

Issue 33
SPRING 2018

CENTRAL⁺
BAPTIST CHURCH DUNDEE

THE LINK



Glorifying
God as we:

Listen
to His Word

Pray
to Seek
His Will

Love
His People

Serve
His Kingdom

Welcome to the latest issue



We trust that this publication will be an aid to prayer and an encouragement for you.

We give thanks and glory to God for all that he is doing among us in these days. Jesus said in Matthew 16;

“I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

This was a promise of Jesus that his global church would grow, but it was not a promise that every local fellowship of his church would! In Revelation Jesus spoke to the solid looking church in Ephesus and said; ***“Yet I hold this against you: you have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.”*** (Rev 2) Solemn words to a solid looking church!

So let's love the Lord – play our part – and live together in a way that shows it!

In Him,
Jim Turrent Lead Pastor

The Vision

Sometimes – don't you think? – we need to be reminded that church is not a business! At our last church meeting we were reminded of that when – in faith – we adopted a budget for 2018 that requires just over an additional 5k per month in giving. In addition to this, we are looking at adding to the pastoral team in the future with a Children's Coordinator (what an opportunity God has given to us in the number of children!) and a Women's Ministry Worker (a proposal warmly received by many who see the huge potential). These plans have been prayed through by those who lead and have been commended to the membership.

These are no vanity projects. We want to build an increasingly healthy and Christ-centred church. Few churches that have resourced ministries such as these have ever come to regret doing so. Blessing in home and in foreign mission – and in so many other ways - flow out of healthy word-centred, Christ-exalting churches. This is the outward and expansive vision we have for Central.

An older Christian I once knew would say, when faced with a challenge; *“Tell God, and tell God's people.”* This is what we are doing. We are asking the church family to pray at this strategic moment and to give realistically as the Lord prospers. Jesus taught us an important principle of Kingdom life in Luke 6;

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Nothing that we sacrifice for Christ is ever wasted. Think of the blessing that will inevitably come back as we are faithful in this.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. These are exciting days of opportunity. I close out with the words of Steve Latta our Treasurer; *“This (budget) shows the challenge that we, as a church, face – but I would suggest that it is one that we look at positively.”* Well put.

In Him,
Jim

Treasurer's report

At the Church Meeting on Wednesday 10th January, our Church Treasurer, Steve Latto gave an update on the 2017 financial position and forecast end of year position. He also gave a proposed budgeted income and expenditure for 2018 and explained what that meant in terms of the vision that had been outlined by Jim Turrent on behalf of the Elders. This budget was accepted by the meeting. The following are some key points from the Treasurer's report.

Budgeted income and expenditure – 2018

General Fund	Jan 2017 - Dec 2017 Forecast	Jan 2018 - Dec 2018 Budget
Income	£304,695	£312,500
Expenditure	£352,043	£374,850
Surplus/(deficit)	(£47,348)	(£62,350)

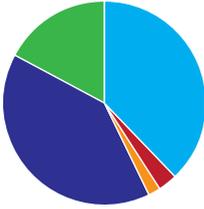
- The budgeted deficit of £62,350 equates to £5,200 per month.
- This would lead to a general fund balance of £170,000 at the end of 2018 (approx. 5.4 months of budgeted expenditure).

In summary:

- **the budget assumes that the income trend that we have seen will continue with income levels similar to the 2017 income (£312,500).**
- **expenditure is forecast to increase to £375,000. The most significant increase to the 2017 forecast relates to Lochee, in particular in relation to property related expenditure there for a heating system upgrade and window replacement.**

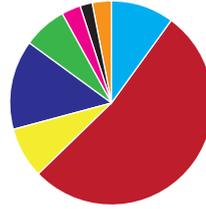
As a result, there is a forecast general fund deficit in 2018 of £62,000 – which equates to around £5,200 per month – if this turned out to be the actual deficit this would also lead to a reduction in the general fund to £170,000 at the end of 2018 – just over 5 months' worth of expenditure. The reserves policy states that between three and six months' worth of expenditure should be retained in the general fund.

Budget Expenditure 2018



- Staff including allowances and pensions **38%**
- Evangelism, Pastoral and Services Support **3%**
- Young people **2%**
- Mission Home and Overseas **40%**
- General admin and maintenance of property **17%**

Budget Income 2018



- Open offering **10%**
- Standing Orders and donations **53%**
- Envelopes **8%**
- Gift Aid tax refunds **14%**
- Use of properties and other donations **7%**
- Lochee BUS grant **3%**
- Lochee Giving **2%**
- Rental Income (Lytton Grove) **3%**

What's in the 2018 budget:

- Income levels are assumed to continue at current levels – therefore the income in the 2018 budget is similar to the 2017 forecast income.
- It is important to acknowledge that, as a Church, mission related payments and support, including the support for the local church plants, is a significant element of our budget and support to which we are committed – overall these costs represent just over 37% of our overall forecast expenditure.

Not included in the 2018 budget:

- Costs associated for the two new posts the search committee proposed at the September 2017 meeting – for the Children and Families Ministry Co-ordinator and Women's Pastoral Co-ordinator. To include these would have increased the forecast deficit to a level that both the Elders and Deacons felt was not credible. It would have meant that the general fund would have been forecast to reduce to below three months' worth of expenditure by the end of 2018.
- Also, not included is any legacy income, although we are aware of a legacy that is likely to be received within the next few months.
- The budget assumes that we will continue to make payments on a monthly basis to cover a deficit in the Baptist Pension Scheme rather than make any lump sum payment. Central's share of the deficit in the final salary element of the scheme is currently around £55,000 – this relates back to a period prior to 2007.

“We are looking at a deficit within the 2018 budget that is around £5,200 per month. This is the deficit WITHOUT adding in any costs associated with the two new positions. This shows the challenge that we, as a Church, face – but I would suggest that it is one that we should look at positively.” The Treasurer

At the meeting the Treasurer proposed that we did not consider progressing with the search for a Women's Pastoral Co-ordinator until income had increased to a level sufficient to sustain the costs associated with that appointment which would be a permanent position. However, he did propose that we authorised the search committee to progress with the search for the Children and Families Ministry Co-ordinator. This would be a fixed two-year appointment that may be able to be funded from a legacy which the church will be receiving soon. He said that by the time the search committee reached the appointment stage the value of the legacy should be known.

The following was proposed and accepted at the meeting:

- The 2018 budget as presented.
- Authorisation for the search committee to progress with search for the Children and Families Ministry Co-ordinator.

The challenge remains for the need for us to see an increase in income before we can progress with the appointment of a Women's Pastoral Co-ordinator. A Women's Pastoral Co-ordinator would help women to achieve their full potential and also make contact with other organisations that use our church buildings. This should be a real focus for our prayers.

Central Baptist Church Conference

Saturday 17th March 2018

We are looking forward to our annual church conference which is fast approaching. Please put the date in your diary and plan to be there.

The conference will start with registration at 9.15am and finish in the afternoon at about 3.00pm. This year's conference theme is '*Gospel-centred ministry*'.



Our speakers are **Paul Rees**, Lead Pastor, Charlotte Chapel, Edinburgh and **Rachel Sloan**, Women's Ministry Co-ordinator, also from Charlotte Chapel.



There will also be a crèche and special children's programme. Look out for the programme details in our church bulletin.

Carnoustie Baptist Church – nearly seven years on...

Called to be disciples of Jesus Christ; Sent to make disciples of Jesus Christ



By John Toller

We are starting 2018 with thankfulness and excitement about what God has planned for us this year. It has been great to see some new folks coming into church life over the past few months, and there is a membership class running this month (February) - it's encouraging to see the church growing. That growth is not just in numbers but in faith, love, and knowledge, as we grow together as disciples - and in our witness.

We are still praying for God to bring people to faith but have been encouraged with the contacts we are building through church activities and individual witness. Our Tuesday morning Toddler group is going well, and two mums came along to a couple of our Christmas services. Please continue to pray for them and for that ministry.

We're still struggling a little in certain areas, in leadership, music, and in the kids' work (at all ages). Please pray for the people we need to move things forward in these areas. Our Baptist Union grant will also decrease again this year, so pray for God's provision for the finances we need - we have been grateful to BUS and Central for support and trust that God will continue to provide so our work can continue and grow.

Praise God for his faithfulness as we approach seven years since the church was planted and stand with us in thanksgiving and prayer for all that he is doing and will do!

News from Lochee Baptist Chapel

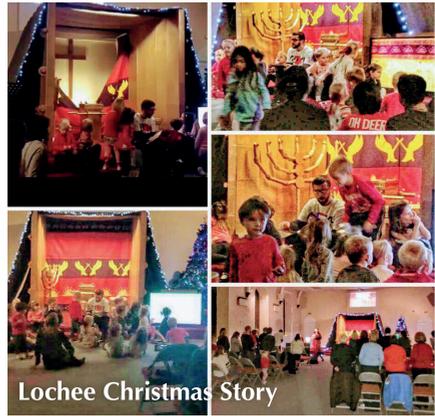
By **Andi Mathieson**

We are thanking the Lord that we are in a good season as a church. Our two new staff, members have arrived and are doing an amazing job. The church building is open most days of the week with all sorts of people in and out.

In our Sunday morning services, we are continuing through Matthew. Our Sunday evening prayer meeting is giving us a space to be able to train others to preach/teach.

Then Tuesdays and Fridays we have a drop-in for guys from the community. This is going really well, a lot of guys and girls from the community are coming, many of whom struggle with addiction. We just put out tea, coffee and a few cakes, then chat, play pool, table tennis or maybe even some karaoke! We are most encouraged by the short Bible study with the guys, which has resulted in some interesting conversations.

On Wednesday evenings we have our Bible study and we are currently going through Genesis. Andrew basically just walks through each chapter teaching about what's happening and anyone can ask a question. We have found this to be a very simple, helpful way of teaching our people.



We have started our kids club using 'Deep Down Detectives' material from CHBC and adapted for Lochee. The idea of this is to learn as families and to encourage parents to teach their children at home, so all the parents stay and we run the club together.



Prayer Points:

- Pray that we will see people saved through our ministries. We are desperate to see LBC grow through conversions.
- Pray that our members will grow in grace and love of Jesus. We want to be a church that looks like and loves like Jesus.
- Thank God for His faithfulness, love and grace to LBC and pray for more.

Eagles Wings Trust

New year, new start!

By Michael Cordiner

A new year is a new start for many and for Eagles Wings it is exactly that in many ways. At the end of 2017 we moved into new premises at 10 Douglas Street, Dundee and it was a busy time getting it ready for opening. We give God thanks that on 8th January we opened the building for all the folks who use our facilities. It is a much larger place, and this will enable us to develop our outreach in a number of different ways. We were donated some computers and these have been set up to help folks with benefit applications; job searches and to be in contact with family and friends.



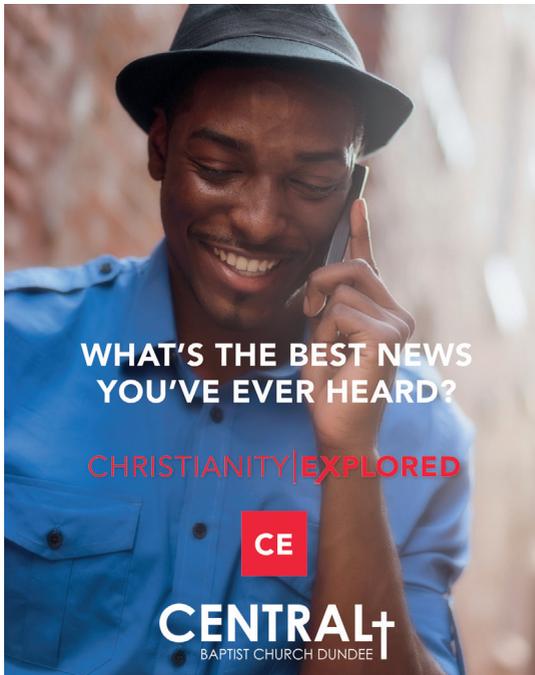
The numbers of folks using the drop-in have been rising since we started and as folks find out where the new premises are. We pray that the conversations that we have here might be life changing for many. Please pray for us in this regard that folks will come along to the weekly Bible studies we have recently started.

There is still work being done in the building at the moment so please pray that that will go smoothly. A large cupboard is being built to store supplies and a serving area is currently being built too. We are grateful for the Lord's hand in supplying people with the necessary skills to help, and the finance to see it through.

As the premises are much bigger we do require a good number of volunteers please pray about this. If the Lord lays it on your hearts to come along and volunteer, please

contact us either via our Facebook page or at info@eagleswingstrust.org.uk.

The soup kitchen work still continues with the Jiffy Truck each night. We are particularly busy and the food is gone in a short period of time. Now that we are in bigger premises we have been able to do the preparation for this in the kitchen there and give up the unit in the Hilltown. Pray for the lives of individuals we meet at both these places and as we visit around Dundee. Recently we heard of the death of another individual whom we have worked with. It brings the urgency of the Gospel home to us. Pray for us that, that the message of freedom would be shared with clarity, simplicity but above all things Love.



**WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?**

CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

CE

CENTRAL
BAPTIST CHURCH DUNDEE

**Monday 12th February
– Monday 26th March
7.30 – 9.30pm, Central
Baptist Church, The Link
(upstairs)**

**Please pray for our
Christianity Explored
course which is on every
Monday evening up until
26th March. We have
invitation cards available at
the Welcome desk that you
can give to friends and also
use as an aid to prayer.**

Deacons' Digest

Items discussed at recent Elders' and Deacons' meetings.

Opening Devotions

Meetings are always opened with devotions and a time of prayer. Currently the Elders and Deacons are studying *'What is the Mission of the Church?'* written by Kevin De Young and George Gilbert.

Data protection legislation

There are some changes coming into force on 28 May 2018 in relation to data protection legislation and a sub-group has been set up to look at the new legislation. Consequently, the printing of the new Family Directory has been delayed until we consider the implications of the new legislation.

Eldership Search Group

Sara Dryden and Fiona Mackay were elected to serve on the Eldership Search Group representing the Deacons. Also serving on this group, which is chaired by Jim Turrent, are Robert Whyte and Colin Watson (Elders) and Mike Lee, Allison McMahan, Stephen Cranston and Michael Crowe (Members).

Volunteer Service Agreement booklet

A new Volunteer Service Agreement Booklet has been printed with service outlines incorporated. The design of the booklet, incorporating the church aims, is excellent and Tony

Boffey expressed his thanks to Ken Drysdale for designing the booklet and arranging the printing of it.

Church website

Ken Drysdale gave an update on the new church website which had been 'live' since November 2017. The Members' section, which isn't live yet, requires some further development work. Members wishing access to this part of the site will have to register first. Included in the Members section will be the Google calendar that has all the church bookings (same as was on the old website), Governance documents and rotas. Before going 'live', the Members section will be thoroughly tested by the web developers to ensure it is fully protected.

Persuasive Evangelism Conference – 3 November 2018

SOLAS in partnership with Central are to run this conference on Saturday 3 November 2018 with Central as the venue. There will be a high-quality speaker at the event who will also be invited to speak at our Sunday morning service on 4 November. It is likely to be a ticketed event so as to fund the speaker's expenses and costs. Sessions will be focused on the key issues of the day equipping those who attend with the means to be able to effectively engage on key issues.



Youth Work@Central

By **Stewart Milligan**, Link Deacon Youth Work

It has been a busy few months for youth work at Central since the young people started back to school. With a new school year came the opportunity for a new look programme, and this year we felt it was time to strip back what we were doing and start afresh as we look to encourage our young people in their faith and see them grow into young men and women on fire for Christ.

Bible Class and Bible Class Plus

Our new look programme includes Bible Class and Bible Class Plus for those in S1-S2 and S3-S4 respectively. These happen on a Sunday morning during our main service, and we have been looking this year at Romans as Jim has been preaching through the book on Sunday mornings. It has been a real encouragement to see our young people start to grasp more of the Bible, of who God is and all that he has done for them through looking at Paul's letter to the Romans, and there have been lots of great questions and discussions springing from what we have been studying.

Youth Fellowship

Our Sunday evening Youth Fellowship has taken on a new structure with the young people sitting in for the first part of our evening service at Central before heading out to have their own focused teaching. We are currently working our way through J.I. Packer's book, '*18 Words*', trying to help the young people understand some of the bigger theological words that are used in church life in order that they can engage more with sermons as they move into their later teenage years. It also gives us an opportunity to have some fun with the kids, with social time and food after the main evening service providing some quality banter, with games such as Signs, Teeth-Teeth and Mafia keeping us all entertained and providing opportunities for the young people to get to know the leaders more. It has also been a joy to have a number of youth services where our young people are given the opportunity to be involved in the evening service and we hope that that will continue as they explore ways in which they can serve here in Central.

Café Central

Café Central has been running the last Friday of the month and again this has been a great way for us to engage more with the kids whilst hanging out with them, playing table tennis and pool and having a fully laden tuck shop available to bring in the weekend. Particular highlights have included the Christmas lights switch on night where after all the fireworks and some food we had a good night hanging out with some of our young folks who had come along.

Annual youth weekend away

In October 2017 we had our annual youth weekend away to Compass Christian Centre, with Tim Beattie speaking to us about the Sermon on the Mount and how it can impact our lives today, as the young people are interacting with classmates, team mates and friends, and which encouraged us all to be salt and light where God has placed us and to look more seriously at our prayer life. The kids had a ball during the weekend, with various outdoor activities including a zip wire, low ropes course, archery and night line on offer. There were also great opportunities to get to know one another as we ate meals together, tried to solve a murder mystery, played Human Battleships and looked deeper at God's Word, and I know that the leaders were as encouraged as the kids by this precious time away together.

Prayer points

Looking ahead we could really value your prayers in the coming months as we begin to look at planning what next year's programme will look like. This year we are sad to see Nicola and Gareth step down as leaders after close to 10 years of service with the youth at Central and we pray that God will bless them as they move on to focus on other areas of ministry that they are involved in. Please pray for more leaders to come forward, and indeed if you are interested in working with our young people as a Bible Class or Youth Fellowship leader then please come and speak to me after a Sunday service, we would love to get you involved. Finally, and most importantly, please be praying for our young people, that they would grow in their faith as they look deeper at God's Word, and that as they go into their schools and face all that society throws at them, that they would be salt and light, showing Jesus to their classmates, friends and family. 🙏



Student Ministry

By Peter Inglis

The student ministry is here to serve all who are of student age in Central. As well as providing social activities where the students can socialise with each other, get to know members of the student ministry team and other members of CBC, we also encourage them to play an active part in the life of Central. We have several ministries that students are involved in such as the Crèche, Sunday School, Youthwork and Praise Band. The students are a real blessing within these ministries and play an essential role that Central could not do without.

However, it is also true that the students who do choose to get involved find great reward in their work for the Lord. We asked some of our students for their thoughts on serving in Central and here are some of the comments we received:

“It’s a great opportunity to get alongside some younger folk, and attempt to set an example in following Jesus and most importantly get stuck into the Bible with them” Michael

“I’m involved in the band which is great as it’s an opportunity to praise God with the gifts He has given” Marcus

“It is the biggest blessing to see young kids grow in their faith or to see them understand the gospel for the first time” Kathryn

“It is great spending time with the nursery school age kids while starting to give something back to the church by serving in this way” Rachel

“It’s nice to get to know the kids in the church and also their parents. It’s a great chance to talk to people you normally wouldn’t since Central is such a large church” Sarah

As well as being involved in ministries a number of students are also involved in home groups across the city:

“Join a home group - so good for getting to know God better, getting to know the people and the church better and to learn from older and wiser Christians” Elizabeth

“Get involved in a home group - so nice to be able to study God’s word and get to know some of the people from the church” Esther

If you are a student or a young person of student age who would like to be involved in a ministry of Central or a Home Group, then please speak to one of the student team leaders and we can link you up with the appropriate person.

World Mission Focus

By **Keith and Joyce Wood**

Keith and Joyce Wood have served as missionaries with OMF and Diaspora Returnees Ministries for 37 years, with Central Baptist Church as their sending church. On Sunday 28th January we were pleased to share fellowship with them at a special service and lunch at Central to mark their retirement and to give thanks for them.



Matt Lock, chair of Mission Support Group interviewing Keith and Joyce.

Coming to Dundee to study civil engineering back in the autumn of 1970 changed my life. It was in Dundee that I came to faith in Jesus. I came from a non-Christian family and the fellowship, friendships and teaching at the Christian Union and at Rattray Street Baptist was so helpful. As a young Christian I was encouraged to pray for the world and so I joined a student group praying for East Asia. A year later Joyce came to Dundee, and our friendship developed through the CU. Joyce already had an interest in missionary work in Africa, but with a little encouragement she joined the East Asia prayer group!!

The rest is history – 1978 to Bible College, 1981 to serve with OMF in church planting in the Philippines and then in 1991 we were invited to work on the UK home side of OMF. In 2011 we switched to the OMF Diaspora Returnee Ministry team befriending and helping Chinese university lecturers who are at Manchester University for up to one year. Many have been eager to find out what it means to be a Christian.

As we look back on these 37 years we have witnessed a global change in mission opportunities. Although there are still urgent needs for workers in East Asia, world mission is now on our doorstep. It is a real joy to welcome and share the love of Jesus with those from other nations, and to have colleagues from all over the world.

We frequently remind ourselves that “prayer is fundamental and not supplemental”. So it is with a profound sense of gratitude that we acknowledge the faithful prayer and financial support from the Central Baptist church family over such a long period of time.

As we transition into retirement some prayer topics include:

- reconnecting with English Corner in Manchester in building relationships and sharing the gospel with our Chinese friends;
- providing more support to our older and younger family members;
- wisdom to know what other priorities we should have in the local church and wider community.

Member file

Ian Grant



Growing up in Edinburgh, Ian had a very strong Christian influence at home, his mother was very active within the Christian Endeavour organisation and his great grandfather had been a pastor and hymn writer. Being a child who didn't always appreciate being told what to do, he recalls rather reluctantly attending Endeavour events but it was partly through this that he came to understand the gospel. Along with this another powerful influence and inspiration shaped him as he grew up, the missionaries who were so often present in his home.

At university the call to mission eventually led Ian to apply to change his degree two years into his studies from veterinary science to medicine. Here he started to really find his faith strengthened as he learned to be obedient to the Lord and found a great sense of peace as he moved towards

this. His medical skills and confidence were built in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland where he very quickly found himself performing operations solo and with limited resources. This experience proved invaluable when in 1965 he and his wife Anne left with the BMS to work as medical missionaries in a bush hospital in the Congo rainforest.

After serving for three and a half years there the family returned to the UK and settled in Glasgow but after Ian's retirement they found themselves drawn to the Dundee area where he had spent much of his childhood holidays and to Ward Road where his parents had married in 1931. He has a great love for his church and finds baptisms particularly touching as a wonderful display of the diverse methods and people God uses to build his family. 🕊

Christian Medical Fellowship

Standing firm in the faith in the medical world

By **Jennifer Dunn**, ST1 Orthopaedics trainee at Ninewells Hospital

'When you come together... let all things be done for building up.' (1 Corinthians 14:26)

Everyone was looking at me. It was only a small tutorial group of nine students and one tutor (a GP who led our weekly medical ethics tutorial) but the weight of so many eyes was not an experience I was used to as a shy first year medical student. I was the only person in the room to tick the 'strongly disagree' box on the question sheet we were given asking 'to what extent do you agree or disagree that the right to die should be a patient's choice?'. As a Christian, I felt my decision making should be based around God's word, not only on patient choice. But what exactly does the Bible have to say about these controversial modern medical issues? How do I communicate my views with colleagues? What implications will these decisions have on my university career and job as a qualified doctor? And is there anyone else who can support and pray with me as I tackle these questions? That was when I decided to investigate the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF).



CMF, formed in 1949, currently has a membership of over 4,000 UK doctors and 800 UK medical students. The aims of the organisation are to disciple Christians in medicine, support Christian doctors in overseas mission work, encourage and equip Christian doctors and students to evangelise to all those they meet and to promote Christian values in society - particularly in healthcare and bioethics. These goals are met through excellent annual student and doctor conferences and local groups meeting together for fellowship, discussion, Bible study and prayer.

The Dundee group aims to run a student, doctor or joint event every month. This academic year has included a joint Potluck supper, a 'Surviving as a Christian doctor', Bible study for students, a competitive trip to 'Room Escape Dundee' (note: having lots of mostly Type A personalities trying to solve puzzles as a team is in equal parts hilarious and frustrating) and a Christmas dinner, all hosted by

local Christian doctors.

The new year kicked off with a talk for students on medical mission in January and the student conference in February. As a doctor who is fairly new to Dundee, I have been incredibly blessed to be a part of the local CMF, and the events thus far have already yielded fruit in terms of praying. 

Engage

By **Matt and Sheena Lock**

A highlight of the Engage calendar each year is our Burns Supper.



This year was no exception! After the Selkirk Grace and a hearty rendition of the Address to the Haggis by Andy Duncan, we enjoyed haggis, neeps and tatties, Orkney cheesecake, shortbread, coffee and great banter round the table. It was good to welcome new people to Engage and through switching seats after each course we had the opportunity to chat to everyone who was there, and get to know one another better. Our devotion to start the year focused on Psalm 1, challenging us to be deeply rooted in God's word and experience true joy as we live for Him in 2018.

Engage meets quarterly to encourage people in their 20s and 30s who are no longer involved in student ministries to meet others in the church who are of a similar age and stage in life. This is not a home group but a chance to engage with others in the church and be a mutual support and encouragement.

The next event will be an Easter walk on Sunday 25th March at 2.30pm (On Palm Sunday) meeting at Barnhill Rock Garden, followed by coffee at 10 Challum Crescent, DD5 3SY. If you'd like to find out more contact Matt and Sheena Lock: mjlock79@gmail.com.

Short Term Mission

Have you ever thought about going on an overseas mission trip?

One of the most exciting things you could do this summer is to go on an overseas mission trip, stepping out of your comfort zone into a different country and culture to serve God. There are many opportunities with a number of different organisations, for people of all backgrounds, experience, skills and age! If you are thinking about this, as a church we would love to be able to support you, so please get in touch with the Mission Support Group.

Please email mission@centraldundee.com.

In the following article Sophie Watson tells us about her short-term overseas mission trip last year at Capernwray Bible College in Canada.

The summer of 2017 was an eye-opening experience for me. I found myself volunteering at Capernwray Bible College, surrounded by dense forest in the middle of Quebec, Canada.

I hadn't known anyone there previously - or what I was going to be doing - and really what on earth I was doing there! My being there could not have been anything other than God's handiwork as visas normally take six weeks to process, and I had had only three weeks to sort mine out before my flight!

Nothing was how I had expected it to be.

I thought I was going to be running children's work, when in fact I was cleaning toilets, washing windows and had one too many encounters with some hideously large spiders. But through these things God had a lesson to teach me in humility and servant heartedness, and the importance of being faithful in the hidden things. He poured countless blessings on me: wise friends; time to dwell on His Word and the opportunity to serve in His ministry.



I would like to say a huge thank you to the church family for your prayers and for your generosity; without which I wouldn't have been blessed with this experience.

God bless, **Sophie Watson**



Time to pray?

By **Trish McCulloch**, on behalf of the Prayer Team

Sunday is a special day. God's house is a precious place. As we enter CBC it can be a time for us to pause, refocus, and remind ourselves of the rest that Jesus offers.

Part of Jesus' rest lies in the gift of coming to the Father in prayer, through Jesus. The prayer team at CBC exists to aid our coming. We are a team of ten or so, and Sunday morning and evening you will find a couple of us in the bottom left hand corner of the church ready to talk and pray with you.

Our desire is to create a space for prayer before we rush into the busyness of the day. It's an opportunity to pray over the things God has prompted or



spoken as we worship and sit under His word. It's space to give thanks. It's a space to bring our cares and concerns. It's a space for sharing and fellowship. If you don't normally use the prayer team, give it a try. We are a friendly bunch and we would love to pray with you.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7. †

Church website

Check out the Calendar on our church website, www.centraldundee.com for information about upcoming Sunday services and church events. Also, did you know you can download the Sunday sermons from our website? Go to *Sermons Online* on the home page.

Books@Central

Mission Matters by Tim Chester

By **Sheena Lock**

Have you ever wondered, why do we bother about world mission when there are so many people here in Dundee who don't yet know about Jesus?

Have you thought why do we pray for missionaries in the church?

Have you wondered why we should bother sending missionaries to other countries?

Or have you maybe just thought it's nice that missionaries go to other countries, but none of that is relevant for me?

Chester explains that God is passionate about mission as he pursues relationship with us. If we are Christians, mission should be part of who we are, it's not an optional extra to our church life. Mission means witnessing to those around us and also those further afield. We need to be out there in the world, sent to point people to God, sharing his joy and love and living our whole lives for His glory!



The book is divided into four helpful sections:

- **The God of Mission** – describing how mission is the heart of who God is.
- **The story of Mission** – how it is embedded through the whole Bible, in both the Old Testament and New Testament.
- **The Scope of Mission** – that it is for everyone to everywhere.
- **Challenge of Mission** – how with mission, cultural and personal challenges are encountered, but God will equip us for all eventualities. The book also looks at how we as Christians can and should all be involved and provides ideas about how we can support mission and missionaries through creating a passion for mission.

When we think about overseas mission, it is easy to think it is someone else's job, but over 40% of the world's people groups, more than one billion people, are still waiting to hear the Gospel. Mission Matters encourages us to make it a priority to reach these people, who have not had the opportunity to hear the good news of salvation through Christ!

New CEO at Edinburgh City Mission

By **Duncan Cuthill**

Many of you might only barely remember me or not even know me at all. I was involved at Central Baptist Church for a brief period while I was working with UCCF/ Dundee University Christian Union in 2003-2004, having spent four years before that, working with other Christian Unions in central Scotland. In 2004 I moved down to London to do a Bible training course for a year.

When I was younger, in my 20s, I did six months voluntary work with Edinburgh City Mission on a housing estate in Pilton, North West Edinburgh. This experience prompted me to apply to work as a missionary with London City Mission in 2005. During the interview process I was appointed as director of ministries. This role evolved – for the last four years it involved leading a team coordinating and managing 120 outreach staff across the city. When I heard that Edinburgh City Mission were looking for a new CEO, I felt compelled to apply for the role.



So, what is Edinburgh City Mission? Our aim is to stimulate and strengthen the church's mission in Edinburgh's most needy communities. At the moment this involves supporting nine church-based food-banks and providing follow-up meetings for clients who need support to deal with the difficult situation that has created their need for the food-bank or are interested in learning about Jesus. We have just appointed three new full-time Mission Strengtheners who will develop the outreach work of churches in three particularly deprived parts of the city: the Leith area, South West Edinburgh (e.g. Sighthill, Wester Hailes, Stenhouse, Gorgie, etc.) and South East Edinburgh (e.g. Gilmerton, Gracemount, Liberton, Moredun, etc.). We want to help churches in these areas engage in their local communities and share the gospel.

We would value your prayers as we grow our team and our impact. Check out our new website for further information: edinburghcitymission.org.uk

Don't just *read* Your Bible

By **Jonathan R Bailey**

The people of Israel grew up listening to Scripture: *'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one'* (Deut. 6:4).

Hear. Listen.

Allow the words to enter your soul through your ears. Before any of Israel's great stories of faith were written, they were spoken and heard in the form of narratives, parables, and sayings. The people lived a Scripture-listening life.

We've lost much of that experience, haven't we? We rarely hear God's Word read over us, the words ringing out in the sky or around the sanctuary or in our earbuds. Yet we ought to recover this listening life, a life committed to soaking in Scripture.

This spiritual practice isn't just significant because our Christian ancestors did it; it's significant because



Scripture-listening forms us in ways Scripture-reading cannot. Listening shouldn't make you diminish the practice of reading Scripture one bit - it's crucial. Nevertheless, I want to draw your attention to the lost art of listening to God's Word.

How listening is unique

So how do reading and listening shape us in different ways? When we read, our default tendency is to study, to pull apart the text and piece it back together, and to draw conclusions. We're after comprehension: to grasp with the mind, to sharpen our thinking, to learn, and, above all, to understand. When we read, we want to get something out of it.

Scripture-listening forms us in ways Scripture-reading cannot.

When we listen, we have to leave all that behind. We lose our ability to be precise; there's no underlining, cross-referencing, or consulting commentaries. Listening is more leisurely. When we listen we're after apprehension: to lay hold of something, or better said, to have something lay hold of us.

We're seized, captured, and engrossed - similar to what happens with music. We get lost, caught up in it. Scripture-listening allows the Bible to captivate us in new ways.

Listening while doing

One of the most important values of Scripture-listening is that we can listen while we're doing something else - driving, lifting weights, folding laundry, or taking a walk. Our heart dwells on a passage while our body processes a routine. We're hearing from God and living our lives simultaneously.

Scripture-listening allows the Bible to captivate us in new ways.

Charles Spurgeon had a wonderful phrase: 'Be walking Bibles.' This forms a picture in my mind of what I want my life with Christ to be about. I want to live in a state of ongoing communion with God, even while getting on with the business of living. When I listen to Scripture, it's as if I'm in two places at once: with him and with the world. I'm in it but not of it.

Few activities are more restorative than moving through the world while nourishing your inner world. And listening to Scripture helps to accomplish this by enriching your experience of the present moment. Again, Spurgeon is helpful: '*Visit many good books, but live in the Bible.*' Listening to the Bible - right in the middle of your ordinary life - is a powerful way to live in the Bible.

Let's work to recover and cultivate the listening life, one committed to pursuing fresh growth in grace as we keep God's Word in our ears. May we become the kind of people who can say, with the young Samuel: '*Speak, Lord; your servant is listening.*' 

This article has been reproduced with permission from The Gospel Coalition. The article was written by Jonathan R. Bailey, co-founder of Dwell, a new Scripture-listening app.

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Any thoughts?

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