



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

March 2006

www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk

A THOUGHT

The period of Lent has traditionally been a period of self-examination, penitence and preparation for Holy Week and Easter. In our worship we can follow the story of Jesus and the approach to Jerusalem. In prayer we can follow Jesus' story and pledge our commitment afresh.

What I would like to do is to share a few verses from Scripture and some prayers from Gathering For Worship.

Matthew Ch16 vv24-26. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget self, carry his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his own life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Will a person gain anything if he wins the whole world but loses his soul? Of course not! There is nothing he can give to regain his life."

CONFESSION

Lord we remember the depth of your love for us,
And we repent of our half hearted discipleship.

We have been called to deny ourselves:

Forgive us for putting self interest- before the interest of your Kingdom;
Forgive us that Christ's Lordship in our hearts has been challenged by our ambition, our appetites, our desires and our needs.

Forgive us for the times when self-interest hindered our care for others.

Lord we have been called to carry a cross:

Forgive us for complaining when it has weighed heavily upon us;
Forgive us that, having received so much, we sacrifice so little
Forgive us for the limits that we have set to Christian love;
Forgive us that we have settled for mediocrity,
Resisting the fire and passion of Christ's love upon the cross.

INTERCESSION

Lord of Lent, come to your Church and ask us your hard questions.

Are we faithfully proclaiming your gospel?

Are we demonstrating in our life together the justice of your kingdom?

Have we welcomed the weak and given prominence to the poor?

Come to your Church to spring clean our ways of life,
our structures and our priorities.

Point out to us the cobwebs, the dirt, the extravagance and the waste.

Create in us a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within us.

May this period of Lent be a period of reflection and renewal for each one of us.

Bob Gemmell,
Pastoral Assistant.

B.M.S. WORLD MISSION STAMPS

Mrs Olive Nicol deals with stamps which are mostly left on the half-landing. She trims them where necessary and sends them to B.M.S. (Didcot). She would be pleased if all the congregation took the trouble to remove stamps from their envelopes (a margin of 1/4" round the stamps would be helpful) and let her have them. Olive has received the under-noted letter from B.M.S. which reflects quite an effort on our part. Thanks to Olive and all who have contributed.



Dear Friend,

Many thanks for supporting the B.M.S. Stamp Bureau with donations during the year ended 31 October 2005. Our records show that we received from you, or possibly others in your church, around 1.1 kilograms or approximately 7700 stamps, not to mention any coins or cards. We are very grateful for these -- your efforts contributed to an excellent total of £10,500 raised for the work of B.M.S. World Mission. This involved 1500 parcels weighing one and a half tonnes and about 9.1 million stamps. Sales of stamps raised £9,800 with coins, cards and other items making up the balance.

May 2006 bring you much grace and peace!

*David McLellan
B.M.S. Stamp Bureau*

B.M.S. LINK MISSIONARY (LYNNE BROWN)



Lynne Brown comes on Home Assignment from Angola in May. Arrangements are ongoing for her to visit her link churches. This will be something to look forward to so that, for many, we will be able to put a face to the name.

Miss Doreen Smith, South Leith Baptist Church, has been appointed Link Churches Contact in succession to Mr Alex Marshall who has resigned.

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rev. Ruth Innes has been appointed Priest in charge at St. Mark's and was licensed on Tuesday 28 February. Our church was represented.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE BAXTER

George Baxter passed into the presence of his Lord on Wednesday evening the 8 February 2006 at 7.45 p.m. He had celebrated his 95th birthday on the Tuesday. His health had been failing for some time. He came to church about 4 weeks ago but found that he could not climb the stairs and decided to go home. Rowland Bell made him a cup of tea and stayed with him.

George was late in life in coming to faith. His conversion took place in the Tabernacle Baptist Church (Independent) in Leith. He maintained contact with the American Minister for some years after he left. George became a member of Portobello Baptist Church in 1991 on profession of faith. He was, on his own admission, something of a rough diamond whose life was transformed, despite some docker's rough edges, by the Lord. He spoke in his prayers as a man would converse with his friend. He used to tell me of how he would say "Lord this is George" and how God would make himself known to him. George sat with me in Church and sometimes he would grumble if the Service was a bit long but at the end he would quietly pray asking God to forgive him.

He loved to sing and would entertain the folks in the Monday Centre each week. Among other places he visited he would accompany Mr Bathgate of the Adelphi Mission to sing at meetings; he visited the Tor on occasions with the Minister and groups from the Church. He belonged to a secular group, The Travellers, which visited Old Folks Homes. Among his repertoire he always included "Count Your Blessings" and "How Great Thou Art". Another favourite was "One Day At A Time Dear Jesus".

Despite a hard upbringing he displayed in his life admirable qualities of responsibility and loyalty and care. He left school early to help sustain the home; he always ensured that his wife had housekeeping money; he spoke affectionately of Merle; he served in the Forces in the Second World War and fought in the Burma Campaign with distinction.

He worked as a Docker in Leith Docks during which time he worked hard and lived hard. Despite his Headmaster saying he could leave school early for he would not be any use anyway he showed himself not to be wanting in talents. He produced booklets of the story of his working life and was gifted in compiling verse. In the Church he looked after the Hall and polished the stairs and floors of the Church for which he was well commended.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE BAXTER (Cont'd)

George Baxter had a full life, latterly well spent, and on Wednesday evening he went to be with his Lord. We thank God for every remembrance of George.

We extend our sympathy to Merle and the other members of the family.

Jack Spiers
Church Secretary

OM MISSIONARY -- JANICE VOTH

Recently we received an email, via Dorothe Kaufmann, from Janice Voth. Janice and Sharon shared with us, one Wednesday evening back in November, their work as missionaries in Israel.

Dear Friends,

Good news from the whirlwind! I'm busy, busy, busy with only one week to go till I fly to Bangkok on February 27. But I'm seeing God's hand moving to help me in so many ways. Thanks for your prayers.

I sold my car! I am so thankful it worked out so smoothly. The man gave me what I asked for without bargaining. He paid me cash. Wow! I sold the car to a religious Jewish family from Jerusalem. The man said he gave me what I asked because I had an honest face. I thanked him and told him I was a Christian. We had to meet a few times to get everything ironed out. He said Canadians must be the most patient people in the world. I don't think that's true, at least I'm not, but I'm glad I could be a good testimony.

My congregation had a farewell dinner for me during which I showed them some pictures from Thailand and they prayed for me.

I also did a training movie for the new age festivals. It will be available on DVD for people to watch before going to evangelize at the festivals. I shared about the different things like the Shiva temple etc. In English and Hebrew. They will edit in pictures of the various things. I wasn't nervous at all, God really helped me focus.

OM MISSIONARY -- JANICE VOTH (Cont'd)

I have had many wonderful visits with dear friends and fellow believers in Jerusalem, Eilat and Haifa. I must admit I've shed a few tears but I know that this is the right time and the right move. Everyone is encouraging me in this move.

Please remember me in prayer,

Love,

Janice.

THE PULPIT

March	5th	Rev. Jim Barclay
	12th	Rev. Robert Gemmell
	19th	Rev. Alan Berry
	26th	Rev. Alan Berry
April	2nd	Rev. Robert Gemmell

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March	9th	Outreach Committee	7.30 p.m.
	16th	Management Committee	7 p.m.

CLOCK CHANGES

On Sunday March 27 2005, Daylight Saving Time begins. Remember the saying 'Spring Forward, Fall Back' -- so put your clocks forward.

