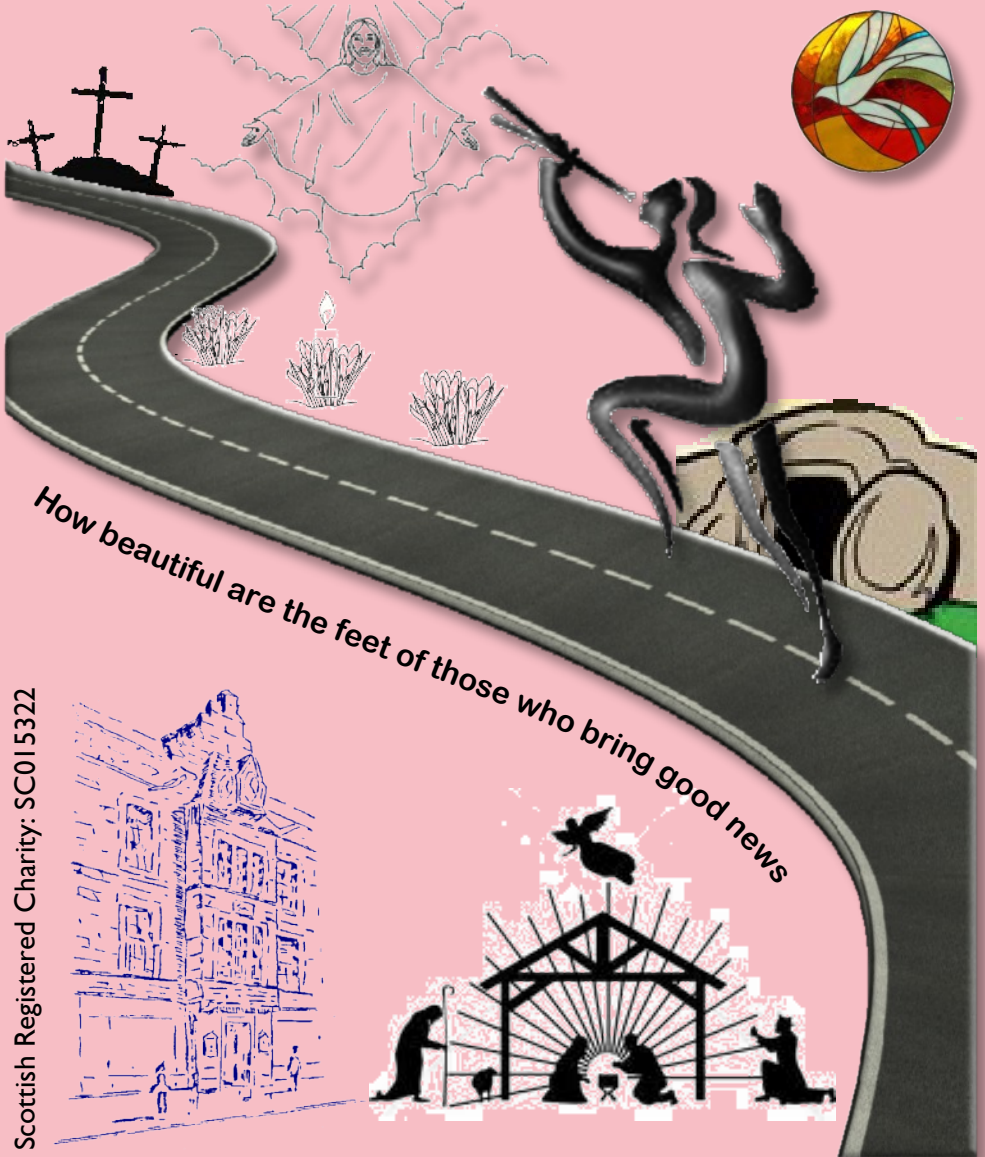


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • December 2012



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322

NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

		Tues	10.30 a.m.	Weekly Hour of Prayer
		Wed	7.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
December	4th	Tues	7.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	21st	Fri	7.30 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

December	2nd	– “The Gift of Hope” (Isaiah Ch 11 vv 1 – 10)
	9th	– “The Gift of Peace” (Isaiah Ch 2 vv 1– 5)
	16th	– “The Gift of Joy” (Isaiah Ch 35 vv 1 – 10)
	23rd	– “The Gift of Love” (Isaiah Ch 7 v 14)
	30th	– “Faith for the Future”

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

December	2nd	Rev Chris Withers (Chaplain, 1 st Rifles Chepstow) & Oban
	9th	Paisley Central & Partick, Glasgow
	16th	Peebles & Perth
	23rd	Peterhead & Pitlochry
	30th	Pollock & Portobello

NOVEMBER OFFERING

4th	£755.00	18th	£562.00
11th	£657.00	25th	£796.00





December 2012

Dear Friends,

“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.”
(John 1 v 14)

Dr. John Rosen, a psychiatrist in New York City, is well known for his work with catatonic schizophrenics. Normally doctors remain separate and aloof from their patients. Dr. Rosen moves into the ward with them. He places his bed among their beds. He lives the life they must live. Day to day, he shares it. He loves them. If they don't talk, he doesn't talk either. It is as if he understands what is happening. His being there, being with them, communicates something that they haven't experienced in years—somebody understands.

But then he does something else. He puts his arms around them and hugs them. He holds these unattractive, unlovable, sometimes incontinent persons, and loves them back into life. Often, the first words they speak are simply, "Thank you."

This is what Christ did for us at Christmas. He moved into the ward with us. He placed his bed among our beds. Those who were there, those who saw Him, touched Him and were in turn touched by Him and restored to life. The first word they had to say was "thank you."

In the season of Advent we remember the first coming of Christ, and anticipate His second coming. This is our opportunity to say, "thank you".

Your pastor



CHURCH FLOWER CALENDAR

The Church Flower calendar for 2013 is available on the Notice Board at the Church entrance foyer, if there are any dates that have a



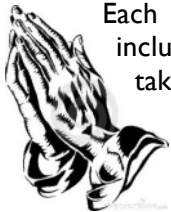
special family significance then please add your name into the relevant space.

(Ewan Sinclair)

PRAYING FOR THE FLOCK

(1 Thess. 5:17; Acts 6.4)

(Eph 6:18) "praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints"



Each month this section will include a cluster of names taken from the Church Directory so that we can uphold them particularly in prayer over this month.

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

(Free Advent eBook)



A new free eBook (Kindle™ or equivalent) for Advent from Desiring God.

It's called "Good News of Great Joy", organized specifically for this Advent, 2012. –

[<http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/good-news-of-great-joy-free-advent-ebook>].

Advent is just around the corner. It starts the fourth Sunday before Christmas — this year, that's December 2 — and is a season of preparation for Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS CARD BOX

The Christmas card posting box for Church family will be available in the Church Foyer on 2 & 9 December. The cards will then be distributed on 16 December.



The team at 'Desiring God' did a deep dive into their thirty-plus-year reservoir of sermons and articles, and selected brief devotional readings for each day of Advent. Their hope is that God would use these readings to deepen and sweeten your adoration of Jesus this Advent.

These daily devotionals correspond to the daily readings in their devotional app Solid Joys, which is available for free download in the iTunes™ store. If you find short daily reflections like these helpful, they would hope you'll keep using 'Solid Joys' once Advent is done.

Their prayer is that this new eBook might help you keep Jesus as the centre and greatest treasure of your Advent season. The candles and candies have their place, but we want to make sure that in all the Christmas rush and hubbub we adore Jesus above all.

(Ewan Sinclair)

DON'T OPEN UNTIL CHRISTMAS

At Christmas time, many of us delight in holding a present to our ear and giving it a shake to guess its contents.



Sometimes we guess right, but more often we are left puzzled and have to wait until Christmas Day to unwrap and enjoy our gift.

The Old Testament prophets also had wrapped gifts to shake. The gifts they joggled were the prophecies of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Saviour. First Peter 1:10-12 says the prophets investigated Scripture with a desire to know more about Him and His coming:

As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to

follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven – things into which angels long to look (1 Peter 1:10-12).

The Old Testament prophets wrote about salvation in Christ and studied closely what God revealed to them. They saw the birth and sufferings of the Messiah, and also the glory that would follow. But they could not fully understand the timing or connection between the two – in some of the prophecies the Messiah's sufferings and glory are blended in one verse or paragraph. For the prophets, the gift remained wrapped in mystery. And what are those passages that intrigued them so much? There are many, encompassing the whole Person and work of Jesus the Christ. During this time of year, we specially celebrate the fulfilment of prophecies concerning His birth. As you celebrate this year, take time to explore these key Old Testament prophecies that were opened – fulfilled – at Christmas:

The Lord raised up a great Prophet
(Deuteronomy 18:15-19; John 7:40)

A star and a scepter came out of Israel
(Numbers 24:17; Matthew 2:1-2)

Messiah was a descendent of David
(Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-3; Matthew 1:1-17; 3:16)

He was born in Bethlehem
(Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-6; Luke 2:1-7)

**Jesus was born of a virgin
and called Immanuel**

(Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25)

(taken from www.gty.org)

IT'S ABOUT THE CROSS

It's not just about the manger
Where the baby lay
It's not all about the angels
Who sang for him that day
It's not just about the shepherds
Or the bright and shining star
It's not all about the wise-men
Who travelled from afar

It's about the cross

It's about my sin

It's about how Jesus came to be born once

So that we could be born again

It's about the stone

That was rolled away

So that you and I could have real life someday

It's about the cross

It's about the cross

It's not just about the presents
Underneath the tree
It's not all about the feeling
That the season brings to me
It's not just about coming home
To be with those you love
It's not all about the beauty
In the snow I'm dreaming of

It's about the cross

It's about my sin

It's about how Jesus came to be born once

So that we could be born again

It's about the stone

That was rolled away

So that you and I could have real life someday

It's about the cross

It's about the cross

The beginning of the story is
wonderful and great
But it's the ending that can save you
and that's why we celebrate



It's about the cross

It's about my sin

It's about how Jesus came to be born once

So that we could be born again

It's about God's love
Nailed to a tree
It's about every drop of blood that
flowed from Him
when it should have been me

It's about the stone
That was rolled away
So that you and I
could have real life someday
So that you and I
could have real life someday

It's about the cross

It's about the cross