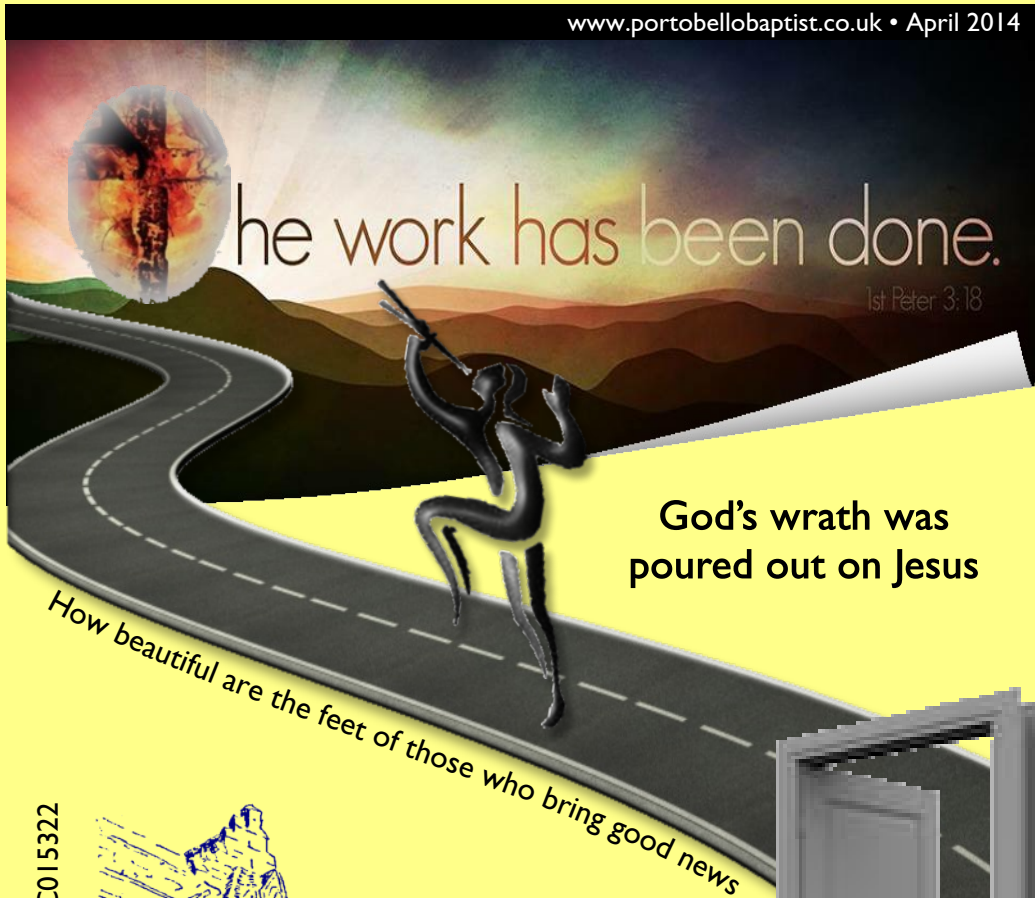


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • April 2014



The work has been done.

1st Peter 3: 18

God's wrath was
poured out on Jesus

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



to atone for the sin
of those who believe
and trust in Him.



NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

		Tues	10.30 a.m.	Weekly Hour of Prayer [drop-in for all or part of the time]
		Wed	07.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
April	13th	Sun	01.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	16th	Wed	09.00 a.m.	“Holy Week” meditation
	18th	Fri	07.30 p.m.	“Good Friday” Communion Service
	20th	Sun	09.00 a.m.	Resurrection Breakfast
	27th	Sun	07.30 p.m.	Reflective Space (see ‘buzz’ for details)

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

April	6th – “Watch this space”
	13th – “Palm Sunday”
	20th – “Easter ‘Resurrection’ Sunday”
	27th – “Our Values - Worship”
May	4th – “Revolution of love”
	11th – “Cross carrying for beginners”
	18th – “World Changers”
	25th – “Watch this space”

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

April	06th	Collydean, Glenrothes; Colonsay; Cornton, Stirling
	13th	Cowdenbeath; Crieff
	20th	Chaplain, Strathcarron Hospice (Rev Stuart Murdoch); Crookston, Glasgow; Crown Terrace, Aberdeen; Culloden; Culduthel
	27th	Cupar; Dalbeattie; John Greenshields; Jacqueline Primrose; Jim Purves

MARCH OFFERING

£335.00 – March Cafe Day
for BMS World Mission



2nd	£587.00	16th	£639.00	30th	£622.00
9th	£820.00	23rd	£699.00		

Building Fund total, so far :- £8,773.75

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

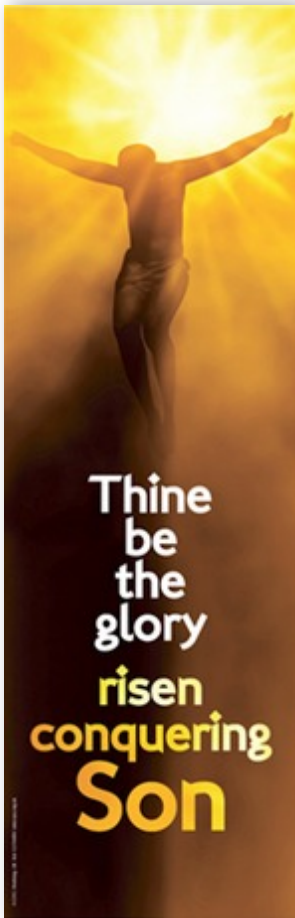
In a cemetery in Hanover, Germany, is a grave on which were placed huge slabs of granite and marble cemented together and fastened with heavy steel clasps. It belongs to a woman who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. Yet strangely, she directed in her will that her grave be made so secure that if there were a resurrection, it could not reach her. On the marker were inscribed these words: "This burial place must never be opened." In time, a seed, covered over by the stones, began to grow. Slowly it pushed its way through the soil and out from beneath them. As the trunk enlarged, the great slabs were gradually shifted so that the steel clasps were wrenched from their sockets. A tiny seed had become a tree that had pushed aside the stones.

The dynamic life force contained in that little seed is a faint reflection of the tremendous power of God's creative word that someday will call to life the bodies of all who are in their graves. He will also bring back every person drowned at sea, cremated, or destroyed in some other way. This is no problem to the One who made something out of nothing when He spoke the universe into existence. Unbelief cannot deter the resurrection. But faith in the risen Christ opens the door to blessings that His resurrection guarantees – a glorious new spiritual body and a home in heaven.

Once more, this month, we celebrate that glorious truth. In anticipation, I would like to say . . .

"CHRIST IS RISEN - HE IS RISEN INDEED!"

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:



PRESENTATION TO BILL & BETT BLACKIE

Sunday 6 April 2014

PRAYING FOR THE FLOCK

(1 Thess. 5:17; Acts 6.4)



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.

(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"

FLOWER CALENDER

If you would like to add your name to any blank space then please see either Allistair or Ewan



A 6th
P 13th
R 20th
I 27th
L

What can be said about Bill & Bett Blackie? Most of us know them for the warm welcome they give to each of us and to visitors as we go into Church on Sunday mornings. Bett at the door downstairs and Bill upstairs, always with sweets in his pocket for the children and for some rather 'older' children as well.

Today however, we want to say thank-you to both of them for all the work they have done, for almost sixteen years, in looking after the cleaning of the Church and the meticulous care they have taken of it. They always made sure that the sanctuary was 'just right' for Sunday services – no dust or litter allowed – and what they did for Sunday's they did also for any special services held during the week.

Visitors have often remarked on how lovely the Church looks especially the sanctuary – and in no small way most of that is due to the care and attention given to it by Bill & Bett.



Over the years they have devoted many hours to keeping the Church premises clean and tidy. Today we want to say a

very sincere thank-you to them for a job well done.

We are really sorry that they have now found it necessary to give this work up and wish them every blessing in the future.

On behalf of all the fellowship, I had the pleasure of presenting them with a Bible and a gift voucher, little Tom Wraight did really well when he presented them with some lovely flowers.

(Winnie Beattie)

WAS JESUS CRUCIFIED WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY OR FRIDAY?

by Shari Abbott, Reasons for Hope

This is a question that is hotly debated. While the early church set the day of crucifixion on Friday, the biblical evidence for a Friday crucifixion is very weak. The reason for setting Friday as the day comes from this verse:



Mark 15:42 *and now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath . . .*

On the day before every Sabbath was a day of preparation so no work would be done on a Sabbath. The early church understood this to mean the weekly Sabbath (Friday sundown to Saturday sundown) and, since Jesus was crucified on the day of preparation, they assumed it must have been on a Friday afternoon. The error in this logic is that the Sabbath referred to in Mark 15 was the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This is the Feast of the Passover in celebration and remembrance of the Israelites being delivered from Egyptian bondage.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is set on Nisan 15 (Leviticus 23:6) and it is a High Sabbath (rest), also called a High Day:

John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

John 19:31 tells us that this was before the High Day Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Therefore the day before the Sabbath, the day of preparation for the feast, is Nisan 14. Since the Passover feast is set according to the calendar (unlike the weekly Sabbath that is set according to the day) Nisan 15 could fall on any day of the week.

I hold to a Thursday crucifixion and will share my reasoning for this. In doing so, I will also explain many of the reasons why I believe a Wednesday or Friday crucifixion day is incorrect. As you read this, please understand there are many different views on this subject. Study the Bible and come to your own conclusion. Also remember the actual day is not what is important.

What's important is:

(John 3:16-17) *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

Why a Thursday crucifixion?

Reason #1 – My number one reason for belief in a Thursday crucifixion comes directly from the words of our Lord.

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so

shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jesus clearly said “*three days and three nights*” and I take those words to mean exactly what Jesus said. Only a Thursday crucifixion provides three days and three nights. In understanding this we must remember that the Jewish 24-hour day began at sundown and ended the following day at sundown (unlike our day that begins at 12 am).

Day one = Thursday afternoon, Nisan 14. Jesus died at 3 p.m. and was taken off the cross and buried before sundown. Proponents of a Wednesday crucifixion will say that Thursday should not be counted as day one, because He was buried at sundown; However the reasoning for this is in error. At the moment of Jesus’ death (at 3 pm) He descended into the abode of the dead, “*the heart of the earth*,” known as Abraham’s Bosom (Luke 16:22). His body did not go to “*the heart of the earth*” it went into the tomb (sometime before sundown). But Jesus did not speak of when His body would go into the tomb, He spoke of “*the Son of man*” being in “*the heart of the earth*.” Jesus’ soul (the essence of man’s being) went into “*the heart of the earth*” at 3 p.m. on Nisan 14, making it necessary to count that day as day one in the Lord’s reference to “*three days and three nights*.” Here’s where it gets tricky. Again, remember that the Jewish 24 hour day began with the evening and ended the following day at sundown. We’ve established day one as Thursday, and next comes the night. This night is counted as night one, but we must remember that sundown, following Jesus’ 3 p.m. death, was the beginning of the next 24 hour day. This would be Friday night, according to

the Jews, and would be followed by Friday day.

Friday — A High Holy Day Sabbath

Night one = Friday night, Nisan 15.

Day two = Friday day, Nisan 15. The Feast of Unleavened Bread had taken place during the night of Nisan 15, but the entire day was a Sabbath—a time of rest.

Saturday—the weekly Sabbath

Night two = Saturday night, Nisan 16.

Day three = Saturday day, Nisan 16. With this day, Nisan 16, being the weekly Sabbath, the Preparation Day of Nisan 14 would have been a day of preparation for both the High Holy Day Sabbath, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the weekly Sabbath.

Sunday—the first day of the week.

Night three = Sunday night, Nisan 17. According to Scripture, Jesus rose from the dead prior to the daytime hours of Sunday:

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

John 20:1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

Matthew and John are very specific in recording that it was not yet Sunday day. Jesus arose on Sunday night before dawn, which preceded the daytime hours.

In summary, just as Jesus declared, He was in the “*heart of the earth*” for three days—Thursday, Friday, Saturday—and three nights—Friday, Saturday and Sunday night.

Three Days

A Thursday crucifixion also fits with Jesus' words when He spoke of three days in John 2 and Mark 8:

John 2:19-21 Jesus answered and said unto them, destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But He spake of the temple of His body.

Thursday day = 1/2 day
Friday night and Friday day = 1 day
Saturday night and Saturday day = 1 day
Sunday night = 1/2 day
Total: 3 days

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Thursday = day 1
Friday = day 2
Saturday = day 3

Problems with a Wednesday crucifixion:
too many days and nights.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Wednesday day = 1/2 day
Thursday night and Thursday day = 1 day
Friday night and Friday day = 1 day
Saturday night and Saturday day = 1 day
Sunday night = 1/2 day
Total: 4 days

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Wednesday = day 1
Thursday = day 2
Friday = day 3
Saturday = day 4

Regarding Jesus' words of "*three days and three nights*" in Matthew 12:40, a Wednesday crucifixion accounts for 3 1/2 days and 4 nights. It just doesn't fit with what Jesus said.

Problems with a Friday crucifixion:
too few days and nights.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Friday day = 1/2 day
Saturday night and Saturday day = 1 day
Sunday night = 1/2 day
Total: 2 days

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Friday = day 1 (partial day counted as one day)
Saturday = day 2
Sunday = day 3 (partial day counted as one day)

In order to rise "*after three days*," it means that Jesus would have risen after the nighttime hours of day three, Sunday. We know that the women found the tomb empty prior to dawn (Matthew 28:1).

Regarding Jesus' words of "*three days and three nights*" in Matthew 12:40, a Friday crucifixion accounts for 2 days and 2 nights. It just doesn't fit with what Jesus said.

In Conclusion –
Three Days and Three Nights

Thursday night: Beginning of the Day of Preparation, Jesus' Last Supper in the

Upper Room, Jesus Prepares His disciples,
Jesus is arrested in Gethsemane.

Thursday day (morning hours):

Conclusion of Trials and Crucifixion

Begin Counting

Thursday Day = Day 1 (afternoon hours):

Jesus died at 3pm.

Jesus is buried before sundown

(the beginning of the High Sabbath Day)

Friday Night = Night 1 (the High Sabbath)

Friday Day = Day 2 (the High Sabbath)

Saturday Night = Night 2

(the weekly Sabbath)

Saturday Day = Day 3 (the weekly Sabbath)

Sunday Night = Night 3,

Jesus rose before sunrise on Sunday. The

Bible tells us that the women came to the

tomb before sunrise and the angel said to

them, "...*He is not here: for he is risen,*"

(Matthew 28:6)

Three days and three nights — Just like
Jesus said!

This is the first and foremost reason why
I believe the crucifixion took place on a
Thursday. Thursday is the only day that
fits precisely with Jesus' words.

Be a Berean (Acts 17:11) and study for yourself.
Come to your own conclusion, but always
remember it's not about the day of the
week on which the crucifixion took place
... it's all about the One who was crucified
in our place and rose from the dead and
lives. He offers forgiveness of sins and life
eternal to all who repent and trust in Him.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I
declare to you the gospel which I preached
to you, which also you received and in
which you stand, by which also you are
saved, if you hold fast that word which I
preached to you; unless you believed in
vain. For I delivered to you first of all that
which I also received: that Christ died for
our sins according to the Scriptures, and

that He was buried, and that He rose again
the third day according to the Scriptures,
John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that
He gave His only begotten Son, that
whosoever believeth in Him should not
perish, but have everlasting life. For God
sent not His Son into the world to
condemn the world; but that the world
through Him might be saved.

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to the Uttermost

Devotional Readings for Holy Week

by John Piper

"This Holy Week fix your gaze steadily on
Christ as he loves you to the uttermost".

Love to the Uttermost: Devotional
Readings for Holy Week is designed for
Lent 2014. The readings begin on Palm
Sunday, end on Easter Sunday, and aim to
focus our attention on Jesus He displays
His love to the uttermost (John 13:1).
These meditations on the self-giving love
of Christ are all excerpted from the
preaching and writing ministry of John Piper.

Prologue: A Vision for Holy Week

1. Palm Sunday: Seeing the King on Palm Sunday
2. Monday: He Set His Face for Jerusalem
3. Tuesday: Depth of Love for Us
4. Wednesday: Why Jesus Is All-Trustworthy
5. Thursday: Thursday of the Commandment
6. Good Friday: What Good Friday Is All About
7. Saturday: A Holy Week Volcano
8. Easter Sunday: Such Amazing Resurrection Love

[Available in Kindle or PDF format by following this
link – <http://www.desiringgod.org/books/love-to-the-uttermost>]