



The Steeple Church

July 2019

a church at the heart of the city . . .



. . . with the city at its heart

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Psalm 107: 1-9

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures for ever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story –
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
those he gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.[a]
Some wandered in desert wastelands,
finding no way to a city where they could settle.
They were hungry and thirsty,
and their lives ebbed away.
Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
He led them by a straight way
to a city where they could settle.
Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,
for he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

My dear friends

We all make plans but can only do it within the limits of what is possible. I can remember how in the 1990s in the Netherlands, companies and banks would make thirty-year plans. Then the world changed. It became more uncertain and twenty, ten and even five-year plans became more realistic. Last month I spoke personally and told you about my diagnosis of prostate cancer. You are family and I did not want to keep it a secret. Thank you for your support. This month I learned that it has not spread and is confined and treatable. This is good news and I am learning about treatment.

As I reflect on the experience, it feels like joining a club which some of you have been paid up members of for some time! Talking about it is essential. Whether our issues are about personal health, family relationships or the nation, talking to Jesus about them is a good thing to do. That's another way of saying that prayer is very important to our personal healing. The experience has also given me a new focus and awareness. Whenever it is, I will take the necessary time to be treated and recover properly. Before then, in July, I will be off for a couple of weeks as the far-flung family join us for the wedding of my son Daniel to Emilie in Glen Clova.

In terms of planning at the Steeple, your views are sought about a new way of governance and making decisions. Members of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board have agreed that a variety of 'teams' should plan and deliver on matters of the Steeple Church. They are worship, music, prayer, small groups, world mission, local mission, parish nursing, community engagement, Alpha, pastoral care, students, young people, social fellowship, finance, building management, hall marketing, data protection, catering and communications. They would operate under a single Kirk Session in what is known as the Church of Scotland's 'Unitary Constitution'.

You will have heard that we are creating a new 'Alpha' course at the 'Blend' Coffee shop. This will be really worth recommending to your friends and neighbours. We have already set up a new fellowship called 'Cafe nights.' We have also heard that we have 'Go For It' funding to employ our community engagement worker and build on the 'Open church' afternoons.

For some of you, this may be a time for visiting your family or taking a holiday. If you do visit other churches, be sure to bring our greetings and bring me back a leaflet or newsletter!

Your friend and minister,
Robert Calvert

CONGREGATIONAL DIARY

JULY		
03 Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Fellowship <i>"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"</i>
07 Sunday	10.30	Worship, <i>"Peace"</i> , R. Calvert
10 Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Fellowship <i>"For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours"</i>
14 Sunday	10.30	Worship, <i>"Patience"</i> , A. Webster
17 Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Fellowship <i>"Jesus Christ was only a great moral teacher"</i>
21 Sunday	10.30	Worship, <i>"Kindness"</i> , J. Robertson
24 Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Fellowship <i>"There is no evidence that Jesus rose from the dead"</i>
28 Sunday	10.30	Worship, <i>"Goodness"</i> , R. Calvert
31 Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Fellowship <i>"Science is in conflict with the Christian Faith"</i>
AUGUST		
<u>04 Sunday</u>	10.30	Worship, <i>"Faithfulness"</i> , R. Calvert
07 Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Fellowship <i>"All religions are basically the same"</i>
11 Sunday	10.30	Worship, <i>"Gentleness"</i> , R. Calvert
14 Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Fellowship <i>"Christianity is just a crutch for the weak"</i>
18 Sunday	10.30	Worship, <i>"Self-Control"</i> , R. Calvert
21 Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Fellowship <i>"People become Christians through social conditioning"</i>
	19.30	Kirk Session
25 Sunday	10.30	Worship, <i>"Life and Death"</i> , R. Calvert, Communion
	13.30	Scripture Union 'picnic in the park'
	19.00	Prayer at the Steeple
28 Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Fellowship <i>"Christianity stifles personal freedom"</i>

SEPTEMBER		
01 Sunday	10.30	Worship, <i>"Liberating the Land"</i> , R. Calvert, Harvest
03 Tuesday	19.00	Café night
04 Wednesday	12.30	Mid-Week Fellowship <i>"Christianity is other-worldly & irrelevant to modern life"</i>

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES – FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK...

We are grateful to **Robin Liddell** who has agreed to convene the ‘Building Management’ team.

Our elder **Barbara MacFarlane**, who attended the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May, will be reporting back to us on it.

James McLanders, Derek Anderson and his son Kai (7) were baptised in the Tay next to the Lifeboat Station on 16 June.

The day before Robert took part in a naming ceremony for the new D-class lifeboat *"Oor Lifesaver."*

Daniel and Sara Spencer have been resolved as members of the Steeple Church by the Kirk Session on 20 June.

On Sunday 23 June **Brenda Elwell-Sutton** spoke about training for the ‘Ordained Local Ministry’ and her passion for ‘pioneering’ ministry.



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 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.



STEEPLE PEOPLE AUTUMN ALPHA COURSE BLEND COFFEE LOUNGE, REFORM STREET

For your radar and prayer: the **ALPHA TASTER (INTRODUCTION)** in Blend Coffee Lounge, Reform Street at 7.00 p.m. on **Tuesday 17th September.**

You are invited to come with a guest who you think might be open to exploring Jesus' wisdom on life and living at its best.

The evening will be free, low key, friendly and definitely not pushy or pressuring. Our guests will be fed, watered and invited to sample the introductory Alpha video called "Is there more to life than this?". If they think that the taste suits them they can then sign up for the whole course. It

will run each Tuesday night from 24th September until 10th December. (There will be an additional Saturday early in November to explore questions about the Holy Spirit.)

After the Taster event each evening will have food, a video presentation and then groups in which guests can just listen to the others or ask any question and share their thoughts. The presentations will cover questions like: Who is Jesus? Why did he die? How can I have faith? ... what about Prayer, Reading the Bible? How does God guide? Who is the Holy Spirit? How can I resist evil? What about the church? Does God heal today? and more.

Our aim is to provide Steeple People with an opportunity to be courageous and generous with sharing Jesus across the wider Dundee community.

This Alpha Course is led by (retired Rev) Jim Robertson who found in his past working life that through the Alpha Course Jesus' transforming love and power has a way of coming through for people in surprising ways.





Open Church

The church is open every Monday and Friday between 12noon and 4pm. This is a great opportunity to welcome and engage with locals and visitors alike. Some people like to come in for a bit of quiet reflection, others like to chat.

If you would like to find out more about how you can be involved in this important ministry please speak to Robert Calvert.

Hall supervisors and catering

During the week we welcome many groups who use our building for meetings and conferences. The groups vary in size from 2 to 102 (and sometimes more!). Helpers are always needed to provide a warm welcome. We also provide catering for many of the events and again helpers are required to serve tea & coffee and lunches and of course to tidy up after. Please speak to Helen Fettes if you would like to know more.

PA & Projection

More volunteers are needed to help with PA and projection on a Sunday morning. Training is available. Please speak to Stephen or Brenda Elwell-Sutton if you would like to help.

PRAY FOR FRIENDS SERVING THE LORD OVERSEAS...

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

Adam & Laura Gordon
with **Beth & Sophie**
in Uganda

Kate McDonald
in Israel



We offer opportunities to explore the Bible and respond to the significance of Jesus whilst making friends and having fun.

We know that people choose to come on our holidays for a whole bunch of different reasons - they like the sound of the activities, they want a week away with their friends, they've heard a rumour that the holidays are great ..

We think YOU BELONG HERE this year. Ok, so maybe we are biased, but we really hope you agree.

Chris & the SU Holidays Team

For more information visit www.suholidays.org.uk or have a look at the brochure on the information table.

CHURCH OFFICE

The Church Administrator can be contacted by e-mail (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 or 01382 843069

MAGAZINE DEADLINE



Items for the **July** issue of the Newsletter should be given to Brenda Elwell-Sutton or sent to the church office by **Sunday 18 August**

The Newsletter will be available from 1 Sept.

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