



# The Steeple Church

March 2019

**a church at the heart of the city . . .**



**. . . with the city at its heart**

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My dear friends

At the time of writing I don't know where we will be walking with the cross when we remember the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Probably from Coldside Church. The cross is easily glamorised. It is now just over 50 years ago that Malcolm Muggeridge wrote to the 'Observer' newspaper in these terms:

*"It was manifestly the most famous death in history. No other death has aroused one-hundredth part of the interest, or been remembered with one hundredth part of the intensity and concern... As for Europe, in countries like Italy and France, it is impossible to go a hundred yards anywhere without being confronted with some version or other of the crucifixion. Since that Golgotha happening, billions upon billions of crucifixes must have been made, from exquisitely-fashioned ones to the most tawdry, gimcrack, mass-produced ones; from huge overpowering Calvaries to little tiny crucifixes to hang around the neck or over the heart, but always with the same essential characteristics – a man at the last extremity of a cruel death, with lolling head, and feet and hands viciously nailed to a wooden cross."*

Why the cross? In short, it was the atonement – the 'at-one-moment' – when heaven and earth, God and sinners became reconciled. At what a cost... it was not only an innocent life but that of the divine-human Son of God. As Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" his question rings up and down through the centuries, calling for an answer.

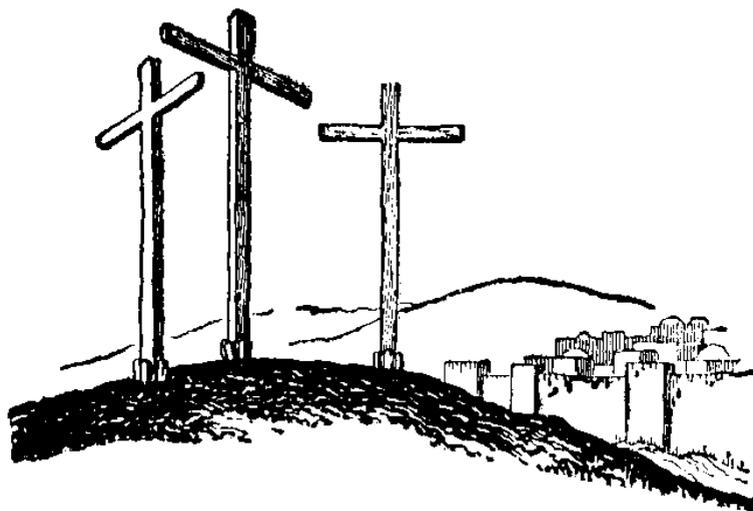
Emil Brunner, a famous Swiss theologian, answered the question like this: *"In the cross of Christ God says to man, 'That is where you ought to be. Jesus, My Son hangs there in your stead. His tragedy is the tragedy of your life. You are the rebel who should be hanged on the gallows. But lo, I suffered instead of you, and because of you, because I love you in spite of what you are. My love for you is so great that I meet you there, there on the cross. I cannot meet you anywhere else. You must meet Me there by identifying yourself with the One on the Cross. It is by this identification that I, God, can meet you in Him, saying to you as I say to Him, My beloved Son.'"*

Jesus Christ is both creator of the cosmos and key to its reconciliation. The cross stands in the centre of human history. People of all background, whether male or female, young or old, straight or LGBT find in Him all that they could most wish to be. The most moving bible study I can recall at the Steeple involved pictures of the cross from a variety of different cultures.

What does 'the cross' mean to you? Someone once expressed it like this: *The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace; a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing; a picture of death, yet the key to life; a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power; a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness; a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love; a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.*

Please join me on Good Friday evening 17 April to meditate on the cross. Meanwhile, God's peace!

Robert Calvert



## CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

On Sunday 10 March we expect to **baptise Rio** Ferguson, the baby daughter of Cheryl Ferguson. On **Good Friday** 17 April there will likely be an opportunity to join a **walk of witness** to the Steeple from Coldside Parish Church before arriving at the Steeple Church at around 4 pm. There is also a meditation on the events of Good Friday at the Steeple at 7 pm. On **Easter Sunday** the all-age service is at 10.30 and afterwards Joe Robson is likely to be baptised in the river Tay near St. James and the Lifeboat House.

After my trip last April to the **Ukraine**, I have been invited back to the seminary in Kiev and to Odessa to speak in the University, to student groups and various churches (incl. the Presbyterian Church)

Next September the new **Alpha** course team will be led by Jim Robertson with a view to making easier to bring our friends. The current Alpha course finishes at the end of April and we will set up a 'Beta' (or 'After-Alpha') group in May-June.

Welcome to **Péter and Krisztina Somogyi** as new interns from Budapest where they are pastors of the Fasar Hungarian Reformed Church. The congregation runs many activities including their own primary school and kindergarten. They come to Dundee to improve their English language and will volunteer time around the Steeple Church. They are taking a sabbatical from their city-centre ministry from the end of March to the end of May. Their internship is supported by the Europe Committee of the Council of World Mission who are paying for their tutorials and bus passes.

We give a warm welcome to **Robin and Celia Liddell** who join us from the St. Andrew's Church of Scotland in Brussels. They have been also living and working for European Union in Georgia & Macedonia.

**Pizza nights** continue from 4-6 pm on the last Sunday of the month for teenagers. Jackie Close and Daniel Spencer continue to support these youngsters who come from several city-centre congregations.

In February it was '**Africa season**' on all four Sundays – with stories from Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya and Tanzania. We are very grateful for the loan of bunting from the Council of World Mission.

Throughout March there will be an **intercultural bible-study** at the Steeple on every Sunday between 4.00 and 6.30 pm. We will be using themes from the 'Learning from Africa' folder. House-groups in the Steeple are picking up this material and there is another chance to look at them again on Wednesday evening 27 March. On that night, friends at the Steeple are invited to a short **conference session** with the Presbytery of Dundee.

'**Next Stop Please**' is the title of an amazing show that caught the limelight of the Edinburgh Fringe last August. Organised by Claire Bee, local people take parts in this production about 'homelessness'. There is no charge but donations are invited – pay what you can!

The '**Vesper Sky**' concert on Saturday 16 March is a stunning and unique collection of poems and songs that are written and performed by Stewart Henderson, Yvonne Lyon and Carol Henderson. Tickets are only £7 & can be obtained from reception or through Eventbrite.

**Shelter Scotland's** 50th Anniversary photographic exhibition in Dundee will be launched at the Steeple Church on Tuesday 12 March from 5.30 to 7.30 pm. It will be on display for a week – don't miss it! Our neighbours from St Mary's will be joining us for coffee after morning worship on Sunday 17 March to give them an opportunity to view the exhibition with us.



Join us on ...

the last Sunday of the month 7 - 8pm

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

**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@thesteepchurch.org.uk](mailto:community@thesteepchurch.org.uk))



## CONGREGATIONAL DIARY

MARCH			
03	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Heart for Mission"
05	Tuesday	19.00	Alpha evening: "What the Holy Spirit Does?"
06	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-week service: "Solomon"
		19.30	Kirk Session
07	Thursday	18.00	Local Mission Team
08	Friday	18.00	"Next Stop Please!" (play on homelessness)
10	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Serve the Lord", Baptism, Lunch
11	Monday	19.30	Finance Team
12	Tuesday	14.00	'Shelter' Exhibition opens
13	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-week service: "Hezekiah"
16	Saturday	19.30	'Vesper Sky' evening of poetry & music
17	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Living in An Alien World"
19	Tuesday	19.00	Al pha evening: "How Can I Resist Evil?"
20	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-week service: "Baruch"
		19.30	Congregational Board
24	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Conscience Matters", Communion
		12.30	Annual Meeting
27	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-week service: "Nehemiah"
		19.30	Presbytery conference
31	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Plans and Destinies", J. Robertson
		19.00	Prayer meeting
APRIL			
02	Tuesday	19.00	Alpha evening: "How Can I Tell Others?"
03	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-week service: "The wise woman"
07	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Jesus' Welcome"
10	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-week service: "Esther & Mordecai"

14	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "Jesus' Challenge"
16	Tuesday	19.00	Alpha evening: "Does God Heal Today?"
17	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-week service: "Christ's cry on the cross"
		14.00	Walk of Witness (tbc)
19	Friday	19.00	Good Friday meditation
21	Sunday	10.30	Worship, Easter All-age service, "Jesus Risen"
		12.30	Baptism
24	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-week service: "Daniel"
28	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "God Guides", Communion
		19.00	Prayer meeting
30	Tuesday	19.00	Alpha evening: "What About the Church?"
MAY			
01	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-week service: "Barnabus"
		19.30	Kirk Session
05	Sunday	10.30	Worship, "God Speaks"
08	Wednesday	12.30	Mid-week service: "Paul"



Don't forget to change your clocks!  
 Clocks go **FORWARD** one hour at 1am on  
 Sunday 31 March 2019.

## 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](mailto:ccdundee@outlook.com). There is also a FB page at <http://bit.ly/2Cyzb22> where you will find more information.

## FROM THE PARISH NURSES

We sadly missed the deadline for the last edition of the mag, so bear with us – there is lots of news this time.



At the end of October 18 we were all highly excited to be celebrating the wedding of Kirsty and Marc Nelson. They were married at Hillbank Hall, then their beautiful reception was at Carnoustie. It was so good to see this lovely young couple declaring their faith openly and starting life together with faith as the cornerstone of

their future together. Their faith and spiritual growth together is a huge encouragement to us and to all their friends. We wish them every blessing.

In December we joined up again with Eagles Wings to provide Christmas Dinner for all our folk. We had an offer of help, which we could not turn down, from Dean Banks, one of the finalists in Masterchef – the Professionals. You possibly saw a picture of Rachel and I in the Courier with Dean and The Hairdresser – we managed to oust Brexit from the front page of the newspaper for a day!! Dean took over all the meal arrangements apart from the turkey, which was supplied thanks hugely to Malmaison Hotel and delivered on the afternoon, cooked and ready to serve. Dean and his friend Richard did all the rest, the pigs in blankets, stuffing, roasters, gravy and veg. Their real home-made sticky toffee pudding for dessert was a huge hit! But we also need to thank Ashley from Tesco who provided amazing ‘goodie bags’ for everyone, and Claire from Just Bee Productions for doing the music and singalong. That’s to say nothing of the team of the team of Volunteers who came to help, from Eagles Wings, Steeple and quite a few of the people from services that come along to the drop-in, like Shelter and DCC Housing and NHS Homeless Team. Also Dean invited a friend who owns a smart barber shop in the city centre to come and set up salon through in Haldane, and he did fifteen haircuts throughout the afternoon. Amazing!

With the sanctuary decorated, the tree dressed and tables beautifully set, it was a great setting for 130 people that afternoon. The comments of people leaving were heart-warming – ‘best meal ever’, ‘when’s he (Dean) coming back’, ‘Is he cooking next year too?’ And our volunteers were mega-impressed too, one admitting that he was moved almost to tears by the sense of love and care and fun that he felt throughout the afternoon. I must say, having annually had the logistic nightmare of organising it all, the day felt a bit like a holiday for me, because there was absolutely nothing to worry about!

That’s a good example of how we experience the Lord’s care and blessing on our work and the folk we work with. God is good, all the time! Dean is hoping to come back to do a couple of sessions teaching a few of our folk how to cook interesting slow-cooker meals, and to give some nutrition advice – he has a degree in nutrition.

Since Christmas some of our folk have been very ill, and it has been hard to get the support they need at times of emergencies, specially where mental health is concerned. Please pray that drug and mental health services might work in better relationship for our folk. All services are facing cuts in funding and having to do more work with less staff and resources, so please continue to pray for the NHS and the City Council, for wisdom in their management of resources and there will still always be room for genuine compassion in their services.

Please pray too for us in our Parish Nursing work here in Dundee. It can be hard and sad, exhausting and draining. But there are also moments of hope, of joy and of peace – we need to sustain that balance. Just now we are also looking for a couple of new volunteers to join our team, for about 3 hours max, even once a fortnight would let other volunteers get a day off. We are encouraged enormously that the Steeple Church is able to give Parish Nursing financial support during 2019.



Rachel, Kirsty and Barbara.



## PLATFORM ARTS

### Mums, Mavericks and Misfits.... not the usual suspects!

Friday, 15 March at 7:30 p.m.  
Platform Arts, Riverside Drive,  
Dundee DD1 4DB

New Scottish Arts wants to join in the celebration of women for the Dundee Women’s Festival 2019 – Hear Women’s Voices – with the production of Mums, Mavericks and Misfits... not the usual suspects!

An evening filled with delight, surprise and laughter as we celebrate women in

Scripture....yes the Bible...who spring from ancient pages with wisdom, comedy and questions! Dance, drama and comedy will weave through this presentation honoring women- some famous and some not!

Reserve your seat on Eventbrite

Free performance with donations welcome. Reservations recommended by emailing [info@newscottish.org](mailto:info@newscottish.org) or search for Mum, Mavericks and Misfits on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Also at Platform Arts

### WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BIGGER PICTURE

People who live, work and volunteer with the Salvation Army across Scotland participated in a **Big Paint Off.**

They drew, painted, photographed, and designed pieces of art that depicted part of their journey. This exhibition is a showcase of the work depicting stories of transformation and a demonstration of what integration and working together can achieve.

Show will run every Saturday  
12noon - 4pm  
from 9 March to 20 April

Platform Arts, Riverside Drive  
Dundee DD1 4DB



Trauma  
Healing in  
Scotland

It is one year on from the first Trauma Healing training group, and 10 groups have been established across Scotland, with over 100 people having attended these groups. Is Bible-based Trauma Healing something that your church could offer for your community? Our next training date is from the 4th to 8th March and there are a few spaces left.

## CHURCH OFFICE

The Church Administrator can be contacted by e-mail ([office@thesteepchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@thesteepchurch.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@thesteepchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@thesteepchurch.org.uk) or 01382 843069

## MAGAZINE DEADLINE



Items for the **May** issue of the Newsletter should be given to Brenda Elwell-Sutton or sent to the church office by **Sunday 21 April**

The Newsletter will be available from 5 May.

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