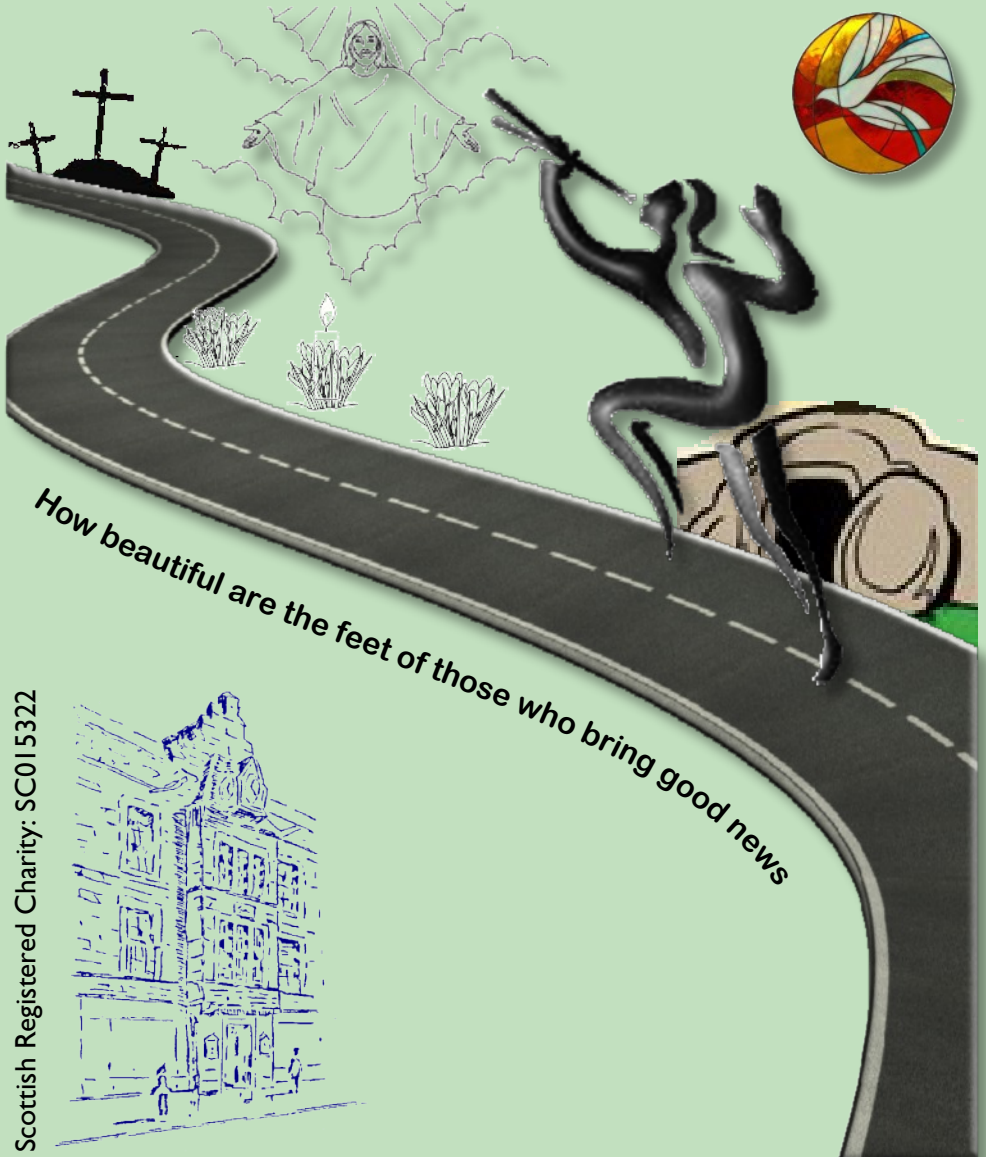


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

# MESSENGER

[www.portobellobaptist.co.uk](http://www.portobellobaptist.co.uk) • October 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
October	11th	Thurs	8.00 p.m.	Management Meeting
November	18th	Sun	11.00 a.m.	B.M.S. Link Missionary Focus [Provisional] (Guest: Mrs Lynne Brown Laussu)
	25th	Sun	11.00 a.m.	115th Church Anniversary (Guest: B.U.S. Gen. Director Alan Donaldson)

## FUTURE SERMON PLAN

October	14th	- "Lyrics of life"
	21st	- "Abraham"
	28th	- "Isaac"
November	4th	- "Jacob"
	11th	- "Joseph"
	18th	- "Moses"
	25th	- "Lyrics of life"

## SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

October	7th	Rev Isobel Neal (CHAS Robin House) Rev Alasdair Nicoll (Chaplain, RAF)
	14th	Lossiemouth & Maybole
	21st	Milestone & Montrose
	28th	Morningside (now known as Central) & Motherwell

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

"... A man was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked."

*John Ch 5 vv 5 – 9*

Dear Friends,

The African impala can jump to a height of over 10 feet and cover a distance greater than 30 feet. Yet these magnificent creatures can be kept in an enclosure in any zoo with a three foot wall. The animals will not jump if they cannot see where their feet will fall. Faith is the ability to trust what we cannot see, and with faith we are freed from the flimsy enclosures of life that only fear allows to entrap us.

What "enclosures" do we face as we look to the future? What inhibits faith?

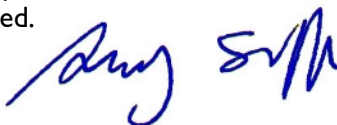
"*I'm too weak*". or "*I'm too old*". or "*We've never done it that way before*". And so on. The pioneers of faith have always been men and women who have dared to do the impossible. They have never been restricted by an inability to see what is ahead. All they have needed is the knowledge that God is leading them to the next step. Our next step is opening up before us. The cafe is nearly finished. We are reaching out to the community. What will happen as we do this? Where will this next step lead?

The journey on which we have embarked is an exciting one, but we have to stay close to God, so that we can move forward when He moves forward. The man at the pool of Bethesda seemed to want healing, but Jesus still asked him, "*Do you want to get well?*". Though he had waited thirty eight years for the breakthrough, He still had barriers to belief. The minute Jesus asked if he wanted to get well, he came up with reasons why it would not work. "*Sir*," the invalid replied, "*I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.*"

If Jesus were to ask us as a church, or you as an individual, "*Do you want to get well?*", what would be your answer?

"*Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.*" At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Your pastor



## AN ENCOURAGING GLIMPSE INTO ETERNITY FOR YOU . . .

You will never know, this side of heaven, the full impact of your generosity in evangelism. However, every once and awhile, God gives us a glimpse of how our generosity ripples through eternity. I had one of those sneak peeks a few weeks ago...

Grant Anderson, wrote to tell us his 20-year-old son, Aaron, had been killed in a tragic car accident in Wisconsin. Yet Grant wrote to encourage.



Grant said, "My son, Aaron, was motivated to share his faith in Jesus after he received a set of Gospel DVD's for his 13th birthday. As a result, Aaron started a website and put videos on YouTube to share the gospel. Everywhere he went, Aaron told others about Jesus.

"At Aaron's funeral, Grant met hundreds of people who had been touched by his son's personal testimony and the evangelistic videos he had posted on YouTube. These videos have now been seen by more than 6,000 people and, as a result, young people are being saved and baptized!

(Ray Comfort)

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

## OCTOBER 31st NATIONAL EVANGELISM DAY

Halloween is right around the corner. What other day of the year do you get people coming to your door – give them a tract? Why not take advantage of this wonderful opportunity?

## GREAT QUOTES with Kirk

"Good night, Little Arrow. Good night, Big Bow."

~ Kirk's Pastor

"My pastor recently told the story of a nighttime ritual with his children. He'd tuck them into bed with the words, "Good night, Little Arrow." He coined this nickname for his children because of the famous Bible verse, "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, are the sons born in one's youth. Happy is the man who has filled his quiver with them. Such men will never be put to shame when they speak with their enemies at the city gate" (Psalm 127:5). Arrows shoot out from a man. They go before him and prepare the way for victory and peace. Our children, like arrows, will go on ahead of us. They will be here after we are gone. They will carry on the mission, the divine assignment, the Kingdom plan. Children are parents' long-term way of affecting the world for good. If we sharpen our children's hearts and minds through diligent training, through them God will pierce the evil of this world and the apathy of the Church. The more disciplined we are as parents, the stronger we are able to pull back the string of the bow and launch our "arrows" with maximum speed and effectiveness into enemy-occupied territory for the purposes of peace. Faithful children are our hope for this world. That's why a man is blessed whose house is full of them. They will clear a path for goodness, justice, and peace for future generations, bringing glory to God and Heaven to earth. In perfect line with the archery

metaphor, my friend's bedtime benediction to his "Little Arrows" was met with the heartwarming reply, "Good night, Big Bow."



~ Kirk Cameron

## HOW GREAT THEN, IS THE BLESSEDNESS OF TRUE BELIEVERS!

(John MacDuff, "Looking unto Jesus!" 1856)

God says, "I will be their God – and they shall be My people." (2 Corinthians 6:15). This is a promise in which every other promise is included. Sometimes God says to the Christian: I will be your strength, your righteousness, your deliverer, your shield, your reward; but these are nothing but modifications of the former.

Believer! Endeavour to realize something of the blessedness involved in having God for your God. For this purpose, think of the representations He gives of Himself in His word. Think of Him . . .

in all the perfections of His nature,  
in His unsearchable riches,  
in His unspeakable glory,  
in His omnipotent power,  
in His universal dominion,  
in His spotless purity,  
in His eternal veracity,

and, above all,

in His infinite grace and mercy!

And having viewed Him thus, you may venture to say, with unwavering faith and adoring gratitude, "This God is my God forever and ever, and He will be my guide even unto death!" Psalm 48:14.

(taken from [www.gracegems.org](http://www.gracegems.org))



○ give thanks to Him Who made  
Morning light and evening shade;  
Source and Giver of all good,  
Nightly sleep and daily food;  
Quickener of our wearied powers,  
Guard of our unconscious hours.

○ give thanks to nature's King,  
Who made every breathing thing;  
His, our warm and sentient frame,  
His, the mind's immortal flame.  
○ how close the ties that bind  
Spirits to the Eternal Mind!

○ give thanks with heart and lip,  
For we are His workmanship;  
And all creatures are His care:  
Not a bird that cleaves the air  
Falls unnoticed; but who can  
Speak the Father's love to man?

○ give thanks to Him Who came  
In a mortal, suffering frame—  
Temple of the Deity—  
Came for rebel man to die;  
In the path Himself hath trod  
Leading back His saints to God.  
(Josiah Conder, 1836)