



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

*Messenger*

February 2006

[www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk](http://www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk)

## A THOUGHT

Our new year visit to Colonsay was quite eventful on this occasion. The ferry crossings both to and from the island were very smooth, you were hardly aware of even being on a ferry, on the edge of the Atlantic.

Stuart and Irene, two of our friends from the Barnton Church, were once again with us. They had intended coming back on the Monday, as they both had business appointments on the Tuesday. However, by Monday, the weather had taken a turn for the worse and the calm that we had enjoyed on the Friday was replaced with a howling gale. The Monday ferry set out from Oban, but had to turn back after about an hour, once it reached the open sea. Next ferry – Wednesday, the day we were planning to return to the mainland.

The gales abated slightly on the Tuesday but returned with full force Tuesday over-night into Wednesday morning. We were certainly wondering if we would get off the island before the following week-end. However, the ferry eventually did make the pier and by the time we set off, something of a calm had been restored – thankfully.

As I mentioned the other Sunday morning, the cancellation of the Monday ferry resulted in the island shop running out of bread and milk as well as a few other items.

This set of circumstances reminds us once again, of how dependent island life is on the weather and the life line that the ferry provides to the mainland.

It also surely provides us with a timely reminder of our utter dependence on the gracious hand of the Lord for our daily provision and for the continuing protection he offers.

Bob Gemmell,  
Pastoral Assistant.

## THE PULPIT

February	5th	Rev. Alan Berry
	12th	Rev. Robert Gemmell
	19th	Rev. Alan Berry
	26th	Rev. Robert Gemmell
March	5th	Rev. Jim Barclay

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February	9th	Outreach Committee	7.30 p.m.
	16th	Management Committee	7 p.m.
	22nd	Annual Church Meeting	7 p.m.

**The Women's Own has restarted this month,  
all ladies are welcome to attend.**

## UNKNOWN TALENT

The following poems were recited at the Christmas Meeting of the Women's Own. Standing up, and without one word of prompting, the first two poems were recited. The third poem has subsequently been provided. Hearty congratulations go to Mrs Cathie Whittaker -- well done to a 94 year old!

### On the Wings of Prayer

Just close your eyes and open your heart  
and feel your worries and cares depart  
just yield yourself to the Father above  
and let Him hold you secure in His love  
for life on earth grows more involved  
with endless problems  
that can't be solved --  
But God only asks us to do our best  
then He will "take over"  
and finish the rest --  
So when you are tired,  
discouraged and blue,  
there's always one door that is open for you --  
and that is the door  
to the 'House of Prayer'  
and you'll find God waiting  
to meet you there.  
For the 'House of Prayer' is no farther away  
than the quiet spot where  
you kneel and pray --  
and the heart is a temple when God is there  
as we place ourselves in His loving care  
He hears every prayer,  
and answers each one.  
When we pray in His name  
"Thy will be done", --  
and the burdens that seemed  
too heavy to bear  
are lifted away on "the Wings of Prayer."

This second poem was written in my autograph book in 1924 by a boy in my school class in Co. Durham. Both of us aged 13. I still remember his name and if I read anything over 2 or 3 times I can remember it. No TV in those days, Pop Stars never heard of, just the done thing was to have an autograph book.

I can't see a boy of 13 nowadays writing such a poem, of course nearly every child attended Sunday School or Bible Class in my young days.  
(Cathie comments: 'changed days', Jack)

We may write our name in albums,  
we may trace them in the sand,  
we may chisel them in marble,  
with a firm and skilful hand,  
but the pages soon are sullied,  
and inscriptions fade away,  
all our monuments will crumble,  
like all earthly hopes decay,  
but dear friend, there is an album,  
full of pages, snowy white,  
where no name is written,  
but what is pure and bright,  
in that Book of Books,  
"God's Album",  
may your name be penned with care  
and may all who hear have written  
find their name enrolled there.

(written by Leonard Homefield,  
aged 13 in 1924, in my school class)

### GOD HEARS

Often we pause and wonder  
when we kneel down to pray --  
Can God really hear  
the prayers that we say --  
But if we keep praying  
and talking to Him,  
He'll brighten the soul  
that was clouded and dim,

## GOD HEARS (Cont'd)

for though we feel helpless  
and alone when we start,  
our prayer is the key  
that opens the heart,  
and as our heart opens  
the dear Lord comes in  
and the prayer that we felt  
we could never begin  
is so easy to say  
for the Lord understands  
and gives us new strength  
by the touch of His hands.

Cathie Whittaker

## P.E.P.E. (Programa Educacional Pre Escolar) PROGRESS REPORT

At the moment I am in week 2 of our 4 week intensive course for PEPE teachers. I have 12 students representing 3 churches and I hope PEPE's will open in these churches in February. The students are enthusiastic and I am enjoying getting to know them and see their gifts and abilities. We are also looking at re-opening last years PEPE's in line with the new school year, so there is plenty to keep me busy at the moment.

The training in Benguela went well and we expect to open 3 PEPE's there this coming year. In February I am planning to run a training course in Uige and the churches in Cabinda would like training in September. Between now and then I shall be back in Bonnie Scotland on Home Assignment for a few months and am looking forward to meeting up with you. Thanks for all your prayers. Please pray for the training course and students, and pray for the church in Angola that we would grow in His word and in desire to reach others for Him.

Lynne Brown

## OUTREACH

An Outreach Committee has recently been set up consisting of Rowland Bell, Ewan Sinclair and Jim Sutherland. They held their first meeting on the 12th January.

The subject of Outreach will be on the Agenda for the Annual Church Meeting in February, but in the meantime we would like to raise the profile of outreach in both our church and personal lives. In the past few years the church has had minimal outreach, restricted to some leaflet distribution at Easter and Christmas.

The Committee are of the opinion that the church has to reach out more into the community around the church premises, in the vicinity of where the members live and in the homes of the members and their families.

The responsibility for outreach rests clearly with each member. We are called by our Lord, in Matthew Ch 28 v 19 to witness for Him. Are we doing this in our daily lives? Do we believe that we have such a wonderful story of grace and mercy from God that leads to salvation through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, that we should tell it whenever we can. Do we faithfully pray to God for those of our family who are outside Christ? Do we seek opportunities with our friends and neighbours to engage in spiritual conversation? Do we seek God's direction on outreach for His church in Portobello?

May we as members, adherents and attendees recognise the necessity of outreach in our church and personal lives and change our thinking and actions if necessary.

Jim Sutherland

## OUTWITTED

Following Rev Alan Berry's quote during one of his sermons, Jack Livingstone found the complete verse, as follows:

He drew a circle that shut me out -  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle that took him in.

Edwin Markham (1852 - 1940)  
[Provided by Jack Livingstone]