



THE STEEPLE CHURCH

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



August

2020

During the time that our church building has remained closed and while we are able to physically meet together in limited numbers, there is a lot happening in our Church community and we hope that everyone will continue to feel connected and supported.

By using internet technology we have been able to adapt, develop and continue with many aspects of church life, albeit in a different form.

We are conscious that not everybody in our Church family has access to the internet from home and if you are one of these people, we are keen to keep in regular contact via letters and the telephone. Please leave a message at the Church Office (01382 200031) if no one from the church has been in touch.



**DOING CHURCH
DIFFERENTLY**

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Registered Scottish Charity SC 014314

Dear friends

It feels like we are in the middle of a war! An invisible enemy has invaded our land. It's serious and the planet is in some kind of wartime shutdown. Born in 1955, ten years after the Second World War, I used to hear my parents talk about how people lost their freedom and faced hardship. I am cautious today when folk ask when it will be safe to come out of trenches.

There's really no point in opening the building unless it is safe to do so. Please take time to read the reports from Alison Cartwright, convener of the 'Support' team, and Bob Potter, convener of the 'Finance' team. The main priority for opening up the Steeple is for Parish Nursing on Mondays and Thursdays. We want to connect with those in greatest need. Remember that the church primarily exists for those who are 'not' its members!

64% of Steeple people have indicated that they really want to come back on a Sunday whereas another 33% want to, but are more relaxed about it. Services will return from 13 September for no more than thirty people at a time. It will be necessary for you to register for a specially designed shorter service either at 10.30 or 12.00. Details to come later but I am sorry we're unlikely to offer tea or coffee afterwards. Who could have imagined that in March we would not open our doors for worship until six months later?

While 38% regularly listen to the daily reflections, I will stop them after 8th August. They began almost 'by accident' when walking in Camperdown Park in March. 80% indicate that they watch the weekly recorded services online and we will continue them until we are able to transmit livestream from the Steeple. Lesley-Ann has been very busy in putting together these recorded services and reflections. We're taking a break in August and on 16th and 23rd the Sunday services will be by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Martin Fair, minister of St. Andrew's Arbroath.

Finally, we are about to start a new 'daytime' house group. Call Rosalind Alexander for more details. There are lots of opportunities to meet online. I also want to say 'thank you' to Michelle McAdoo for her contribution as a student minister during July and August. It's been surreal seeing you pop up online and we look forward to your service on Sunday 6th September.

Your friend and minister

Robert A. Calvert



Re-Opening the Steeple Building

Despite our building being closed for normal use since late March 2020 there has been lots going at The Steeple in other ways but following recent guidance from the Government and Church of Scotland there is a small group looking at all aspects of reopening the building.

The Kirk Session have agreed that there will be no external hall lets in 2020 but we will be using the building for Church events and Mission activities. It is hoped that Parish Nursing will restart providing their services from early autumn by using the Sanctuary space twice a week. We are also anticipating that Open Church will continue in some way on one day a week and Cafe Church are looking at how they can meet in the building safely.

The Developing Worship team are working with Robert to make plans for a Sunday service in the building alongside the ongoing You Tube service and a small city centre house group are looking at how to use the premises safely. In order that we can service and support this activity we will be following strict cleaning and health and safety guidance to ensure that the building is as safe as possible for anyone entering the building. This will mean that there will be more cleaning taking place before and after each usage, contact details will be taken of anyone in the building to meet the requirements of the Scottish Government's Test and Protect programme and appropriate safety equipment and hand sanitiser will be available.

We are doing all we can to open our building safely over the next few months to welcome back Steeple people and the public in the city centre.

Alison Cartwright
Support Ministries Co-ordinator



A message from the Paterson Family

'We were so touched by everyone's kindness when we lost our dear Colin. Please may we thank you all for the many cards and letters we received. They were such a comfort. With our love Sally. Elspeth, Suzanne and Rob.'



As I am sure most of you are aware the coronavirus has had a big impact on the financial position of many organisations and Churches are not exempt. We are fortunate in that most of our congregational giving is by standing order but the figures below show that income is significantly down this year.

Congregational Giving January to June 2020.

Total to 30/06//2020	Total to 30/06/19	Percentage Change
£43,894	£50,589	-13%

Our other main source of income is usually hall lets but clearly there have been no hall lets since lockdown and the future for this source of income is uncertain.

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. The exceptions to this are gas/electricity and cleaning but on the other hand we will have additional costs because of the conditions attached to re-opening the building.

Thank you to all those who have continued to financially support the work of the Steeple which has continued despite lockdown. If you normally give by envelopes or cash on a Sunday it would be helpful if you could forward a cheque to The Treasurer in lieu of your normal Sunday giving.

Bob Potter

Audio CDs

Following the recording of a weekly Sunday service, we can now offer an audio CD of it 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!



Now that so much of our Church life is happening 'on-line' do you feel you are missing out because you don't have the skills or equipment you need to join in? If you would like someone from The Steeple to help you 'get on line' then please let us know. Anything is possible and most folk find it's easier than they fear!

In what ways can you be involved in The Steeple's church life?

'Each of us has one body with many parts. And the parts do not all have the same purpose. So also we are many persons. But in Christ we are one body. And each part of the body belongs to all the other parts. We all have gifts. They differ according to the grace God has given to each of us. (Romans 12:4-6).

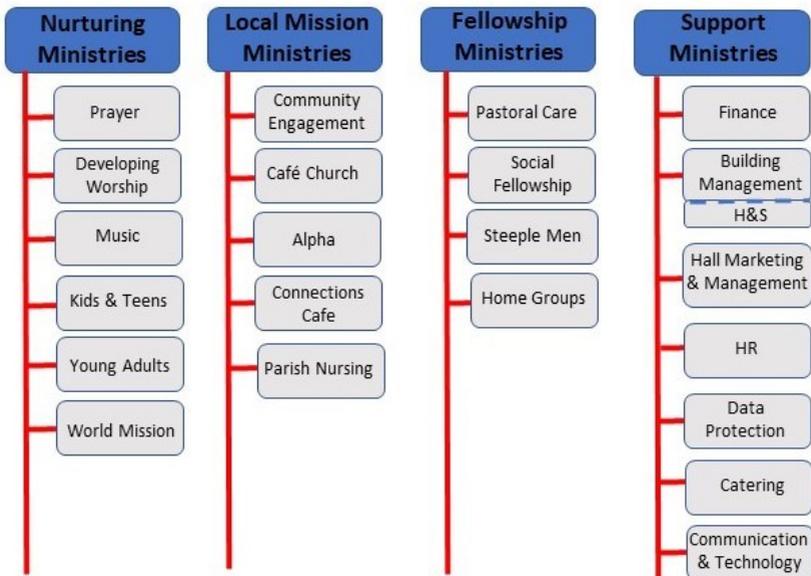
We are so blessed in The Steeple Church Family that we have been given by God such important challenges – to build up and nurture each other and to reach out in His name to those around us.

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.

The diagram below highlights the various areas of our Church life and may help you to see where your own gifts, skills and interests might be best used. If you would be interested in becoming involved in any of these areas or to know more about what they involve please contact the Church Office or speak to the Minister.

Steeple Church Teams and Streams Structure

August 2020





Parish Nursing Ministries UK

Well what a year so far! Normally we would not put out a newsletter in July, however we felt many people would be praying about our work and would like an update!

From March, we made the decision early on to close the drop in as it was almost impossible to ensure that social distancing and hand hygiene were being followed. This was a hard decision as most of the people coming into us rely on the drop in as a safe/dry space to come in to, not just for food, but support and a well needed chat. We were quite concerned about the folk that come to us, as they often have multiple underlying illnesses, along with illicit drug use and homelessness which makes for a lethal combination during a viral pandemic! We are pleased that there has not been an outbreak within this community.

As some of you know, Kirsty works with both Eagles Wings and Parish Nursing, and so the 2 charities decided to work together. This allowed us to work out of the unit occupied by Eagles wings, giving a central base. It is also easily accessible for all the hostels and has a door out on to the street that we could serve from, as well as meaning that we had a nurse on duty every shift.



We joined with a team of charities and businesses around the city of Dundee who formed a food network, steered by Faith in Community. This ensured that everyone had adequate supplies of food and volunteers to safe work. We have a zoom meeting every Monday to highlight any issues and collate the previous weeks statistics. This has been hugely beneficial for us, as it has kept the council updated of what third sector charities are doing to bridge the gap in services.



This allowed us to receive food donations from the council, Alexanders (which is a local business who set up a community charity as part of their Covid response and delivered food provided by the council), Fareshare and other food providers. We receive our deliveries on a Monday and Tuesday, which stocks us up for the week!



We were also put in contact with Socialbite, who deliver ready meals twice a week to us.

We made the decision to step down all our volunteers and only have the employees coming in.

This reduced the amount of people in the unit to allow for distancing. We worked along with the NHS addiction teams to get provision of PPE so that we could work safely. This has continued for the last 3/4 months. We are now trying to stock disposable and reusable masks to give to those who require them to use public transport, etc.



We give out bags of food, which should have enough in them to provide at least 2 meals. We make up filled rolls every day which go in the bag, along with Juice/ water, tinned meat, pasta or noodles, tinned veg, tinned fruit, soup, crisps, fresh fruit and a sweet treat. We often have UHT milk and cereal that can be included, as well as a stock of toilet roll! We have a supply of basic toiletries, deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, shaving foam, and razors. These are the items we run out of quickly so any donations, especially of men's toiletries, would be gratefully received.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support, whether that be in prayer, financially or in gifts. If you would like to contact either service, please email Eagles Wings on info@eagleswingstrust.org.uk or Parish Nursing on parishnursing@outlook.com

With grateful thanks,

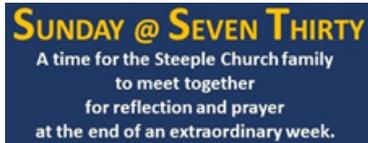
Mike, Barbara, Rob, Rachel, Alison, Kirsty, Stefan and Tony!

N.B. Eagles Wings have made a wish list on Amazon for toiletries/underwear which are the things they run out of quickly! If you would like to purchase anything for them, the list will continually be updated. You can follow the link here to it https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2VSA43YP0Y5R0?ref_=wl_share



Every Sunday, a pre-recorded '**Steeple Service**', led by the Minister and members of the congregation 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 (3pm) Tea Break times.

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

We are hoping to start a new daytime Home Group in September. If you would like details please speak Rosalind Alexander or Moira Bell or contact the church office.

Our Café Night Church evenings on a Tuesday, Steeple Men Group on Thursday mornings and the Connections Café to support those new to Dundee with learning English are all now back up and running, again 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.