

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

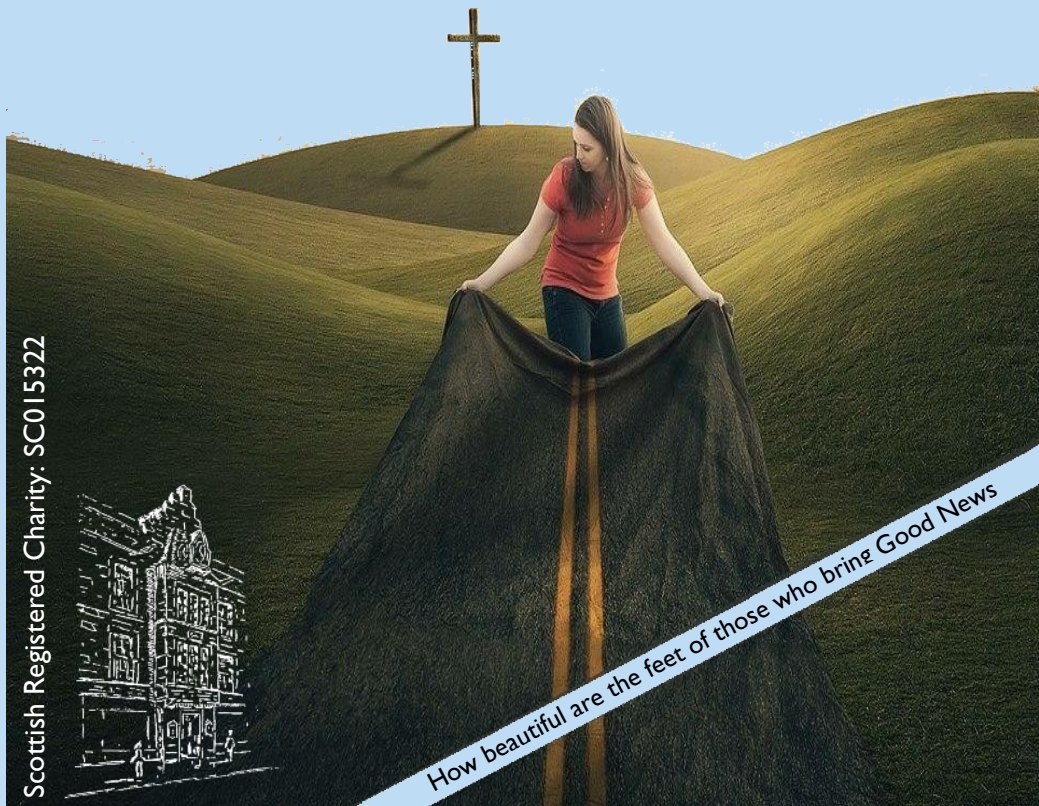
MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • May 2015



*Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.*
(II Cor 2:17)

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

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]
May	12 th	Tues	7.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	28 th	Thurs	7.30 p.m.	Quarterly Business Meeting

[check 'Buzz' newsheet for last minute details]

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

May	3 rd	Rev Al Nicol (Acting Snr Chaplain, RAF Brize Norton) Dedridge BC, Livingston
	10 th	Adam Plenderleith (Chaplain, Glasgow Royal Infirmary) Dingwall, Willie Miller
	17 th	Dumbarton, Brian Mulraine
	24 th	Jim Simpson (Lead Chaplain, Grampian NHS) Dundee Central, Jim Turrent Dunfermline West BC, Douglas Whyte
	31 st	Dunrossness, Ian H Thomson East Mains, Jim McGillvray

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

May	3 rd	Matthew Ch 15 vv 21-28 – When God is silent
	10 th	Matthew Ch 15 vv 29-39 – Deja Vu
	17 th	Ascension – things are looking up
	24 th	Pentecost – gifts from above
	31 st	Matthew Ch 16 vv 01-12 – Are you listening?

APRIL OFFERING



5 th	£985.00	19 th	£803.00
12 th	£880.00	26 th	£794.00

Building Fund total, so far :- £19,808.75

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us . . ."
(The Lord's Prayer)

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the great 19th century American writer and poet, once gave this advice: "Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities may have crept in: forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day: begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be worried over your old nonsense. This day is all that is good and fair. It is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the yesterdays.



You may not know the name of Donald Tippett. Years ago, he was a minister in New York. One day, two young men came to see him on some pretext or other, and he willingly received them. What he didn't know was that they were planning a robbery, and their visit to him, a minister chosen at random, was purely to set up an alibi.

While they were there, he had to take a phone call in another room. The two young men thought he'd seen through their story and was reporting them to the police. So they burst into his room, set upon him with knuckle-dusters and beat him up, badly injuring his eye.

That might have been the end of the story, but it wasn't. For when they were arrested, Donald went into the witness-box; not to give evidence against them, but to plead for them! He managed to persuade the judge to lighten their sentences.

He went to see them in jail. He helped them to decide what they'd do once they were released, and he enabled one to enrol at college, helping him through his studies until he qualified as a doctor.

Remarkable, isn't it, that the young man who caused the minister's eye to be permanently injured became a gifted eye specialist who helps the blind to see again? - And all because Donald Tippett had it in his heart to forgive.

As we continue to build community in the church, and as we get more and more busy, there is always the danger that relationships come under pressure. The test that we are Christ-followers is not that we never fail, or fall out, but that we can forgive and pick up the pieces.

Perhaps there is a lesson we can learn from Tippett. The only way he could forgive in this way was for the forgiving love of Jesus to flow through him.

Your pastor,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Smith".

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"

M
A
Y



FLOWER CALENDAR 2015

3rd
M 10th
A 17th
Y 24th
31st

TRIBUTE TO MR JACK LOGAN

It is my privilege to pay tribute to Jack Logan who passed away last Monday.

If I was to think of one word that summed up Jack that word would be devotion.

Firstly to his family. It is only a few short weeks since we gathered here to remember his wife Thea and we talked then of how devoted to her Jack was. How in the final stage of her life when she was in a care home he visited her every single day. He showed his love and care for Thea in many ways and was always looking out for her.

His son John was an important part of his life and he was proud of John and what he had achieved. I remember when John had a catering business on the AI Jack would be going down to take supplies to John and give him a hand. Then as John's business grew Jack was on hand to help when needed and to give him support. As time went on he was grateful for the love and support that John and Annie gave him as he got older and in the final part of his life.

He was devoted to this church and served here in many ways. He first received the right hand of fellowship in June 1954 and attended unfailingly over all those years.

He was Sunday School Superintendent for several years.

He was a steward welcoming people to the church and helping out.

He was a singer, singing solos or duets with Thea. He was a regular mainstay of the main events of the church. At Easter Jack would sing "Were you there

when they crucified my Lord” and at Christmas “Mary’s Child (Born in the night)” and people appreciated this contribution.

He was practical and involved himself in helping when people needed help with work in their house.

He was also a good baker and along with Thea was involved with the church coffee morning for many years.

He was devoted to Jesus Christ and to living out the Christian faith in this world. He was eager to share his faith with others and to point them to the heavenly father who he knew and loved.

For Jack faith has given way to sight and he has now been welcomed into the presence of his Lord.

We, who knew Jack are grateful for every remembrance of him.

(J. Spiers)

looking forward to moving to Guinea as well as gearing up for the challenges we will face.

What we will be doing in Guinea is not one hundred percent definite. Lynne will most likely be involved in children’s work, perhaps in a PEPE type project, while Sitongua’s focus will be with students and young people. We will see what the needs are as we get to Labe. We will be working with a team of people, some BMS and some local, with the aim of serving the local Fulbe community, building friendships and sharing the love of Jesus through practical ways. It will be a different kind of Africa for us, as the Fulbe community is a l m o s t completely Muslim. We would really appreciate your prayers for this new stage.



LYNNE & SITONGUA LAUSSU

Dear Friends,

Beautiful star shaped daffodils, bright purple crocuses and sun trying to break through clouds, it’s been many years since

Lynne saw spring in England and this time around in Sitongua’s company.

We are going to serve as a couple under the auspices of BMS. We have been in Birmingham since January, studying, learning French (it needs a lot more work!) preparing and filling in what feels like a rainforest full of forms. We are now in the last month before lift-off as it were, and are



Our training has been at IMC, International Mission Centre, in Birmingham. It was good to have fellow new folk and not be the odd ones out, and we have enjoyed getting to know our fellow trainees and learn from them. It is second time around at IMC for Lynne, and it has been a strange experience as some aspects are the same such as Linda and Kat, the cooks in the kitchen, who continue to produce delicious dishes to tempt us all. The teaching staff are all new since Lynne was there, and so are some of the courses. There is now a lot of focus on character and personality, preparing us to work more effectively with others. We both really enjoyed, and learned a lot from, the course on assertiveness training.

Sitongua has appreciated the opportunity of worshipping in the different churches we have visited, and the overall experience of church in the UK. He had the opportunity to preach both in Scotland and England. People have been very kind, and interested in what we will be doing. He has had fun adapting to the Birmingham accent and learnt a few new phrases such as “oroit bab?” Alan, the caretaker, has been a great source of new words as well as lots of encouragement.

Being back in the UK for longer than usual has meant we have been able to catch up with some friends not seen for many years and they had the chance to meet Sitongua too. This has been a real blessing. We have also been able to do a bit of sightseeing in and around Birmingham and further afield. Sitongua has been amazed by the architecture of some of the cathedrals, in York and Lichfield for example, and we loved our trip to the Birmingham library. Amazingly, we have had friends we made in Angola, come and visit us, although they are serving in different parts of the world now. It was lovely to remember the good times in Angola, and reflect on how God has been leading each of us.

What was more ideal than to celebrate that day with prayers and thanks to God! Our



commissioning service at Greenock Baptist church was splendid. It fell on the same date as Palm Sunday and was a really wonderful service attended by friends and family. People came across the country and across denominations. Mark Greenwood, our leader for Africa represented BMS and we are very thankful that he came and spoke to the congregation about Guinea. It was very reassuring.

The songs and the sermon were very appropriate for the occasion and we really felt that sense of being sent by God and with the commendation of the brethren.

Paul Coventry, the minister at Greenock Baptist Church spoke about God’s mission. Through snapshots in the gospel of Luke he made us reflect on how mission was epitomised by Jesus under the following subheadings: Mission Represented, Mission Threatened, Mission Unstoppable and Mission Accomplished.

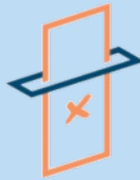
He asserted, “Our commission is to be caught up in the spirit and joy of that original Palm Sunday, where we happily, openly, declare our allegiance to Jesus. This is what we’ve commissioned Lynne and Sitongua to do in Guinea.”

We have the month of April to wrap up our preparations at IMC, language studies (more French classes) and paper work including vaccinations and visa applications. The first week of May will be our departure for Guinea.

Please pray for:
Final paperwork and visas
Safe travels and arriving with all luggage
Smooth adaptation in Guinea.

Thanks for praying.
Every blessing,

*Lynne &
Sitongua*



FUNDING NEWS

We are very grateful that our application to the Government's Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund has been successful and we are being given a grant of £72,200 to cover much needed repairs to our building. Since we can reclaim VAT on the work we do this means we now have around £90,000 towards the total needed.

The grant will cover full repairs to roof, rainwater system and high level masonry (so Andy will no longer have water leaking into his study!). These repairs are long overdue so we thank God for this provision.

Currently we are starting the process for tendering for the work. This process will take a few months but you can expect to see scaffolding being erected in early Autumn with all work finished by Christmas at the very latest.

The grant provision does not cover work on the windows (estimated at around 14k) or the fire escape (probably

ASK. SPEAK. VOTE.

ELECTION 2015

Your voice is at least as important as your vote.

Don't leave it until polling day to get involved – ask your candidates about the issues that matter most and ask them where they stand.

Email your candidates

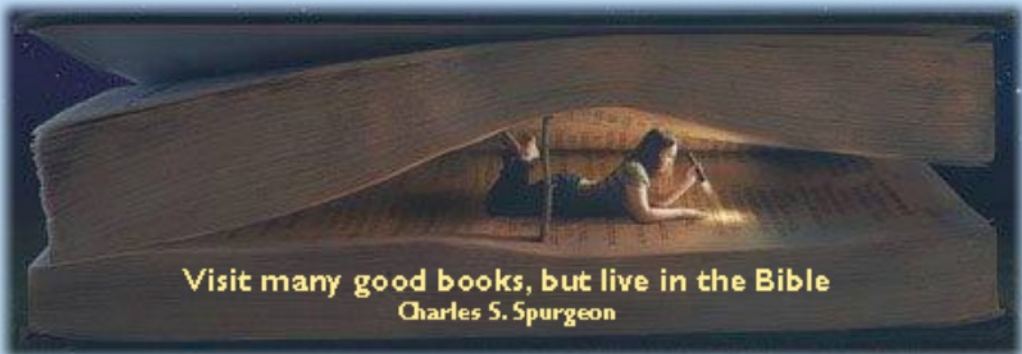
Our 'quiz the candidates' tool makes it quick and easy. We'll supply you with contact details and suggestions of what to say. Why not try it now?

<http://www.election2015.org.uk/constituency/14419/edinburgh-east>

You can use it more than once and ask different questions.

Send the postcards

Our postcards raise the issues simply and starkly. Why not send all four to each candidate? Postbags filling up with these brightly coloured cards will highlight the issues. You can find addresses for many candidates on our constituency pages.



Visit many good books, but live in the Bible
Charles S. Spurgeon

around 10k to replace). Since high level scaffolding is very expensive it would make sense to fix the windows at the same time as the other work. The fire escape does not need scaffolding and is being seen as a separate project (though it does need replaced fairly urgently). If we remove the asbestos flue on the rear elevation we would need to fit a new heating system/boiler (around 8-10k). Our current system is fairly defunct, temperamental and inefficient so its replacement would be welcome.

Please pray for wisdom about the work. We are very grateful for the support of Stuart Gray, quantity surveyor, who was a member of the leadership team at Barnton Baptist Church when Andy was minister there. Pray for him as he leads us through the repair process. Pray also for applications currently with Allchurches Trust and Almond Trust, that we will receive the rest of the money needed to complete the repairs. We will!!

Thanks be to God.

(Moiria Scarcliffe)

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:

Grace Gems!

ORDERING, ARRANGING AND CONTROLLING ALL.

(From Winslow's,
"The Man of God Divinely Prospered")

"...the Lord was with Joseph,
and whatever he did,
the Lord made it to prosper."
(Genesis Ch 39 v 23)

The Lord is with His saints,
ordaining and shaping their every step.

The man of God advances in no
uncertain, unprepared path in life.
His whole career, from his cradle to
his grave, is a divinely constructed map,
prepared in the eternal mind, purpose,
and counsel of Jehovah.

Nothing is left to contingency.

There is no divergence in his path,
no event that bends, or shades,
or burdens it; but the Lord is in it;
ordering, arranging, and controlling all.
(gracegems.org)

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

