

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • December 2013



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



IMMANUEL
 GOD WITH US

(Matthew Ch 1 v 23)



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

20th Fri 7.30 p.m. "Carols by Candlelight"

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

December
1st – "Advent LOVE"
8th – "Advent HOPE"
15th – "Advent PEACE"
22nd – "Advent JOY"
29th – "Looking to the future"

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

December
1st Collydean, Glenrothes
Mary Anne Burgoyne (Stirling City Centre, Chaplain)
9th Colonsay & Cornton, Stirling
15th Cowal & Cowdenbeath
22nd Creiff & Crookston, Glasgow
29th Crown Terrace, Aberdeen & Culduthel Christian Fellowship

NOVEMBER OFFERING



3rd	£746.00	17th	£624.00
10th	£849.00	24th	£623.00

CHURCH FLOWER CALENDAR



A Draft Church Flower calendar for 2014 will be 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)

December 2013

Dear brothers and sisters,

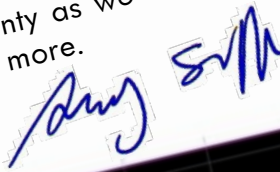
*"I don't know what my future holds,
but I know that God holds my future...."*

So said the letter we received from a young Irish friend posted on his way to work back in the early seventies. That morning he was stopped in the van in which he travelled with his workmates, lined up against the road by the I.R.A. and shot. He stepped into the presence of his Saviour. God indeed held his future. John had planned to give his life to Christian service. God had different plans. Same service but different location.

In the season of advent we think of being ready for the coming of Christ, but also to be ready for His coming at the end of the world. His second advent.

Like my friend, whatever God wills for us, He has our future in His hands. We rejoice in that certainty as we enter the season of advent once more.

Your Pastor



THE CHURCH FAMILY

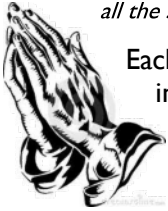
We continue to remember, in prayer, all those who have been so faithful in the service of the Church and are no longer able to worship with us:

- Jack & Thea Logan
- Ella Hill
- Olive Nicol
- Morna Vyse

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"

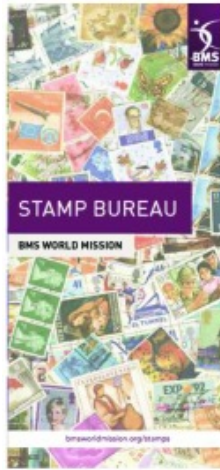


Each month this new section will include a cluster of names taken from the Church Directory so that we can uphold them particularly in prayer over this month.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Since the late 1920s, the BMS Stamp Bureau has been raising money for BMS World Mission by gathering and selling used postage stamps and other

In 1928, this first the BMS accounts as a mission of £60; now, with in the last financial year raised over £12,500.



This Christmas season, as you receive cards and packages in the mail – save the stamps and deposit them in the box on the half-landing window sill. Periodically this is emptied and the contents passed to Mrs Olive Nicol. She then trims the stamps as required and posts them to the BMS Stamp Bureau.

PROJECT 21

What is it?

- Our church building repair fund

What is its aim?

- To make the church building windproof, water-tight and welcoming for the 21st century

How much do we need to raise?

- To do absolutely everything including decorating the interior, around £200,000. *However* the repairs can be done in several stages.

How are we going to raise it?

- We have already seen very generous giving. Added to this we will be applying for trust funding. Moira has made an application to 'Garfield Weston Foundation' — the process takes four months so please pray about this. If anyone else has some experience of applying for funding and would like to help, please speak to Moira. There are potentially quite a few trusts we could make applications to, so two people doing this would lighten the load.

What else can be done?

- Keep this in your prayers. Fund-raising ideas will be considered by the Management Committee so if you have any, they are the ones to approach.

(Moira Scarcliffe)

[The current balance in the Building Fund is £3,785.00

(Allistair Sinclair)]



The purpose of *Celebrate Recovery* is to fellowship and to celebrate God's healing power through the 12 Steps and 8 recovery Principles, which are based on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This experience allows us to be changed. We open the door by sharing our experiences, strengths and hopes with one another. In addition we become willing to accept God's grace in solving our lives' problems. By working and applying these Biblical principles, we begin to grow spiritually. We become free from our addictive, compulsive and dysfunctional behaviour. This freedom creates peace, serenity, joy and most importantly, a stronger personal relationship with God and with others. As we progress through the programme we discover our personal, loving and forgiving Saviour - Jesus Christ.

Anyone interested in being involved in this programme here at Portobello Baptist Church please do speak with Robert or Denise Burns.

(Denise and Robert Burns)

DNA of CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Celebrate Recovery is a biblical and balanced program that helps us overcome our hurts, hang-ups, and habits. It is based on the actual words of Jesus

rather than psychological theory. 20 years ago, Saddleback Church launched Celebrate Recovery with 43 people. It was designed as a program to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through a recovery process. Celebrate Recovery has helped more than 17,000 people at Saddleback, attracting over 70% of its members from outside the church. Eighty-five percent of the people who go through the program stay with the church and nearly half serve as church volunteers.

Celebrate Recovery is now in over 20,000 churches worldwide!

(taken from <http://www.celebraterecovery.com>)

CHRISTMAS HYMN

Descend O Christ from heav'n on high,
Thy glory set aside,
save us from death and darkness grim,
and with Your seed abide.

*Veni, veni Domine,
Thy people to redeem,
veni, veni Domine,
fulfill our Christmas dream.*

The cradle crude all filled with straw
awaits Thy visit here,
while shepherds gaze at glory's light,
enrapt by awe and fear.

(Chorus)

The virgin heeds Thy angel's call,
she's made the journey long,
as Joseph tends the holy maid,
he hears the angels' song.

(Chorus)

Glory in the highest realm,
the time of birth has come,
we all arise to follow Him,
that He might bring us home.

(Chorus)

FAITH AND THE CHRISTMAS DAY WALLET

When I was a lad of ten years at a large family gathering on Christmas Day, I received from my grandparents a cowhide wallet, which was quickly judged in my youthful estimation to be a gift in the same category as underwear, soap-on-a-rope, or any other dreadful “non-toy.” My low opinion of the gift was soon elevated, however, when my father called me over, told me that my wallet was of no use if empty, and then proceeded to stuff a few dollar bills into it. Almost immediately the other male relatives in attendance nodded in agreement, tilted their rear ends leftward on Grandmother’s mammoth couch, and began digging out their own back-pocket billfolds in order to place additional funds into my leathery vault.

Making my way down the couch, I marvelled at how quickly my earlier disdain turned to joy as I watched newfound wealth appear before my widened eyes.

I recount this fond memory and the power of that simple wallet because I find a curious correlation to the Christian experience. Like the wallet, our faith in Christ Jesus is bestowed to us by the grace of Heaven. Once unwrapped, unfolded and opened, our faith beckons to be filled and soon receives the varied deposits of spiritual tender that is freely given in sweet transaction with our Triune God. One after another, the divine appropriations from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are placed in faith’s receptacle as we hold it forth: Repentance, Forgiveness, Redemption,



*Angus W.
Duncan*



Adoption, The Righteousness of Christ, Communion with God and His Church, Love, Peace, Joy, Assurance of Salvation, Eternal Life! On and on it goes—abundance beyond our wildest dreams!

inevitably the metaphor collapses. Or does it?

How do you use your faith? Have you merely slipped it in a back pocket, or placed it absent-mindedly on your dresser until you have need of it? Or do you hold it in a breast pocket close to your heart, ever ready to receive the further blessings of God or to exchange your heavenly currency into a robust servant-hood, a fervent prayer life, or a passionate gospel witness to some poor soul who is also in desperate need of Christ’s riches?

No, I suppose faith is a lot more than just a wallet. But when I was ten years old, I saw the delight in my father’s eyes as he helped his silly little boy discover that his Christmas present was a powerful instrument in which to obtain the greater gift. I can only imagine, then, how much more our Heavenly Father finds delight when He sees one of His children, through the instrument of faith, grab hold of Jesus Christ with the excitement of 10,000 Christmas mornings.

So hold forth your wallet, dear believer, and let the pleasures of God be deposited therein to fund the bold activities of the Christian adventure. It is the only wealth known to man that does not exalt us, but instead humbles us and gives all the honour, praise, and glory to God.

(taken from <http://sacredsandwich.com>)