

# Adelaide Place Baptist Church

## Church Profile

### Introduction

Adelaide Place Baptist Church ([www.apbc.net](http://www.apbc.net)) is a fellowship of around 75 people, situated in the vibrant centre of Glasgow. We are constantly striving to apply our Christian faith in today's complex world.

We have a particular vision to serve the residents, workers and visitors to the city centre. To help us achieve this vision, Adelaides ([www.adelaides.co.uk](http://www.adelaides.co.uk)) is our city centre business ministry, located in the church building and comprising a guest house, children's nursery and meeting/event spaces.

We also reach out to the business community through Business in Glasgow ([www.businessinglasgow.net](http://www.businessinglasgow.net)), a joint venture with several other city churches, notably Renfield St Stephens Church of Scotland. BiG seeks to serve the business and offices community by enabling people within the city centre to meet, form networks and obtain advice and training on topical workplace issues.

We are now looking to extend this ministry by entering into partnership with Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland,

### History

APBC can trace its ancestry back to 1829, when the Rev James Paterson rented a small room in North Portland Street, Glasgow. From beginning as "a few men of nerve and capacity", a new church was built at Hope Street (where Central Station is today) in 1835. Growth in the mid 19th century meant that the church needed a larger building and the present building was opened in 1877.

Two defining moments have led to where APBC is in 2012: In the 1960s the city centre became depopulated with people dispersing to the suburbs, new towns and housing schemes. Despite this the church decided to stay, maintaining a city centre ministry. Then in the early 1990s the church grasped a long-term vision, borrowed over £660,000 and redeveloped the building, launching Adelaides in May 1995, comprising a guest house, nursery, cafe and auditorium.

Seventeen years after opening Adelaides, we are ready for another evolution in our ministry to the people who live, work or play in the city centre.

### Who are the church?

The church has a regular attendance of 40-60 people at Sunday services. The pastor is **Rev Jack Quinn** who has been with APBC since 1984.

The congregation are diverse, including young families, single people, students and retired people. Most of the congregation do not live in the city centre. Reflecting this geographical diversity, the church has three housegroups meeting in the City Centre, West End and Southside.

While there is a stable core of people, the church is also home to a more transient group who may work or study in the city for a short time and then move away again. One of our strengths is that we can form meaningful relationships with people even though they may only be with us for a short time.

The church has a congregational structure, voting democratically on issues according to the Baptist Union of Scotland Declaration of Principles ([www.scottishbaptist.org.uk/about-us](http://www.scottishbaptist.org.uk/about-us)). It is managed by a Deacons Court who are elected by and are responsible to the church congregation.

### Glasgow City Centre

Glasgow is one of the most vibrant cities in the UK, with energy and sophistication to match. APBC is situated in the centre of this great international city and we seek to reach out to people who work, live, visit or play within the city centre.

APBC commissioned a consultancy report from the Baptist Union in 2005-06. One of the aspects of this

consultancy was a review of the area around the church. The key findings were:

- 151,000 people work or study in the city centre; by contrast only 31,000 live there. (Less than 1,000 in our council ward)
- The majority of commuters travel 5-10 km to get to their work in the city centre, with most working in managerial, professional, administrative and sales posts.
- In addition to business, the city centre is also home to many arts and entertainment venues, including bars, restaurants, galleries, cinemas and clubs.

In 2010 Business In Glasgow conducted a [Survey of Living, Working and Spirituality in Glasgow City Centre](#) which gives much more detail on the life and spirituality of the city.

## Church activities

The core activities of the church are:

- Worship & teaching – a mix of contemporary and traditional styles, in a relatively informal setting.
- Housegroups – three autonomous groups meeting in the City Centre, West End and Southside.
- Prayer – monthly Sunday evening prayer meeting, along with prayer as part of each housegroup and special prayer events.
- Children's ministry – we use Scripture Union material and cater for babies up to teenagers.
- World Mission – support for and awareness of global mission and development.
- In addition, many members of the congregation are also involved in other activities in their local communities and several within [Glasgow City Mission](#).

## Vision

Our **Mission Statement** is:

*"To be faithful to Jesus Christ by being his disciplemakers, reaching out to all from our base in the city centre of Glasgow."*

Our **Aims for the Next Five Years** were agreed by the church in May 2011

### Our Members

- We want to be more welcoming to members new and old, and to change in whatever ways might be necessary to achieve that.
- We want to increase and strengthen our congregation by welcoming in new members, anticipating God will supply through them the gifts we need as a church, and by growing the gifts of existing members.
- We want to strengthen the housegroup network. Being a member of a housegroup should be a natural part of being a member of the church. We intend to support and release the housegroups in their own mission and ministries.

### Our Mission (or Outreach)

- We want to be an outward-looking church: we want to support, encourage and equip our members to share the Gospel with their friends, family and acquaintances to the furthestmost parts of the globe.
- We want to form better links with the business of Adelaides including the nursery – parents, staff and children – clients who uses the guest house and auditorium so that they will know people who love the Lord.

### Our Ministry (or Our Work)

- We want to support our church members in the various works they already do. These are our collective ministries as a church, because **we are** the church.

### Our Future

- We want to be ready when Rev Jack Quinn retires, not to have a vacancy.
- We want to nurture the children of the church in a way that is suitable to them. We want to make it clear to the up-and-coming teenagers that this is their church.
- We want to learn from our sister churches, not to be insular. We want to learn new things about outreach, belonging, and growth.

#### **Most of All**

- We want to follow God's leading, wherever it takes us. We want to be doing the work of Jesus in five years time better than we are now.

#### **Next steps**

The next step for our church in conjunction with a recently formed partnership with [Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland](#) is to:

- Release Jack Quinn half-time to work with Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland in its training, research and development.
- Call someone as Associate Pastor who will minister alongside Jack Quinn and also give half of their time to Chaplaincy work within the Adelaide's business, in partnership with Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland.

#### **Church Constitution**

- The exclusive authority and entire sufficiency of the Holy Scripture, in all matters of belief and duty.
- The doctrine of salvation by free grace, through faith, in the obedience and atonement of Jesus Christ, "God manifest in the flesh".
- Faith produced and maintained by the influence of the Holy Spirit, the third person in the blessed Trinity, who evidences its reality in all who possess it by the various fruits of godliness in life.
- The independent or congregational form of church government, which is understood to imply the residence in the church alone, as a body, of the right to choose their pastors, admit and exclude members, and transact the whole business belonging to the church.
- The practice of believer baptism only, in contradistinction to that of infant baptism.
- The practice of communion (the Lord's Supper) every Sunday.