

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • March 2016

He
is
Risen

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

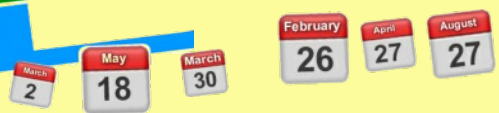
How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News

Scottish Registered Charity: SC0153322



NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

dates for your diary



March

Tues 10.30 a.m. Weekly Hour of Prayer
[drop-in for all or part of the time]

Tues 01.30 p.m. Open Doors (formerly 1st & 3rd)

8th Tues 07.30 p.m. Management Meeting

27th Sun 02.00 a.m. "Spring Forward" + I Clock change
[check 'Buzz' newsheet for last minute details]

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

March

6th Campbeltown Community Church
Canonmills Baptist Church
Carbrain Baptist Church

13th Carluke Baptist Church
Carnoustie Baptist Church
Castlehill Baptist Church

20th Castlemilk Community Church
Cathcart Baptist Church & Central (Edinburgh)

27th City Gates (Edinburgh)
Cleland Baptist Church
Coastline Community Church
Coatbridge Baptist Church

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

THE APPRENTICE – I TIMOTHY

March

6th I Timothy 6 – Integrity

13th Lyrics of life

20th Palm Sunday

27th Easter

JOURNEY TO HOLINESS – MATTHEW 18 – 20

3rd Matthew Ch 18 vv 1-4 – True Humility

FEBRUARY OFFERING



7 th	£863.50	21 st	£672.00
14 th	£717.00	28 th	£566.50

Building Fund, running total :- £22,774.87

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Abide with Me

*"As they talked and discussed these things with each other,
Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;"
(Luke Ch 24 v 15)*

Two of the people in Jesus' wider circle of disciples had a miserable Sunday afternoon. Their long-awaited Passover festival had been completely ruined because of the sudden arrest, conviction, torture, and crucifixion of Jesus, their beloved Teacher. A mysterious stranger walked with them for a while on their road that Easter Sunday afternoon. He led them through a Bible study they would never forget, and somehow their hopes revived. As he explained things, forgiveness of sins and eternal life would be earned for the believers through the Messiah's suffering, death, and resurrection.

"As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if He were going farther. But they urged Him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over'" (Luke 24:28,29). The stranger agreed. He stayed with them and shared their meal. Suddenly they recognized that their guest was Jesus himself, alive and triumphant. Their lives would never be the same.

A Church of England clergyman named Henry Lyte longed for Jesus' comforting and abiding presence just as much as they did, and the beautiful verses he penned (authors original handwritten extract below) have become known and loved by Christians for many generations:



*"Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!"*

Thank God that the Stranger is no stranger, and that He walks with you all the way home.

Your pastor,

[Handwritten signature]

*abide with us for it is toward
Evening and the day is far spent
abide with us! Fast falls the eventide,
July 24-29,
the darkness thickens. Lord, with us abide.
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with us!*

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:

- Olive Nicol
- Betty Ward
- Cyril Gee

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
R
C
H

FLOWER CALENDAR 2016



M	6 th
A	13 th
R	20 th
C	27 th
H	

CLOTHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Hi, I'm Joni Eareckson Tada and there's lots I cannot do for myself.

And look, I don't need to list all the things my quadriplegia prevents me from doing – and, for the most part I'm okay with that. But that one thing that I really wish I could do is, dress myself. I can't pull on a sweater or a coat, button a jacket. I can't pull up my slacks or my nylons, slip into a skirt or hop into shorts. Sometimes when a friend is trying to put on my sweater, my fingers get stuck in the sleeve or I lose my balance and start to fall over. It can be a little frustrating at times. No, I can't clothe myself. I wish I could do it for myself because it is, after all, a rather private thing, rather personal. And so, in the past, I have always looked at it as a problem, but thankfully, this "problem" has always driven me to God for help. But isn't it just like the Lord Jesus to give not only grace when we need it, but help and insight.



Because the other evening—now get this—I was reading in Revelation how one day we will be "clothed in righteousness." I was intrigued by that word "clothed." So I did a quick word search and found myself in Galatians chapter 3, verse 27 where it says:

“You who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:27).

And that got me really going. I looked up more references and I found Isaiah chapter 61 where it says:

“I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God, for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness” (Isaiah 61).

I tell you, all these verses really brightened my spirit and they got me to thinking: why, when the Bible talks about our righteousness, does it always say that God clothes us? Like something He puts on us or does to us. (I mean, even way back in the Garden of Eden, it was God who provided a sacrifice and, therefore, the skins to clothe Adam and Eve after the fall).

And then it hit me: Garments of salvation and robes of righteousness. This is something we absolutely cannot provide for ourselves. God provides the salvation and the righteousness; oh, yes, we can clothe ourselves with Christ as it says in Galatians, but it's His righteousness, not ours. And so, righteousness is something, which God does to us and for us. There is nothing in ourselves we just cannot get ourselves dressed, so to speak, in righteousness. And if we did, it says that our righteousness would be as filthy rags—can you imagine what you'd look like if you had to dress yourself in that? I mean, just picture a garment, a robe made out of your own filthy rags. Yuk!

Suddenly! Oh my goodness, I gained a whole new appreciation for not being able to get myself dressed. Someone else has to do that for me. That very personal and private function is performed by God

Himself. Well, you can imagine how blessed I was by that simple, sweet insight. Praise God, I cannot get myself dressed in robes of righteousness. Hallelujah, I am so happy I cannot dress myself in garments of righteousness. And, friend, you can't get yourself dressed either, someone else has to do that for you. And a Someone with a capital 'S' has graciously and mercifully done that for you. The Lord Jesus Christ is your garment of praise, and when you put on Him, you put on His righteousness. And you know what? You couldn't be decked out in a better pair of clothes.

(taken from joniandfriends.org)

THOUGHT FOR EASTER

The stone was rolled away for you!

Matthew tells us that an angel from heaven came down in plain view of the soldiers who were guarding the sealed tomb. The soldiers watched in shock as the angel rolled away the stone from the tomb and sat on it.

If we were there we would have expected to see Jesus walk out into the morning light. There was just one problem. The tomb was already empty. Just as He could not be hindered from entering in a locked room, He could not be contained by the sealed tomb.

The stone was not rolled away so that Jesus could escape. It was rolled away so



that you would know that the tomb was empty. With His resurrection Christ was done with the limitations of His human body. Death and the restrictions of our flesh were conquered that Easter morning. As Paul said, death had lost its sting.

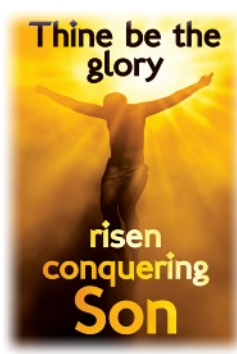
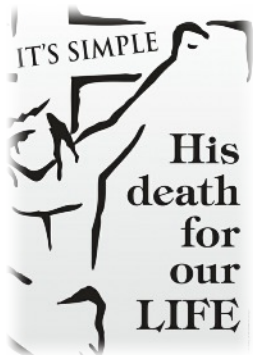
The angel of God opened an empty tomb for all to see. Jesus now moved about with the grace and power of a body not subject to the barriers and boundaries of earth. Jesus fulfilled the gospel promise made to Eve so long ago. The curse was broken.

One day, you and I will have a body like the one that left the sealed tomb. This is part of what Easter means. Death, sickness, and physical limitations will be no more. Just as our spirits will be free from the ravages of sin, so too will our bodies.

This is what Easter means. It is not a mystical event or an elevation of consciousness. Easter means that we will be totally renewed, rejuvenated in spirit and in body. That which brings so much sadness now will be no more. The suffering of the body is but for a moment. The joy of our glorified bodies awaits.

The empty tomb shouts the power of the resurrected Christ. The stone rolled away is for your joy and brings hope of eternity with Christ!

(taken from shepherdpress.com)



CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED

How can it be, the One who died,
Has borne our sin through sacrifice
To conquer every sting of death?
Sing, sing hallelujah.

For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes.
Alive He stands, their Friend and King;
Christ, Christ He is risen.

CHORUS

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!
Oh, sing hallelujah.
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed;
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.

Where doubt and darkness
once had been,
They saw Him and their hearts believed.
But blessed are those who have not seen,
Yet, sing hallelujah.

Once bound by fear now bold in faith,
They preached the truth
and power of grace.
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life, life everlasting.

CHORUS

The power that raised Him
from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save.
He frees our hearts to live His grace;
Go tell of His goodness.

CHORUS

He's alive, He's alive!
Heaven's gates are opened wide.
He's alive, He's alive!
Now in heaven glorified.

THE WORD MADE FLESH

Statement on Christology

We confess the mystery and wonder
of God made flesh

and rejoice in our great salvation
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit,
the Son created all things,
sustains all things,
and makes all things new.

Truly God,
He became truly man,
two natures in one person.

He was born of the Virgin Mary
and lived among us.

Crucified, dead, and buried,
He rose on the third day,
ascended to heaven,
and will come again
in glory and judgment.

For us,
He kept the Law,
atoned for sin,
and satisfied God's wrath.
He took our filthy rags and gave us
His righteous robe.

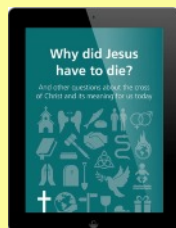
He is our Prophet, Priest, and King,
building His church,
interceding for us,
and reigning over all things.

Jesus Christ is Lord;
we praise His holy Name forever.
Amen.

(ligonier.org)

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

Prepare your heart for
Good Friday with this
short book on the cross of
Christ and its meaning for
us today.



A short, readable book that
explaining what the Bible
says about the death of Christ—and what
it means for us—and other questions
about the cross of Christ and its meaning
for us today by Marcus Nodder.

Download the ebook of *Why did Jesus
have to die?* for free here:
<http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/why-did-jesus-have-to-die-ebook>.

Enter **FREECROSS** in the discount code
box at checkout before the end of March.



**FOR IF WE HAVE BEEN
UNITED TOGETHER IN
THE LIKENESS OF HIS
DEATH, CERTAINLY WE
ALSO SHALL BE IN
THE LIKENESS OF
HIS RESURRECTION.**

ROMANS 6:5

Happy Easter!



RESURRECTION2016

sunday 27th march 7.30pm
usher hall edinburgh

Easter Sunday. Join with more than 2,000 people in celebrating the raising of Jesus from the dead. Led by the exile band, Origin Praise Choir (with members of the Cape Town Gospel Choir) and the Exile Chamber Orchestra.

Music, worship, praise, seeking God.

Tickets are FREE.

Please note: All tickets are seated. Wheelchair seating available in grand circle and stalls. Lift access to all levels.

There will be an offering at the event towards expenses. Please come prepared to donate as you are able.

Usher Hall, Sun 27 March, 2016, 7.30 p.m.

Venue Location:

Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH1 2EA

Admission: FREE Parking: Yes

Disabled Access: Yes

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

VISITOR RESPONSE

I am a visitor and would like

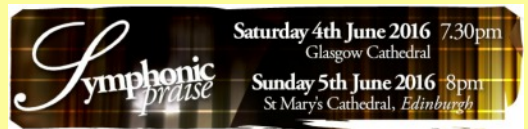
- Information about the Church
- A visit from the Minister
- Information about becoming a Christian

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

