

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • December 2014



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



Scottish Registered Charity: SC0153322



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News

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
December	7 th	Sun	1.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	14 th	Sun	5.00 p.m.	"Christian Aid" Carol Service**
	19 th	Fri	7.30 p.m.	"Carols by Candlelight"**
	21 st	Sun	11.00 a.m.	"All age Christmas Sunday Service"**

[** check 'Buzz' newsheet nearer the time for further details]

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

December	7 th	-- Luke 19:12-27 "Buried Alive!"
	14 th	-- Luke 13:6-9 "No Fruit Today"
	21 st	-- Christmas Sunday
	28 th	-- Into the future with God

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

December	7 th	Stranraer; Strathkerrick
	14 th	Thomas Coats Memorial; Thurso; Tillicoultry; Tiree
	21 st	Uddingston; Viewfield, Dunfermline; Westray; Westwood
	28 th	Whytes Causeway; Wigtown; Wishaw

NOVEMBER OFFERING

£204.00 – November Cafe Day
for Womens Aid



2 nd	£855.00	16 th	£590.00	30 th	£889.00
9 th	£744.00	23 rd	£553.00		

Building Fund total, so far :- £16,596.75

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"What shall I give Him - poor as I am?"

A pastor tells a story about learning to use a crosscut saw with his father. As he and his father were sawing through a log that had a rotten core, a piece of wood sheared off that looked just like a horse's head. So Bryan took it home and then later on gave it to his dad as a present. "I attached a length of two-by-four board to that log head, attached a rope tail, and stuck on some sticks to act as legs. Then I halfway hammered in a dozen or so nails down the two-by-four body of that "horse," wrapped the whole thing in butcher block paper, put a bow on it, and presented it to my father. When he took off the wrapping, he smiled and said, "Thank you, it's wonderful ... what is it?" "It's a tie rack, Dad," I said. "See, you can put your ties on those nails going clown the side of the horse's body." My father smiled again and thanked me. Then he leaned the horse against his closet wall (because the stick legs could not keep it standing upright), and for years he used it as a tie rack. Now, when I first gave my father that rotten-log-horse-head tie rack, I really thought it was "good." In my childish mind this creation was a work of art ready for the Metropolitan Museum. But as I matured, I realized that my work was not nearly as good as I had once thought. In fact, I understood ultimately that my father had received and used my gift not because of its goodness but out of *his* goodness.



We have an opportunity this Christmas to offer our gifts to the Saviour of the world. Out of His grace, He accepts what we give, not because of how great the gift is, but because He loves us, and values any gift given by one of His children. Gifts of service, worship and loving prayer are accepted by our Heavenly Father. In the same way, as we love Christ through the people we see and meet this Christmas, we are giving Him gifts that He will cherish. What gift will you bring?

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:

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"

D
E
C
E
M
B
E
R

FLOWER CALENDER

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

D 7th
E 14th
C 21st
M 28th
B
E
R

MISSIONARY UPDATE

Dear friends,

Hello from not so sunny Ndola. Thankfully the rains have arrived at last and given some relief from the heat of October in Zambia. I feel God's sense of humour at work in these rains, preparing us for our move to the UK in December!

The last few months seem to have passed in a blur as we have continued our jobs, ministries and language learning. As well as his job teaching, Sitongua has been preaching quite a lot, particularly at NDOTech, Ndola Technical School, where our church has an outreach ministry. He felt very honoured when the girls asked to have him as the speaker at their special farewell service to the Grade 12s, who have finished their schooling now. I have been teaching Sunday School and taking part in Bible study with the girls at NDOTech.

This new school year we have had an average of 15 pupils from my school coming along to the Adoption Centre every Tuesday. It is great to see the way they have grown in their love for and relationships with the children. Although early, we had a Christmas party with the children this week as the school will close soon for the holidays. The students brought in a donated Christmas tree and we made decorations for it with the children as well as having drinks, pizza and biscuits that the students brought. It was a lovely time. There have been some changes at the Adoption Centre. Steve is now living with his grandmother and the family. I was really blessed to be able to visit him. He has settled well, had grown and seems happy. Four other

children live at the family home, so he has good company. They plan to send him to school from January. Brenda is a new addition at the Centre and has adjusted well. She is 5 years old and gets on well with the other girls. Ignatious was able to re-join his parents when they were released from prison but they live very far away so I haven't heard how he is getting on. Elvis and Gift, the babies, are doing well. Elvis has learned to walk and talk a bit and Gift is a 'bonnie baby' with great big chubby cheeks. Please pray for Ruben especially, and the other children.

I have two more weeks left at school and today started to tell my classes that I am leaving. I am not very popular with them for going and some tell me they are coming with me. I will miss them as we have gotten to know each other well over the last two years. I finish on Friday 5th December and we fly out on the 6th, so a quick turnaround. We are in the throes of packing up and selling off. We praise God that Sitongua's visa has been granted and we just need some more paperwork from the police office before we go. Please pray for this and all the goodbyes.

The first week back in UK we have meetings, medicals and so on with BMS

World Mission and God willing, we'll be at the training centre, IMC, in Birmingham from January. We do appreciate all your prayers and support and hope we can meet up with some of you when we are in the UK.

I have attached some photos of Sitongua and I at NDOTECH and the children at the Adoption Centre. I'm not sure how I am going to say goodbye to these precious little ones who have taught me so much.

Love

Lynne & Sitongua



PREPARE HIM ROOM

· CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS IN SONG ·

CHRISTMAS IN TIME AND SPACE

(from www.ligonier.org)

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town” (Luke Ch 2 vv 1–2).

Over the centuries, a number of extrabiblical traditions have become part of our celebration of Christmas. Santa Claus, Christmas stockings, jingle bells, and so on are evident every year in December. Of course, there is nothing necessarily wrong with these traditions in and of themselves. However, because we live in a highly secularized society, even Christians must guard against the temptation to let these traditions overshadow the true reason for Christmas, which marks the turning point of history—the incarnation of the Son of God Himself (John 1:1–18).

This incarnation is no fairy tale but a real event that we can locate in space and time. Luke tells us that the birth of Jesus took place during the reign of Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1–7). Under Caesar Augustus, who ruled from about

27 BC–AD 14, the Roman Empire reached the zenith of its military, cultural, and economic influence. Augustus ushered in what has been called the Pax Romana, an era of great stability and peace because of the reach of the Roman Empire. It is surely no accident of history that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, was born in an era of peace that lasted only for a few decades. His birth at that time helps prove that only He can bring about the peace between humanity and God that is required in order for them to have a true relationship. For generations, people around the world have found peace with God in Christ, who has achieved a level of recognition worldwide that far surpasses that of Caesar Augustus.

Elsewhere in Scripture, we read that the incarnation occurred in “the fullness of time” (Gal. 4:4). Basically, the sense is that Christ came at the perfect time, the point God had determined before the ages began. He entered time and space exactly as the Lord foreordained, fulfilling God’s perfect plan of salvation.



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE



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:
EMAIL:

PHONE:

Coram Deo (*before the face of God*)

The Bible insists that the Son of God entered history at a specific point and remains united to a human nature in the person of Jesus Christ forever. This is radically different from the Hindu concept of incarnation, which says the gods enter

history repeatedly in different forms. Moreover, the incarnation of Jesus is inseparably tied to history itself. We must be prepared to defend the historicity of these doctrines and others, as God's acts in history are fundamental to Christian truth.

CAROLS
BY
CANDLELIGHT



JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS
FOR OUR CAROL SERVICE

Friday 19 December 2014 7.30 p.m.

Portobello Baptist Church

Don't worry. When you sing praises
to the Lord, I'm pretty sure Jesus
"auto-tunes" it for you.





PREPARE HIM ROOM

VERSE 1

O behold, the mystery now unfolds
See the star shine on the virgin foretold
Angels sing and light up the sky
Hope rings out in a newborn's cry
Swing wide, you ancient gates
For Christ is born today!

CHORUS

Prepare Him room
Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in

VERSE 2

God with us, the promise has come to be
This, the one the prophets were longing to see
In the darkness a blazing light
To the hungry the words of life
His kingdom now is near
For those with ears to hear

VERSE 3

Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem
Hear Him knock, don't say there's no room in the inn
Through the cradle, cross, and grave
See the love of God displayed
Now He's risen and He reigns
Praise the Name above all names!

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[Scan either QR Code with your Apple, Android or Windows smart phone to listen to this new Christmas song]

