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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

*Messenger*

January 2008

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

January 2008

## A Thought

I am writing this letter on the evening of *New Year's Day*. How I enjoy the true Christmas celebrations of our Lord's birth to all that is associated with Hogmanay etc. I spent an hour or so yesterday evening watching a programme on STV looking back on 50 years of Scotsport. I enjoyed the programme, but then began to realise that 50 years is more than half of a life time – and I remember those first programmes half a century ago.

I then realised that our youngest daughter will be 40 later this year. One part of me asks – where have all the years gone? Another part of me is so thankful to the Lord for just being with me and guiding me, not just over 50 years but over 60 plus years.

We often use this particular time of the year to reflect and to reminisce. And there is nothing all that wrong with doing just that. It surely reminds us yet again of our indebtedness to our Lord for his faithfulness and guidance, for His grace and love towards us throughout our days on earth – an indebtedness that leads to praise and thanksgiving.

It is also, however, a time when we can look to the future. And surely as a church, this particular year is one when we will be looking forward with positive anticipation to what the Lord is going to do in our midst in the coming months. The Lord will indeed keep our going out and our coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

May you know God's richest blessing and his continuing presence throughout the days and the months of this *New Year*.

Robert Gemmell  
Pastoral Assistant

## THE PULPIT



January	6th		Rev. Terry Gallagher, Fareham Baptist Church
	13th	a.m. p.m.	Rev. Robert Gemmell Rev. Alan Montgomery
	20th	a.m. p.m.	Rev. Jim Barclay Rev. Alan Berry
	27th		Rev. Andy Scarcliffe

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January	17th	7.00 p.m.	Management Committee
February	27th	7.00 p.m.	Annual General Meeting

## 9TH DECEMBER 2007

On 9th December the project to install a lift and two toilets, one of which was a disabled toilet, was completed and the church was re-opened for worship and other activities. The Rev. Alan Berry, Interim Moderator, conducted the dedication service and Mr Tom King “cut the tape” to inaugurate the lift. A pleasing feature was the presence of representatives from some of the other churches who have since expressed their appreciation at being present. A fellowship lunch followed the service. The evening service was conducted by Rev Andy Scarcliffe, Mission Advisor to the Baptist Union of Scotland. To all who gave of their efforts and time, to restore the premises to the pristine condition in which they are maintained, grateful thanks are expressed. This includes a team from Barnton Baptist Church, organised by Mrs Marion Gemmell, who spent a Saturday morning (and part afternoon) in the cleaning operation.

Jack Spiers

## TRIBUTE TO MRS RUBY CRAIG

We pay tribute to Mrs Ruby Craig. After being in residential care for six years she died on Sunday 11th November in Muirfield Nursing Home, Gullane, where she was visited over that time by Jim & Margaret Sutherland on behalf of the Church.

Ruby was a lifelong friend of Olive Nicol. They worked together in the Civil Service and Olive says that it was her influence which led her to faith in Christ. That influence was reciprocated when Olive was instrumental in her commencing attendance at Portobello Baptist Church. She eventually came into membership on 4th January 1998. She was faithful in her attendance on a Sunday morning, travelling from Port Seton. It was due to signs of dementia which resulted in her being unable to continue worshipping with us and eventually going into care.

Ruby was a widow for 23 years and is survived by her two sons, one of whom lives in Port Seton, the other in North Berwick.

The funeral took place on the morning of Thursday 15th November at Chalmers Memorial Church, Port Seton -- the Church where she was brought up and where they spoke very, very highly of her Christian devotion and commitment.

We extend to her sons, and her sister, our sympathy and we thank God for her faithful witness.

“After labour comes rest; after struggle peace; after life’s fitful fever, this sleep. Thanks be to God.”

Jack Spiers

## P.B.C. 2008 CALENDAR'S

Thank you to all who have bought one of these calendars. A total of £240.00 has been donated to the Building Fund Appeal.

Ewan Sinclair



## FOR YOUR MEDITATION

On the evening of a young man's graduation, his rich father sat him down for a heart-to-heart talk. The son was excited as he fully expected his father to present him with his dream -- a beautiful sports car. His father complimented him on his years of study and his ultimate graduation. He made a point of telling his son that he loved him deeply, then he handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box and said, "Happy Graduation my son."

Disappointment flooded his son as he opened the box. Inside he found an expensive leather-bound Bible engraved with his name. His disappointment turned to anger and the son shouted at his father, "with all your money, how could you just give me a Bible?" The son stormed out leaving the Bible on an end table -- he never returned to that house or his father.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and a wonderful family. He finally realized his father was getting very old and told his family he was going to meet his father. He had not seen his Dad since graduation day, but before he could complete the arrangements he received a call telling him his father had passed away. All his father's possessions were willed to him, as an only child, and he was advised to come home immediately.

When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search his father's important papers and saw the engraved Bible with his name -- it was prominently displayed on the end table where he had left it so many years before. With tears in his eyes he opened the Bible and began to read.

As he read, memories of his childhood bounced across his mind and then as he turned the page an envelope dropped out of the middle of the Bible. The envelope had a car dealers name embossed in the upper left corner. This was the same dealer he had hoped to receive the sports car from many years before. In the envelope was an invoice for the sports car he had so desired, dated the day of his graduation with the words 'PAID IN FULL' stamped across the paper. The car was still in the garage waiting for him. How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?

(written by Lorraine Walker, President of Baptist Women Union from South West Pacific)

## A COMMISSION BEFORE SCOTTISH BAPTISTS



BMS World Mission publicly commissioned three of its future long-term workers at the 2007 Baptist Assembly in Scotland.

Graeme and Jenny Riddell, as well as Fiona Welsh, were commissioned for mission service at the Assembly in Glenrothes by leaders from BMS and the Baptist Union of Scotland (BUS). Also recognised were BUS ministers retiring from service as well as ministers receiving accreditation to begin serving Baptist churches in Scotland.

Fiona, Jenny and Graeme are all currently studying at BMS' International Mission Centre (IMC) in Birmingham and will all leave for their respective countries of service in August 2008.

The Riddells, from South Ruislip Christian Fellowship, London, and Perth Baptist Church, will be involved in advocacy work and education in Uganda. Graeme says: "We're very excited about going to Uganda to work alongside the lawyers, teachers and local churches. We know there are challenges ahead, but we're finding the training valuable."



Alan Pain, the director of IMC, introduced and commissioned the three future workers before the 400 person crowd on Friday evening.

He said, "We at BMS are very excited about how many of our personnel, both serving abroad and in training, are from Scotland. Besides the commitment of these workers, we have half a dozen Action Team members from this country and we are looking forward to more people choosing to serve God in mission."

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If you wish to know God, you must know His Word. If you wish to perceive His power, you must see how He works by His Word. If you wish to know His purpose before it comes to pass, you can only discover it by His Word."

(by Ray Comfort)

