

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

# MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • April 2015

Curtain torn  
FROM  
THE TOP  
DOWN

Mark 15:38

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

2015



		Tues	10.30 a.m.	Weekly Hour of Prayer [drop-in for all or part of the time]
April	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	07.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11.00 a.m.	Resurrection Sunday
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	01.30 p.m.	Management Meeting

[check 'Buzz' newsheet for last minute details]

## SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

April	5 <sup>th</sup>	Cornton BC – Hamish Wishart
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Cowdenbeath BC – Graham Kinloch Crieff BC – Jim Newell
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Stuart Murdoch (Chaplain, Strathcarron Hospice) Crown Terrace BC – Gary Smith Culduthel Christian Centre – Alasdair Macleod
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Culloden BC – Kenny Ross

## FUTURE SERMON PLAN

April	5 <sup>th</sup>	RAISED! Easter
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew Ch 14 vv 13–21 – Sonblest Bread
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew Ch 14 vv 22–32 – Riders on the storm
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew Ch 15 vv 01–20 – Breaking traditions
May	10 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew Ch 15 vv 29–39 – When God is silent

## MARCH OFFERING

£234.00 – March Cafe Day  
for BBC Comic Relief



1 <sup>th</sup>	£736.00	15 <sup>th</sup>	£726.00	29 <sup>th</sup>	£730.00
8 <sup>th</sup>	£719.00	22 <sup>nd</sup>	£648.00		

Building Fund total, so far :- £19,798.75

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." (I Corinthians 15:20-22 NIV)*

There is a cave in New Zealand that has an unusual species of glow-worms. The inside of the cave is lit up by thousands of these phosphorescent little creatures. They spend most of their lives as larvae. When they finally hatch and get their wings, amazingly enough they have no mouths. They have no way to feed. They only live for one single day. They get one day to fly. They get one day to attract a mate, get married, have children, and then they die. One day.

On the other end of the spectrum of life, a few years ago scientists found the oldest living animal at the bottom of the ocean near Iceland. It was a type of deep-sea clam called a quahog. By studying the quahog's shell, which grows by a layer every year, the scientists determined that the animal was 507 years old. In other words, this mollusk was born in 1499, or just seven years after Columbus sailed to America. Ming was happy as a clam, until (true story) scientists at Bangor University in North Wales inadvertently killed Ming when they opened its shell to find out how old it was.

A day or 507 years—in both cases, death struck. It's the same for all of us. The Bible says "all flesh is like grass." Our lives will end. The fastest athlete in the world will eventually be defeated by arthritis. The most beautiful supermodel in the world will not be on the cover of the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue when she is 97 years old. Wealthy, powerful CEOs get betrayed by their bodies, and they die.

. . . Which is why the words of Paul are so exciting. Death is not the end. Jesus is the firstfruits of a renewed creation. If we trust in Him, one day we will be made alive again. In fact since the whole of creation will be renewed, maybe there's a chance for those glow worms, or the mollusk. Paul, elsewhere says "the whole of creation is standing on tip toes" to see this new world. Do mollusks have tip toes? One day.....

Your pastor,



## THE CHURCH FAMILY

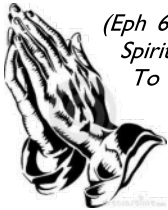
We continue to remember, in prayer, all those who have been so faithful in the service of the Church and are no longer able to worship with us:



## 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"*

A  
P  
R  
I  
L

## FLOWER CALENDAR 2015



5<sup>th</sup>  
A  
P  
R  
I  
L  
12<sup>th</sup>  
19<sup>th</sup>  
26<sup>th</sup>

As the authoritative, inerrant, and sufficient Word of God, we know Scripture tells us everything we need to know about Christ's suffering and death on the cross. But there is a sense in which we miss the full weight of His sacrifice with just a simple reading of the text. His hours and hours of agony simply cannot be encapsulated in a few short passages.

To help understand the pain He endured on our behalf, let's examine His final statements from the cross. We'll look at two that illustrate both the extent of His suffering and the purpose for which He was willing to endure it.

### **A Plea for Relief**

"After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, 'I am thirsty.'" (John 19:28). This was Christ's fifth utterance from the cross. As the end neared, Christ uttered a final plea for physical relief. Earlier He had spat out the vinegar mixed with painkiller that had been offered Him. Now, when He asked for relief from the horrible thirst of dehydration, He was given only a sponge saturated with pure vinegar. John writes, "A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth" (v. 29).

In His thirst we see the true humanity of

Christ. Although He was God incarnate, in His physical body, He experienced all the normal human limitations of real human flesh. And none was more vivid than this moment of agonizing thirst after hours of hanging on the cross. He suffered bodily to an extent few have ever suffered. And—again, so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled—all He was given to salve His fiery thirst was vinegar. “They also gave me gall for my food and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink” (Psalm 69:21).

### A Proclamation of Victory

John’s account of the crucifixion continues: “When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’” (John 19:30). In the Greek text, this sixth utterance of Jesus from the cross is a single word: Tetelestai! Luke 23:46 indicates He made this cry “with a loud voice.”

It was a triumphant outcry, full of rich meaning. He did not mean merely that His earthly life was over. He meant that the work the Father had given Him to do was now complete. As He hung there, looking every bit like a pathetic, wasted victim, He nonetheless celebrated the greatest triumph in the history of the universe. Christ’s atoning work was finished; redemption for sinners was

complete; and He was triumphant.

Christ had fulfilled on behalf of sinners everything the law of God required of them. Full atonement had been made. Everything the ceremonial law foreshadowed had been accomplished. God’s justice was satisfied. The ransom for sin was paid in full. The wages of sin were settled forever. All that remained was for Christ to die so that He might rise again.

That is why nothing can be added to the work of Christ for salvation. No religious ritual—neither baptism, nor penance, nor any other human work—needs to be added to make His work effectual. No supplemental human works could ever augment or improve the atonement He purchased on the cross. The sinner is required to contribute nothing to earn forgiveness or a right standing with God; the merit of Christ alone is sufficient for our full salvation.

Tetelestai! His atoning work is done. All of it. “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9).

(taken from <http://www.gty.org/Blog/BI50401>)



## THE SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Few of us remember those Sundays that come the week after Easter. By then the pastel finery is packed away in our closets. The lunch is not as great. The anticipation for corporate worship has dropped down from the seasonal high we felt just a week before. There is less excitement, less panache, less décor — and more resemblance to that original Easter so many Sundays ago.



It's easy to forget that the Easter morning of A.D. 33 didn't come with big hats and bowties. Those disciples huddled together in fear, not faith. They tended their wounds, not flaunted their tidiness. And then — then — they worshiped Jesus.

They worshiped Jesus not because of what they had to offer, but because He bombarded their worlds with hope. He exploded the walls of their wretchedness with the irrefutable fact that the grave had not won, that death had been defeated, that the guilt and power of sin had been slain. They were astonished, at best; despairing, at worst; helpless, in the least — and Jesus walked in with His life-changing peace.

### 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:

Jesus stepped into their space in the same way He steps into ours by His Spirit — as the resurrected Christ, the reigning King, the Lord of all. He comes as the one who is not served by human hands as though He needed anything, but who gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. He comes as the one whose glory is not contrived by our praise, but whose glory compels our praise — even today, even on this “normal” Sunday.

Or, perhaps, He compels our praise especially on this normal Sunday because we're reminded that worship is not about us bringing our best, but about finding Him as better. We come to Him who first came to us. And we come not to give, but to receive. We come as those who need to hear His voice, feel His nearness, know His love.

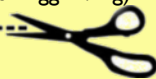
We come to get God, to say together, humbly and gladly in the Spirit's power, with the heart of Psalm 116:12-13,

What shall we render the Lord Jesus  
for all His resurrection benefits?

We will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon His name.

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

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CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE



PHONE: