

Adelaide Place Baptist Church

Church Profile

June 2007

Introduction

Adelaide Place Baptist Church (www.apbc.net) is a fellowship of around 100 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) is our city centre business ministry, comprising a guest house, children's nursery and meeting/event spaces.

We are now looking to reach out further to the business community around us, through extending the ministry of our Pastor, Jack Quinn, in partnership with other churches and Business in Glasgow (www.businessinglasgow.net).

A brief 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 2007:

- In the 1960s significant changes were happening in Glasgow, with the city centre being depopulated and people dispersing to the suburbs, new towns and housing schemes. The M8 motorway was built through the city only 500 m from the church building. The church was faced with declining membership and increased costs of the upkeep of a century-old, smoke-blackened building and considered various solutions – including moving out of the city altogether. But the church decided to stay, maintaining a city centre ministry.
- History effectively repeated itself in the early 1990s. Once again the church grasped a long-term vision, borrowed £600 000 and redeveloped the building, re-opening in May 1995 as Adelaides, comprising a guest house, childrens nursery, cafe and auditorium.

Twelve years after opening Adelaides, we are now 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 **Jack Quinn** who has been with APBC since 1984.

The congregation are diverse, including young families, single people, students and retired people. Most people do not live in the city centre but choose to worship at APBC for various reasons. 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 of people who may work or study in the city for a short time and then moves away again. We regard this as one of our strengths, in 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 and is managed by a Deacons Court who are elected by and are responsible to the Church.

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.
- 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.

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 groups meeting in the City Centre, West End and Southside.
- Prayer – monthly Sunday evening prayer meeting, along with prayer as part of each housegroup.
- Childrens' ministry – catering for around 15 children ranging from babies to teenagers.
- World Mission – support for and awareness of global mission and development, including quarterly Global Gathering to highlight global issues.
- Specialist groups – include the Book Group, Men's Group and others.

In addition, many members of the congregation are also involved in other activities in their local communities.

Extending our ministry

We try to reach out to others in the local community through two main ventures

- **Adelaides** (www.adelaides.co.uk) is our city centre business ministry, based in the church premises, comprising a guest house, children's nursery and meeting/event spaces. The business has been running since 1995 and means that the building is in use 24/7, serving parents, children, local groups and visitors.
- **Business in Glasgow** (BiG – www.businessinglasgow.net) is 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 adding value to individuals and teams in the workplace, enabling people within the city centre to meet, form networks and obtain advice and training on topical workplace issues.

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"

This is supported by our vision for our work as a body of believers, developed through a process of consideration, prayer and reflection on the church consultancy. We have developed an Action Plan to help us develop further in eight strategic areas:

- **Community** – To reflect the characteristics of Jesus Christ in all of our activities and dealings with each other and with others.
- **Mission** – To devote more of our corporate efforts to mission activity, reaching out with the gospel to others as a church; as individuals; and through others we support in their mission work.
- **Prayer** – To focus on praying together over all issues of shared concern, expectantly seeking God's answers to these prayers.
- **Worship** – To honour God through worship that expresses the diversity of experience that we share as a body of believers.
- **Teaching** – To deepen our spiritual understanding and develop our ability to apply God's word in the wider world in which we live.
- **Fellowship** – To express God's love for us through our actions towards each other, within a community that is honest, open and loving, welcoming those that visit with us for any length of time.
- **Leadership** – To encourage and support our leaders as they seek to act in God's will.
- **Organisation** – To encourage all members of the fellowship to use their God-given gifts and talents in all of our areas of activity.

The vision is supported by an Action Plan comprising concrete steps that we can take to develop in each of these areas.

Next steps

The next steps for our church are to:

- Release Jack Quinn half-time to build a business ministry in Glasgow city centre, in partnership with other churches, through Business in Glasgow.
- Implement the church's Action Plan, currently being drafted by the Deacons.