish Charity SC 014314

Dear friends

Lessons from Ninewells

Thank you so very much for your support and prayers over the last three months. If I ever need to take this amount of time off again, I will ask you for it – rather than go through this dreadful debilitating experience again! But I learned some things during this time – especially in September when I was laid up in ward 9 of Ninewells Hospital. One lesson was that it is easier to pray for others when you are in discomfort. What I mean is that when you are on the edge, in pain or stress, it is more natural to come alongside other people’s pains and stresses. Another lesson was that, whereas on the outside, it seems that people are very different, on the inside they are the same. When you are in a hospital ward together, you have the same human needs. Whether you are an ex-offender, a businessman, a builder or a minister, we are all living and dying. We are all hopeful, longing and seeking; we are all disappointed, fragile and fearful. I don’t know if it always helps to call ourselves ‘saved’ and ‘lost’ or ‘Christians’ and ‘non-Christians’. I say this because we are all messed up, much more than we realise. We can all behave badly given a set of circumstances. It is a matter of “By the grace of God, go I.” Thank the Lord that he does challenge and change our selfish sinful human nature. Don’t imagine you are that so different from anyone else. As the apostle put it, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2: 8)

Sundays at the Steeple

This November we look at the Psalms, songs about crying out that we can use ourselves. In the very month when we remember those who suffered and were lost in world conflicts, we spend Sunday mornings on the Psalms.

This December the four Sundays of Advent before Christmas give another opportunity to reflect on the enormity of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a huge thing to believe that the stable at Bethlehem once contained the infant Son of God. Think about it. How could a cattle trough hold the living God? There is a lovely line in the children's story "The Last Battle" (last of C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia) where Queen Lucy says: "In our world too, a stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world." Jesus Christ, Master of the universe, came as an outcast and lived to die for our wrongs. This infant of wonder and mighty Redeemer took upon himself our sin that we can be free and forgiven. Mary MacDonalld put it like this:

Child in the manger, infant of Mary;
outcast and stranger, Lord of all;
Child who inherits all our transgressions,
all our demerits on Him fall.

Once the most holy Child of salvation
gently and lowly lived below;
now, as our glorious mighty Redeemer,
see Him victorious o'er each foe.

Prophets foretold Him, infant of wonder;
angels behold Him on His throne;
worthy our Saviour of all our praises;
happy forever are His own.

I wish you a blessed end of 2019 and meaningful Christmas season,

Your friend and minister,

Robert A. Calvert

CONGREGATIONAL DIARY

NOVEMBER

24	Sunday	10.30	Worship, Psalm 122, Communion
		19.00	Prayer at the Steeple
26	Tuesday	19.00	Café Night
27	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Service

DECEMBER

01	Sunday	10.30	Worship, Matt. 26:36-44, 'The Big Picture'
04	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Service
		19.30	Kirk Session
08	Sunday	10.30	Worship, Matt. 3:1-12, Daniel Spencer
10	Tuesday	19.00	Café Night
11	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Service
15	Sunday	10.30	Worship, 'The Greatest Journey', All-Age
18	Wednesday	12.30	Half-hour Carol Service
22	Sunday	10.30	Worship, Matthew 1:18-25, 'Taking a Risk'
24	Tuesday	18.15	Carol Singing at Ninewells Hospital
25	Wednesday	10.30	Christmas, John 1:1-14, 'The Light Has Come'
29	Sunday	10.30	Worship, Matt. 2:13-23, 'Joseph's Journeys'
		19.00	Prayer at the Steeple

JANUARY

05	Sunday	10.30	Worship, Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-5, Epiphany
08	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Service

Connecting with the World Church



Kate McDonald in Israel

Steve and Catriona Bennett with Hannah & Rachel
at Gahini hospital in Rwanda

Adam & Laura Gordon with Beth & Sophie in Uganda

REGULAR EVENTS ...

OPEN CHURCH

On Mondays and Fridays The Steeple Church is open from 12noon - 4pm. Come for coffee/tea and a chat! There are also places to reflect and pray and find out what is available in Dundee.

Join us on ...

the last Sunday of the month 7 - 8pm

Come and pray for our city, overseas prayer partners and wider concerns.

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.



CONNECTIONS CAFÉ

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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 welcome 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.

FAMILY PLAYGROUP

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)



Each week there are many opportunities to welcome people into our building. New volunteers are always appreciated. The following areas of church life could all do with a few more volunteers on their teams:

Open Church on Mondays and Fridays (Robert Calvert, John Clark, Howard Stevenson)

Hall supervisors and catering during the week (Helen Fettes, Heather McKenzie)

Family Playgroup on a Saturday (Fiona Dixon)

PA & Projection on a Sunday (Stephen Elwell-Sutton, Sheila Melville)

To find out what is involved speak to any of the named people or contact the church office (office@thesteepchurch.org.uk)



Season of Prayer

As the Church of Scotland continues its work on the agreed Radical Action Plan voted for by this year's General Assembly, including the recent appointment of the new Chief Officer, Rt Rev Colin Sinclair calls on Kirk

members to join in prayer using a series of weekly prayers written by people from across the Church and its partners. The Moderator called on congregations in every community to "come together" in prayer and reflection, noting that the 2019 General Assembly asked for prayer after accepting a set of radical proposals which will reshape the Church of Scotland at every level over the coming years.

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/prayers/season-of-prayer>

Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "These prayers can be used personally, in Church gatherings of varied sizes or built into Sunday worship.

"This helpful resource can act as a catalyst to encourage us not just to talk about praying but actually to pray.

"Can I encourage you to look out for these prayers, to use them and the other prayer resources that are already available on the website?"

Exploring the Artist in You

Created for His Glory
Saturday 30 November

10am - 12noon at Platform Arts,
Riverside Drive

FREE admission: please email
info@newscottish.org
to reserve your space.

Is there a place in the Church for the arts? Can the arts be used in ministry? If we are made in the image of a creator God then His stamp of creativity is in us.

Join Elizabeth & Jerry Averill as they explore what scripture reveals and teaches us about the arts, and how God not only encourages the arts in His Word, but calls forth artists for His purpose.

Three Wise Hens at Christmas

**Friday 13 December 7.30pm at
Platform Arts, Riverside Drive.**

A new play by Jerry Averill.
Three female pensioners, each with their own unique "senior issues", help each other discover through laughter and tears that they can find joy because of who Christmas celebrates - the birth of Jesus. Admission FREE! Please email info@newscottish.org to reserve your place.

Good news for Dundee!

Hope Counselling Dundee is about to start up in November with 5 trained counsellors, including the Director Dr Tricia Kiehman.

Anyone who has challenges they want to make sense of, or find the resources to cope with, might find counselling - being listened to with empathy and understanding, and not being judged - a real help.

This counselling comes from a Christian perspective, and will operate out of Downfield Mains church and The Friary.

Contact:

www.hopecounsellingdundee.org;
or phone: 07732 472173;
or speak to Morag Robertson.



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



CHURCH OFFICE

The Church Administrator can be contacted by e-mail office@thesteplechurch.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@thesteple.org.uk or 01382 843069

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Items for the



January 2020 issue of the Newsletter should be given to Brenda Elwell-Sutton or sent to the church office by **Sunday 22 December**

The Newsletter will be available early January..

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