

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • November 2015



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



Scottish Registered Charity: SC0153322

NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

dates for your diary



November

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------------|--|
| | Tues | 10.30 a.m. | Weekly Hour of Prayer [drop-in for all or part of the time] |
| 10 th | Tues | 7.30 p.m. | Management Meeting |
| 22 nd | Sun | 7.30 p.m. | 118 th Church Anniversary |

[check 'Buzz' newsheet for last minute details]

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

| | | |
|----------|------------------|--|
| November | 1 st | Rosyth BC |
| | 8 th | Rutherglen BC |
| | 15 th | Selkirk BC; Sheddocksley BC |
| | 22 nd | Southside Christian Fellowship, Ayr; St. Andrews BC |
| | 29 th | St. Mary's Community Church Stenhouse BC |

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

| | | |
|----------|------------------|---|
| November | 1 st | What's in a name – Friend |
| | 8 th | What's in a name – Servant |
| | 15 th | Lyrics of Life |
| | 22 nd | 118 th Church Anniversary Guest Speaker "Peter Neilson", "A Church without walls" |
| | 29 th | All I want for Christmas is – I Thess. 3:9-13 – a simple Christmas list |
| December | 6 th | All I want for Christmas is – Luke 1:68-79 – Beat the holiday blues |

OCTOBER OFFERING



| | | | |
|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| 4 th | £723.00 | 18 th | £748.00 |
| 11 th | £884.00 | 25 th | £810.00 |

Building Fund, running total :- £51,502.75

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"All that the Father gives me will come to me,
and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."
(John ch 6 v 37)*

Jesus invites us to come to Him. He promises always to give us welcome.

Charlotte Elliott was the daughter of an English silk merchant. She had a happy childhood and a great life ahead of her until she experienced a physical breakdown in 1821 that left her an invalid for the rest of her life. Even worse for her was the spiritual fear and feeling of unworthiness that she daily experienced.



Sometimes those who know intellectually the truth of God's love, may still struggle with irrational fear. That was Charlotte's experience.



An evangelist encouraged her to keep writing the poetry she loved. One of her poems so impressed her sister-in-law that she arranged to have it published in a hymn book. The musician and publisher William Bradbury (who also composed the famous children's song "Jesus Loves Me; This I Know") was so struck by Charlotte's poem that he composed the perfect tune for it. "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" had John 6:37 as its header: "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."

This little song, written by someone so small and weak, has brought peace of mind and heart to many millions of Christians. Through Jesus Christ all may know that they are loved and forgiven and those who believe it have it. If you lack Jesus, you have nothing. If you have Jesus, you have everything.

"Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

Have you lost that place of rest? Respond to His call today just as you are.

Your pastor,

Music: "Woodworth" by William B. Bradbury

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"

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FLOWER CALENDAR 2015

N 1st
O 8th
V 15th
E 22nd
M 29th
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CHURCH FLOWER CALENDAR

The Church Flowers in the sanctuary are provided each week to commemorate/honour a date of special family significance.



After the service they are given to anyone known to the Church family who may need encouragement, be suffering from ill-health or affected by bereavement.

If you would like to have your name included in the 2016 calendar then please speak to me and I will add your name into the relevant space.

(Ewan Sinclair)



The
Gideons
International

The Gideons
Bible App
Find Help,
Find Truth



The Gideons International now provides a Bible app specifically designed for evangelism. Our familiar topical indexes, such as "Help in Time of Need," provide for a quick lookup of useful verses. Users can access the Word of God in a wide variety of languages, both in written and audio format. The Plan of Salvation is also available in the menu section.

In addition to being easy to use, the app is also easy to share. It includes a "Share the App" feature, which works well with text, email, social media, or other services such as AirDrop. Download it today from the App Store or Google Play.

(www.gideons.org.uk)

FORGET NOT ...

Three Remembrances We Must Never Forget

Remembrance Day is day for remembering those who died in military service to their country. This Remembrance Day let's all be certain to take time to pause and REMEMBER. Make it a day of three-fold remembering:

Remembrance #1

REMEMBER all those who have given their lives that we might live in a free country. We must never forget them. Freedom comes at a great cost and we should thank God for those who have sacrificed for our freedom. Jesus said: "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Remember their sacrifice.

Remembrance #2

REMEMBER all those who have given their lives in faithful service and witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. We must never forget them. Standing for Truth has never been more important than it is in this time of relative thinking. We know that any one of us can be persecuted for speaking out for what we believe. Jesus told us that "In the world you shall have tribulation ..."



(John 16:33) and Paul reminded us that "... all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer

persecution" (2 Tim 3:12).

We have brothers and sisters in Christ who are being severely persecuted and there are many who have been killed for their faith. Remember them, and let their courage be an inspiration to stand strong

and faithful for Jesus. Remember also that Jesus promised us, "be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33) and Paul reminds us:

Romans 8:35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Pray daily for our brothers and sisters-in-Christ who are



being persecuted for their faith and give thanks to God for their faithful testimony. Remember those who have been killed for their faith and give thanks to God for His receiving them into the company of all the saints in Heaven.

Remembrance #3

Finally, and most importantly, REMEMBER THE LORD. On this Remembrance Day and every day throughout the year, give thanks to the Lord for His sacrifice. He gave His life to pay our debt and He has given us abundant life and the gift of His Holy Spirit. We must always remember His sacrifice and never forget His benefits. David reminds us of this in Psalm 103.

Psalm 103:1-7, 11-12, 20-22 "Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within

me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure. Bless the LORD, all His works, In all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!"

Remember those –

who gave their lives for our country.

who gave their lives in faithfulness to

Jesus.

Remember and pray for those –

who are being persecuted for His name's sake.

Remember the Lord

and find rest in His sufficient grace.

(Based on article from www.rforh.com, by Shari Abbott)

CALAIS UP CLOSE  **TIMES**

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER – 2 PM
SKY 581; FREESAT 692; FREEVIEW HD 241

Wednesday was a very early start. We were at Revelation TV's studios for 6.15 am. The car needed packing with camera equipment. Then off I set for the ferry from Dover to Calais, along with Joel and Paul as a film crew. The stretch of water

between Britain and mainland Europe is only 21 miles wide but it is what keeps Britain an island.

P & O Ferries allowed us to film from the top deck as the ferry departed Dover. With the white cliffs in the background, I talked to camera about the refugees flooding the camps in Calais, and their aim to somehow reach Britain. I talked about the many questions that I hoped I was going to receive answers to. As we drove off the ferry in Calais you are immediately confronted by the 11 miles of fencing that the British government have paid to have erected, to stop the migrants making their illegal entry to Britain. Three weeks ago I interviewed by Skype the pastor of an Evangelical church in Boulogne, France who visits the camps every Wednesday and befriends the refugees. He invited us to join him one Wednesday and film what we saw. That was why we were there.

We almost did not make it. The police on the French side saw our camera



CALAIS REFUGEES



equipment and stopped us, demanding to see our press documents. Apparently there have been a lot of bad reports of police handling of the refugees, so they are unhappy with filming around the camps. The pastor came to our rescue and we were allowed to continue.

As you climb in to the camp area, there are so many



scenes to take in. People everywhere. In the camp we were at there are 3,000 people. I could only see men. I asked where the ladies were and told they were in a different camp. This camp was divided into nations. Syrians in one area. Eritreans in another. Libyans in a third. The area we were in was full of Sudanese men, mainly from Darfur in the south of Sudan. Did you know that the genocide in Darfur has killed 300,000 people and injured many more? That's a UN statistic. I didn't know it. There is nothing of that in our news.

The men all live in home-made tents, consisting of wooden branches covered in plastic, with cardboard to try to keep the cold out. Cooking is by a single pot on a wooden fire. Wood has to be searched for and collected every day. I can only say that our visit made a profound impact on the three of us. With money donated by Revelation TV



viewers, the pastor had bought a B B Q calor gas

stove and brought it for them, along with two bottles and food. The guys in the camp were thrilled with it and insisted on cooking beef burgers for us! We sang country and western songs with them and that led into worship songs. Their favourite is 'This is the day the Lord has made'.

Then they were willing to tell us their stories. Some of them spoke on camera. All had Muslim backgrounds but were happy for the pastor to come and spend time with them. He has also distributed Scriptures to them. On average 10 of them are going to Church with him on a Sunday. They told us 70% of the camp have tried and failed to reach Britain so have applied for French asylum. Their stories certainly backed up their statements that they were genuine asylum seekers.

Were all my questions answered? The answer has to be no. But do you know what? Having spent a day with them, my questions were no longer relevant. What mattered was that these were genuine people made in the image of God, who only wanted to live in security and peace – just like you and I.

Gordon Pettie
(Chairman, Revelation TV)

**IT IS ONLY AGAINST THE PITCH
BLACKNESS OF THE NIGHT THAT WE
SEE THE GLORY OF THE STARS. AND
IT IS ONLY AGAINST THE PITCH
BLACKNESS OF MAN'S RADICAL
DEPRAVITY THAT WE CAN BEGIN TO
SEE THE GLORIES OF THE GOSPEL. ~
PAUL WASHER**

My dear,

There is something fascinating in GRIEF.

Grace Gems!

is likewise needful in point of discipline. The Lord will certainly chasten those whom He loves, though others may seem to pass for a time with impunity. That is a sweet, instructive, and important passage,

As painful as it is, we are prone to indulge it, and to brood over the thoughts and circumstances which are suited (like fuel to fire) to heighten and prolong it!

When the Lord afflicts — it is His design that we should grieve; but in this, as in all other things — there is a certain moderation which befits a Christian, and which only grace can teach. And grace teaches us, not by books or by hearsay — but by experimental lessons. All beyond this, should be avoided and guarded against as sinful and hurtful.

"And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son.' Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:5-11.

GRIEF, when indulged and excessive . . . preys upon the spirits, injures health, indisposes us for duty, and causes us to shed tears which deserve more tears.

This is a weeping world. Sin has filled it with thorns and briars, with crosses and calamities. This poor world is a great hospital, resounding with groans in every quarter. It is as a field of battle, where many are falling around us continually! It is more astonishing that we escape so well — than that we are sometimes wounded. We must have some share of grief; it is the unavoidable lot of our nature and state; it

It is so plain — that it needs no comment. It is so full — that a comment would but weaken it. May the Lord inscribe it upon your heart, my dear, and upon mine.

(From the letters of John Newton)

VISITOR RESPONSE

I am a visitor and would like

- Information about the Church
- A visit from the Minister
- Information about becoming a Christian

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE



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: