

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • November 2014

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



Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



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
November	9th	Sun	10.50 a.m.	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
	11th	Tues	7.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	30th	Sun	11.00 a.m.	117th Church Anniversary**
December	14th	Sun	5.00 p.m.	"Christian Aid" Carol Service**
	19th	Fri	7.30 p.m.	"Carols by Candlelight"***

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

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

November	2nd	– John 14 “Believe the impossible!”
	9th	– John 15 “Stay connected”
	16th	– John 16 “Receive power”
	23rd	– Luke 12:13-21 “But I wasn't ready to die!”
	30th	– 117th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY (Rev Dr George Mitchell)
December	7th	-- Luke 19:12-27 "Buried Alive!"
	14th	-- Luke 13:6-9 "No Fruit Today"
	21st	-- Christmas Sunday
	28th	-- Into the future with God

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

November	2nd	Portobello
	9th	Rutherglen & South Beach, Saltcoats
	16th	Selkirk, Sheddocksley & Shettleston
	23rd	South Leith & St. Andrews
	30th	St. Ninians

£232.00 – October Cafe Day
for Amnesty International

OCTOBER OFFERING



5th	£583.00	19th	£758.00
12th	£852.00	26th	£602.00

Building Fund total, so far :- £16,391.75

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." Isaiah Ch 2 v 4

On May 28, 1992, Vedren Smajlovic, the lead cellist in the Sarajevo opera, put on his formal black tails and sat down on a fire-scorched chair in a bomb crater and began to play. The crater was outside a bakery in his neighbourhood where twenty-two people waiting in line for bread had been killed the previous day. During the siege of Sarajevo in the early 90s, more than ten thousand people were killed.

The citizens lived in constant fear of shelling and snipers while struggling each day to find food and water. Smajlovic lived near one of the few working bakeries where a long line of people had gathered when a shell exploded. He rushed to the scene and was overcome with grief at the carnage.

For the next twenty-two days, one for each victim of the bombing, he decided to challenge the ugliness of war with his only weapon— beauty. He's known as the "Cellist of Sarajevo." After that, Smajlovic continued to unleash the beauty of his music in graveyards, at funerals, in the rubble of buildings, and in the sniper-infested streets. Although completely vulnerable, he was never shot. It was as if the beauty of his presence repelled the violence of war. His music created an oasis amid the horror. It offered hope to the people of Sarajevo and a vision of beauty to the soldiers who were destroying the city.

A reporter asked him if he was crazy for playing in a war zone. Smajlovic replied, "Why do you not ask if they are crazy for bombing Sarajevo?"

Today, we remember those who have laid down their lives in times of war. They have paid for our freedom. However, we also remember the ugliness and futility of war. The cellist used his skills and gifts as a kind of protest against the worst that mankind could devise in his fight with fellow man.

As Christians, we do the same. Our lives should be characterised by the peace of God. We should model lives that reflect a world that is to come. A world of righteousness, justice and peace. As the world looks back and gives thanks, we do too. But we roll up our sleeves and work hard with a vision of the world to come.

Yours in Christ,



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"

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FLOWER CALENDER

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

N 2nd
O 9th
E 16th
M 23rd
B 30th
E
R

THE WEREWOLF'S CURSE

by Dr Elizabeth Mitchell
(extract from answersingenesis.org)



The classic werewolf legend features a human who transforms, often at the time of a full moon, into a particularly vicious wolf. Some such shape-shifters were thought to be sorcerers with the ability to transform themselves into animals. Others were supposedly victims of a werewolf's bite or a curse. Lycanthrope — a synonym for werewolf — recalls the cruel Greek tyrant Lycaon who angered the mythological god Zeus and was punished with such a curse, henceforth bearing in his flesh the animalistic ferocity that had always ruled his life. Ancient Greek and Roman writers record accounts of werewolves. Therefore, it is no surprise that these dangerous magical animals also haunt medieval lore as well as, quite sadly, the lists of people persecuted under the Inquisition during which thousands perished with such a label.

Clinical Lycanthropy

History — including the history in the Bible's Old Testament — and the annals of modern medicine record people who sincerely thought they became animals. Taking its name from the cursed Lycaon, lycanthropy is the psychiatric syndrome in which a person believes he or she shape-shifts into a wolf or other animal.

Daniel 4 records how such a delusion fell upon the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar. Despite Daniel's warning that he should avoid pride because he only held power with God's permission, Nebuchadnezzar declared himself the author of his own good fortune and the designer of his own destiny. As God had warned through Daniel's prophecy, Nebuchadnezzar suffered what we would consider a mental breakdown, behaving and being treated as a beast until he came to know "that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men" (Daniel 4:25):

While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."

That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws. (Daniel 4:31-33)

That true story had a happy ending, for so chastened Nebuchadnezzar eventually recovered his wits and declared, "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all of whose

works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down" (Daniel 4:37).

Modern psychiatrists consider lycanthropy a rare form of schizophrenia. When patients with clinical lycanthropy think they are animals other than wolves, additional terms may apply. For instance, Nebuchadnezzar's lycanthropy is also called boanthropy because he behaved like a cow (a bovine animal). Like Nebuchadnezzar, victims alter their behaviour in accordance with their delusion, but they of course suffer no physical manifestations of looking like a wolf or other animal.

We are thankful that the days of thinking people can turn into werewolves are (hopefully!) long gone. Fortunately, hypertrichosis is not associated with any devastating physical or mental consequences, and both hypertrichosis and clinical lycanthropy are rare. It is easy to understand how in an ancient and medieval world in which wild animals often wreaked havoc on domesticated animals and defenceless people, myths and legends about werewolves could develop.

Yet all these problems—physical anomalies associated with mutations,

For a joy that will never die.
For a well that won't run dry.
I know only You can satisfy.

Jesus, I was
made for You.

MATT PAPA

mental illness and delusions, the curse of vicious animals, the nasty way many people mistreat and fear people who look different from themselves, and cruel persecution even in the name of religion—are in a sense related. The first three are the result of the Curse that came upon mankind (Romans 5:12–21) and our world (Romans 8:22) as a result of Adam’s rebellion against our Creator, as described in Genesis 3. Mistreatment and persecution of other people is an ongoing manifestation of the wickedness of human beings, for we are all sinners (Romans 3:23).

Sin’s curse is the reason we suffer and the reason we die. God designed this world to be “very good” (Genesis 1:31). When we understand from Genesis that man’s sin brought suffering and death into this world, then we can be very thankful for the indescribable gift of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 9:15). Jesus, God’s Son, came into this sin-cursed world to die on the Cross and defeat death through His Resurrection. By repenting and trusting our lives and our eternal destinies to Him, we can be redeemed and have an abundant life and a glorious future with Him.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

ACCEPTING GOD'S GRACE
TO SOLVE LIFE'S PROBLEMS

A Celebrate Recovery group was started in Penicuik, Midlothian early in 2002. Our leaders comprised a mixed group of people with hurts, habits and hang-ups - alcoholics, drug users and some members of Penicuik South Kirk leadership team. All were seeking more from 'recovery'.

We learned that the Celebrate Recovery programme was Bible based and Christ centred, also that the principles and steps were God's road to healing, wholeness, spiritual growth and a new lifestyle of righteousness. We were promised that our spiritual and emotional commitment, as well as our relationship with Christ would be enriched, which it truly has been. I am so grateful to this programme for guiding me into God's grace, love and redemptive power.

Portobello Baptist Church Celebrate Recovery meets on Monday evenings in our church cafe and anyone and everyone is welcome, so if this sounds appealing do come along, 7 for 7.30 start.

(Robert Burns, Celebrate Recovery Leader)

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:

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE



FROM THE ARCHIVES

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

25 years ago - 1989:

It was reported that the Baptist Union Insurance Company was not prepared to give anything towards eradicating the dry rot in the basement, which emanated from a floor fitted by the church.

The public house had come under new management and was now closed on Sundays. In November a fire bomb was thrown through the window of the pub.

The church continued to look for a new minister to follow on from George Mitchell.

50 years ago - 1964:



Sunday School average attendance was around 70 children and was going well though there was a shortage of teachers. A Christmas party was

planned and held, with conjuring acts and a visit from Father Christmas. The children attended and took part in an all age Christmas Service the Sunday before Christmas.

Elsewhere in the church both the Church Secretary and Evangelistic Convenor stepped down for various reasons so new appointments needed to be made.

75 years ago - 1939:

On the recommendation of Rev D Merrick Walker, the Pastor, Rev William Whyte, had been appointed chaplain to the non-conformist troops stationed in and around Portobello. The position was an honorary one.

Following discussion about blackout conditions it was agreed to blackout the Church Hall so that the Sunday School children could have their Christmas parties.

It was agreed to give £2.2s/- to Alex Wilson the organ blower for services rendered during 1939.

100 years ago - 1914:

The church was considering calling a Pastor and the deacons were of the opinion that the sum of £80 could be raised by the Church towards a Pastor's support. The deacons then met with D Merrick Walker and subsequently the Church Meeting voted to invite him to be Pastor for at least a year at a salary of £100. Rev Walker was prayerfully considering this.

Little mention was made of the War apart from some requests for charitable funds which were turned down because it was agreed to support initially those men associated with the congregation who had answered the call to arms. The women were knitting for the troops.



A DAY TO REMEMBER



In the last 100 years alone, scores of men and women have given their lives so that we may live in freedom.

Remembrance Day is a day set aside for remembering the courageous men and women who have fought to defend and uphold the liberty that we have in our country. They have sacrificed much,



some even giving their lives, for our freedom. As we remember those who have served and those who have given their lives, we must also remember the One Who gave His life for our ultimate freedom.

At this time we take a few moments to remember ... and give thanks.



PRAYER FOR THOSE:

FORCED TO FLEE ▶▶▶

Malcolm Duncan, senior pastor at Goldhill Baptist Church told Open Doors how his church held prayer vigils on Saturday evenings recently to pray for Iraqi Christians who were forced to flee from Mosul and other cities by the extremist Muslim group IS. He said there is only one church, and we are part of the church that is being persecuted.

He ended his report with a powerful prayer which you are invited to pray for all being forced to flee as follows:



Father, I do not understand everything that happens in this world, but I do trust You, and I pray for our brothers and sisters who face the darkest moments of their lives.

In that darkness be their light; for those who have fear raging in their souls, pour the water of your Spirit and Word upon that fear and let it be quenched; for those who do not know what will happen in the next moment, I pray that you will appear to them as the God who is there, the God who is always there.

I pray for those who have lost loved ones, for those who face the prospect of losing everything – give them courage and grace and power.

And I pray that the perpetrators of such violence and wickedness will be stopped in their tracks, that they will see the risen Christ, that their lives will be transformed by the One who has transformed the very ones they seek to persecute, and I pray that You, Lord Jesus Christ would appear as You did to Saul on the road to Damascus, and that You would put an end to this suffering and violence.

I pray in Jesus' Name that You would strengthen those who remain with the reminder that not one hair on our heads is unaccounted for. I pray that You would give grace to forgive, strength to stand and hope to endure, patience to keep going, and that You would pour from heaven itself the very Spirit of the Living God upon those who need You more deeply than we could ever understand. Come in your grace and power in Jesus' Name. AMEN.