

## Steve and Rosie Kennedy

Location: **Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA**

Mission: **Outreach and teams ministry**



Many are the plans in the mind of a man,  
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

Proverbs 19:21

Much of the last two months has been focussed on Christmas celebrations. Even excluding the Advent season, our Christmas celebrations in church ran from 18th December to 7th January!

On 18th December, CCF held its first Multilingual Carol Service, in the format of Nine Lessons and Carols. We wanted to reflect the breadth of languages and cultures that make up the life and ministry of Tóköz and Cluj Christian Fellowship. Scriptures were read in English, Hungarian, Romanian, Arabic, Ukrainian, French and German. We sang carols and worship songs in English, Hungarian and Romanian, and were treated to a Ukrainian Carol by a 10 year-old girl, Carolina, accompanied by Alyona. The service culminated with us singing Joy to the Word and O Come All Ye Faithful simultaneously in all four languages! The text of the service was provided in booklets in English, Hungarian, Romanian or Ukrainian, so everyone could follow along. We were delighted that the service reflected Hungarian, Romanian and International communities, and especially the Ukrainian community and our international students. In the Hungarian community, Christmas Eve is perhaps a bigger celebration than Christmas Day, and Tóköz holds a family-focussed service of worship, involving children and young people. This year, we invited the Ukrainian community, and a group of the children sang traditional songs in traditional dress. Carolina and Alyona performed again!

Our final Christmas celebration was on 7th January -



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## FEBRUARY 2023

with strong roots in the Russian Orthodox Church, this is the traditional date for many Ukrainians to celebrate Christmas. We were honoured to be invited to their Christmas party, held in Tóköz - to share with them and experience some of their culture and food, and to deepen and develop friendships.

Over the Advent and Christmas period, Steve preached at services in the Hungarian congregation of Tóköz, helped out with music, and with Communion on Christmas Day. Rosie enjoyed singing in the Hungarian Choir, and had the opportunity to share the Christmas Story in the Hungarian Kindergarten. She also produced a special Christmas Story programme for the Ukrainian children in the After-Schools Club.

In amongst all of this, the Christmas holidays gave us lots of time to welcome and host friends in our home, including some of the International students who joined us on Christmas Day.

As we have embarked on the new calendar year, we have spent some time meeting with the CCF community to plan and vision the coming year, with a particular emphasis on outreach and mission. While we continue to grow our sense of community, worship, discipleship and fellowship as a gathered church, we also want to keep focus on our calling as a scattered church, during the week: how we can serve and reach the city with the Good News of Jesus Christ?

### Prayer Points

- Praise God for the Multilingual Carol Service on Sunday 18th December, and other opportunities to serve over Christmas
- Praise God for opportunities to meet up with the International Students over the Christmas period. (Plans for the City Tour are on hold due to University students' exams).
- Pray for the ongoing support and work within the Ukrainian community
- Pray for ongoing language study.