

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • August 2014

**LET EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO,
LEAD OTHERS TO THE CROSS.**



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 [drop-in for all or part of the time]
		Wed	7.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
August	10th	Sun	1.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
September	5th	Fri	6.00 p.m. – 12.00 a.m.	Half night of Prayer
	7th	Sun	11.00 a.m.	Thank Offering for Building Fund

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

August	3rd	– Philippians 1:1-11 “Assurance”
	10th	– Philippians 1:12-26 “Perseverance”
	17th	– Philippians 1:27 – 2:11 “A servant heart”
	24th	– Philippians 2:12-30 “Christlikeness”
	31st	– Philippians 3:1-9 “Justification”
September	7th	– Philippians 3:10 – 4:1 “Focus”
	14th	– Philippians 4:2-9 “Joy”

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

August	3rd	Inverkeithing: Rev Ross Brown Inverness: Rev Iain Morrison Irvine:
	10th	Islay: Rev Jim McNulty Johnstone: Rev Terry Gallagher
	17th	Kilmarnock: Rev Tendai Mbaserah King’s Park, Glasgow:
	24th	Kirkintilloch: Revs David Gordon and Andrew Giffen Kirkwall: Knightswood, Glasgow: Rev Gus MacAulay
	31st	Ladywell, Livingston: Rev Jim McFarlane Larbert: Rev Ken Bleakley Largo:

JULY OFFERING

£259.00 – July Cafe Day
for F. A. C. E. (Western Gen.)



6th	£815.00	20th	£867.00
13th	£754.00	27th	£539.00

Building Fund total, so far :- £9,898.68

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

THE PRIVILEGE OF GIVING

“We want you to know, brothers, about God’s grace that was given to the churches of Macedonia. In spite of their terrible ordeal of suffering, their abundant joy and deep poverty have led them to be abundantly generous. I can testify that by their own free will they have given to the utmost of their ability, yes, even beyond their ability. They begged us earnestly for the privilege of participating in this ministry to the saints. We did not expect that! They gave themselves to the Lord first and then to us, since this was God’s will (2 Corinthians Ch 8).

This is one of the most challenging passages in the New Testament about giving. About a year earlier Paul had given instructions to the Corinthians about the collection of money he was organizing for the poor Christians in Jerusalem. The Corinthians had made a start, but in the meantime they became so concerned with their own difficulties that they stopped. Now that they have cleared up their local troubles, Paul reminds them of the importance of this exercise in Christian giving.

The giving of the Christians in Macedonia is an example of true Christian giving. They might have suffered from persecution and poverty, but they gave generously – not only as much as they were able but far more, and without any urging from Paul. In fact, they begged Paul to allow them the privilege of taking part in the offering. Such an attitude was possible only because they first gave themselves to the Lord, for Him to use them as He desired.

Next month, on 7th September we are having a thank offering towards our building fund. This is an opportunity to give generously to God's work here in Portobello. The repairs to the building will require over £100,000. This example in 2 Corinthians reminds us that the key to giving is first to give ourselves to God. We have a big challenge ahead of us but God promises to supply all we need if we simply give ourselves fully to Him.

Father, we pray for your blessing upon your work. We give ourselves once more to you trusting you will lead every step of the way. Amen.

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:

FLOWER CALENDER

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



A 3rd
U 10th
G 17th
U 24th
S 31st

CONGRATULATIONS...

... to Janet Christie who has recently become a 'granny' following the birth of a baby girl to Laura and her husband.



A NOTE OF THANKS

Just a brief note to express my sincere gratitude for all the kindness and support you have shown whilst I have been recovering from my operation and prolonged illness.



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"



I have appreciated all the lovely cards sent both to the hospital and to my home, as well as the many and varied gifts of soup and other nice tit-bits to aid my recovery.

I am quite certain my vases have never been better used thanks to the many wonderful bunches of flowers you have sent.

Finally, I wish to thank you for all your kind thoughts and prayers during this time.

Yours gratefully

Maggi P.

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KEEP PRAYING THAT PRAYER

by Jonathan Parnell

My six-year-old daughter prays for her teddy bear to talk, and I haven't told her to stop.



Do I think God will answer her prayer? No, I do not — I mean, I don't think the bear will talk. But always getting exactly what we ask is not the point of prayer, and we should never stop praying because we lose hope that God will answer us.

Jesus taught us these things when He told the parable of the persistent widow. He told the parable, as Luke says, “to the effect that [His disciples] ought always to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1).

For Encouragement's Sake

Plain and simple, Jesus told the parable to encourage His disciples to persevere in prayer. So perseverance is the key, but it's not perseverance in the sense that we outdo God. Jesus is not teaching us that we can wear down God like the widow wore down the cruel judge. God loves to give us good gifts (Luke 11:13). It's His delight to give us the kingdom (Luke 12:32). He runs to His children with open arms (Luke 15:20). In fact, Jesus emphatically tells us that the judge is not like God in this short story. This judge neither fears God nor respects man.

He's a scoundrel, a low-life, a detestable authority.

But, in the end, he still did what was right.

The emphasis is not that if the cruel judge knew how to give justice, how much more will your Father in heaven? True as that is, it doesn't seem to be the central point here. The focus is that the widow kept asking for justice, and she was vindicated. She was so confident that her request was the right thing that she kept asking for it, even from a cruel judge.

Something Worth Asking

That is how the widow inspires us. She continued asking, over and over again, in accordance with what she thought was right because she knew that the right thing would eventually happen. Regardless of whether she really knew that judge would do what she was asking, she knew that she had something worth asking — and that sooner or later God would make everything right in the world, one way or another.

The connection between her praying and ours is not the cruel judge and our God, but that righteousness will be given for God's people — even if by the hands of a bad guy. “Hear what the unrighteous judge says,” Jesus tells us (Luke 18:6). What is right will happen for us as it did for her — and we don't have to badger God like she did the judge. The answer — the vindication — of our prayer may not look exactly like what we're wanting or turn out with all the specifications of our request, but God will do the right thing and we pray with faith unto this end.

That is what Jesus says in Luke 18:7: “Will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night?” That is

to say, God will certainly do what is right for His people who trust Him. “Will [God] long delay over them?” That is to say, God will send justice without us having to know the secret password, or wear Him down by bugging Him, or worry if He’s really hearing us. “I tell you,” Jesus continues, “He will give justice to them speedily” (Luke 18:8).

God Hears

So don’t lose heart. Have the same kind of confidence as the widow. Pray with the confidence, not that precisely what you’re asking will be given, but that God will give what He knows is right. Perseverance is less about getting what we want, and more about believing that God hears us and will provide what we need — which is oftentimes something we have to grow into, especially when we ask, full of good intentions, for our teddy bears to talk.

God is never bothered when we pray by faith. Never. And perseverance is trusting this truth, as we keep asking for what’s right as far as we know, until God does what is right — either by giving us our desire or correcting it.

My little girl, then, in the beautiful faith of a child, should ask God for whatever her little heart desires — until that teddy bear starts speaking or her prayers mature for even better things.

(<http://www.desiringgod.org>)



THE COOK ISLANDS

The Gideons International is pleased to announce the opening of Country 198, Cook Islands.



The country has a population of 20,000 of which 55% are Protestant. The island country is located in the South Pacific Ocean and operates as a self-governing parliamentary democracy in free association with New Zealand.

In June a member of the International Outreach Committee of The Gideons International, visited the city of Rarotonga. During his visit, a camp was formed with seven Gideons and five Auxiliaries. The estimated annual potential for distributions there is 4,300 Scriptures.

We praise God for His faithfulness in continuing to open doors where Gideons and Auxiliaries can share copies of God’s Word, and lead the lost to Christ. Please pray that as these new members share Scriptures in the Cook Islands, many more of the country’s inhabitants will receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.





Bob Bell, Exile Band, Steph Macleod

Carrubbers Christian Centre,
Tue 19 August, 2014, 19:30:00

Venue Location:

65 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

Admission: free; Disabled Access: yes

Parking: on street/multistorey

Origin Scotland presents the Festival outreach programme at Carrubbers Christian Centre, on Edinburgh's Royal Mile from 19-23 August. Come and hear some of Scotland's best Christian musicians sing their songs and tell their stories.

Tuesday 7.30pm

Bob Bell,

Exile Band - Foot Stomping Gospel Night,
Steph Macleod

Wednesday 7.30pm

Beth Coyle, Alan McKinlay, Steph Macleod

Thursday 7.30pm

Selah Corbin, El Mafrex, Royal Foundlings

Friday 7.30pm

Anthem 33

Exile Band - Foot Stomping Gospel Night
Steph Macleod

Saturday 7.30pm

Anthem 33

Scot Nicol and The Limitless Sky

Exile Band - Foot Stomping Gospel Night



FROM THE ARCHIVES

[Extracts from Church Minutes going back in twenty five year increments]
(Moira Scarcliffe)

August 1989

Due to the imminent departure of Rev George Mitchell a vacancy committee was appointed, consisting of eight members and four deacons. It was agreed that the manse should be let to people such as missionaries or out of pastorate ministers, for the sake of security and keeping the manse heated. This would also prevent church paying double poll tax on unoccupied premises.

It was reported that the total cost of eradicating wet and dry rot in the basement would be in the region of £2000.00 (Inc. VAT). Offer from Kirkintilloch Baptist Church youth group to clear basement of debris was gratefully accepted.

August 1964

The main concern of the deacons' court must be the heating system of the Church as this was costly to run and the Hall was especially inefficient. Mr Kedzierski and his committee to go into this thoroughly and report back. It was unanimously

agreed to devote the Annual Thank Offering to updating the heating system.

August 1939

Due to resignation of Miss J Ross as Girl Guide leader and no new leader being found it was agreed to disband the company, District Commissioner to be notified. Regarding Miss Ross's long association with the 38th Company, it was agreed to present her with two books as a memento of her service.

The Band of Hope agreed to adjust its meeting time on Tuesday evenings so that the Pastor could establish a weekly Bible School on the same night once the Band of Hope children had left the premises.

August 1914

It was agreed that, in addition to the honorarium of £10 per annum, the Church Officer receive 2/6d for a large social meeting, 1/- for any public meeting and 2/6d for a baptismal service.

A proposal to erect a memorial to the late brother Mr Gregory was under consideration.

VISITOR RESPONSE

I am a visitor and would like

- Information about the Church
- A visit from the Minister
- Information about becoming a Christian

PLEASE FILL IN YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BELOW
and either place in the offering bag, hand to a steward or post to
189 Portobello High Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU

NAME:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

