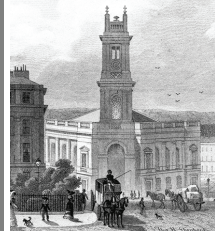




Save St Stephen's for the Community



For over 20 years St Stephen's church has been used as a centre for the community but has now been put up for sale with an asking price of offers over £500,000.

Stockbridge Parish Church, which has responsibility for St Stephen's, has decided they no longer want to invest in this very important Edinburgh landmark. The Kirk Session has recommended that it should be kept in community use. With very little notice all the organisations that use St Stephen's have had to find somewhere else to meet and the staff have been made redundant.

St Stephen's has had many community uses including

- A Fringe venue since 1966
- Polling station for Parliamentary and local elections
- Edinburgh Academy concerts, end of term services, prize giving's and examinations
- Group meetings and training sessions for local doctors surgeries
- Local resident associations meetings and committees
- Polish Community in Edinburgh counselling and self-help groups
- Alcoholics Anonymous group meetings
- Mother and toddler group sessions
- Stockbridge Primary School events
- Children's playgroups sessions
- After school clubs
- Youth groups and young people's organisations
- Dance, yoga, Tai Chi and aerobics classes
- Keep fit group sessions
- Jitsu club
- Rehearsal space for amateur drama groups
- Concerts, organ recitals, drama, poetry and book readings
- Wedding receptions
- Family occasions/celebrations, birthday, anniversary, engagement
- Graduation parties
- Burns suppers and ceilidhs

The income from all these various constituencies has covered maintenance and staff costs for many years, and with a little injection of extra energy and lateral thinking St Stephen's could grow to become a very significant New Town venue, both for the community and for users from further afield.

A small group of interested persons has got together with a view to saving the church for the community's use and it has been suggested that a trust be established for this purpose, the proposed name being The St Stephen's Playfair Trust.

The St Stephen's Centre is situated right on the border of the New Town and Stockbridge Wards. To keep the iconic building for the use of the community we now need to know the extent of community support.

We invite you to a public meeting on Thursday 6 February at 7pm at St Stephen's.

Presentation and discussion, followed by refreshments

Chaired by Dr James Simpson OBE, who has led the steering group

st.stephensplayfairtrust@outlook.com

Follow us on Twitter - [St Stephen's@StSPTrust](#)

St Stephens Playfair Trust, c/o St Stephens Church, St Stephen Street, Edinburgh, EH3 5AB