

Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish
Church Magazine

May 2017



Portobello and Joppa Parish Church

Worship takes place each Sunday at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church with two services – one at 9.30am and one at 11am (10.30am in July and August).

From the editor

The other day we visited an exhibition called "The Lamp of Sacrifice" at the Modern Art Gallery. It was created in 2004 by Nathan Coley and consists of cardboard models of 286 Edinburgh



places of worship. We were keen to find our three church buildings but the work was based on the 2004 Yellow Pages and while Portobello Old was listed in this, St Philip's and St James' weren't. (We think we found the model of Portobello Old – above - though its tower didn't seem quite right to us. It's at the front on the left at the exhibition - if you want to go and look.)

It was moving to see all those buildings gathered closely together in a group and to think of all the ordinary people who contributed towards their construction. The title of the exhibition comes from John Ruskin, who used the phrase "Lamp, or Spirit, of Sacrifice" when writing about church architecture. He said, 'It is not the church we want, but the sacrifice; not the emotion of admiration, but the act of adoration: not the gift but the giving'. The Old Parish and doubtless some others are no longer used as places of worship, which makes one very thoughtful... though I suppose Ruskin would say that "the giving" was the point.

Stewart writes to us about a different kind of giving in his letter, and there's a relevant message from the Basics Bank at The Wilson Memorial. Michael also has messages about our financial givings and Maggie reminds us that she's collecting sponsorship for CrossReach. There's news about the changes in elders' visiting and about the Drama Groups – a lovely review of "Tinsel" and an invitation to watch the Junior Drama's production of "Alice the Musical". And did you know that our Messy Church was twinned with two others around the world?

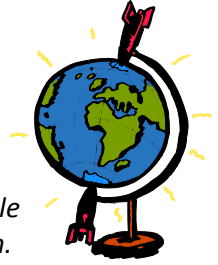
And we have our usual features, for which thanks to all contributors.

Pam

From the minister

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

The very nature of God is to seek out the deepest possible communion and friendship with every last creature on this earth.



This is a quote from Catherine LaCugna which I included on the order of service from our last communion.

It comes from a book called ‘The Divine Dance’ by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan whose work strives to fuse the theological, Biblical, spiritual and practical. He suggests that the idea of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit or Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer), with the inner dynamic of love and of a relationship of mutual giving and indwelling, can help us

to further understand God in our post-modern, sceptical and secular world. It can help us understand each other.

When did you last experience true and deep communion or friendship?

Sometimes that sense of real, authentic connection with another person is fleeting and it can occur only occasionally. The same undoubtedly holds true with regards to God, those moments of utter stillness, of clarity, of... simply... being.

We recently gathered approximately 100 backpacks for Mary’s Meals, which is committed to providing one meal a day at school to children in developing countries. Food encourages attendance and improves results. It now feeds 1.2 million children around the world... though there are approximately 55 million children of school age who do not attend. There is work to be done.

We also watched the movie ‘Generation Hope’, a powerful description of Mary’s Meals and the work it has done. There was a sense of connection with those who have worked and struggled and dreamed to bring a vision to reality.

This month we mark Christian Aid Week, which starts on 14 May. There will be a concert from the Feast of Life Choir, door to door collections and other activities (Bridge Walk, Arthur's Seat Walk, Book Sales).

The last time I did the door to door collection there were a few moments of real connection. People who were pleased, humbled, inspired that people in their community and in their church have taken the time to do something for others, to help the most vulnerable in this world, to give of their time when many would no doubt prefer to be at home with a cup of tea! I still remember the doors and the people where a surprising, delightful connection was made.

Life before death. That great Christian Aid idea.

One meal a day. A vivid focus.

Simple ideas can be so very powerful. 'Love thy neighbour as thyself'. 'Faith, hope and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love.'

These ideas, generated by the dynamic of love which resonates in the Trinity and which resonates in our faith and which resounds throughout the world in our churches have refashioned and transformed the world.

And they can and will transform you too. If you too but seek God... as God has already sought us.

Stewart

Visiting elders revisited



In the past, Presbyterians would expect their district elder to visit with a card or 'token' prior to each of the four seasonal communions, the intention being to uphold the faith, strengthen the faltering and to monitor attendance.

While we no longer check members' attendance at communion,

elders have continued to visit districts regularly with an invitation to attend communion and in this way keep in touch and help where they can.

However, as with most other churches, modern lifestyle has in general led to difficulties in sustaining this traditional practice. Family life patterns are now so much busier and varied that there seems to be no best time for people to receive visitors, if indeed they still welcome anyone ringing their front door bell.

Today people largely prefer to keep in touch using screen and keyboard rather than by doorstep conversation. Nonetheless, in a survey taken in the early spring, elders estimated that about 20% of our membership still really value their elder's visit and these are the visits we plan to focus upon and to strengthen and support in a new system planned for the autumn.

Since the three Portobello churches came together we have found that we no longer have simple street-based districts to manage but districts that can confusingly overlap. Farrer Terrace for example found itself with three visiting elders, one from each of the three former churches.

In its new constitution the body of elders that is the Kirk Session finds that it is becoming more group-orientated, so that not all are choosing to commit to pastoral visits and as a result there are fewer visiting elders as each year passes. However the Pastoral Care group have been maintaining a healthy befrienders scheme which we would like to integrate into the new system being planned for the autumn.

So then for the majority, be prepared to expect only irregular visits, assuming you are fit and well, reading emails and connected to the website. For others who would value a visit we are aiming to continue call regularly as before but for some we are planning to have the capacity to make the more frequent visits that needs demand.

Hunter



Messy Church Family Around the World

Our Messy Church at PJPC has linked up this year to two other Messy Churches around the world. We are now twinned with a Messy Church in Durban, South Africa and another Messy Church in Oregon, United States of America.

Our South Africa Link is at St Elizabeth's Anglican Church in Westville, just outside Durban, South Africa. They meet once a month on a Sunday afternoon with worship, story, craft, food and games. It has run for just over two years and was launched on Christmas Eve, 2014. More people came along than expected and they had to run out for extra food. They now have around 25 kids plus parents who come along and they have a team of six volunteers.

In a recent email, Michelle was told, "We had a glorious Messy Crib service on Christmas Eve and the children made some beautiful wreaths. They dressed our Nativity scene, we sang some carols and one of our ladies made a delicious cupcake wreath birthday cake for Jesus. Our minister, Steve Harrison, gave a meaningful lesson on Jesus being our perfect present. Beautiful start to Christmas."

Our other Messy Church link is with an MC at Trinity United Methodist Church in Eugene, Oregon, United States. This is on the southern edge of Willamette Valley in the Northwest state of Oregon, just one hour from the Pacific Ocean and 45 minutes from the mountains on the East. They meet on the third Saturday of the month from 4-6pm. They began Messy Church in October 2013 and their numbers vary but are usually between 30-55 people, which is the same as the

numbers we get at our Messy Church. Their minister Roberta Egli asks for prayers to extend their volunteer base.

Roberta was also recently interviewed for *Get Messy!*, the Messy Church magazine which comes out quarterly. Her Messy Church shares communion once a year and the article in the Messy Church magazine explores what communion is like at Messy Church and how we can share it in that context.

At the moment, Michelle and Reuben are building up connections between our linked up Messy Churches. We share ideas and good practice with each other. We share photos of our Messy Churches and our MC sent over a Christmas video message. We pray for each other and we look to figure out how best to encourage and support each other from around the world. It is an exciting new adventure for PJPC Messy Church and the rest of our church family here at PJPC.

Basics Bank

The team for the Basics Bank at The Wilson Memorial Church requested that I added their gift of a lovely pink backpack to our collection yesterday for Mary's Meals. This is suitable for a girl of nine years.

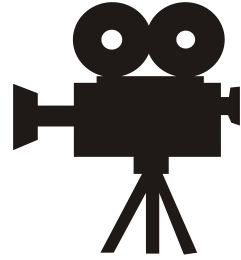
The Basics Bank team wishes to help and also to show their appreciation to Portobello and Joppa Parish Church for all their support and their generous donations they receive from the congregation.

With my thanks,

Catherine



TINSEL!



Portobello and Joppa Parish Church Drama Group

This little gem of a musical was created by Gavin, a native of Joppa, and Nancy, the musical director of the company. It was written for the then St. Philip's Drama Group nineteen years ago, but the characters and story have been changed over the years to keep the show fresh. With its clever, witty script and most tuneful score, this was the perfect musical for this vibrant company.

The opening number 'Take Me to The Movies' made an immediate impact, not only vocally, but also visually. I was very impressed with the attention to detail of the costumes. Many of them looked like original 1930s outfits [they were – SH] and also the ladies' hairstyles, which were very authentic.

Veronica (Sarah) and Olivia (Katie), as the two young heroines, worked very well together. Both girls gave excellent performances. They are faced by a rather dubious group of actors in Global studios - Clive Meredith (Kenneth), a fading star, who still believes he is one of life's Lotharios, and Loretta Wilde (Ruth), who will do anything to protect her image as leading lady. The various scenes being shot in the studio were hilarious - particularly 'Pirates Bold' and the Roman scenes featuring 'Hail to Thee, Julius C'! The extras in the films – Irving, (Willie), Seymour, (Neil) and Wilbur (Paul) added fun and humour to the show.

This company has so many talented players that each part was very well cast, giving many people the chance to shine.

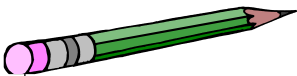
The music throughout is varied with beautiful ballads like 'I'll Remember You' sung with sincerity by Veronica and her dad, Walter, (Rupert) and 'Joshua', the moving number sung by Adelaide (Joyce). In complete contrast, Katie belted out 'I Wanna Be Bad'. As well as good solo and small ensemble numbers, I must

congratulate the company on very fine chorus work. 'What A Great Party' and 'All Aboard' were very strong with the part singing coming through loud and clear.

It was so refreshing to attend something new and I was truly impressed by the show itself and the entire production. Good use was made of the extended stage and the hall space. In so many musicals there can be a sameness in the style of music but this score was so varied and interesting. The whole production was thoroughly entertaining, frothy and had the feel-good factor.

A wonderful evening's entertainment by an enthusiastic, well-drilled company who obviously enjoyed every minute as much as I did. Very well done indeed to all - the director, Charlotte; the cast; Martijn and Lucia, the choreographers; Anne, the producer; Sandra, Sheila and Morag, the costume team; Fiona, the assistant musical director; and, of course, Nancy and Gavin, the writers, themselves!

D Johnstone, National Operatic & Dramatic Association Representative for the East of Scotland



A little boy was watching his minister father composing his sermon.

"How do you know what to say, Daddy?" he asked.

His father replied, "God tells me."

"Then why do you keep deleting bits?" asked the boy.

A grateful thanks for legacies, voluntary giving and other financial blessings

On behalf of the Finance team, I'd like to acknowledge with our gratitude the legacy gift from one of our former members, **Miss Ray Reyburn Lang**. Legacy offerings such as this play an increasingly important role in enabling the Kingdom work here in Portobello and Joppa.*

I'd also like to thank all the many groups who are part of the wider PJPC community and who make a financial contribution towards our upkeep. These include the following clubs and organisations: Probus; Friday Exercise Ladies; Art Group; 138thA Guides; 138thA Rainbows & Brownies; The Retreat from Daily Life; Ladies' Golf; Portobello Holiday Club; Rosefield Badminton Group; Drama Group; Junior Drama; Parent & Toddler Group; Monday Coffee Club; Coffee Break; Messy Church; Country Dancing. Not forgetting the ongoing support of The Guild!

A sincere thanks to one and all – we are indeed incredibly blessed!

Michael
Finance Convenor

** If you wish to find out more about how a legacy could help with the work of PJPC then please contact David (Honorary Treasurer) or myself.*

Portobello and Joppa Parish Church
For the Period to 31 March 2017

	2017(£)	2016(£)
Congregational Fund		
Income	48,534	58,434
Expenditure	(56,379)	(64,501)
Net (Deficit)	(7,845)	(6,067)
Drawdown from	6,117	17,130
General Trustees		
Overall (Deficit)/Surplus	(1,728)	11,063
Fabric Fund		
Income	7,348	6,564
Expenditure	(12,953)	2,221
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	(5,605)	8,785
Drawdown from	40,000	0
General Trustees		
Overall Surplus	34,395	8,785



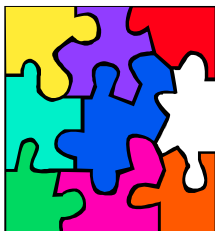
**Christian Aid book sale 2017 – St
 Andrew's and St George's West**

Since it started in 1974, this sale has raised £2 million for Christian Aid – selling books, maps, music, postcards, stamps, pictures, toys, antiques, collectables, ephemera. Please consider donating and also coming to the sale.

SORTING Monday 1 May – Friday 12 May 2017

SALE Saturday 13 May and Monday 15 May to Friday 19 May 2017

Brain-teaser



It's Ascension Day on Thursday, May 25, traditionally the fortieth day of Easter. This is the day when we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven.

Can you work out the words I've made from the letters of ASCENSION DAY?

1. It comes after first: - - - - - . (6 letters)
2. Fresh as a - - - - - . (5 letters)
3. Portobello beach is - - - - - , not stony. (5 letters)
4. We have new £1 - - - - - . (5 letters)
5. "- - - - - , then, wherever you may be." (5 letters)
6. - - - - upon a time. (4 letters)
7. The fastest cake in the world: - - - - - (5 letters)*
8. - - - - floss. (5 letters)
9. Written piece of work: - - - - - (5 letters)
10. To look carefully at something: - - - - (4 letters)

*Clue: you might have them with cream and jam... or jam and cream. (Say it quickly.)

Alison M

Answers: second, daisy, sandy, coin, dance, once, scone!, candy, essay, scan

A call to prayer

'IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL'

“My peace I give you ... Do not let your hearts be troubled and ... afraid.”

(John 14:27)



The peace Jesus gives brings a sense of assurance that no matter what happens we know *'it is well with my soul'*. He says to us: *'My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and ... afraid.'* The peace Jesus gives doesn't depend on conditions and circumstances. It comes from knowing we're God's children and that our Father controls the universe, loves us and always has our best interests at heart. That's why people who've lost everything will often tell us they wouldn't trade what they've learned, even if it meant recouping all their losses. Joni Erikson Tada discovered a supernatural peace when an accident confined her to a wheelchair, and Corrie Ten Boom found it in a Nazi death camp. Missionary Elisabeth Elliot found it ministering to the Indian tribe who massacred her husband. She wrote, 'Only in acceptance lies peace ... not in resignation.' There's a big difference! Author Creath Davis points out that: 'Resignation is surrender to fate. Acceptance is surrender to God. Resignation lies down quietly in an empty universe. Acceptance rises up to meet the God who fills that universe with purpose and destiny. Resignation says, "I can't." Acceptance says, "God can." Resignation paralyses the life process. Acceptance releases the process for its greatest creativity. Resignation says, "It's all over for me." Acceptance says, "Now that I'm here, what's next, Lord?" Resignation says, "What a waste." Acceptance says, "In what redemptive way will you use this mess, Lord?" Resignation says, "I'm alone." Acceptance says, "I belong to you, Lord."'

Harry, Prayer Promoter

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Junior Drama 'Alice the Musical'

Junior Drama's rehearsals of *Alice the Musical* are now in full swing. Weekend rehearsals have now begun, with the kids and adults having a ball. Singing and dancing are well underway and we're all having such good fun learning new dance moves and grooves, thanks to Jessie.

Sandra and Fiona are also doing such a fantastic job teaching the kids their new songs and it's just great fun singing along with them.

Charlotte is doing great helping the kids with acting and learning their scripts.

Alice the Musical is a fantastic, strange and weird story of Alice and her journey to Wonderland where she meets all these weird, wonderful and colourful characters such as the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, who is always late, and the crazy Cheshire Cat with the cheesy grin who pops up here, pops up there, pops up everywhere. Along the way she has the most peculiar Tea Party and meets a strange bunch of creatures including a Mock Turtle - who you don't really want to upset. Not only that, there is the strange grumpy Duchess who likes her soup, with people in it! Well, I wouldn't eat anything her daft cook makes - yuk!

As for the Queen - all she wants to do is chop off people's heads! What's that all about? I pity her husband, the King.

Show dates Thursday 25th May, 7.30pm

Friday 26th May, 7.30pm

Tickets £5 adults, £3 children

Don't miss this great, weird, funny and fantastic show for all children up to the age of 100 and older. Bring your family, friends, neighbours and granny.

Visit the Mad Hatter's Tea Party for tea and coffee after the show.

Tickets on sale soon.

Jamie



Getting to know you

This month, **Reuben** lets us get to know him better. He grew up in Kent and Sussex, though has lived in Portobello for more than half his life. He's the Regional Coordinator for Messy Church and helped Stewart to set up Messy Church at St Philip's about 8 years ago. At that time, he was attending St Paul's and St George's. He was the children's worker at St John's Episcopal Church for about a year but is now a member of PJPC, helps with Godly Play and became an elder in November 2016.

He's had a varied church life even before that. He went to an Anglican church in a housing estate as a child, and was baptised in an Elim Pentecostal church as a teenager. His parents (Graham and Elizabeth Addis) were members of St Philip's and Stewart took his father's funeral about 9 years ago. Reuben's father was born in Zanzibar and Reuben works as a social worker in Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Q. What is an early church memory?

A. I vividly remember acting out Bible stories in a small Sunday school class. Often the carpet in the middle of the classroom would be the River Jordan or the Dead Sea.

Q. In an alternative life, what job would you have chosen?

A. As a child I wanted to be a forest ranger – sleeping outside, using a chainsaw, and building bonfires. Sometimes it still sounds like a perfect way to live!

Q. What are you reading at the moment?

A. I've just finished "Whole Earth Disciple" by Stewart Brand. He gives all the answers environmentalists aren't supposed to give – arguing

that we need to use technology (including genetic modification and nuclear energy) to manage the limited resources we have.

Q. What kind of music do you listen to?

A. I like music that conveys a strong emotion and tells a story. The sort of music you would put on if you were driving through the night. The style can range from John Coltrane, through Madonna to Gorillaz, and even Shostakovich.



CrossReach Forth Rail Bridge abseil- 28 May

Since last month's article and the insert in the Order of Service, several people have asked when I am jumping off the bridge! Please note that I hope to make a careful, but exciting, slow descent!! Sponsorship is steadily growing thanks to friends, family and you, my church family – and just after Easter when this was written, it had reached £325.

Just to remind you, CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland, helping children, families, single and older people with all sorts of problems such as abuse, learning disabilities, homelessness, mental health, substance misuse, dementia etc.

If you would like to sponsor me, please click onto Justgiving.com or stop me at church any time. I shall also be in the hall at coffee time after services on April 30th, May 7th and 21st with sponsorship forms.

I appreciate your support very much.

Maggie

LIFE AND WORK MAY 2017

Life and Work is now available as a digital edition for computer, tablet and smartphone. Subscribe from £11.99 for six months or buy a single issue for £1.99 from www.lifeandwork.org



Sowing the Seeds of Peace in South Sudan Thomas Baldwin reports on the man-made crisis which has led to famine in the world's newest country – and the peace-building work being led by the Church of Scotland

General Assembly 2017 Interview with the Moderator-Designate; Assembly reports; Business and fringe timetables; Heart and Soul preview; An invitation to visit the historic library collections of New College

'Behind Every Number is a Name' Ahead of Christian Aid Week, why the work of the charity is more vital than ever

Pilgrimage Through Life New columnist the Rev Lezley Stewart introduces herself

A Place of Renewal John R Hume considers the history of Motherwell with a focus on Dalziel St Andrew's Parish Church

Life on a Food Parcel How a deacon and her husband raised funds for a local foodbank

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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Gaelic The Gaelic Supplement for May will be available as a free download from www.lifeandwork.org/about-us/gaelic-supplement from April 24. If you would like an email notification when it becomes available, please contact us on magazine@lifeandwork.org

MAGAZINE/DIARY DEADLINES

June/July/August

Sunday 21st May 2017

September

Sunday 20th August 2017

October

Sunday 17th September 2017

Scottish Charity Number : SCO11728

A photograph of a sunset over a large body of water. The sky is a gradient of orange and pink, transitioning to a darker blue at the top. In the distance, a low-lying landmass is visible, featuring two prominent, tall, thin structures that appear to be chimneys or towers. The water in the foreground is dark blue with gentle ripples. On the right side of the water, there are several small, dark, rectangular markers or buoys.

www.portyjoppachurch.org

Photography by Kim Kjaerside