
Who: Steve Kneale has spent the last 12 years serving as pastor of Oldham Bethel Church in one of the most deprived wards in the country. He served in a predominantly South Asian area of Oldham reaching Pakistani & Bangladeshi Muslims whilst leading a multicultural church and serving the local indigenous working-class population.

Steve holds a BA in History & Politics from Liverpool University, a PGCE in Religious Studies and Philosophy from Edge Hill University and an MA in Theology from University of Wales. He writes a well-known daily blog, Building Jerusalem, where he also hosted a complementary podcast, and has authored several books. He has been a regular columnist for the Evangelicals Now newspaper, written for a variety of Christian publications and has spoken around the country on the various topics on which he has written.

What: Medhurst Ministries exists to strengthen and support gospel-centred churches serving in the most deprived and under-resourced places in the UK. We seek to encourage pastors, equip leaders, and enable sustainable, healthy churches that bring the hope of Christ to communities most in need. We aim to see the gospel take root in overlooked and under-resourced areas through partnerships, training, and shared resources.

Steve will serve as Director of Communications and Church Partnerships. He will be a key member of the Medhurst Ministries leadership team, working to communicate the ministry's vision, deepen relationships, build strategic partnerships and provide pastoral care and training for Medhurst Churches. Steve will shape how Medhurst Ministries communicates across all platforms while developing and maintaining relationships with churches, partners, and supporters. He will also be responsible for establishing and developing a North of England hub for the Ragged School of Theology offering theological training over a three-year program both in person and online. This role includes designing and growing the program, fostering local partnerships, and creating meaningful learning opportunities for participants across the region. He is ideally suited to the role as someone with a heart for gospel ministry, good communication skills, a track-record in developing and maintaining a strong support base, experience of training people from and for ministry in deprived communities as well as first-hand experience of the particular pressures of daily life and pastoral ministry in such contexts.

Why: To support our growing network of churches, there is a need for more effective communication, coordinated partnerships, consistent relational support and further training opportunities. To meet this need, we are recruiting a Director of Communications and Church Partnerships. This role is central to the next phase of our development and will enable us to:

- Communicate effectively and increase visibility, ensuring that churches in hard places receive timely access to resources, training and pastoral support.
- Strengthen and expand partnerships with churches, denominations and organisations to increase our capacity to support, help and revitalise churches in areas of deprivation.
- Deepen relationships and improve pastoral support across our network, reducing isolation in ministry and increasing ministry retention in challenging contexts.
- To strategically manage growth while ensuring the ministry and network expand with cohesion.
- To ensure responsible management and stewardship of new opportunities.
- To develop a North of England hub for the Ragged School of Theology.

This strategic appointment is not an administrative addition but an essential investment in our ability to deliver our charitable objectives sustainably and at scale. Expanding our team this way will enable Medhurst Ministries to deepen its impact among underserved communities, strengthen the existing churches we support, allow us to further expand our network and ensure that our resources are used as effectively as possible. Funding for this role will directly enhance the capacity, reach and long-term stability of gospel ministry in some of the UK's hardest places.

Cost: We are seeking £161,000 total to secure Steve for an initial three-years beginning in September 2026 (see budget below).

Director of Communications & Church Partnerships Budget

Yearly Cost to Employer

Items	Cost	Total
Salary	£37,856	£37,856
Tax, NI, Pension, etc	£7,039.86	£44,895.86
Management Costs	£3,785.60	£48,681.46
Expenses	£5,000.00	£53,681.46
Total:		£53,681.46

Funding Targets

One Year	Two Years	Three Years
£53,681.46	£107,362.92	£161,044.38

How to support

If you would like to give one off or regular gifts to the work of Steve Kneale, you can do this directly by bank payment, standing order or direct debit through the Medhurst Business account.

NatWest Bank
Account Code: 79847854
Sort Code:51-70-17

Please Reference your payment "Steve Kneale" and contact Jude Bronn via Jude@medhurstministries.org for a gift aid form.

You can also give one off and regular gifts via our trusted partner Stewardship by following the link or using the QR Code.

http://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/Steve_Kneale

