



newsletter
december 2009

The Steeple Church: Dundee (Church of Scotland)
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Registered Scottish Charity SC 014314

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. ⁷God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Psalm 67



Dear Friends,

I think that I can call everyone at the Steeple Church friend because I have had such a warm welcome. It is a great experience coming into the Steeple Church, moving through those large doors and the stone flooring to a modern interior which is so light and airy. There is a real buzz about the place as people meet and chat. I feel that this helps us all to prepare to worship, moving from the bustle of city life through into the sanctuary, the noise and buzz a sign of the Holy Spirit at work. For we are all lifted up when we meet and in the meeting encourage each other. [Hebrews 10:25]

I would like to introduce myself for those who have not yet met me. I am on Probationary Placement as I am transferring from Auxiliary Ministry to Full Time Ministry and will be with you until December next year. I hail from Blairgowrie and travel across the hills in my wee red car which is much better now. I was a nurse and then a midwife before I was called into the ministry and I enjoy caring for people in a different way.

Christmas is upon us and we celebrate the birth of Jesus with great joy. I am looking forward to all the events over Christmas and hope that the Spirit moves among those who know what Christmas is all about and engages those who are not so sure. To be joyful is a wonderful gift to have for then we shine out as Christians and show how wonderful it is to be part of the Christian family.

When we go through the Christmas rituals we can offer a Christian input. When we send cards we can say a little prayer for those we send to. When we decorate the tree we can remember that the lights signify that Jesus is the light of the world. Martin Luther in the 16th Century was the first to put lights on a Christmas Tree to remind people that Jesus is the light of the world. In that way Jesus is brought into the centre of family celebrations. When we give gifts we can remember the three wise men and their gifts to the Christ Child. In all that you say and in all that you do this Christmas may you be blessed as you celebrate.

Grace Saunders

Sundays ...

Morning Worship 10.30am
Also on Sunday morning ...
Crèche: 0-3 years
Sunday School: 3-9 years
Bible Class: 10-14 years

Sunday evening 7.30pm
Youth Fellowship:
14+ (S3 upwards)

During the week ...

Monday

Card making group
7.30-9.30pm
2nd Monday of month
Housegroup

Tuesday

Prayer Breakfasts 7 – 8am
see pewsheet for dates
Mark Henderson Centre
Lunchtime talks 12.30pm
see page 8 for details
Finance Committee 7.30pm
23 Feb, 4 May, 10 August
2 November
Congregational Board 7.30pm
see opposite for dates
Housegroups

Wednesday

Housegroups

Thursday

Steeple Men 10am-12noon
Kirk Session 7.30pm
see opposite for dates
Chinese Class 7.45-9.15pm
during University term time
Housegroups

Saturday

Prayer Breakfasts 8-10am
see pewsheet for dates

Church Roll

New Member

We welcome the following
new member

Mrs J. Crighton

- o - O - o -

Death

26 November
Miss Jean Clark

We commit Jean's relatives
and close friends to God's
comfort and care



Dates for your diary

Kirk Session:

6 Feb (day away), 11 March,
13 May, 24 June,
9 September, 11 November.

Congregational Board:

23 March, 18 May,
24 August, 16 November.

Tapes or CDs of Sunday
morning services are always
available. Please contact Fred
Whitnall or speak to your elder
if you would like to listen to
Sunday morning services.

Sermons are also available via
the 'Sermons' link on the
church web site.

Christmas at The Steeple

Tuesday 15 December

12.30 -1pm Lunchtime

Carol Service

Church open from 12noon

For tea/coffee/mince pies

Sunday 20 December

10.30am Morning Worship

Christmas Family Service

Thursday 24 December

6.30pm Carol Singing

at Ninewells Hospital

Christmas Day

Friday 25 December

10.30am Family Service

Children might like to bring a favourite present!



Christmas Eve Carol Singing at Ninewells

Meet at 6.15pm, somewhere close to the main concourse Reception area. Carol singing round the wards followed by refreshments. Then the service around the tree at Reception from 8-8.30pm.

Please feel free to come to any or all of the above.

Barbara MacFarlane



Freewill envelopes

If you participate in the Freewill Offering scheme you should receive your envelopes for 2010 during December. If you do not have envelopes, perhaps you are new to the congregation, but wish a set to use either weekly, monthly, or occasionally, then please contact either your visitor, or the F.W.O. convener, Alister Stibbles (Tel. 776374) They can be obtained any time during the year.

Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 12 December

Breakfast 8am to 9am .

Pray for Development from 9am until 10am.

Sunday Evening Prayer Gatherings

7 February & 7 March

7 - 8pm in the meeting room.

Everyone is encouraged to come and pray for various aspects of our church life.

2010...the gospel in its global setting

In 1910 a World Missionary Conference took place in Edinburgh. Most of the delegates were from Europe and North America. The focus of the conference was the evangelisation of the world, and yet at this gathering there was increasing recognition of what was called the 'reflex influence' of world mission ie the growing impact of mission endeavour in Asia, Africa, and the Americas upon the 'home church'. The 20th century has witnessed a dramatic shift in balance, leaving the church in Europe on the margins of a globally growing church. In the centenary year of the Edinburgh Conference, it is hoped that the preaching theme in The Steeple will be - **the gospel in its global setting**. This emphasis will encourage us to

- i) rejoice in what God is doing through his church in the world
- ii) allow ourselves to be more intentionally influenced by our global connections/partnerships.

Throughout the year the intention is to study the writings of Luke, both his gospel and his account of early church growth. Luke, who was a non-Jew, is the gospel writer who expresses most clearly a global vision for the good news of Jesus Christ. I believe through these scriptures, God will speak into our personal lives as well as our immediate mission context. I would be thrilled if as whole church we were able to journey together in listening to Luke's Gospel and the Book of Acts.

The Mission Group are beginning to explore how this journey with Luke might evolve into opportunities for growth and outreach and some initial suggestions include:

- * the possibility of keeping a journal that accompanies our studies with Luke's writings noting what we learn and the ways in which the gospel message is strengthened in our lives.
- * the public reading of the gospel 'on the grass' at Easter with accompanying drama.
- * the importance of providing opportunity for prayer for the city in which we serve.
- * the welcoming of the gospel preached to us by believers from other continents..

In 2010, I would pray that our global partnerships would encourage an openness to God's Spirit, a hunger for His Word, and a confidence to serve where He has called us to be. We ask that God would work deeply in our lives in this coming New Year.

David



Partnership with the Scots International Church Rotterdam

The first meeting of the Steeple Church – Scots International Church Rotterdam liaison group took place in November. The function of this group is to encourage the developing of a partnership with our Rotterdam friends. It's hoped there will be exchange visits during 2010, with a group coming from Rotterdam to Dundee at the end of April, and our young people returning the visit at the beginning of July. The Steeple will also welcome Annemarie Fleming from Rotterdam to work with us during July – August.

Our group took time to explore the reasons why such a partnership is important and the draft 'Statement of Intention' provides a framework which would guide our decision-making and thinking..

"By developing a partnership with the Scots International Church Rotterdam, we seek to give honour to Jesus and learn to serve Him better. We will seek to cultivate friendships through dialogue and through mutual sharing of stories of what God is doing in our lives. We seek to be supportive of the future development of each other's fellowship. We seek to begin to understand what God is doing in Rotterdam; how the Church is engaged within that city community, and how connections are made with those in their working lives. We seek to understand how people are integrated into a multicultural church community. Through this partnership we seek to develop the Christian lives of our young people. Lastly we wish to relate what is learnt through this partnership into our church fellowship and into the lives of other Dundee city centre churches."

This relationship will develop our local vision of ministry, as well as encourage us to appreciate what God is doing through his people in a major European city. There will be many opportunities for many folk to be involved in this relationship. Please visit the website www.scotsintchurch.com for further information about the Scots International Church Rotterdam.

Tuesday Lunchtime Carol Service

December 15
(12.30-1pm)

Join us in singing carols and
listening to the Christmas story

come during your lunch hour
take a break from shopping
bring a friend

Tea/coffee/mince pies
available from 12noon

Tuesday Lunchtime Talks

12.30-12.50pm

New series

Meet Jesus in Mark
starts 12 January

You are warmly welcome to
these Lunch-Time Talks.
Coffee and Tea are available be-
fore and after the talk



Property Matters

We are continuing to make stringent efforts to reduce gas and electricity bills. Everyone using the premises is urged to be as canny as possible with heating and lighting and to check that all appliances/lights etc are switched off when they should be.

A Fire Audit is currently being carried out, with Colin and Fred taking steps to ensure everything is in order. This is quite an onerous task and your support is appreciated.

The fabric team is made up of John McIntosh, Fred Whitnall, Colin Paterson and Ron Buist. We also draw on the expertise and experience of various members of the congregation, including Alister Knight (who is also responsible for the Manse).

You can raise any property-related issue in various ways.

1. Email: Email the matter to fabric@thesteepchurch.org.uk Your email will be acknowledged promptly and the issue will be addressed as soon as is practicable.
2. Property Book: There is a large red property book in the Welcoming Hall. Use it to note down your concern. It will be checked regularly.
3. By mentioning it to a member of the fabric team.
4. By mentioning it to staff in the Church Office. If it is urgent, this is probably the best method.

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Thanks

John McIntosh, fabric team leader.

Finance News

Approaching the end of 2009 the Finance Committee recently spent time looking at the anticipated income and expenditure for the year. Based on the figures at the end of October it is expected that the end of year spending will be £151,425 which is approximately £4,000 more than was originally budgeted for. This difference can be accounted for by a huge increase in the costs of heating and lighting the Steeple complex. The increases in gas and electricity costs were highlighted earlier in the year and the Property Committee have been and will be continuing to work hard to make sure that we are closely monitoring our energy usage to reduce our costs where possible.

Expenditure	Budget 2009	Expected to 31.12.2009	Difference
Ministry & Mission	£76,180	£76,089	Same
Local staffing costs	£24,837	£25,446	+ £609
Building running costs	£33,960	£42,138	+ £8,178
Other local costs	£12,425	£7,752	- £4,673
Total	£147,402	£151,425	+ £4,023

Both the Finance Committee and Congregational Board recently looked at the income and spending in 2009 and it was noted that the anticipated income will be approximately £145,500 but due to the increase in spending on heating and lighting the spending for 2009 is likely to be £151,500. This will mean that we are currently anticipating that the Steeple income will be £6,000 less than is required to cover our costs this year.

Finally the Congregational Board have recently agreed a budget for 2010 which is summarised below. We have tried to keep any increases in spending to a minimum but we have had to take account of the increases in the cost of gas and electricity.

Spending plans	Budget 2009	Budget 2010	% change from 2009
Ministry & Mission	£76,180	£76,986	1.1%
Local staffing costs	£24,837	£23,871	-3.9%
Building costs	£33,960	£38,890	14.5%
Other local costs	£12,425	£11,050	-11.1%
Total spending	£147,402	£150,797	2.3%

Alison Cartwright, Finance Convenor

Kirk Session Notes - loosely based on meetings in September, October and November

In our June meeting, as we were coming towards the end of the 2 years given over to external fundraising, and perceiving the difficulties encountered in the present financial climate, the KS set up a group to review the **Development Project** over the summer. The group reported to the September meeting where it was agreed that, realistically, the full project might have to be phased but that it would be desirable to make a start with the finance that was available. The Elders were asked to consider prayerfully what such a start might consist of and submit their ideas before the special meeting in October. These ideas showed a lot of agreement about priorities and a proposal was finally agreed as a possible way forward, subject to agreement by the congregation once indicative costings had been worked out. God is leading us on a difficult journey but we believe that He wants us to trust Him in showing us the way we should go.

Our church is very privileged to be involved in the work of **Hot Chocolate** and a good number in the congregation contribute to that work in a number of ways. However, it is also important to be clear on the 'formal' relationship between the KS and HCT. To this end, and made more necessary by the expansion of the work of Hot Chocolate, a group has been set up to explore this relationship further and to formalise those aspects that need to be formalised. Of course, it is also important to continue to maintain the informal ties which we have through prayer, finance and other practical support when Hot Chocolate staff inform us of their needs.

At the September meeting the Minister reported on his visit to the **Scots International Church in Rotterdam** (SICR) and gave details of ways in which they wished to foster a relationship with The Steeple. Since then arrangements have begun to be made about exchange visits and these we look forward to as one way to widen our vision.

Much planning went into the **Homecoming** weekend and it was good to see a full church on that Sunday and such a happy occasion at the Ceilidh on the Saturday evening; even the band were amazed that so many young and older folk *in a church* could look as if they were really enjoying themselves! Following on that weekend, an **Alpha Course** was started with an encouraging number most of whom have continued to attend. We do pray that those who attended will be helped to a strong faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the November meeting Barbara gave us an update on her work in **Parish Nursing**. She had been greatly encouraged by recent developments. These included the Steeple being used to offer health checks for the homeless and other vulnerable adults and also to provide opportunity to be interviewed about their situation. This would happen for a trial period to ensure that other activities taking place in the church were not adversely affected.

It was also good to hear from Rev Allan Webster about the encouragements he has had in his first year as **Workplace Chaplain**. Doors have been opened and Allan is working closely with the Council and with various companies. He asks for prayer that many will be helped through his availability to individuals.

The Minister outlined his **preaching theme** for 2010 - The Gospel in its Global Setting - based on a study of Luke and Acts. We very much look forward to this as we seek to learn from, and give support to, those parts of the world where we have contacts.

At our September meeting we were able to welcome **Rev Grace Saunders** who is already getting to know the congregation and settling in to the work here. We know we will be blessed and we trust that we will be able to help her towards taking up a full ministry of her own.

As **Christmas** approaches I am sure we will take advantage of helping to make a success of the various activities which will be undertaken. At the September meeting we were also encouraged to look at ideas for alternative Christmas gifts from Christian organisations such as The Vine Trust, Tearfund etc and to consider other means of diverting money from traditional seasonal expenses to helping the needy .

David Grainger, Session Clerk

Fundraising for the Development Project

The Steeple Church will receive a donation every time you make a purchase at our webshop

Take the hassle out of Christmas shopping and browse over 5 million available products at

www.buy.at/thesteeplechurch



Hot Chocolate update

Over the past few months there have been many amazing things happening as well as challenges with folk we work with. We're continually being convicted in our ministry with young people about their need to know God and so this is being outplayed in each part of the work we do.

We're striving to build a community for those involved with Hot Chocolate, providing a place where people feel they belong. So many of the folk we work with are struggling, in difficult situations or looking for deeper meaning in life. We're looking to develop this community with God very much at the core, sharing in the joys and the hard times of the young people, walking alongside and journeying with them.

So much of what we do is based on the relationships built with young people, recognising the holistic needs that each of them has. Activities that have taken place over the past few months, such as, pancake making, screen printing and a portable climbing wall outside the front door(!) have been geared towards this and have been initiated and owned by the young people.

We're seeing God work in the lives of several folk, such as those who are part of the supported volunteering programme Hot Chocolate runs. It is encouraging seeing attitudes change and the willingness to take more responsibility. Please pray that God will continue to work in the lives of these guys.

Many of the young people we work with are vulnerable and easily influenced. There is a new drug called "bubbles" which is becoming more wide spread in it's use in the local area – please pray for protection for the young people at Hot Chocolate, that they wouldn't be taken in by this, but would avoid using this drug, especially as any side effects are unknown.

At the end of October a group of young people and team went away to Ardeonaig, on Loch Tay for the weekend. We had a fantastic time away and it has enabled the deepening of relationships with several young folk. As a result of the time away there has been more openness from young people to meet on a 1-to-1 basis and we're excited that this is providing impetus for further support. Please pray that we'd be able to build on this and see transformations happening.

Over the coming months we're looking at how we can continue to develop the sense of community in Hot Chocolate, creating a Christian place where young people are safe, where they can find help and support¹² and can build hope for the future. Please pray that in everything we would seek God as we serve.

Pray especially for 'the Space' beginning in this month, that it will be a place where young folk can reflect, have quiet and space to themselves and that it's a place they might meet with God.

On a final note, Andy Robertson, our youth worker has just become a Dad! Please pray for him, his wife Julie and their new son, Howie, over the coming weeks.

Thanks again for all your support and partnership in the work of Hot Chocolate in the Steeple and please do get in touch if you'd like to find out more.

Glen – Volunteer of the Year!

Ryan Glen has been awarded Project Scotland's prestigious Voscar - Volunteer of the Year 2009 for his work in Hot Chocolate. Glen was nominated for the 'Children and Young People' category, which he found out he'd won at the awards ceremony at The Bank on the Mound, Edinburgh, on 1st December. He was then completely shocked to be announced the overall winner of Volunteer of the Year from all of the categories at the end of the evening!

Glen volunteered full time for 6 months in Hot Chocolate, which he has been part of for 6 years as a young person. He took the role of trainee youth worker, involved in every aspect of the project – from staff planning meetings and practical responsibilities to involvement in all front-line youth work – drop in sessions, residentials, group work, one-to-one sessions and training of others. While delivering great youth work, Glen is a role model that other young people look to, and an inspiration that they can all achieve maybe more than they believe possible.

When Glen left school at 16 he was, for a number of reasons, not particularly employable. He gradually took more responsibility as a young person, eventually taking part in Youth Team (supported volunteering opportunity) in Hot Chocolate. After Ghana last summer Glen had made the transition from young person to team member, and hasn't looked back.



He is now studying the Access to Community Education course at Dundee College, and intends to go to university and pursue a career in this field.

It has been both encouraging and inspirational to work alongside someone who has been on such a steep learning and development curve that you could almost plot it on a week by week basis! I would regularly stop and be amazed, thinking 'he would never have managed that / done that / responded like that a fortnight ago!'

Alison Urie

Parish Nursing Update

Some very positive developments have taken place in the last month.



On Monday afternoons the NHS Tayside Health and Homeless Outreach Team (HHOT) are coming to the Slessor Centre to hold a nurse-led drop-in clinic for people who are homeless or very vulnerable in terms of housing, people who often miss out on health care. The numbers attending are small, deliberately, so that they can get one-to-one attention from the nurses. The NHS nurses can do tests and access health care records that I cannot do, and it is felt that by providing this service in the very heart of the city it reaches people who would otherwise be missed. I am able to provide home-made soup, a filled roll and a bit of fruit for those who come. The way people know about this service is by word-of-mouth largely – I go out and find them on Mondays mornings, and also the Eagles Wings soup kitchen notice if their regular customers are unwell and advise them to come along. All the folk who come have very complicated circumstances as well as health difficulties, but they are usually trying to find help to start climbing out of their problems. It is a real privilege to have been asked by some of them to pray for or with them.

I am still going out and about in the city centre each week, getting to know a good number of the Big Issue vendors and other city centre 'regulars'. They enjoy a chat, a joke, and someone to listen to their stories, and of course a cup of very sweet tea or coffee on these colder days. They seem to be building trust in me because I come from The Steeple rather than from any statutory agency. Sometimes they talk of their relationship with God, and how their circumstances affect that, in that they don't feel able to come to church. It's good to be able to offer to pray for them as well.

The Overgate Centre management (Bovis Lend-Lease) have invited me to provide health checks for their staff. The aim is to promote healthy living, rather than 'disease detection'. Spiritual well-being is an important aspect of healthy living, so I try to provide the opportunity to discuss that, but only if people want to talk about it. It is hoped to extend these health checks for other retail staff working in the Overgate, and also to shoppers. With Allan Webster, the Workplace Chaplain, also providing pastoral care in the city centre, we hope and pray that people will feel cared for and realise that God's love reaches out to all in our city centre.

Please continue to pray for the Parish Nursing project. There are several other nurses around the country interested in Parish Nursing, and a Scottish PN course is planned to run in March 2010. I will be involved in some of the running and teaching of that programme.

Throughout the first year of this project you will never know how grateful I have been for your support, interest, prayers and active help. I thank God for you. So please keep on praying for this project, that the Lord's love and care will be seen and known in the heart of Dundee.

Barbara MacFarlane



DESIGN A CHRISTMAS CARD – for next year!

CrossReach, the social service agency of the Church of Scotland, has launched a competition for a Christmas card design which they will sell through their *Christmas Collection 2010* brochure.

Designs have to be original, not copied from anywhere, and you can include a verse or greetings.

The winner's prize includes a copy of your card mounted in a frame, a supply of printed cards and a selection of gifts from the CrossReach web shop.

The closing date is 29th January 2010.

For all the competition guidelines, see the notice on the board in the Welcoming Hall.



Christmas Cards for **this year** made by the Card Making Group are on sale in the Welcoming Hall. Proceeds to the Steeple Development Project. Cards for all occasions also available. Special cards make to order.

Who's Who The Steeple Church Dundee

Nethergate, Dundee DD1 4DG
e-mail office@thesteepchurch.co.uk
www.thesteepchurch.org.uk

Minister David Clark

Church Secretary Helen Valentine
200031

Session Clerk David Grainger

Clerk to the Board Lynda Forte

Treasurer Alister Stibbles

Gift Aid Organiser Jan Leslie

Free Will Offering
Envelopes Alister Stibbles

Property
Convenor John McIntosh

Development
Project Manager Jane Gregory

Magazine Deadline



Items for the
March (Easter)
issue of the
Newsletter should
be given to Brenda
Elwell-Sutton or
sent to the church
office by

**Sunday
21 February**

The Newsletter will
be available from
Sunday 7 March

Church Office

Helen Valentine, church secretary can be contacted between 1pm and 3pm in the Church office (Tel: 200031) on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. Out with these hours, messages can be left on the answering machine, or sent by e-mail to office@thesteepchurch.co.uk Items for the notice sheet should

be submitted by 1pm on Thursday. Brenda Elwell-Sutton can be contacted at the Church office with regard to hall bookings, or items for Steeple Newsletter. Messages can also be left at any time on the answering machine, or sent by e-mail.



Sunday Mornings 10.30am

December		
Issues Affecting Your Spiritual Life		
6	Ethical Issues	Psalm 8
13	Suffering	
20	Christmas Family Service	
27	Family Service Holy Communion	
January		
A Year With Luke: Part 1 ~ His Account of Jesus		
3	1. Wilderness	Luke 3:21-23, 4:1-13
10	2. Home	Luke 4:14-30
17	3. Healing	Luke 4:40-41, 5: 12-26
24	4. Blessings	Luke 6:17-26
31	5. Outsiders Holy Communion	Luke 7:1-10
February		
12 NOON DISCUSSION SERIES-7 February – 21 March		
7	6. Seeds	Luke 8:1-15
14	7. Mission	Luke 9:1-6, 10:1-12
21	8. Messiah	Luke 9:18-36
28	9. Apprenticeship Holy Communion	Luke 5:1-11, 9:57-62 , 14:25-35
March		
7	Guest Preacher: Jim Ritchie	
14	10. Prayer	Luke 11:1-13, 18:9-14
21	11. Wealth	Luke 12:13-21, 18:18-30

Youth Groups meet during part of the morning service - Sunday School for children age 3-9 years and Bible Class for young people age 10-14 years. A Crèche is also available during the service