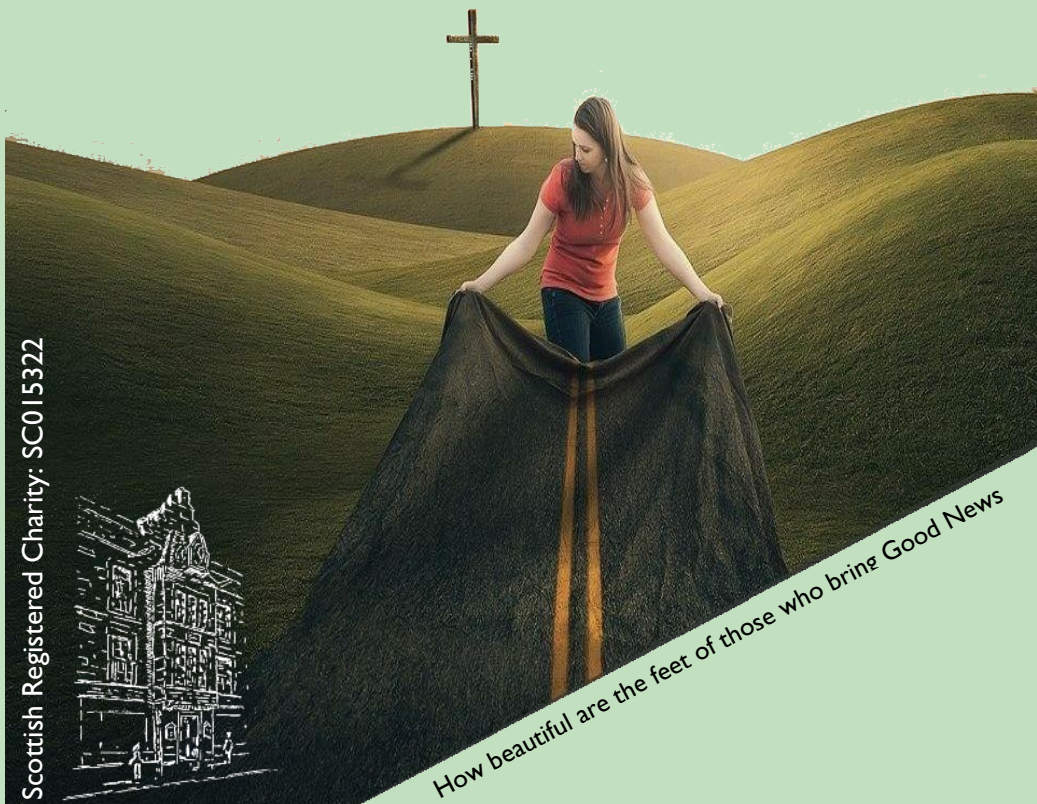


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • September 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 07.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
September	7th	Sun 11.00 a.m.	Thank Offering for Building Fund
	9th	Tues 07.30 p.m.	Management Meeting

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

September	7th – Philippians 3:10 – 4:1 “Focus”
	14th – Philippians 4:2-9 “Joy”

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

September	7th	Baptist Union of Great Britain Larkhall: Rev Stuart Wadsworth; Leith (North): Rev Goncalves Lerwick
	14th	Baptist Union of Wales Leslie: Rev James Faddes; Leven: Rev Mark Pexton Linwood: Rev Robert Voysey
	21st	Irish Baptist Networks Lochgelly: Rev Jon Macgee; Lochgilphead: Rev Derek Gibson Lossiemouth: Rev Rae Mackenzie
	28th	Scottish Baptist College Milestone, Girvan: Rev Adam Ollermann; Montrose

AUGUST OFFERING

£193.00 – August Cafe Day
for Blythswood Trust (Moldova)



3th	£508.00	17th	£764.00	31st	£638.00
10th	£886.00	24th	£860.00		

Building Fund total, so far :- £10,329.75

Thank offering Weekend

September 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia.

*²They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor.
But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.*

³For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.

⁴They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.

*⁵They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us,
just as God wanted them to do."*

(II Corinthians Ch 8)

I found this story utterly challenging: Churches in the north-eastern Indian state of Mizoram have a beautiful phrase to express the way they give to God — "Buhfai Tham." It means "one handful of rice at a time." Here's how it works: Families in the church set aside a portion of rice at every meal for God. When they collect enough rice, they donate it to their local church. The church sells the rice to generate income.

In 1914 they used the sale of rice to raise £1 (in U.K. money). But lately these Christians have been collecting £1 million as they support 1,800 missionaries, in addition to local ministry. People have also started giving in more creative ways, as vegetables, firewood, and other resources flow into the church's outreach for the kingdom.

Although nearly destitute, the Macedonian Christians mentioned by Paul, begged to give. He uses them as an example to challenge the Corinthian Christians. The Corinthians had not followed through on their promises. Whereas those who had little, put them to shame.

As we bring our Thank Offering to give to God, God is not interested in how much we give, but whether we give with a sacrificial, joyful spirit. We cannot give more than we have, so to compare ourselves to others would be wrong. The way we give is to look into the eyes of Jesus and ask "what would YOU have me give Lord?" All of it goes to enable and extend the work of God's Kingdom here in Portobello. We will never know.

The poor widow, though she gave little, gave more than anyone else.

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"

S
E
P
T
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

S 7th
E 14th
P 21st
T
E 28th
M
B
E
R

WHEN YOU DON'T WANT SUMMER TO END

by Christina Fox

Summer is over. Mornings spent sleeping in and lingering over a cup of coffee have come to an end. Vacations at the beach and afternoons lying out by the pool are sweet memories. The school year has resumed and with it early morning alarms, hectic schedules, and families pulled in different directions.



**Are you like me and wish
summer would never end?**

Interestingly, Scripture doesn't speak of extended breaks or vacations. However, holidays, celebrations, and rest it does talk about and all of these are related to remembering, celebrating, and enjoying God and what He has done.

Our Saviour didn't take a vacation to the beach but He did take breaks from his busy teaching schedule to rest. He enjoyed sweet fellowship with beloved friends. He feasted on good food and participated in celebrations. He also rested from His work by getting away from the crowds to be alone with his Father. "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16).

**The truth is, the rest and peace
we experience during the summer
is always with us.**

It's not some elusive thing we can only find while walking on the beach or laying beside a pool. We can find that quiet and solace even in the midst of our crazy days. It's found in communion with Christ.

Jesus came to bring us freedom from slavery to sin. He came to relieve us of our burdens. He came to give rest to our weary souls. "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Jesus is the source of all rest.

Through faith in what He has done, in His life, death, and resurrection, that rest is ours. And when we are in communion with Him, no matter where we are, no matter how busy our days, we always have peace and rest.

A few of the ways we can seek and find our rest in Christ:

1. Clear Away the Clutter

The reason why summer is often so relaxing is because there aren't so many

things vying for our attention. Perhaps we need to pull back and re-examine what is important. Is it really necessary to fill every waking moment of our days with activities? What do we waste time on? What are our motives for the commitments we've made? Is there anything we are doing that doesn't bring God glory? What clutters up our lives that we need to clear away?

2. Set Aside Time for Quiet

David said, "In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly" (Psalm 5:3). Jesus often rose early in the morning and went to the olive groves to pray and be with his Father. Some days it might be longer than others. For some, evenings might work better than mornings. Whatever time of day, it is important to set aside specific quiet time to be with Jesus.

3. Create a Quiet Sanctuary in Your Heart

For those whose lives are busy and chaotic (like mums!) create a place of quiet in your heart where you can go, even in the midst of the clamour. In that place, you can remember God's word, pray a short prayer, cry out to God, and

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and



FOREVER

apply the gospel to your daily struggles. This is why memorizing God's word is so important. You can recall His truth, no matter where you are and how busy you are.

4. Take Time to Enjoy God's Handiwork in Creation

Exploring what God has made and seeking His glory in His handiwork is another way to find rest and communion with Him. Worship Him and praise Him for all He has done. Be amazed and filled with wonder at His power and might. Stand breathless before a majestic mountain or a radiant sunset. Listen to the roaring of the ocean's waves. Watch a butterfly alight on a flower. And pray the words of Nehemiah: "You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you" (Nehemiah 9:6).

Summer may be over
and with it lazy days.
But the rest we have in Christ
is eternal and will never end.

Do you know this rest?
(taken from ungrind.org)

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:

FROM THE ARCHIVES

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

Sept/Oct 1989:

Content and format of Open Air meetings were brought into question and it was thought change was required. A request to the Baptist Union for a beach mission team had been granted for the first two weeks in July. Baptist Union insurance turned down claim for repairs to church basement.

Sept/Oct 1964:

Dissatisfaction was expressed about the Public House illuminated signs. Since it was too late to rectify this mistake, it was agreed to erect an illuminated sign over the church main door.



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE



All arrangements for the planned children's campaign were in place. Invitation cards were printed and ready for door to door visitation. Mr Eric Smith gave a very full report about his findings regarding the church youth work. Lack of co-ordination was a serious problem and it was recommended and agreed that a youth committee should be set up to try to address this.

Sept/Oct 1939:

Since War had been declared there was need to discuss restrictions on lighting and also ARP requirements regarding air raids. It was agreed as a trial to have two services on Sundays at 11.15 and 2.30 followed by prayer meeting at 3.30 pm. As regards mid-week meetings it was agreed it would be unwise to ask people to come out on darkened streets, particularly during winter months. It was agreed to cancel all evening meetings meantime. A committee was appointed to see if church basement could be used as shelter in the event of an air raid warning. It was agreed a deacon should remain at church door during services in case of an air raid warning. It was agreed to pay out of the fellowship fund the cost of wool for ladies who were knitting comforts for troops.

Sept/Oct 1914:

Extensive wet rot had been discovered in the church building in Stanley Street. Mr David McArthur, architect, reported that the total cost of repairs to baptistery, surrounds, joists and excavation of ground as needed would amount to £6-11-6d, assuming old fittings were re-used and no more extensive damage discovered. This estimate was agreed to be perfectly satisfactory.

Sunday School teachers were instructed

to visit all scholars before the start of the new session (29/9/1914) and in addition to try to get new scholars.



If you have a smart phone (iPhone/ Android or WindowsPhone) then scan the below QR Code to hear Keith & Kristyn Getty sing the song printed on the back page.



HIGHER THRONE

There is a higher throne
Than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
Will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand,
Made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace—
Salvation comes.

REFRAIN

*Hear heaven's voices sing;
Their thund'rous anthem rings
Through em'erald courts and sapphire skies.
Their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
Strength, thanks, and honor are
To God our King, who reigns on high
Forevermore.*

And there we'll find our home,
Our life before the throne;
We'll honor Him in perfect song
Where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
As thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
We'll reign with Him.

"There Is a Higher Throne"
Words and Music by Keith & Kristyn Getty
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