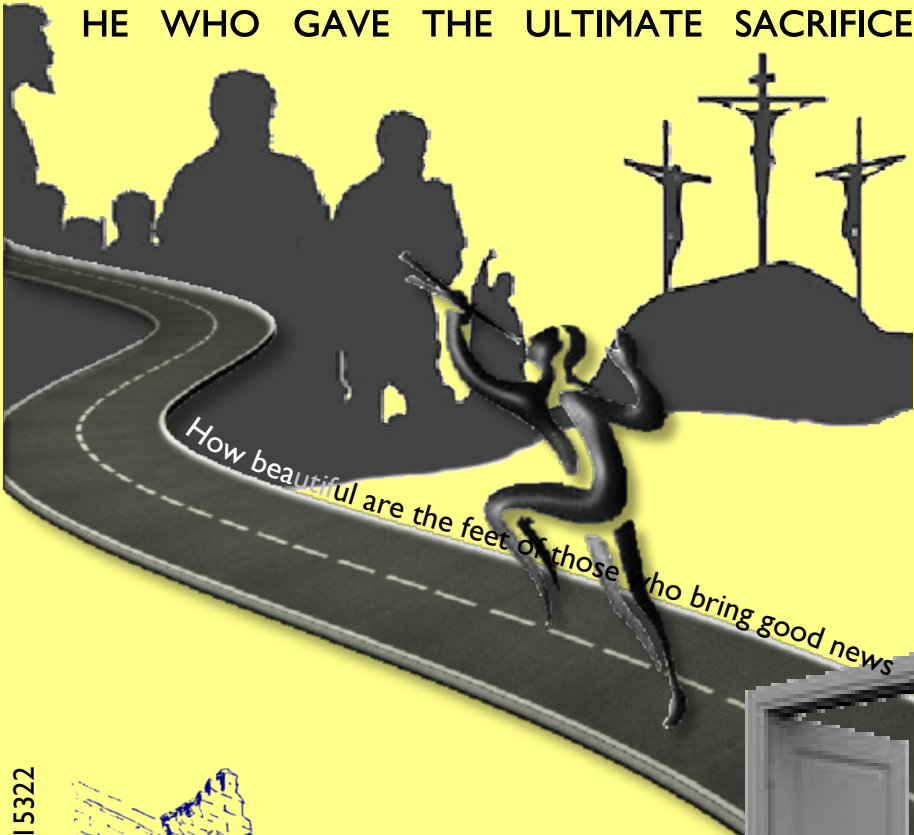


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

# MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • March 2013

HE WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE



*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news*

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



IS  
RISEN  
INDEED



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
March	29th	Fri	7.30 p.m.	Good Friday Communion Service (TBC)
	31st	Sun	9.00 a.m.	Resurrection Breakfast
			11.00 a.m.	Resurrection Sunday Morning Service
			2.00 p.m.	Duddingston Easter Play (The event is free, but booking essential)
			7.30 p.m.	Resurrection 2013 @ The Usher Hall (Origin Praise Choir & Exile Chamber Orchestra) “Spring forward – clock change”

## FUTURE SERMON PLAN

March	3rd	– “Defining Your Mission” (Matt. Ch 10 vv 1 – 15)
	10th	– “Dealing With Opposition” (Matt. Ch 10 vv 16 – 33)
	17th	– “The Ultimate Sacrifice” (Matt. Ch 10 vv 34 – 42)
	24th	PALM SUNDAY
	31st	RESURRECTION!
April	7th	– “Lyrics of life”
	14th	– “Let my People go!”
	21st	– “A Plague on you!”
	28th	– “The lamb that was slain”

## SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

March	3rd	Fiona Barnard: Chaplain, St. Andrews University Rev Hamish Wishart: Chaplain Stirling University ( & Pastor, Cornton Baptist Church)
	10th	Southside Church, Ayr & Springburn, Glasgow
	17th	St. Andrews & Stenhouse Gorgie
	24th	Stirling & St. Mary’s Community Church
	31st	St. Ninian’s Community & Stonehaven

Dear Friends,

"When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him,  
He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"  
(John Ch 6 v 5)

Jesus posed this question to Philip, knowing full well what He planned to do.

At our vision day on Saturday, this question, in various forms, was asked many times. "The need is great". "We don't have many workers". "How will we reach young people?" "How will we reach the needy and dispossessed?" Could Jesus Himself have been asking us that question through the mouths of our sisters and brothers on Saturday? My sense was that although we were aware of the great need, we were also aware of the Great God.

In a recent issue of Christianity Today (January 2013), a Muslim man describes his commitment to follow Isa al Masih, Jesus the Messiah. Surprisingly, a rather "ordinary" miracle caused this man to open his heart to Jesus. Here's how he described the miracle:

One night the only food my wife and I had was a small portion of macaroni. My wife prepared it very nicely. Then one of her friends knocked on the door. I told myself, The macaroni is not sufficient for even the two of us, so how will it be enough for three of us? But because we have no other custom, we opened the door, and she came in to eat with us.

While we were eating, the macaroni started to multiply; it became full in the bowl. I suspected that something was wrong with my eyes, so I started rubbing them. I thought maybe my wife hid some macaroni under the small table, so I checked, but there was nothing. My wife and I looked at each other, but because the guest was there we said nothing.

Afterward I lay down on the bed, and as I slept, Isa came to me and asked me, "Do you know who multiplied the macaroni?" I said, "I don't know." He said, "I am Isa al Masih [Jesus, the Messiah]. If you follow me, not only the macaroni but your life will be multiplied."

Dare we believe that "if we follow Him, our lives, church, families, friends will be multiplied in a Kingdom way?"

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, He said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." John Ch 6 v 11-14.



Your Pastor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Smith".

## 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:



The audience moves with the action and is, indeed, an integral part of it as the 'crowd'. While there are platforms at various points

for actors, there are no seats; this is a promenade performance.

But this is more than just a play, it is an ecumenical occasion that involves everyone who takes part and it is inclusive of all ages of people, including children.

Importantly, the play relates the story of Jesus as He journeys 'To The Cross' and His death and resurrection. The story is told publicly, outwith the walls of any church building.

Entry is from 1 p.m. (aim to arrive by 1.45 p.m. to allow time to check in and find a place to stand. The play starts at 2 p.m.

Admission is Free, but places must be booked before you come.

(for more information visit:

<http://duddingstoneasterplay.weebly.com/index.html>)

## RESURRECTION 2013

Join with more than 2,000 people in celebrating the raising of Jesus from the dead. Led by the exile band, Origin Praise Choir and the Exile Chamber Orchestra, this is a not-to-be-missed event.

Music, worship, praise, seeking God.

Guest speaker:

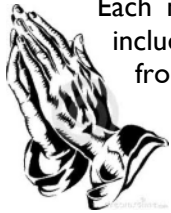
Andy Prime, Charlotte Chapel

Tickets are FREE and available online or from our box office now (to order by phone: Call 0131 208 0095 between the hours: Mon-Fri 8am - 4pm)

## 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"*



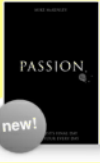
Each month this new section will include a cluster of names taken from the Church Directory so that we can uphold them particularly in prayer over this month.

## "TO THE CROSS" 2013

To The Cross was first performed at Duddingston in 2003 and again in 2008. It takes place in the open air with most scenes being enacted at various locations within the church gardens just off Old Church Lane in Duddingston Village.



Books for  
Easter  
Reflection



Perfect for your quiet times  
in the lead up to Easter

Special launch offer £6.79 (RRP £7.99)

The cross of Jesus is the centre of human history, and the centre of the Christian faith. It should dominate our view of ourselves, our future and our present. But does it? And how should it?

Walking through the final chapters of the Gospel of Luke, Mike McKinley's new book, *Passion*, examines the events of the last day of Jesus' earthly life, marvelling at His love and revealing the daily difference it makes to his people.

"This excellent study from Mike McKinley will help you personally understand why Christ's final day is the hinge of history."

Collin Hansen, Editorial Director of The Gospel Coalition and author of *Young, Restless, Reformed*.



Teaching children  
about Easter

Three weeks of Bible  
readings for £3.49!

*Easter Unscrambled* is designed to help children and families explore the Bible together over the Easter holidays.

Three weeks of Bible readings help you focus on what Easter is really all about. Meet Dr Luke as he tells you all about God's rescue plan. Find out who the rescuer is and why we need rescuing.

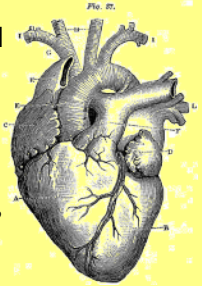
Beautifully presented with full-colour illustrations, it has two sections.

The first section will help 7-11 year olds to get into the Bible for themselves as it is part of our eXplore The Bible daily reading series.

The second section is suitable for families with children aged from 4 upwards and is part of our Table Talk series. It uses just a few verses from the passages used for eXplore The Bible to form the basis for a short family Bible time together – maybe just five minutes at the breakfast or dinner table, or whenever best suits you.

### THE SOUND THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

It was the most profound sound ever heard in the history of humanity. Two thousand years ago, in a rich man's grave, lay the three-day-dead, stone-cold body of a murder victim.



Suddenly, deep from within that shattered and bloody corpse came a whisper of a sound, the implications of which thundered across the face of the universe. It was the faint murmur of a heartbeat in the lifeless body of Jesus of Nazareth. That tiny sound confirmed that the suffering on the cross was a finished work. Redemption of the human race was complete. The payment had been made, and the morally perfect thrice-holy Judge of the Universe was satisfied with the perfect sacrifice. That spark of resurrected life was evidence of the unspeakable ... death had been overcome. Everlasting life could now be given as a free gift to guilty and Hell-bound sinners, because of the kindness and love of our beneficent Creator.

(Ray Comfort)

## CHRIST IS RISEN: SO WHAT?

We live amid a culture that revels in its efficiency. Thus, to a large degree, evangelicalism has grown apathetic to its own message, the message of the Resurrection. This predicament is often demonstrated in Gospel presentations that more or less leave Jesus on the cross. This cannot be the predicament for those who proclaim Jesus as the risen and reigning Christ of the world.



Michael Green's book, *Christ is Risen: So What?*, addresses the predominant evangelical attitude of indifference toward the fundamental doctrine of the Resurrection. The title question is quite brash. Still, it is a question we ought to repeat to ourselves and to one another persistently so that we do not fall into that inexcusable mass of evangelicalism that has swapped its faith for a bumper sticker. Instead of asking the nauseating question, "Got Jesus?" we should be asking the pertinent question, "Does Jesus Got You?" Chiefly, we should be asking ourselves: "Do we rightly understand the absolute necessity and ultimate significance of the resurrection of Christ?"

Green's response is unusual. He does not provide a discussion on the rationality of the Resurrection. Neither does he set in order ten points on why the Resurrection is important. He presupposes the veracity of the Resurrection and displays the Biblical and theological foundations of the doctrine, assuming its significance at the outset. After all, Jesus did not principally call us to prove the Resurrection but to proclaim it. Nevertheless Peter wrote,

*"But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defence to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15a, nasb). Green aids us in formulating a Biblical defence so that we might more adequately proclaim the Gospel of our risen Lord.

Green's book is recommended to all men and women who have found themselves in an apathetic condition regarding the truth of the resurrection of Christ, whom we humbly love and worship. *Christ is Risen: So What?* is published by Sovereign World Ltd.

(by Burk Parsons)

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Low in the grave He lay,  
Jesus my Saviour,  
Waiting the coming day,  
Jesus my Lord!

*Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever,  
with His saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch His bed,  
Jesus my Saviour;  
Vainly they seal the dead,  
Jesus my Lord!

Death cannot keep its Prey,  
Jesus my Saviour;  
He tore the bars away,  
Jesus my Lord!

(Words & Music: Robert Lowry, 1874)

