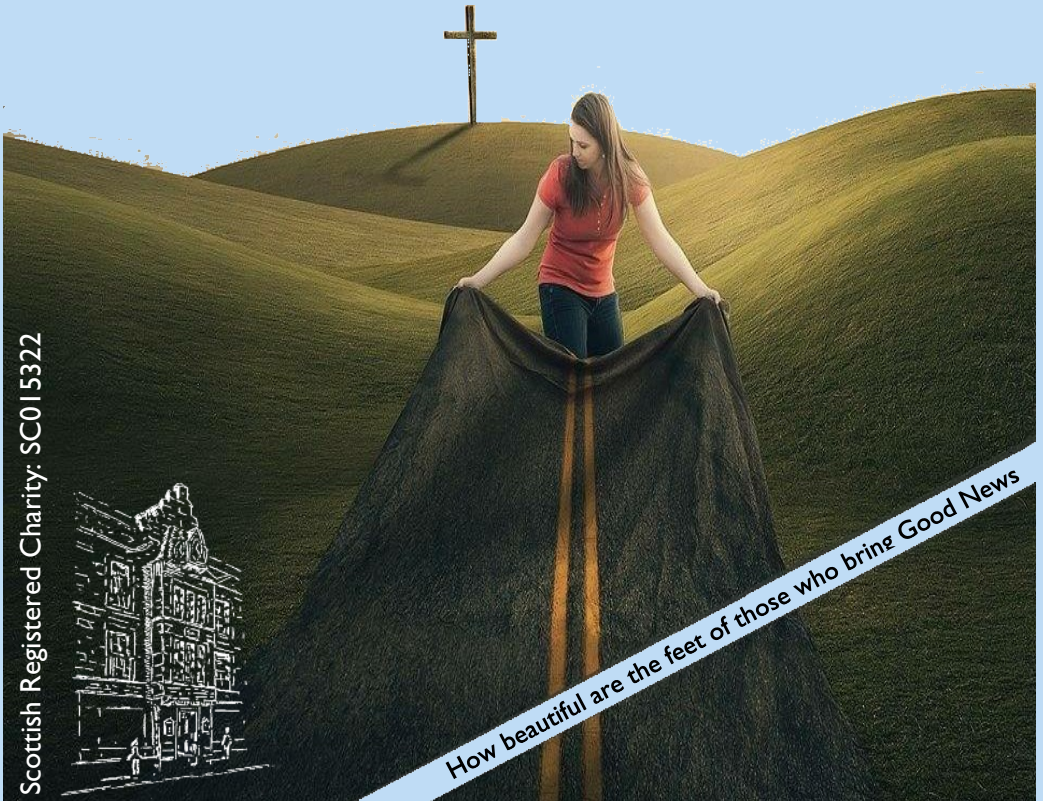


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • April 2016

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

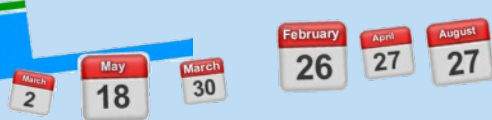


Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News

NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

dates for your diary



April	Tues	10.30 a.m.	Weekly Hour of Prayer [drop-in for all or part of the time]
17th	Sun	1.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
29th	Fri	6.00 p.m.	Half night of Prayer

[check 'Buzz' newsheet for last minute details]

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

April	3 rd	Jim Meighan (Chaplain, NHS Glasgow, North & East) Collydean Baptist Church Colonsay Baptist Church Cornton Baptist Church
	10 th	David Middlemiss (Army Chaplain) Cowal Baptist Church Cowdenbeath Baptist Church Crieff Baptist Church
	17 th	Stuart Murdoch (Chaplain, Strathcarron Hospice) Crookston Baptist Church Crown Terrace Baptist Church Culduthel Christian Centre
	24 th	Culloden Baptist Church Cupar Baptist Church Dalbeattie Baptist Church

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

JOURNEY TO HOLINESS – MATTHEW 18 – 20

April	3 rd	Matthew Ch 18 vv 1- 4 – True Humility
	10 th	Matthew Ch 18 vv 5-14 – Living for others
	17 th	Matthew Ch 18 vv 15-20 – Restoring relationships
	24 th	Matthew Ch 18 vv 21-35 – Forgiving others
May	1 st	Matthew Ch 19 vv 1-15 – Marriage honoured

MARCH OFFERING



6 th	£946.50	20 th	£762.50
13 th	£846.50	27 th	£861.50

Building Fund, running total :- £10,297.17

April 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

(Proverbs Ch 18 vs 20 - 21) NIV

"From the fruit of their mouth a person's stomach is filled, with the harvest of their lips they are satisfied. The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

Three years ago we had a vision day in which we shared together where we believed God was taking us. The vision articulated shaped much of what we have achieved since. I believe the time is right for us to embark on a new process of vision and discovery – finding God's will for the future. Over the next few weeks we will be thinking, as individuals and as a church, about where God is taking us.

We will consider questions like, "what gifts has God given me that could be used for the building of His Church?" and "What are the ways we can use our resources for the Mission of God?" "Is God leading us into new ways to enable us to reach our community for Christ?"

We will start by listening to God and seeking to hear how He wishes to lead us. We will have a special prayer evening at the end of April. You may never have been to one of our half nights of prayer, but I challenge you to put Friday 29 April in your diary and let nothing take its place. We will also have evenings of quiet listening.

As we embark on this process of reflection, listening and vision, can I encourage you to deeply be in prayer that we would hear the Father's heart? Can I encourage you to get involved in the process of reflection and mutual vision building? Can I encourage you to be more committed to Jesus than ever before? Can I encourage you to believe the best of, and unconditionally love your sisters and brothers more than ever before? Can I encourage you to speak to each other with words of faith and encouragement shaped by vision?

We are told in Proverbs that "wise words bring healing" and "soothing words bring life". We are told that the tongue contains "the power of life and death". That's a lot of power for a small part of the body. You have the power to bring life to our vision as you listen to God and encourage your brothers and sisters. The rest of Scripture and our own experience affirm the impact of words. James says we can praise God and bless others with positive, encouraging, praiseworthy statements of truth. However, he also says that we can wreak havoc with what we say — James compares our tongues to a spark that can start a forest fire. Proverbs tells us that rash language cuts and maims.

Think of that. We can make a dramatic difference in people's lives simply by speaking a blessing over them, affirming their gifts, encouraging them about their God-given potential and more. We can heal past wounds, offer forgiveness and declare God's love. Why would we be reluctant to wield that kind of power? Words of affirmation, blessing, vision and encouragement cost us nothing, but they can accomplish great things. So as we embark on this process of listening to God, will you bring life or death?

Let us create an atmosphere of faith as we reach into the future with our God leading us all the way.

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 2016

A 3rd
P 10th
R 17th
I 24th
L

HOW TO PRAY WHEN LIFE FALLS APART



by Vaneetha Rendall Risner

In the midst of broken dreams and riveting pain, how should we pray?

Should we pray for healing and deliverance, believing that we just need to ask, because God can do anything? Or should we relinquish our desires to God, trusting that even in our anguish He has the perfect plan for us?

Yes.

When life falls apart,
God invites us to do both.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus faced unimaginable suffering. Sweating drops of blood, He fell to the ground and prayed: "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will" (Mark 14:36).

Jesus, in His agony, is teaching us by example how to pray when we're desperate.

Abba, Father

Jesus doesn't begin with, "Almighty God, Maker of heaven and earth." Of course, God is Lord of all and deserves honour and reverence. But Jesus chooses a term of endearment: "Abba." Abba is an intimate, personal term for a father. Jesus is asking His Father to do something for Him.

In a similar way, I need to draw near to God in my pain. He's the Almighty Lord,

but He's also my Abba Father (Rom. 8:15). I need to approach Him as such.

Nothing Too Difficult

Jesus knows God can do anything. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. All things are His servants. Nothing is impossible with Him.

While I know those Scripture verses by heart too, I often functionally doubt God's ability to change my situation. I scan my circumstances and assume things will continue as they are. Even as I'm praying, I don't look for miraculous answers; my prayers become rote recitations of requests more than earnest petitions of faith.

But in Gethsemane, Jesus knows His Father can grant His request. God gives life to the dead and summons into being things that don't exist.

And I need to remember His limitless power when my situation looks insurmountable.

Remove This Cup

The cup Jesus asks God to remove isn't mere physical suffering. Disciples and martyrs through the ages have faced physical pain without fear. Jesus is anguished over suffering that's infinitely deeper. He is facing the terrifying fury of God's wrath over our sin. And He's facing that wrath alone, with no comfort from above.

Jesus knows God can change this horrifying situation. So He asks. He wants God to remove the very suffering He was sent to bear, the suffering He willingly came for, the suffering that would secure salvation for His people. Jesus wasn't coerced onto the cross. He lay down His life of His own accord (John 10:18).

But now Jesus is asking if there is another way—any other way—for God to accomplish His purposes.

So many times I filter my requests. Should I ask God to relieve my suffering when I know He can use it? Is it okay to ask for healing, or is that presumptuous? Should I not ask for anything and just accept what I've been given? That posture seems more holy.

Yet, Jesus asks God to remove the cup.

If Jesus can ask, I can too. It's appropriate to ask God to remove my suffering, change my situation, keep me from further pain. He longs to give me good gifts. I've begged God to heal friends, save family members, and give clarity, and He has answered "yes." But I've also pleaded with God to save my dying son, heal my escalating disease, and bring back my husband, and He said "no." So even though I don't know how He will answer, my Father still bids me to earnestly petition Him for the things I desire.

Not My Will, But Yours

Jesus finally relinquishes His will to God's. When denied His desire, Jesus accepts the decision completely. He stumbles to His execution without murmur or complaint.



This relinquishment isn't easy for me. When I keep God at a distance, I can stay detached without expectations. But if I draw near to Him and truly believe He can change the situation, I can start to clutch the outcome I want. I may verbalize "Your will be done," but I'm white-knuckling my own will.

God often has to pry my fingers off my desired outcome. Though I've felt devastated by His "no's," as I submit to His will—often with disappointment and tears—He assures me He's working for my good. I see only part of the picture. He has a purpose in His denials.

The Father said "no" to the Son. And that "no" brought about the greatest good in all of history.

God is not capricious. If He says "no" to our requests He has a reason, perhaps 10,000. We may never know the reasons in this life, but one day we'll see them all. For now, we must trust that His refusals are always His mercies to us.

Run to Your Father

And now as we wait, still struggling to make sense of the storms in our lives, let us pray as our Saviour did. Let us draw near to God, believe He can change our situation,

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:

boldly ask Him for what we need, and submit our will to His.

Our Father's plans are always perfect. They will always be for our good and His glory.

(taken from www.thegospelcoalition.org)



A fully symphonic concert of praise and worship in the stunning surroundings of St Mary's Episcopal cathedral in Edinburgh and Glasgow Cathedral. The event will be led by Origin's Exile Choir and Chamber Orchestra.

Sunday 5 June:

St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh

Tickets will be available nearer the time.

Please note there is a flight of steps up to the sanctuary in the cathedral and there is no disabled access.

St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral,
Sun 05 June, 2016, 8.00 p.m.

Venue Location:

Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, EH12 5AW

Admission: Admission FREE,

Parking: on-street

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

