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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

April 2006

www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk

A THOUGHT

Easter day, is of course, the day when we as Christians remember and celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. A resurrection that has not only revolutionised the world, but also revolutionised our lives as individuals.

Easter is therefore for us, a time of joy and thanksgiving, a time of confidence.

JOY because the darkness within our lives has turned to enlightenment. Our lethargy and apathy have been replaced with a new alertness and awareness. Guilt has been replaced with freedom, through forgiveness and renewal. Is it any wonder then, that through the sacrifice of Calvary and the victory of Easter morning, our hearts are indeed filled with joy.

THANKSGIVING for the many and the varied expressions of God's love that have come flooding into our lives in just about every circumstance of our lives – and again, all made possible through Calvary and the empty tomb.

CONFIDENCE. Part of the Easter message is that a new and living way has now been opened up bringing us into the nearer presence of our Father. Open access into the very presence of our Lord, made possible through the sacrificial work of Christ. It is therefore, with confidence, that we can now approach the throne of grace. We have been *ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven*. Our confidence is based on the living Christ and on his work and mediation before the Father.

Easter a time for joy and thanksgiving and confidence.

Bob Gemmell,
Pastoral Assistant.

THE PULPIT

April	2nd	Rev. Robert Gemmell
	9th	Rev. Robert Gemmell
	16th	Rev. Alan Berry (Easter Sunday)
	23rd	Rev. Jim Barclay
	30th	a.m. Mr Ian Hall (Gideon's)
		p.m. Mr Johnathan Slater (Faith Mission)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April	13th	Outreach Committee	7.30 p.m.
	20th	Management Committee	7 p.m.

EASTER ACTIVITIES

April	14th	10.00 a.m.	Good Friday 'March of Witness'
		7.00 p.m.	Good Friday service with Communion -- Rev Robert Gemmell
	16th	9.00 a.m.	Easter Morning Breakfast
		11.00 a.m.	Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Easter Praise Service

Easter leaflets are available for distribution both among relatives, friends & neighbours and in districts around the church. Packets of ten for the former purpose are on the half landing and for the wider distribution. Please see Rowland Bell, Jim Sutherland or Ewan Sinclair if you can help.

LYNNE BROWN

Our Link Missionary, with whom we have maintained contact over the past two years, comes home from Angola on Home Assignment at the beginning of May. Among the engagements which have been arranged for her are:

May	13th	7.30 p.m.	Welcome Gathering in South Leith Baptist Church
	17th	7.30 p.m.	Portobello Baptist Church

We look forward to meeting Lynne and putting a face to a name; she too looks forward to meeting us. Please set aside the Wednesday, in particular, to extend a warm welcome to this young woman serving the Lord in a country which has been war torn for many years.

BMS WORLD MISSION "BOX OPENING"

The half-yearly 'box opening' will take place on Sunday 23rd April when the congregation is invited to bring along their globes, boxes, gift envelopes (or whatever) with contributions to the work of B.M.S. which is an ever expanding service of world mission. While other missionary societies can appeal to a much wider constituency, B.M.S. is largely dependant on the giving from within Baptist churches. As a church we have responded generously in the past and the expectation is that we will do so again on this occasion. Let us then having "freely received, freely give."

EMAIL FROM JANICE (OM Missionary)

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers! I am now a proud house renter in Bangkok. My friends from the prison ministry helped me sign the contract last Sunday. We signed for one year with options to continue for 3 years at the same rent.



The landlady left 2 double beds and a few bits of furniture and I've slowly been adding needed bits and pieces.

Dave and Dawn, my new leaders, joined me for a few days to help me get started. I am alone in the house right now but Cathy from the Phillipines plans to join me in May. The house will also house our office. Dave helped me pick out a computer, I'm just waiting on delivery of the desk and chair. The desk this week, the chair in two more.

I've already had the prison ministry cell group (no pun intended) over for the Thursday night bible study and prayer. It reminds me of OM, we had our meetings on Thursdays too. Yesterday two friends from Israel, who are speaking in churches here, also came over with some Thai believers. What a blessing that the house is being used already.



The next big thing that needs prayer is getting the phone and email connected. Then I'll be able to email from home. Please also pray that we can work out the registration of the organization and other details so I can get a long term visa.

I've attached some photos. The house has two floors, two bedrooms, a bathroom/shower upstairs, an L-shaped living room/ dining room, a small cooking area and a spare room with bathroom/shower downstairs. It's on a quiet street and the two middle aged ladies across the street speak English. Everyone is friendly. It's a big blessing.

Love Janice

AN EASTER HYMN

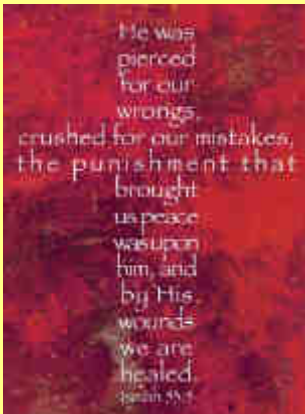
Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!
Blessèd morn of life and light!
Lo, the grave is rent asunder,
Death is conquered through His might.

*Christ is risen! Hallelujah!
Gladness fills the world today;
From the tomb that could not hold Him,
See, the stone is rolled away!*

Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!
Friends of Jesus, dry your tears;
Through the veil of gloom and darkness,
Lo, the Son of God appears!

Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!
He hath risen, as He said;
He is now the King of glory,
And our great exalted Head.

Words written by Fanny Crosby



SHOP WINDOWS

On a regular basis scripture posters are placed in the old C.A.B. Windows to offer a silent witness to the passing public of Portobello

-- please read them and pray for their effectiveness.