

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

February 2011

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

The other Sunday evening I referred to the reputed conversations between Sir Christopher Wren and some of his tradesmen when St. Paul's Cathedral was in the process of being constructed. I have just come across a variation on the same theme. In these conversations Wren in turn asked the same question of four of the workmen – WHAT IS IT YOUR DOING? The first workman responded by informing Wren that he was a bricklayer, and he was laying bricks to support his family. The second declared that he was a bricklayer and he was building a wall, and the third that he was building the support wall for the nave. It was the fourth man, in Wren's eyes, who had caught the vision of what he was doing, for when this bricklayer was asked the now familiar question, he boldly declared that he was "building a Cathedral to the glory of God".

Four men doing something of the same kind of task. Perspective is everything. I wonder how we would answer the question as to what we are doing in life -- and with life? Building – to the glory of God? Seeking to serve the Lord, with humility and sensitivity. Trying to walk the way that he has appointed for us? Being faithful to our calling in Christ Jesus?

Do you remember the word of the Lord in the 6th Chapter of Jeremiah? This is what the Lord says; "Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls". I feel that as a church we have once again come to a crossroads in our history. Our numbers may be low and the long term future to some may seem bleak. It is important therefore that we again seek the Lord's mind and will for us – that with his guidance we discover and travel "the old godly way". This. Of course mustn't be seen as an excuse on our part for living in the past and being satisfied with the present. The way ahead must be God's way – "the old godly way". But God's way may well lead us along new avenues and allow us to enjoy deeper experiences of His love and grace. And in God's will – the best may yet to be – for us as individuals and for us collectively as a fellowship of God's people living as we do at the beginning of the 21st Century in an area that desperately needs to be challenged by the power of the Gospel.

Rev Robert Gemmell

PULPIT SUPPLY

February	6th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	13th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	20th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	27th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 10.30 a.m. Weekly Hour of Prayer
(all are welcome to stay for all or part of this time)
Wed 7.30 p.m. Midweek Prayer & Bible Study

February 23th 7.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting

BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

February	6th	Nairn & New Cumnock
	13th	New Prestwick & Newburgh
	20th	Newton Mearns & Oban
	27th	Paisley Central & Partick, Glasgow

CHICKENHEAD



LIVINGWATERS.COM



Remember Lynne Brown, now settling back to life in Angola. The following pictures give a glimpse into her life there :-



For notes relating to these pictures, see the list at the top of the next page.

1. Feliz delighted with his new wheelchair
2. Stuck in traffic for an hour and a half
3. The neighbourhoods get like this when it rains, there's nowhere for the water to go.
4. Rainy season is Dec-March, Aprilish
5. Follow that taxi, it knows where the roads are passable!
6. Life in Luanda!

Ewan Sinclair

GREAT QUOTES from Charles Spurgeon



"How vain, then, are the boasts and professions of some persons who assert themselves to be the children of God and yet live in sin! There is no perceivable difference in their conduct – they are just what they used to be before their pretended conversion. They are not changed in their actions, even in the least degree, and yet they do most positively affirm that they are the called and living children of God! Let such know that their professions are lies, that falsehood is the only groundwork that they have for their hopes, for wherever the Grace of God is, it makes a difference!"

SMILES

MULTIPLE WIVES

A little boy was attending his first wedding, after the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen", the boy responded at once, his cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "Why do you say that?" He enquired. "Easy", the little boy said.

All you have to do is add it up, like the Minister said; four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer!"

(Mrs Cathy Whittaker)