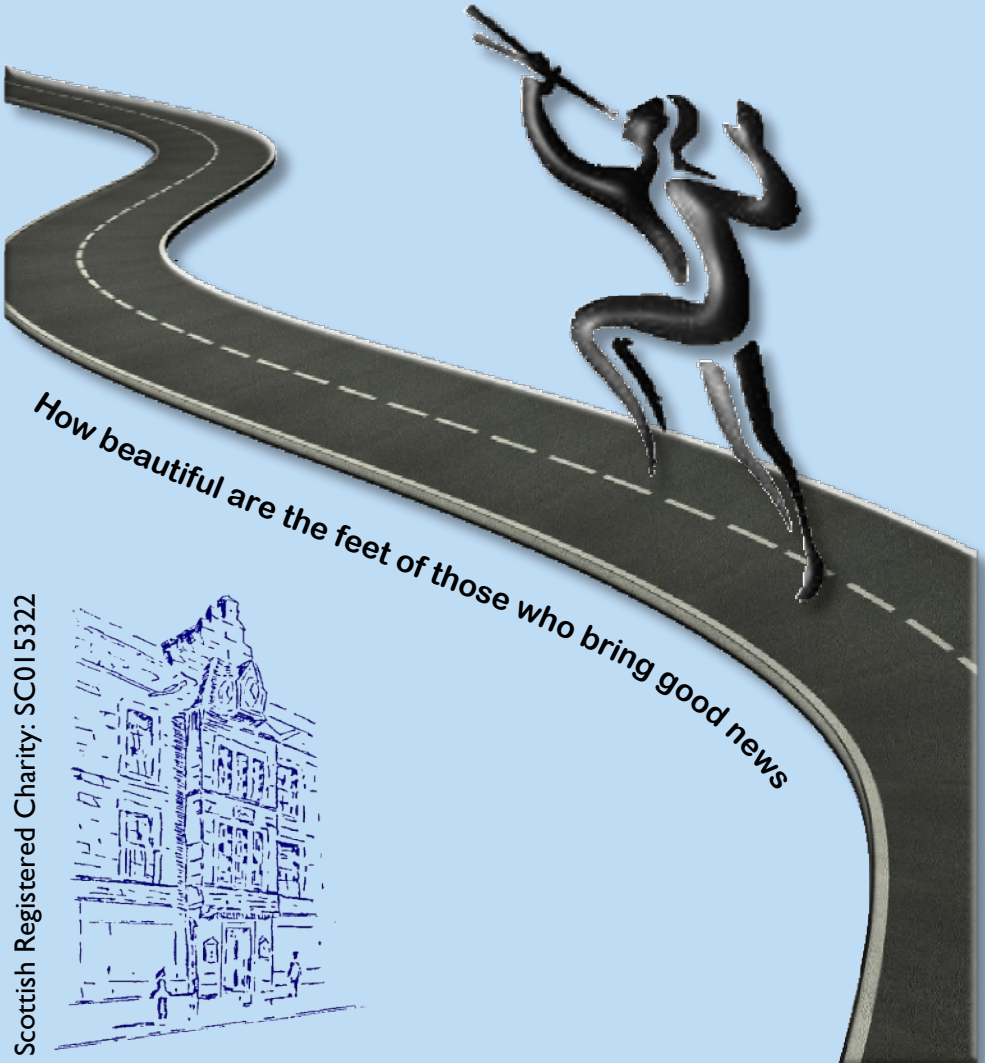


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • February 2012



Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322

NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

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 07.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
February	7th	Tues 08.00 p.m.	Management Meeting
	29th	Wed 07.30 p.m.	Annual General Meeting

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

		Against the Tide – Colossians	
February	05th	Colossians 3:12-17	– “When people rub you the wrong way”
	12th	Colossians 3:18-4:1	– “What you do comes back to you”
	19th	Colossians 4:2-6	– “Walk the talk”
		Lent Studies – Journey to Resurrection	
	26th	Colossians 4:7-18	– “We can be heroes”
March	04th	Matthew 3:1-17	– “What Jesus came to do for you”
	11th	Matthew 4:1-11	– “Power over temptation”
	18th	Matthew 4:12-17	– “The foundations of a life well-lived”
	25th	Matthew 4:18-20	– “A reason for living”

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

February	05th	Drumchapel & Dumbarton
	12th	Dumfries & Duncan Street
	19th	Dundee Central & Dunfermline West
	26th	Dunoon & Dunrossness

February 2012

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

"So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer."

Romans Ch.12 v 1

Dear Friends,

Soon after the publication of John Stott's 1971 revised edition of Basic Christianity, he received a letter that read:

Dear John,

Thank you for writing Basic Christianity. It led me to make a new commitment of my life to Christ. I am old now—nearly 78—but not too old to make a new beginning.

I rejoice in all the grand work you are doing.

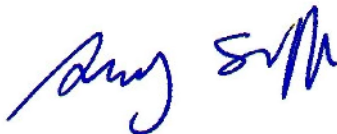
Yours sincerely,

Leslie Weatherhead

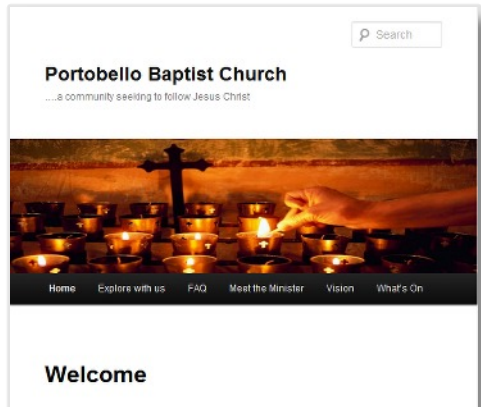
Leslie Weatherhead was one of the most respected and influential Christian leaders in the United Kingdom. Thousands heard him preach at City Temple, his books were read widely, he pioneered in the field of pastoral counselling, and he was president of the Methodist Conference. Yet at 78-years-old he was not too proud or too worn out to make a fresh commitment of his life.

I hope that, at the age of 78, I will have the humility to admit the need to remain totally committed to Jesus Christ. There are times when our lives become clogged with the dust of the road on which we travel. We need to fall once more at the cross and ask for the Holy Spirit's renewing and refreshing. Why not do that right now and ask God to fill you once more with His Spirit. You're never too old!

Your pastor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy S. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

NEW WEBSITE



WEDDING BELLS ARE IN THE AIR

...Our congratulations go to Robbie and Teresa who have announced their engagement. I will have the privilege of marrying them on Saturday 8 September 2012 at Portobello Baptist Church.



(Andy Scarcliffe)

CHILDREN'S WORK

Pray for the small group brought together to plan the children's work of the church. Gill Glancy, Morven, and Jonathan Wraight are meeting with Andy to plan a creative programme for the children. If you feel you can help in any way – this could mean teaching, helping by just being there, taking kids to the toilet, preparing craft material before the Sunday, or just simply praying for the children and their families, please see me.

(Moira Scarcliffe)

I have been working on a new website for the church. You will find it at:
www.portobellobaptist.co.uk.

I have aimed it primarily at people who have no Christian background, who may be looking to explore faith in a more intentional way. It will give news and information about the church, and I will endeavour to keep it bang up to date. There is nothing worse than accessing a church website, only to find that the information is six months old! As to whether I will start a blog . . . Hmmm! Watch this space.

(Andy Scarcliffe)

EASTER EVENTS

Pray for the small group brought together to review the Carols By Candlelight event, but also to plan a series of events at Easter. Pray that they will be guided into the right way of communicating the glorious truth of the resurrection to our community in Portobello.

(Andy Scarcliffe)

B.M.S. LINK MISSIONARY UPDATE
(rec'd 2 Feb 2012)

Some updates are that after Andrew's visit to Angola and meetings with the General Secretary of IEBA, BMS has decided that Fiona will not return there after home assignment but go somewhere else. This was a bit of a surprise to us as she had thought she would be returning until at least the end of the year. It means she will be packing up and returns to Scotland on 18 February. Lots to do in a short time. I'll finish the packing and leave for Zambia on 31 March.

I'm spending a lot of this trip getting wedding things organised but I'm discovering that many things need to be ordered and won't arrive before I go back to Angola. Plan B's required!

In my last 2 months in Angola I'll be making sure Manuel and the new National Council are ready to go it alone as it were. Bible study group has been going well with average of 20-25 coming along of different ages and experiences. We have a lot of debate! The folk we have been training will be able to continue leading it well when we are gone.

Love

Lynne

THE MISSION BALL

What is The Mission Ball?

The Mission Ball is simply a soccer ball covered with Biblical text. It includes the 10 Commandments, God's simple plan of Salvation, and selected Scripture.



The Mission Ball is made of quality materials and is durable enough for normal soccer play. The Mission Ball is hand stitched for better quality and a longer life. The text is silk screened onto the leather and will not easily rub off during play on rough surfaces.

The Mission Ball is Great for...

Mission Trips – Ever wanted to draw a crowd and give the Gospel? The Mission Ball has you covered. Just start playing soccer and see how quick your crowd grows. Ever wanted to give someone the Gospel but you didn't speak their language? The Mission Ball is currently available in 21 different languages. We are always adding more languages. So if you have a trip planned, just let us know and we will try to work with you. You can easily give away hundreds of Mission Balls during a short-term trip. You can add The Mission Ball to your current plans, or you can go somewhere just to play soccer and spread the Gospel.

Gifts – Need a unique gift for that special someone? The Mission Ball makes a wonderful Christ-centred gift for birthdays, Christmas, graduation, or any other season.

(themissionball.com)

GREAT QUOTES with Kirk



“Great faith loves great difficulties, because things that are impossible with men are possible with God.”

~ Charles H. Spurgeon

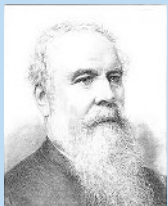
“Jesus' anticipation of His great trial caused Him to sweat great drops of blood in the garden. But Paul tells us that Jesus also looked beyond the terrifying cross to the joy that was waiting for Him on the other side. He endured the terrifying difficulty that His Father had led Him into, despised the public shame it brought, and committed Himself into the faithful hand of His faithful Father. When we are given a burden that seems impossible to bear, that is when we are to summon the great faith Jesus has given us by His Spirit, to love the difficulty, despise the pain and shame it may bring us, and anticipate the joy that will be ours on the other side.”



~ Kirk Cameron

IT IS NOT THE MAN WHO HIDES HIMSELF IN A CAVE

(J.C. Ryle, "The Fight!")



True sanctification does not consist in retirement from our place in life, and the renunciation of our social duties. In every age it has been a snare

with many, to take up this line in the pursuit of holiness. Hundreds of hermits have buried themselves in some wilderness, and thousands of men and women have shut themselves up within the walls of monasteries and convents – under the vain idea that by so doing, they would escape sin and become eminently holy.

They have forgotten that no bolts and bars can keep out the devil; and that, wherever we go, we carry that root of all evil our own hearts!

True holiness does not make a Christian evade difficulties – but face and overcome them. Christ would have His people show that His grace is not a mere hot-house plant, which can only thrive under shelter – but a strong, hardy thing which can flourish in every relation of life. It is doing our duty, in that state to which God has called us – like salt in the midst of corruption, and light in the midst of darkness – which is a primary element in sanctification.

It is not the man who hides himself in a cave – but the man who glorifies God in the family and in the street, in business and in trade – who is the Scriptural type of a sanctified man.

(www.gracegems.org)

