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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

*Messenger*

December 2007

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

December 2007

## A Thought

Dear Portobello Friends,

### The Lift ... Christmas ... A Pastor

They say that everything comes to they who wait. Well if that is the case then all three of the above should eventually come.

#### The Lift

It is exciting and "Uplifting" to realise that a week from receiving this Messenger, unless there is some last minute hitch, we should all be sharing in the dedicating of the lift and re-dedicating the church building for the use of Portobello Baptist Church. There were times when we thought it would never happen but "Praise God" it has. As I write they are at the painting stage so we will all see it very soon. I commend the Church for their patience and pray that this will usher in a new exciting chapter of the Church's history and usefulness in the salvation of many precious souls and the building up of new and not so new believers.

#### Christmas

If we think the doing of the lift has taken for ever then we need to think back to the Jewish people as they heard through their prophets the exciting news of the Messiah's coming and all His amazing attributes. The godly Jews longed for this event. The hymn writer catches the longing "Come Thou long expected Jesus". Betty Young prayed and longed for the lift, but died without seeing it. Countless Jews also died in hope - but Zachariah and Anna saw the salvation of the Lord - and so have we. Christmas HAS come and on the 25th December all we will do is celebrate what did happen. Jesus is the reason for the Season.

#### A Pastor

I believe God has the right person for Portobello already chosen. This still requires that person's willingness to face a big challenge and our open-ness to God's guidance.

Christ has come, the lift is in - now we need to pray for a Pastor.

Yours very sincerely

Alan Berry  
Interim Moderator

## THE PULPIT

December	2nd		Rev. Terry Gallagher
	9th		Rev. Alan Berry (Dedication Service for Lift, Disabled Toilets & Re-opening of Church)
	16th	a.m. p.m.	Rev. Robert Gemmell Rev. Andy Scarcliffe
	23rd	a.m. (only)	Rev. Alan Berry (Christmas Sunday)
	30th	a.m. (only)	Rev. Robert Gemmell



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December	5th	6.45 p.m. 8.00 p.m.	Management Committee Quarterly Church Meeting
2008			
January	5th	6.30 p.m.	Church Family Musical Evening (in place of traditional party)
	17th	7.00 p.m.	Management Committee

## THE BUILDING PROJECT

To mark the completion of the installation of the lift, the provision of disabled toilets and the return to the church, from which we have been excluded for almost a year, a special dedication service will be held on Sunday 9 December at 11 a.m. -- representatives from other Portobello churches have been invited. A fellowship lunch will follow the service and it is hoped the visitors from the other churches will be able to join with us in this. To get back to the church building, either by lift or stairs, will be a cause for joy and it is hoped that this occasion will be well supported.

Jack Spiers

## GOD'S MISSION DESPITE THE WAR



We hear most of the time about the war in Iraq. However there is also better news that comes to us from that disturbed and wounded country.



According to the current reports of Baptist leaders who know the local situation, the Iraqi people are now much more open to the Gospel than ever before. In spite of the war there have been thousands of Bibles distributed, numerous evangelistic events were organized and new churches have been started. There are for example around 3000 Evangelical believers in 12 churches in Baghdad alone. Some new Baptist congregations were also started in the north of Iraq.

Pray for the advancing ministry of the Gospel & church planting in Iraq. Pray that the presently observed spiritual openness of the Iraqi people will continue and potential obstacles will be overcome. Pray that the reconciliation between all of the people of this wounded country will happen as soon as possible.

(taken from November edition of Indigenous Mission Project Newsletter)

Thanks be to Thee Lord Jesus Christ  
for all the benefits Thou hast given me,  
for all the pains and insults  
Which Thou hast borne from me.  
Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother  
May I know Thee more clearly  
Love Thee more dearly  
And follow Thee more nearly  
day by day. Amen.  
(Richard of Chichester)

## GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS

On Friday 16 November two friends of the church graduated from Queen Margaret University.



Solomon Donald graduated with a Degree of Master of Science in Physiotherapy.



Hazel Thomas graduated with a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Professional Practice.

Ewan Sinclair

## BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

You are invited to pray for the following churches in the weeks commencing the dates shown:

December	2nd	Larbert & Largo
	9th	Larkhall & Lerwick
	16th	Leslie & Leven
	23rd	Linwood & Dedridge
	30th	Ladywell & Lochgelly

## ORDER YOUR P.B.C. 2008 CALENDAR

This year, again, we are offering, on an order basis, calendars for 2008 based on the hymn/ PowerPoint photographs used during Sunday worship. With inspirational verses from traditional hymns.

These will be priced at £5.00 each with the proceeds going towards the Lift Building Fund.

Please see Ewan or Alistair to place an order.

