



The Steeple Church

June 2018

a church at the heart of the city . . .



. . . with the city at its heart

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Dear friends

Many people in Dundee are excited about the new V&A Museum of Design. In the Steeple we are praying about how to respond to the challenges of new visitors staying over in the city. We are hopeful that it will attract many new people and investment into our city. We also desire that it will bring benefits to the whole of Dundee and not simply to corporate businesses and area of the Waterfront. For across all world's cities it appears that the gap between rich and poor is growing ever wider.

The twenty-first century which in we live seems to be full of divisions between its peoples and nations. It is not so different from the first century when Jesus Christ was training his disciples in Galilee. Just substitute Jews and Samaritans with cross-border national rivalries or internal conflicts between Sunnis and Shiites or Protestants and Catholics. We may not have open hostility between different faiths, there are tensions and suspicions.

Jesus shared a vision that would affect the whole world (or the Roman Empire as it was known then). Most of Jesus' apostles came from Galilee in the north where they were known for their heavy local accents. He said that from Jerusalem, good news would move to the nearby region of Judea and the estranged northern city of Samaria where there had been a history of bitter rivalry since the 8th century BC. Jesus's disciples had to overcome deep prejudices in Samaria but eventually it would reach the whole world.

You might be forgiven for thinking that we haven't moved on as Scotland becomes more mixed. Minority ethnic groups make up 12% of Edinburgh, 9% of Glasgow and Aberdeen and 6% of Dundee. How do we combat suspicion or prejudice? We have just begun to address issues of ethnic and racial prejudice in mid-week services every Wednesday. The new 'Connections' café provides space (at Meadowside & the Steeple) for new Scots to meet and practise language. In the Steeple community we like to describe people of different ethnicities in Dundee as 'new Scots'. I find the term more useful because it doesn't treat them as 'other' or as different.

In May the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland agreed to my motion for the Kirk to "further research migrant and multicultural Christian communities in Scotland and to recognise and resource them in whatever was is considered to be appropriate." We can learn a lot as we engage with Christians from other cultures. We can learn from each other as we plan to further visits to and from Calabar. I thought that it was significant that the Kirk endorsed a report on churches in Sub-Saharan Africa on very same the day that our invited guests returned to Nigeria.

Your friend and minister
Robert Calvert

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

The Steeple in July & August

- In July & August we plan 'Open Church' in the Steeple on Fridays (besides Mondays). Can you give time to this, the play-group (Saturdays) or visit Overgate? Speak to Fiona Dixon, our community engagement worker.
- Café Church (Tuesday evenings) and Messy Church (Sunday afternoons) are taking a break until September. Look out for next prayer/planning sessions.
- Following the V&A Museum of Design which opens on Saturday 15 September, there will be Creation Fest on Saturday 29 September. This Christian music festival will take place in the City Square – find out how you can be involved!
- On Sunday mornings in the summer and autumn we read through Mark's Gospel beginning with Daniel Spencer on 17 June.
- On Wednesdays lunchtime services at 12.30 address the relevant themes of (1) Ethnicity & Racism, and (2) Art & Design in the bible.

Kiev, Ukraine

At the end of April, I was invited to speak for five days on the bible and the city to eight city pastors from Kiev. Several invitations were extended to go back. Our World Mission team is prayerfully considering how the Steeple's interests in eastern Europe (with the 'Word Made Flesh' ministry in Galati, Romania) could be added to. Ukraine is a key nation on Russia's borders.

Tallinn, Estonia

The Evangelical Alliance holds its European congress in Tallinn, Estonia, and invites people to join them in the second week of October (8th-13th). Tallinn is about the same population as Dundee and Estonian churches are ready to welcome believers from all over Europe. Let me know if you are interested to join a small team of us from the Steeple and from Dundee!

Calabar, Nigeria

David Inyang and Otareh Otareh enjoyed visiting schools, youth ministries and churches in the middle of May. It was the beginning of many exchanges through the Presbytery and the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland. We focussed on the 'Year of Young People' and both men spoke at the Steeple before attending the General Assembly in Edinburgh. Inspired by Mary Slessor, we want to re-create a link between Tayside and Calabar.

'Out and About' (May/June)

On Sunday afternoons in May and June there are opportunities to walk and hike with each other in beautiful areas around Fife and Tayside (see diary).

Utrecht, Netherlands

Since 2003 I have been researching the phenomenal growth of migrant and international churches in Rotterdam, Europe's largest port. On 6th June I defend the PhD thesis at the University of Utrecht and will be published.

Interns from Amsterdam

At the end of August Arthur and Lauren Zapater who have been studying at Tyndale Seminary in Amsterdam come to work with us together with the Episcopal Church and the Rock Solid youth project. More details to come!



Home Groups - We know as Christians that we are part of God's family and that it is good to meet with our brothers and sisters in Christ. One of the ways that we can do this is to join a home group where there are opportunities to get to know our fellow Steeple people better and to have fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere. There are currently three home groups in the Steeple and the details are shown below : -

Broughty Ferry area - meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.45pm at the Parsons' home. If you would like more details please contact the office initially.

Maryfield, Dundee - meets fortnightly on Tuesdays at 7.45pm - alternates with Café Church. Currently looking at Luke's gospel. If you would like more details please contact the office initially.

City Centre/West Dundee - meets fortnightly on Wednesdays at 7.45pm. Currently looking at the Book of Hebrews. If you would like more information please contact Bob Potter.

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



CONGREGATIONAL DIARY JUNE - AUGUST 2018

JUNE			
03	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Excellence in life (Genesis 39), R. Calvert
		<u>13.00</u>	“Out and About” – Crombie Park (R. & L-A. Calvert)
06	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – Ethnic Enemies (C. Webster)
		19.30	Congregational Board
09	Sat.	09.00	Prayer breakfast – for the city
10	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Faith & Economics (Genesis 41), J. Robertson
		13.00	“Out and About” – Croquet at the Clarks (J. & G. Clark)
13	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – From Palestine to Africa (G. Findlay)
17	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Father’s Day, D. Spencer
		13.00	“Out and About” – Lundie Craggs Walk (C. Jollands)
20	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – Breaking Down Ethnic Walls (N. Sandison)
<u>24</u>	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Jesus on the Way (Mark 1), R. Calvert Communion
		13.00	“Out and About” – Auchterhouse Hill (R. Toth)
		19.30	Prayer gathering
27	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – From Palestine to the Empire (R. Calvert)
30	Sat.	10.00	Kirk Session/Trustee Away Day
JULY			
01	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Healing and prayer (Mark 1), R. Calvert
04	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – Model of Multicultural Church (R. Calvert)
08	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Calling disciples (Mark 2), N. Whisson
11	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – Sorting out Issues of Culture (D. Murie)
15	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Revealing religion (Mark 3), R. Calvert
18	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – First Arts Team (D. Murie)

22	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Friends and foes (Mark 3), R. Calvert
25	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – Hannah, the Songwriter (J. McArthur)
29	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Soils and souls (Mark 4), R. Calvert
AUGUST			
01	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – Psalms in Worship (N. Sandison)
05	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Stories of growth (Mark 4), R. Calvert
08	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – Faith in the Psalms (G. Findlay)
12	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Dark forces (Mark 5), R. Calvert
15	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – Asaph, the Musician (L. Rayner)
19	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Healing everyone (Mark 5), N. Whisson
22	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – Musicians in the Bible (J. Averill)
		19.30	Kirk Session
26	Sun.	10.30	Worship – Disciples sent out (Mark 6), R. Calvert, Communion
29	Wed.	12.30	Mid-Week Service – The Value of Rituals (A. Woodley)

FAMILY PLAYGROUP continues fortnightly on a Saturday morning 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 Aird or Fiona Dixon (community@thesteeplechurch.org.uk)

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR FRIENDS SERVING THE LORD IN MISSION...

David & Lenuta Chronic, "Word made Flesh" in Galati, Romania

Steve and Catriona Bennett at Gahini hospital in Rwanda

Kate McDonald in Israel



MAGAZINE DEADLINE



Items for the **September** issue of the Newsletter should be given to Brenda Elwell-Sutton or sent to the church office by **Sunday 19 August**

The Newsletter will be available from 2 Sept.

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