

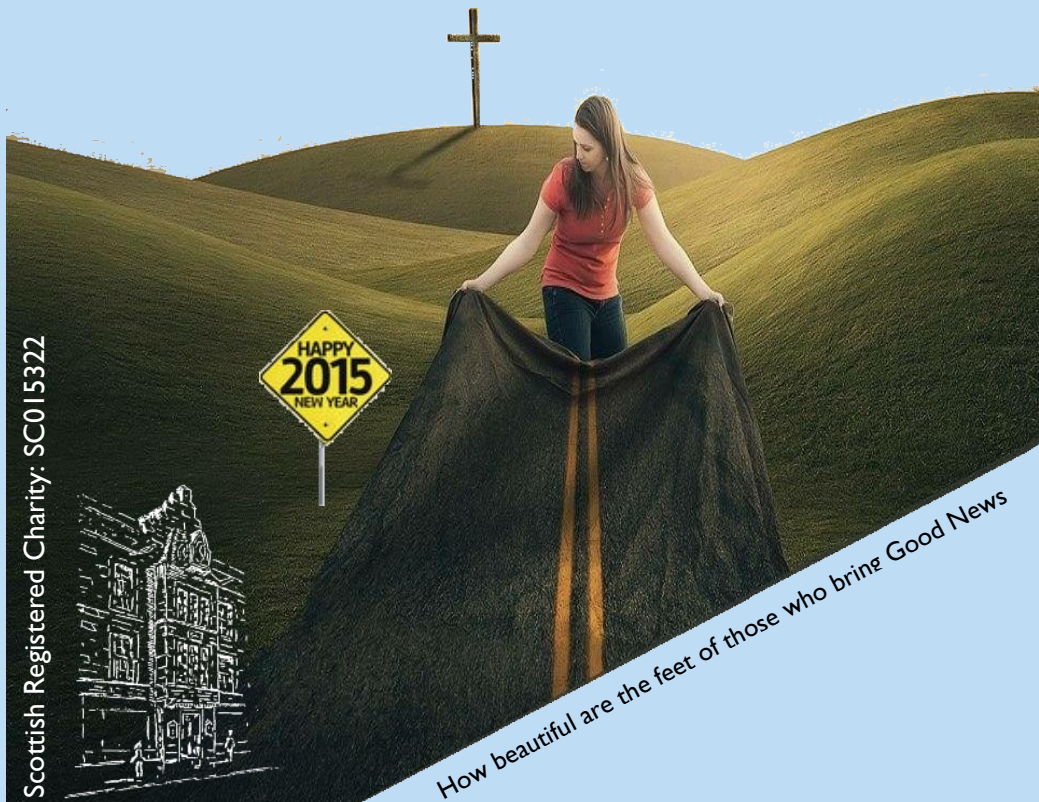
The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • January 2015

Look forward in faith
All time is in God's hand.
Walk humbly with Him
And trust His future plan.
God has wisely led
His people by His power
Look forward in hope
He gives us each new hour.

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How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News

Scottish Registered Charity: SC0153322

NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

dates for your diary

2015

March
2

May
18

March
30

February
26

April
27

August
27

		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
January	13 th	Tues	7.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	16 th	Fri	6.00 p.m.	Half Night of Prayer
March	29 th	Sun		'Spring Forward' clock change
April	3 rd	Fri	7.30 p.m.	Good Friday
	5 th	Sun	11.00 a.m.	Resurrection Sunday

[check 'Buzz' newsheet for last minute details]

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

January	4 th	Abbeyhill, Edinburgh: Gordy Mackay Adelaide Place, Glasgow: Stephen Crothers
	11 th	Airdrie: Ross Murphy Alexandria (Vale of Leven)
	18 th	Alva: David Frazer Ardbeg (Rothesay)
	25 th	Arran: Vince Jennings Ayr: Mark Bentham

DECEMBER OFFERING

£364.00 – Carols by Candlelight
collection

£215.00 – December Cafe Day
for St. Vincent de Paul

7th £864.00 21st £974.00

14th £811.00 28th £606.00



Building Fund total, so far :- £16,716.75

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**New Year. New Life.
New Lifestyle . .**



January 2015

“... anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new.
The old life is gone; a new life burgeons!” (II Cor. Ch 5 v 17)

Some years ago, the American Red Cross was gathering supplies, medicine, clothing, bandages, food and the like for the suffering people of Biafra. Inside one of the boxes that showed up at the collecting depot one day was a letter. It said, “*We have recently started to follow Christ and because of this, we want to try to help. We won't ever need these again. Can you use them for something?*” Inside the box were several Ku Klux Klan sheets. The sheets were cut down to strips and eventually used to bandage the wounds of sick people in Africa. It could hardly be more dramatic -- from symbols of hatred to bandages of love because of new creation.

This family changed their lifestyle, made choices, became different, because of an inner change wrought by the Messiah. Newness of life does not just happen at new year, with resolutions and frantic discipline. It is something that flows from the new life of God within us.

What symbols of the old life might change for you?

- *A negative outlook changed by faith?*
- *A critical tongue speaking blessing?*
- *A measured, skinflint lifestyle pouring out more and more time and talents to God's work?*

If you are willing. If you dare to believe. If you allow Him to have the throne of your life, then you can see this year transformed. If each of us got hold of this vision, then Portobello and Edinburgh could not help be touched by your life and mine.

.....a new life burgeons!

Your pastor,



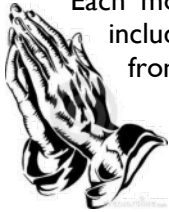
THE CHURCH FAMILY

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:

Please pray for Cyril Gee and family as they come to terms with the loss of Jean, who passed away on Thursday. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

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.

J
A
N
U
A
R
Y

(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"

FLOWER CALENDER 2015

J 4th
A 11th
N 18th
U 25th
A
R
Y

If you would like to add your name to the 2015 Flower Calender please see Ewan Sinclair. The dates chosen represent any memorable/ notable dates that are worthy of remembrance – either a birthday, a wedding anniversary or the anniversary of the passing of a loved one.
(Ewan Sinclair)

THE GATE OF THE YEAR

by Shari Abbott at Reasons for Hope



Today let us ponder some thoughts about entering into the new year.

Remembering who God is, what He has done for us and who we are in Christ will build a confidence to face whatever the new year brings and an assurance of who will lead us every day. Take a minute and read this poem, beginning with the preamble.

God Knows

And I said to the man
who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I
may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness
and put your hand in the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way."

So I went forth,
and finding the Hand of God,
trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills
and the breaking of day in the lone East.

The above words are the preamble of a poem written by Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957). It was published as a part of a collection of poems titled, The Desert, and this poem was named, God Knows. It was later popularized with the name, The Gate of the Year, taken from the first line.

The preamble of this poem rose to national attention when Princess Elizabeth gave the poem to her father, King George VI and he read it during his radio broadcast to the people of Great Britain on Christmas Eve 1939. Upon the death of King George in 1952, Princess Elizabeth became Queen. She had the words of the poem engraved upon brass plaques and attached to the gates of the King George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor Castle. Interred at this chapel are bodies of King George VI, his wife Queen Elizabeth (The Queen Mother), and the ashes of their second daughter Princess Margaret. When the Queen Mother died in 2002, reigning Queen Elizabeth had The Gate of the Year read at her funeral. The words are also inscribed in a window at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. Additionally, the words were quoted in the 1940 MGM movie, The Mortal Storm.

Take a minute and read the entire poem.

God Knows / The Gate of the Year

And I said to the man
who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I
may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and
put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and
finding the Hand of God,
trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and
the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still:
What need our little life
our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will is best.
The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God.

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



Our fears Are premature;
In Him, All time hath full provision.

Then rest:
until God moves to lift the veil
from our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
of Life's stern face we hail,
fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.

How do you “put your hand into the Hand of God” and let Him lead you this year? It's not by doing better, it's by believing better. Understand the words, “God knows. His will is best.”

Commit this year to getting to know Jesus better through reading and studying His Word. When you know Him better, you will love Him even more.

Commit this year to enter into deeper communion with Him through prayer. When you commune with Him more, you will find greater rest in Him.

Commit this year to remember all that He has done for you and all that He has given to you. When you remember Jesus your mind will be transformed and God will faithfully conform you more and more to the image of His Son.

Open to me the gates of righteousness:

I will go into them,
and I will praise the LORD:
This gate of the LORD,
into which the righteous shall enter.

I will praise thee:
for thou hast heard me,
and art become my salvation.
(Psalm 118:19-21)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

from Reasons for Hope



New Year's Resolution

~~To Be Perfect~~
~~To Be Perfect~~
~~To Be Perfect~~

To Follow Christ.

JESUS SAVES

[L I T E R A L L Y]