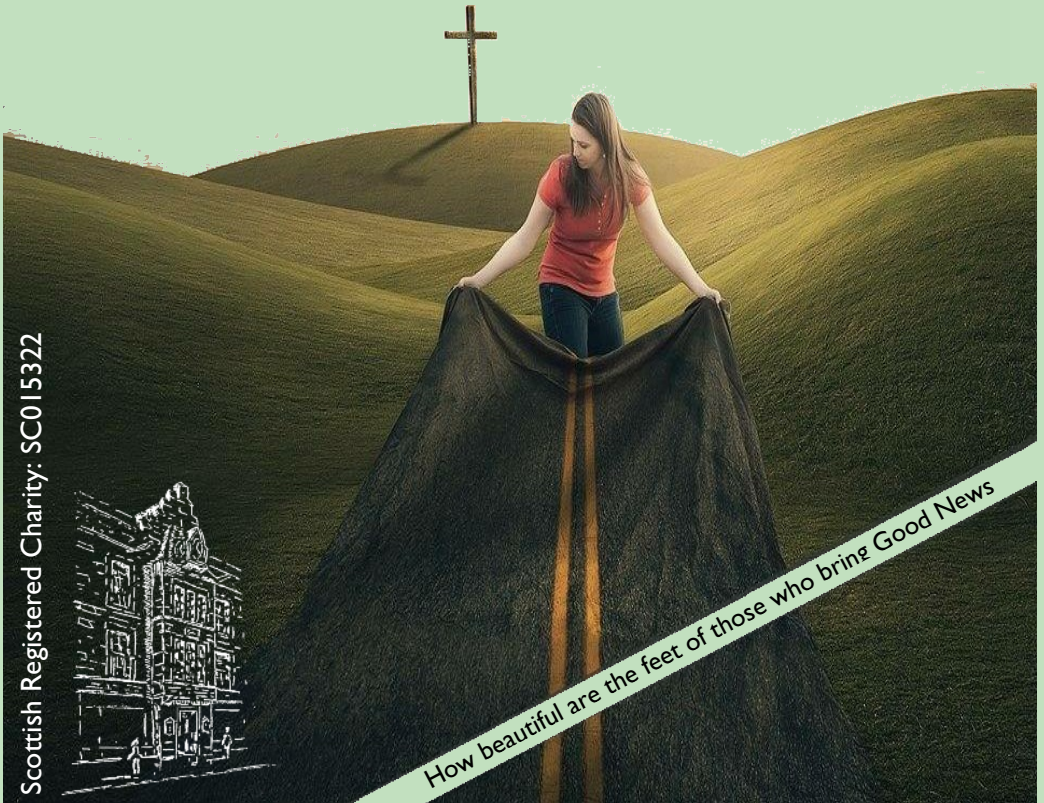


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • March 2015

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



Scottish Registered Charity: SC015332

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News

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
March	10th	Tues	7.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	29th	Sun		'Spring Forward' clock change
April	3rd	Fri	7.30 p.m.	Good Friday
	5th	Sun	11.00 a.m.	Resurrection Sunday

[check 'Buzz' newsheet for last minute details]

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

March	1 st	Leslie Edge (Chaplain, The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice, Glasgow) Burra Isle, Shetland; Calderwood, East Kilbride; Cambuslang
	8 th	Ron Flett (City Centre Chaplain, Aberdeen) Campbeltown Community Church
	15 th	Carluke; Carnoustie; Castlehill, Bearsden
	22 nd	Cliff Jackson (Lead Chaplain, Auchenlochan); Cathcart; Central, Edinburgh
	29 th	Gordon Jones (Chaplain, Royal Alexandria Hospital); City Gates, Edinburgh; Cleland; Coastline Community Church; Coatbridge

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

March	1 st	SHARING – your life and creating community
	8 th	HEARING – from God
	15 th	INCARNATING – being Jesus to the world
	22 nd	PRAYING my life – prayer without ceasing
	29 th	Crowd Control (Palm Sunday)

FEBRUARY OFFERING



1 th	£660.00	15 th	£804.00
8 th	£649.00	22 nd	£695.00

Building Fund total, so far :- £19,276.75

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. They all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.” (Matthew 15:36-37)

PLACING ALL RESOURCES IN GOD’S HANDS

Seven loaves of bread and a few fish. Four thousand hungry men, plus women and children. Put them all together and you have a lot of hungry people! But add Jesus to the scene, and you have all the ingredients for a miracle. A world teeming with millions of unreached souls, and a few thousand missionary volunteers. Again, so little in the face of so great a need. But as J. Hudson Taylor discovered, little is much when God is in it.



“What God has given us is all we need; we require nothing more. It is not a question of large supplies — it is just a question of the presence of the Lord. Let us look to the Lord’s methods. How were the people fed? By the united action of Christ and His disciples. He claimed their all. They gladly gave their all and unhesitatingly obeyed all His directions. Let us give up our work, our thoughts, our plans, ourselves, our loved ones, our influence, our all — right into His hand. And then there will be nothing left to be troubled about. When all is in His hand, all will be safe; all will be done and well done.”

Those are the responses of the disciples who took bread and fish from the Master’s hands to feed the multitudes — though they could not explain the source. With those attitudes we too can boldly share the good news of Jesus Christ with the hungry in our world. When we commit our life to Christ, we too can have confidence in a God who is big enough, wise enough, rich enough to handle any problem. We need to know this as we look at the needs of Portobello and the city. If God calls, He equips. Nothing is lacking. At His table there is food to spare. It’s our privilege to pass the basket.

Your pastor, 

THE CHURCH FAMILY

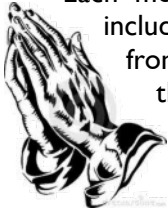
We continue to remember, in prayer, all those who have been so faithful in the service of the Church and are no longer able to worship with us:

- Ella Hill
- Jack Logan
- Olive Nicol
- Morna Vyse

Please pray for Jack Logan and family as they come to terms with the loss of Thea, who passed away on Tuesday 27 January. 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.

M
A
R
C
H

(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"

CHURCH DIRECTORY 2015

Preparations are underway to update the Church Directory, if you are a New Church Member (or regular attender) and you would like your contact details added into the new Directory please

Speak to Ewan Sinclair or email your details to ewansinclair@isa4031.co.uk

FLOWER CALENDAR 2015

1st
M
A 8th
R 15th
C 22nd
H 29th

TRIBUTE TO MRS THEA LOGAN

Wee Thea, as she was known, was a bundle of energy. She, and her husband Jack, were associated with this Church for over 60 years. She was a practical Christian woman whose faith was important to her and the mainstay of her life. Thea was involved in many parts of the church life and activities.

- She was a Sunday School Teacher.
- She was a singer, singing solos or duets with Jack.
- She was very involved with the women's activities in the Womens Own and the Womens Auxiliary.
- She visited people who were sick or shut in.
- She was involved with the Church coffee morning for many years.

Thea loved to practise hospitality and many people were invited for Sunday night suppers at Thea and Jack's.

She liked to strike up conversations with people she met, on the bus and in other places, asking them if they had any Church connection. If not, she would invite them to this Church and there are some people who came and found a home here as a result of these chats. I

used to say to the Church members that we could all learn from Thea.

Thea lived to the age of 98 and for the last 5 years has needed care which she received at Victoria Manor Care Home. Throughout this time Jack has shown Thea unfailing love and care, visiting her every day and spending time with her. Their son John and his wife Ann, of whom Thea was very proud, also devoted time to caring for her.

For Thea faith has given way to sight and she is now in the presence of her Lord.

We, who knew her, are grateful for every remembrance of her. And are comforted that she is now safe in the arms of Jesus.

(Jack Spiers)

BE CAREFUL WITH . . .



. . . butterflies, for they are easily damaged. Do not think you could manage without them. It is not for you to say, for they are bound up with you in the pattern of life, and their brief, beautiful existence is precious in the eyes of God.

. . . people, for they are fragile and easily damaged. Do not think that some are more important than others. It is not for you to say, for we are here to serve not to rule, and the bruised and broken ones are precious in the eyes of the Lord.



(seen on a display board at St Gabriel's School, Alsager, Cheshire, submitted by Denise Halcrow Burns)

PREPARING YOUR HEART FOR WORSHIP

By R. C. Sproul

It is very important that we take time to prepare our hearts to worship God before we set foot in the sanctuary on Sunday morning. God made this clear amid the awesome circumstances of the giving of the law in Exodus 19. God called the people to prepare to come into His presence, or near His presence, but not actually onto the mountain where He would speak to Moses. "Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people'" (Ex. 19:10–11). God wanted the people of Israel, before they came near to Him, to get ready to come near to Him, to prepare themselves for an encounter with Him.

Our (Dr Sproul's) church service begins at 10:30 a.m. At 10:20, we turn the lights down and begin the prelude. This is the signal for our people to begin preparing for worship. By contrast, God gave Israel two days to prepare. He required them to be consecrated and to wash their clothes. These preparations were appropriate for what was about to happen. If I told my congregation that in three days God was going to appear visibly and that He wanted them to wash their clothes for the occasion, I am sure they would do it. It would seem to be an insignificant requirement for the awesome privilege of standing in God's physical presence.

Exodus 19:14 tells us that Moses did exactly as God commanded; He went

down and sanctified the people. The people also obeyed by washing their clothes. They took the time to prepare for worship. We should do the same by reading God's Word and praying for His assistance to worship Him rightly.

Part of our preparation for worship ought to be reminding ourselves of who God is—the holy, sovereign Lord. Turning again to Exodus 19, we read in verse 16:

Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

When the trumpet sounded and the moment arrived for the people of Israel to draw near to God, every person in the camp trembled. Unfortunately, few people respond to God in worship like that anymore. Many have forgotten how to tremble before Him, for they do not regard Him as holy. How different their response would be if they could see Him as He revealed Himself to the Israelites:

"And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now, Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly." (Ex. 19:17-18)

Over and over again God invited the people, "Come near to Me." But that invitation was balanced by what God said following the deaths of Nadab and Abihu: "By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy." We are commanded by God to come into His presence—to come near to Him. Not only that, we may come boldly into His presence, as

Hebrews 4:16 makes clear. But there is a difference between coming boldly into the presence of God and coming arrogantly. When we come boldly into His presence and draw near to Him, we must always remember that we are to regard Him as holy.

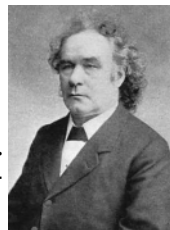
We also must remember that we have no right to come into God's presence on our own. No amount of preparation that we can do is enough to make us fit.

(<http://www.ligonier.org/blog>)

SPURGEON'S ORPHANAGE

Charles Spurgeon and Joseph Parker both had churches in London in the 19th century. On one occasion, Parker commented on the poor condition of children admitted to Spurgeon's orphanage. It was reported to Spurgeon however, that Parker had criticized the orphanage itself. Spurgeon blasted Parker the next week from the pulpit. The attack was printed in the newspapers and became the talk of the town. People flocked to Parker's church the next Sunday to hear his rebuttal. "I understand Dr. Spurgeon is not in his pulpit today, and this is the Sunday they use to take an offering for the orphanage. I suggest we take a love offering here instead." The crowd was delighted. The ushers had to empty the collection plates three times. Later that week there was a knock at Parker's study. It was Spurgeon. "You know Parker, you have practiced grace on me. You have given me not what I deserved, you have given me what I needed.

(bible.org/illustration/spurgeon's-orphanage)



WHAT CAN GOD DO WITH THE SMALL AND UNLIKELY

As I walked off stage this past weekend, a woman grabbed my arm and said, “You are so much shorter in person than on video!”

I laughed because I’ve heard that before. I am only 5’2” but with some hair work and heels, I am a towering 5’5”! But, I’m still short and little no matter what.

“How tall are you anyway,” she asked.

“On the inside or the outside?” I answered. “I am really tall on the inside, I’m just small on the outside.”

If you’ve ever felt small, insignificant, or unimportant, let me tell you this...

SMALL THINGS CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT

Here’s what I mean.

Let’s just take a small number and see if it can have a big impact . . .

32 isn’t a big number, is it?

32 little chocolate chips are only about 70 calories, but they will give you immense pleasure.

A 32 minute power nap may cost you about a half hour of productivity, but you will gain a new lease on your day.

32 cents won’t buy you anything. But, if you save 32 cents every day for 32 years, you will have \$3,740.16 in the bank!

32 degrees Fahrenheit will make the sidewalks frosty and water freeze, but it also gives you a chance to snuggle by a fire with some hot chocolate and someone you love.

If you read 32 books over your lifetime, your brain will have processed about 1,600,000 words!

If you read 32 pages from your Bible everyday, you will have read the whole Bible in just 62 days.

If you drink 32 ounces of water twice a day, you will eat less and be more hydrated.

If you had invested \$32 in the stock market in 1932, you would have over \$200,000 today!

32 may be a small number, but it has big implications, doesn’t it?

You may feel small or insignificant. Or, you may feel like who you are, or where you are, is small and unimportant compared to the seemingly big significance of others’ lives and situations.

**BUT, NO ONE AND
NOTHING IS REALLY SMALL
AND INSIGNIFICANT.**



**THE GOSPEL IS
THE POWER OF GOD
FOR SALVATION**

ROMANS 1:16

The big impact of small things can be overlooked if we are not careful.

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.” (Zechariah 4:10 NLT)

When Zechariah spoke those words, he was referring to the building of the second temple. Judah’s enemies looked down on the attempt as if it were no big deal and even the Jews themselves thought little of it. Compared to the former temple, it was going to be scrawny.

**BUT, IT WAS NO
“SMALL THING”
IN GOD’S EYES.**

Nothing is.

No one is.

Matthew Henry said, “In God’s work the day of small things is not to be despised. Though the instruments be weak and unlikely, God often chooses such, by them to bring about great things.”

So, if you feel small, or as Henry put it, “weak and unlikely,” don’t look down on it.

**GOD TAKES THE SMALL
AND UNLIKELY TO
CREATE BIG, BEAUTIFUL RESULTS.**

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:

God sees and honors the days of “small things” and He sees and honors the person who feels small too.

So, don’t let small things trick you into thinking they aren’t a big deal!

The day of small things is the day of precious things! And, it just may be the beginning of great things!

(<http://www.jenniferrothschild.com>)



When as a child I laughed and wept,
time crept;
When as a youth I dreamed and talked,
time talked;
When I became a full-grown man,
time ran;
And later, as I older grew,
time flew;
Soon I shall find, while travelling on,
time gone;
Will Christ have saved my soul by then?

(Found inscribed on an old clock in Chester Cathedral)

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

