



# Dundee Law Parish Church

Coldside Centre: Main Street Dundee DD3 7HT  
&

Steeple Centre: Nethergate, Dundee DD1 4DG

<https://dundeelawparishchurch.org.uk/>

## PARISH PROFILE 2025



Registered Scottish Charity SC014314



The Church of Scotland

## OUR CONTEXT



**Dundee Law Parish Church** came into being on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 as a result of the Union of **The Steeple Church** Dundee and **Coldside Parish Church** as part of the Presbytery of Perth's Presbytery Planning process.

**Dundee Law**, after which our new congregation is named, is a volcanic sill within our parish, the highest point in the city and the most prominent feature on the local skyline. From the top of 'The Law' the whole spread of our parish and the wider city can be viewed.

**Dundee**, 'The City of Discovery', is a great place to live and work.

It is a small City (Pop. 148,000) but with top quality cultural, sporting and educational facilities for all ages. It is very central within Scotland; Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen can all be reached within 90 minutes and we have very regular and reliable coach and rail services to these Cities. Several award-winning beaches, historic St Andrews, the Angus Glens and the mountains of Perthshire and the Highlands are also easily accessible.

More information about our City can be found towards the end of this Profile.

**Our Basis of Union finds us potentially well resourced, operating from two Worship Centres, at Coldside and at The Steeple and with permission to seek and call two full-time equivalent Ministers of Word and Sacrament, working together and supporting one another in Team Ministry.**

We are a predominantly 'gathered' congregation, with members of the church family living throughout the city and beyond. We embrace folk from many different denominational backgrounds and are regularly joined by students, in particular from overseas.

**Our two former congregations are united, not just in name, but in a shared vision to serve God and bring the Good News of Jesus Christ's forgiveness, unconditional love and welcome to those living, working and spending time in our parish and community, particularly those with material needs and challenges.**

# OUR LOCATION

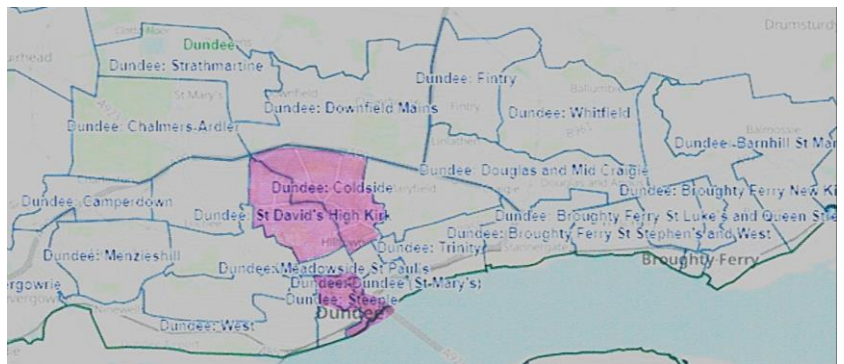
**Our Coldside Worship Centre** is at the heart of a large, predominantly residential area with a broad mix of privately owned and social housing. Parts of the parish area are designated as areas of multiple deprivation and it has been designated by The Church of Scotland as an Urban Priority Area (UPA). There are several primary schools and a flourishing Community Centre in the parish.



**Our Steeple Worship Centre** is situated in the centre of Dundee, with the particular opportunities and challenges that City Centre ministry and mission present. This part of our parish includes the busy Overgate Shopping Centre, The University of Abertay campus, the Police Headquarters and the Sheriff Court, the Dundee City Council offices, several hotels and the new V&A Museum of Design. In addition to this commercial, civic and cultural focus there are a significant number of residential apartments occupied by students and others within the parish.



We have two distinct **parish areas** marked in pink on the map of Dundee.



Both legacy congregations extensively developed our buildings some years ago to provide modern and flexible space fit for our worship and outreach ministry and for serving the needs of the local community.





# OUR VISION



**Our vision**  
**is to be a bible-based, prayerful,**  
**worshipping Christian Community**  
**serving God in the heart of Dundee.**

**We seek to be a people:**

- ☐ **who bring the good news of Jesus Christ's forgiveness, unconditional love and welcome to those living in, working in and visiting our City.**
- ☐ **renewed and prepared for Christian service through spiritual growth in Christ and by training in discipleship and evangelism.**
- ☐ **inspired by God's love, who respond to the many opportunities for service both in our parish areas and beyond.**
- ☐ **who, seek to use our premises flexibly and creatively and with a particular concern for the most vulnerable members of our community, maintaining safe and welcoming space for everyone irrespective of age, race, nationality, gender, tradition, sexuality, ability, income or health.**
- ☐ **who are committed to nurturing and supporting families and young people within both our church family and the wider community.**
- ☐ **who serve Jesus Christ through appropriate partnerships with other Christian organisations, churches and city agencies and who learn about and support those working in Christ's name in other parts of the world.**
- ☐ **who recognise the importance of being stewards of creation and our responsibility to take care of the earth.**

# OUR VISION OF TEAM MINISTRY



Our original Basis of Team Ministry (available on our website) was created some time ago. Since then, the Kirk Session's vision has developed further, seeking to enable the two roles to be less delineated and flexible enough to reflect the gifts and experience of the Ministers appointed. This is described below:

**We seek two full-time Ministers of Word and Sacrament who will work closely together, using their complementary gifts in the service of God amongst our congregation by:**

- identifying the individual strengths and giftings of each Minister, seeking to share responsibilities based on skills and experience so that the ministry and mission of the congregation is most effectively supported, including the leading of Sunday worship in the two Worship Centres.
- meeting regularly for mutual support and to reflect, pray, vision-build, plan and coordinate the mission and ministry of the congregation.
- being team-players, seeking to nurture and develop the gifts of all in the congregation.
- working closely with Kirk Session, office bearers and other leaders in the congregation to support and further develop our congregation's strongly collaborative culture ensuring all the roles and duties are covered.
- sharing a key leadership role in leading and supporting the two halves of our new whole, as we find our feet as a united congregation.
- seeking to further develop the shared spiritual and prayer life of the congregation and help all to deepen their faith.
- being committed to the pastoral care of all in the congregation and those associated with it, seeking to ignite and further develop it.
- actively supporting the missional and outreach activities of the congregation including Café Coldside, Parish Nursing and Connections Café.
- working with the congregation, the City Centre Congregational Grouping and other organisations as we seek to serve many in our City Centre and residential Priority Area settings.
- working with all ages across our community to explore new and innovative ways of discovering Christ, of worshipping God, of building a community of faith and of creating a new generation of church.
- seeking and supporting new ways for the congregation to engage with Christians in the University sector and with those new to Scotland.

As per Church of Scotland regulations, one of the Ministry Team will be appointed to serve as Moderator of the Kirk Session (Minister A), with the other sitting as a member of Kirk Session and taking particular responsibility for supporting aspects of its work (Minister B).

# KEY MINISTRY CHALLENGES & PRIORITIES

We seek Ministers who will help us TO STRENGTHEN AND GROW as a Christian community.

We recognise the challenges and responsibilities of this new type of Team Ministry, especially in a new Union where the two Worship Centres have different histories, backgrounds and needs.

## We acknowledge that:

- both the COVID pandemic and societal changes that have followed & the protracted vacancies caused by the Presbytery Planning process have left our church family more vulnerable than previously.
- our Sunday congregations are smaller than before and we have lost young families at both Centres, leaving us with a less all-age community than previously.
- our two Sunday congregations continue to operate as largely separate entities, and we need a strong and capable lead to help us work together as a united team whilst still maintaining two Worship Centres.
- our new Kirk Session is at a very early stage in its development, as Elders from the two legacy congregations begin to get to know each other and work together.
- In the context of two different historical positions in our two legacy congregations, our Kirk Session has recently voted that we should be open to accepting applications from Ministers in a same sex marriage or civil partnership for our vacancies, and so to **depart** from the Church of Scotland's historic and current doctrine and practice in relation to human sexuality and its application to the ministers and deacons of the Church. This decision was not taken lightly, and the Kirk Session vote was **not** unanimous. The decision has inevitably caused significant personal anguish for some members of our congregation - much wisdom and pastoral sensitivity will be required to minister into this situation. We seek Ministers who are understanding of both points of view and who would seek to heal the hurts that this decision may have caused.

Our Kirk Session promises to support the Ministry Team by:

- prayer, practical and pastoral support.
- monitoring the workload of our Ministers.
- being careful stewards of our human and financial resources across the Congregation.

**The congregation is aware that God may not call both Ministers to Dundee Law simultaneously and in such a circumstance we will work hard to support the first Minister while continuing to seek their colleague.**

# APPENDIX 1 :

## WORKING WITH THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

We are strongly aligned to the Church of Scotland's Five Marks of Mission and the following description of the life and work of our congregation uses this as our framework.

### FIRST MARK OF MISSION

*To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. To witness to Christ's saving, forgiving, reconciling love for all people.*

**This is at the heart of all we seek to practice in our various spheres of Christian service.**

We believe strongly that both Worship Centers should be 'open' every Sunday morning and as much as possible throughout the week, offering welcome, sanctuary, support and love to all those who enter.

- The main gatherings of the whole Church family are at our **Sunday Morning Services** in each Worship Centre. At the Steeple Centre, these are informal in style with a good number of people involved in the leadership of Services and praise mainly led by a Music Group with singers and contemporary instruments. At our Coldsides Centre the Service is more traditional, with hymns led from the organ and an elder supporting the Minister by reading the Bible passage. The Steeple Sermon is recorded and uploaded onto our website immediately after the Service so that the message can be accessed by folk unable to join us in person.

Informal Communion is incorporated into the Services on a regular basis. Special Services, with more of an 'outreach' focus, are held during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Short evening Services of a more contemplational nature have also been held during Lent and Advent. In our Services we try to maintain a style that is inclusive and welcoming to all, in particular those who are with us but without a church background.



- We have run several **Alpha Courses** in recent years. Several folk have recently joined the congregation as a result of these courses. Our most recent Alpha Course was run at The Steeple Centre in collaboration with Broughty Ferry Baptist Church and was led in Ukrainian, allowing members of the Ukrainian refugee community to hear the Good News at a time when their own situations are so difficult.

**Explore  
life, faith  
& meaning**

Try Alpha



## SECOND MARK OF MISSION

*To build welcoming, transforming communities of faith.  
To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.*

- We believe in fostering a community where all feel welcomed, included, respected, loved and nurtured and where the unconditional love of Jesus and the unity of all believers is demonstrable, while engaging with the Bible's guidance and principles.
- As a 'gathered' and newly united congregation, we recognise the need to spend time together in a social environment so that relationships can be built, friendships strengthened and so that those new to our fellowship can feel welcomed and 'at home'. We offer:
  - Post-service tea & coffee times and intermittent buffet lunches on Sundays.
  - during the Summer months, an **Out & About** programme is organised to offer organised outdoor activities including walks, cycle rides, barbecues and games, usually followed by a visit to a café.
  - an annual outing for the older members of the congregation.
  - the **Craft Group** meet together regularly and make cards and other produce, which are then sold to help raise funds for congregational and other causes.
  - the midweek **Men's Group** is a group of mainly retired men who meet weekly to play pool and to chat. They include a few from outwith the congregation.
  - a **Students' Group** has recently been formed with opportunity to meet together in an informal environment for fellowship and support.
  - Other opportunities for informal fellowship include Summer and Easter fetes, Harvest Lunch and a Christmas Fayre.



- Some members of the congregation meet together regularly in **Midweek Home Groups** for fellowship, prayer and Bible study. At least annually, a **Book Group** meets over a number of weeks to study and explore together a topical Christian book.
- There are regular opportunities for the congregation to pray together. We hold evening **Prayer Gatherings** twice a month, one in person and one virtually via Zoom. In addition, many folk use our very active 'Church Support' WhatsApp Group to share and respond to both prayer needs and practical requests for help. In recent years we have held **Days of Prayer** where folk have been encouraged to spend some time in the church praying for the congregation's various areas of ministry. Last year we ran a series of well-attended sessions studying the material from The **Prayer Course** (Pete Greig, 24-7 Prayer).



## SECOND MARK OF MISSION continued:

- Prior to the pandemic a good number of young families were part of our congregation at both of our Centres. In addition, both churches ran popular **Messy Church** events. Since COVID, numbers of families have decreased significantly. We pray for a revival of this important aspect of our congregational life. For children and young people who do attend, age-appropriate learning is made available. Teens and our Youth Team leaders are involved in a Dundee-wide Youth Fellowship that meets regularly.
- Several of our members are actively involved in **Friends International – Dundee**, a group of people from local churches based in the Dundee area who welcome International students and research workers living in or near the City. Students, in particular International Post-Grads, often join our fellowship while they are studying at the two local Universities.
- We strive to ensure that our church premises and activities are fully accessible to all. Major redevelopment projects in both Centres have created modern, flexible and fully accessible meeting spaces, kitchens and office accommodation. We also actively market the spaces as venues for conferences, concerts, meetings and events. This has brought in valuable additional income to facilitate the upkeep and running costs of our fabric and to support the wider work of the congregation. Both of our main Sanctuary spaces are particularly adaptable with movable seating that allows variable layouts for different styles of worship or events. In recent years we have hosted a variety of music concerts and interesting art exhibitions. Our modern PA and lighting technology support such events.



- We enjoy close links with the 20<sup>th</sup> (Coldside) Scout Group & the 43<sup>rd</sup> Dundee Brownie Pack who meet in our premises and attend the Remembrance Sunday service.
- The Coldside sanctuary is used every Sunday afternoon by the Dundee branch of the big Nigerian Pentecostal 'Deeper Life Bible Church'
- We are aligned to *Dundee Evangelical Christian Alliance (DECA)*, a grouping of churches, ministries and Christian leaders in Dundee and we have good relationships with the churches from other denominations with whom we share geographical proximity.

## THIRD MARK OF MISSION

*To respond to human need by loving service.*

*To stand in solidarity with the poor and needy.*

- Our '**Café Coldside**', run by members of the congregation, opens on a weekly basis to provide a nutritious lunch in a warm and welcoming environment to anyone from the community who wishes to attend. On average 25-30 guests are shown love and hospitality each week.
- As a separate initiative, The **Parish Nursing** service at The Steeple seeks to serve people who may be experiencing homelessness, problem substance use and other addictions, poor physical and mental health and a deep sense of 'hope-less-ness'. The ethos of the service is to make holistic health and related care more accessible to all people who may need advocacy and support. The team comprises 1 full-time Parish Nurse, 1 full-time Recovery Support Worker, 2 part-time Parish Nurses and an amazing 'army' of Volunteers. Two drop-in sessions happen each week, with attendances between 45 and 75 persons. Small groups and individual support are also busy.



- **Hot Chocolate Trust** started as The Steeple Church's Youth Work project and is now an independent Trust, working full-time with, often marginalised, teenagers who congregate in the environs of the church. The congregation remains strongly associated with the Project, through prayer and volunteer work, with representation on the Board of Trustees and with the provision of a home for the project in the 'Mary Slessor Centre' half of our city centre complex.
- We have close connections with **Faith in Community Dundee**, a community development organisation who work with faith communities across the city to develop local relevant responses to poverty.
- **CrossReach** run a weekly Café in our halls for those in recovery from addiction.
- Prior to the pandemic both congregations employed Community Outreach Workers and this is something that we would be keen to consider again in the future.
- We offer collection facilities for the **Dundee Foodbank Project**, which distributes much needed emergency food supplies to people in crisis across the city.

## FOURTH MARK OF MISSION

*To transform unjust structures of society,  
to challenge violence, injustice and oppression  
and work for peace and reconciliation.*

- We collaborate with many other statutory and third sector agencies and members of other Dundee churches in our **Connections Café**, which is open every Monday morning and aims to offer friendship and support, particularly by offering support in mastering the English language, to those who have moved to Dundee from other parts of the world, especially those who are refugees and asylum seekers. The Café is staffed by volunteers from the congregation and beyond and over recent months has welcomed guests from 17 nationalities.
- The congregation is part of **Mahabba** [<https://www.mahabbanetwork.com/>], a relational Network giving people of Muslim heritage the opportunity to find and follow Jesus. The Network's vision is to see ministry among people of Muslim heritage as a normal part of church life and this ethos supports our belief that missional evangelism goes hand in hand with fostering good relationships with incoming and established Muslim families and groups, which is at the heart of the work of our Connections Café.
- In recent years we have held ad hoc **Prayer Vigils** focusing on specific issues, for example areas of conflict across the world and the plight of refugees.
- Our **world mission** activity has included actively supporting individuals and organisations working in Pakistan, Nepal, Uganda and on Mercy Ships, through both prayer and financial support. In addition, we have longstanding links with Blythswood Care (annual Shoebox Appeal), Christian Aid, Tearfund, Vine Trust, and Embrace The Middle East.

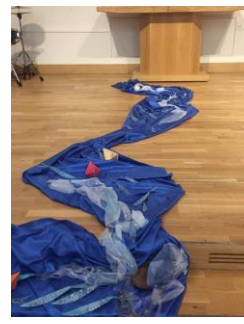


## FIFTH MARK OF MISSION

*To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation  
and to protect, care for and renew life on our planet.*

We are aware that we are called to be active stewards of God's creation, with an individual and collective responsibility to take care of our planet. We recognise the importance of responding to climate change and environmental issues with clarity and togetherness, being led by the Spirit through prayer, worship and consultation.

- Our **Eco-Group** leads the congregation in furthering an understanding of and commitment to addressing the risks to God's creation as a result of environmental issues and advising the Kirk Session on measures that will ensure our Church operates in an environmentally responsible manner.
- we are a member of **Eco-Congregation Scotland** [<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>], a movement of Scottish church congregations, of all denominations and none, committed to addressing environmental issues through their life and mission. We have recently been awarded an Eco-Congregation Silver Award in recognition of the congregation's efforts in this respect.
- We are liaising with the Eden Project Dundee team, Dundee City Council and other agencies to explore ways of contributing to and supporting the development of eco-friendly wildflower planting in the City Centre.
- We aim to be as 'paper-light' as possible and to use electronic means of communication whenever we can.
- We seek to be a Fairtrade Church, using sustainable products & following the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' principle in all our thinking.
- We have recently sold one of our manses because it was difficult and expensive to heat and will purchase a new manse that is more energy efficient and fit for 21<sup>st</sup> Century living. Our second manse is more modern and in good condition.





## APPENDIX 2: OUR MANSES

Our **Coldside Manse** is a modern property, in Abercorn Street, within a couple of miles of both Worship Centres.

Public transport links are excellent and both primary and secondary schools are within easy reach.

We have recently sold the 'old and cold' **Steeple Manse** and are in the process of purchasing a new-build property in the same locality as our Coldside Manse that will be comfortable and fuel efficient. It is expected to be ready in early Summer.



## APPENDIX 3: SOME KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- Our Parish population is approximately 16,300, including those in the former parish of St David's High Kirk, which was dissolved in 2023.
- Our congregational roll has 220 members and 17 adherents. In addition, there are a significant number of other folk who call Dundee Law their home church. We have a committed core of long-standing members and a good number of folk who join us for a shorter period of time before moving away from the city.
- Average Sunday Morning Service attendance is 70 at The Steeple Centre and 30 at Coldside Centre.
- Despite the size of our Parish, numbers of weddings and funerals are quite low.
- Our Kirk Session comprises 23 elders, approximately half from each legacy congregation.
- Working within the Church of Scotland Unitary Constitution we currently have two joint Session Clerks supported by a small Support Team, sharing the responsibilities of this role. We work within an operational structure with areas of service devolved to and coordinated by specific Teams, grouped within four Ministry Streams – Nurture, Mission, Fellowship and Support. This structure needs to be reviewed to ensure that it optimally serves our new circumstances.
- Our Buildings Management Team have a structured maintenance plan in place for all our buildings. The recent Presbytery Quinquennial Buildings Survey found both Centres to be generally sound.
- We are a committed congregation who give generously, and most giving is by regular standing order. Both of our legacy congregations have always met our full Ministry & Mission/Giving to Grow requirements. Our expenditure budget for 2025 has been agreed as £210,000. This is expected to be covered by congregational giving (65%), hall let income (20 %) and other sources (15%).
- In addition, our Parish Nursing Service and Connections Café are in receipt of Grant funding that makes them self-sustaining.



Dundee is an exciting and challenging city in which to live and serve. From major European trading port in the 16th century, world-leading industrial hub in the 19th century, to internationally acclaimed centre for academia, research and technological innovation in the 21st century, the City of Dundee has never been afraid to shift focus and move with the times. The demise of its traditional industrial heritage, centred on the jute industry, has left a legacy of social deprivation and lack of unskilled employment opportunities.

However, over the past 20 years, Dundee has successfully narrated its tale as the 'City of Discovery', a name sparked by the homecoming of the Dundee-built Royal Research Ship (RRS) Discovery - Captain Scott's Antarctic exploration vessel. The return of RRS Discovery in 1987 marked a pivotal point. It represented a time of change in the perception of Dundee from that of a decaying, post-industrial city into a modern cultural and economic centre. Dundee is now home to a cutting-edge life sciences research sector, a dynamic digital media industry and a vibrant arts and cultural scene. In recognition of this, in 2014 it was named the UK's first (and remains to be the only) UNESCO City of Design.

Through almost a billion pounds of investment, the Dundee Waterfront Project is transforming the city of Dundee into a world-class destination for visitors and businesses. The V&A Museum of Design has the most prominent position in this ambitious scheme and is situated only a few hundred yards from our Steeple Centre, and within our parish boundary. transforming perceptions of the city and providing new opportunities for outreach and mission for our congregation. Plans are now well advanced for Scotland's first 'Eden Project' to be developed in the city. This will further enhance the city's reputation as a major tourist destination.

Dundee has recently been voted the top city in Scotland (5<sup>th</sup> in the UK) to raise a family and is listed as the only UK city in the recently published '21 Places of the Future' report.

# DUNDEE LAW PARISH CHURCH

## APPLICATIONS FOR MINISTER A and/or MINISTER B POSTS

Informal inquiries can be made to our Interim Moderator, Rev. Tim Podger

Email: [TPodger@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:TPodger@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Tel: 07725 898859

Potential applicants wishing to visit our Church Centres may do so by contacting the Clerk to the Nominating Committee, Tom Ramsay or our Interim Moderator, Rev. Tim Podger to enable suitable arrangements to be made.

## How to Apply

Applications with full Curriculum Vitae should be lodged with the Clerk to the Nominating Committee. These should include statements as to why the applicant wishes to be considered for the post and what particular strengths they would bring to the post. Please also include the names and contact details of two referees from whom the Committee can obtain confidential references.

**Email applications are preferred to: [tomramsay@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:tomramsay@blueyonder.co.uk)**

**Postal applications should be marked 'Private and Confidential' and addressed to Mr Tom Ramsay, 6 Inchcape Rd, Broughty Ferry, Dundee. DD5 2LL**

**Tel: 079228 19097**