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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

April 2007

www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk

A THOUGHT

For the disciples of Jesus, that first glorious Easter Sunday morning, must have, eventually, seemed to them, to have been the last piece of the curious jigsaw coming together.

Almost throughout the days of his earthly ministry, Jesus had been speaking to the disciples, preparing them for the events of that week-end. They, at times, had been slow to understand, at times, very reluctant to even think about the consequences of his teaching, the possibility of their Lord's sacrifice and death.

And when talk became reality, despite his teaching, they didn't seem in any way prepared for it. His death must have come as a shock. And no doubt they went through the same grieving process that we all do, at the time of loss.

It must have seemed that it was the darkest of valleys, that they were passing through, with no apparent light at the end of their tunnel – and no hope to dispel their grief and despair.

But Easter changed all that. The news filtered through, that Jesus had risen from the dead. All that he had told them over the road and the miles of the journey, all that he had taught them, began to make sense – the pieces of the jigsaw began to fit into place. Despair turned to triumph – death to life.

But, isn't this the effect that the Resurrection has on all of us. A new day and a new beginning.

Jesus Christ has risen to-day, hallelujah.

Robert Gemmell,
Pastoral Assistant.

THE PULPIT

April	1st	Rev. Alan Berry PALM SUNDAY
	8th	Rev. Robert Gemmell EASTER SUNDAY
	15th	Rev. Alan Montgomery
	22nd	Rev. James King, Bolton
	29th	Rev. Alan Berry
May	6th	Rev. Robert Gemmell



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April	6th	7.00 p.m.	Good Friday Service
	19th	7.00 p.m.	Management Committee
	26th	7.00 p.m.	Church Meeting
May	13th	6.30 p.m.	Christian Aid Dedication Service

EASTER EVENTS

A Good Friday service, including Communion, will be held on Friday 6 April commencing at 7 p.m.

On Easter Sunday, 8 April, a celebration of the risen Christ will commence at 9 a.m. with breakfast followed by a short time of praise and meditation.

The morning service at 11 a.m. will be a service of worship and praise. In the evening, at 6.30 p.m. the service will be given over to Easter praise.

It is hoped that this great event in the Christian calendar will be fully supported, come and bring others.

“HE IS NOT HERE, HE IS RISEN!”

LINK MISSIONARY NEWS UPDATE

Just a quick up date to let you know what is happening here.

All the PEPEs we were expecting are up and running now with 396 children registered for this year. Some groups still have space for a few more children. It's great to be able to help these children and Pastors and members are getting more involved. Please pray for the pastors, missionary educators and the children, that there would be a continued positive spirit and desire to serve. Pray especially for the PEPE at Hoji-Ya-Henda. One of their cell groups ran PEPE last year and have 52 children this year. They are also running a PEPE at the church but have been having some problems. Pray we can find a solution to these difficulties.

This last week I have been meeting with Pastors from different provinces to talk about PEPE. Now I have to plan when to go and visit, met local authorities and set dates for training if the churches agree. I really need to get accommodation sorted out soon as once I start travelling I won't have much time in Luanda to look for a place. I was so disappointed yesterday. We went to look at a flat on Tuesday and it would have been a good place but in the day it took to contact BMS to get the go ahead and no e-mail line with power off, the flat had gone when I phoned to try to rent it yesterday. There are few places, they tend to be small, very expensive and go like hot cakes. Pray for somewhere soon so I can get the rest of the training and visits planned.

I had a good meeting with a member of a fundraising group last week and she was taking my request for funding for snacks to the committee on Monday. Pray there would be a positive outcome from this.

This week we have been having some farewell dos for Mary. She leaves on 14th April. We had a nice lunch with friends yesterday and are having the OM team over on Friday evening for a meal. Pray for Mary as she packs up and says goodbyes. She will be back in November for three months then officially retires.

We are preparing for Easter and we have all to take palm branches to church on Sunday, a lot easier to get out here than back in Britain. I'm sure our landlord won't mind me lopping one off the tree in the yard. The church will look lovely. One of the Pastors said something that I had never thought of before a few months ago. I always thought the crown of thorns was a way to ridicule Jesus and make him suffer even more. I had never made the connection of the symbolism of the thorns. When Adam and Eve

BMS WORLD MISSION “BOX OPENING”

The “BMS Box Opening” will take place on 29 April. On that Sunday please bring collection boxes, globes, gift envelopes or whatever collecting means used. Gift Aid subscribers should show freewill offering numbers so that 28p in the pound can be claimed from the Inland Revenue.

Jack Spiers

MR CYRIL GEE

At the recent election of the Management Committee, Cyril Gee opted not to stand for election. This brought to an end a period of 42 years when he served the church as a Deacon/ Management Committee member. He served under five Ministers.

As a church we acknowledge his service; faithful in duties, not least at the Communion Table; conducting services on occasions; representing the church on the Edinburgh & Lothian Baptist Association and other occasions. Of a quiet nature, he was guided by his beliefs.

Cyril was an accredited Lay Preacher of the Congregational Church in his home town. On becoming convinced of Believers Baptism he was baptised and became a member of this church on 1 December 1963. Throughout his service he has been supported by his wife Jean.

We thank Cyril for his service to the church and wish him God’s rich blessing in the days to come.

Jack Spiers

EASTER OUTREACH

A small group will be handing out Easter tracts on the Portobello High Street outside the church on Saturday 7 April. If you wish to help, please speak to either Alistair or Ewan.



MY KING, DO YOU KNOW HIM?

The Bible says my King is a seven way King. He's the King of the Jews - that's a racial King; He's the King of Israel - that's a national King; He's the King of Righteousness, He's the King of the ages, He's the King of Heaven, He's the King of Glory, He's the King of Kings and He's the Lord of Lords!

He's my King, I wonder - do you know Him?

David said the Heaven's declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork. My King is a sovereign King. No means of measure can define His limitless love, no far seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of His shore-less supply, no barrier can hinder Him from pouring out His blessings. He's enduringly strong, He's entirely sincere, He's eternally steadfast, He's immortally graceful, He's imperially powerful, He's impartially merciful.

Do you know Him?

He's the greatest phenomenon that has ever crossed the horizon of this world! He's God's son, He's the sinners Saviour, He's the centrepiece of civilization, He stands in the solitude of Himself, He's august and He's unique! He's unparalleled, He's unprecedented, He's the loftiest idea in literature, He's the highest personality in philosophy, He's the supreme problem in higher criticism, He's the fundamental doctrine of true theology, He's the miracle of the age, He is - yes He is, He is the superlative of everything good that you choose to call Him, He's the only one who qualified to be an all sufficient Saviour;

Do you know Him?

He supplies strength for the weak, He's available for the tempted and the tried, He sympathizes and He saves, He strengthens and sustains, He guards and He guides, He heals the sick, He cleansed the lepers, He forgives sinners, He discharges debtors, He delivers the captives, He defends the feeble, He blesses the young, He serves the unfortunate, He regards the aged, He rewards the diligent and He beautifies the meek.

Do you know Him?

My King is the key to knowledge: The wellspring of wisdom; the doorway of deliverance; the pathway of peace; the roadway of righteousness; the highway of holiness, and the gateway of glory!

His office is manifold: His promise is sure. His light is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His reign is Righteous. His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

I wish I could describe Him for you, but He's indescribable! He's Incomprehensible! He's invincible! He's Irresistible!

You can't get Him out of your mind or off your hands! You can't out-live Him and you can't live without Him! The Pharisees couldn't stand Him, but they found out they couldn't stop Him. Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him. The witnesses couldn't agree. Herod couldn't kill Him. Death couldn't handle Him, and the grave couldn't hold Him!

**That's my King, That's my King, That's my King,
and He's the kingdom and the power and the glory - Forever! AMEN!!!**

By Dr. S. M. Lockridge