

Weekly Church Bulletin

We are a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland. We gather together each Lord's Day to praise and worship the only true and living God.

Sunday 4th April 2021



LORD'S DAY SERVICES – CHURCH RE-OPENING

We are thankful that we return to Church this Lord's Day, 4th April 2021, for the public worship of God. We meet at 12.00noon and the Service will be conducted in English.

Church Attendance

The attendance at all Church services of public worship is limited to fifty due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Seats will be allocated according to household groups on a first come first served basis until such time as we reach the limit of fifty. Mr Donald MacPhail, Deacon, is the Seating Coordinator for the Church services and enquiries regarding attendance should in the first place be directed to him.

Register to Attend

The arrangements for registering your intention to attend the services, and to complete the relevant documentation, have been set up on the Congregational Website [here](#). The following option for registering your intention to attend the services is available to those who do not have access to internet services - please contact Mr Donald MacPhail or the Minister as follows – Donald MacPhail on 710328 or dan.macphail@icloud.com or the Minister on 710216 or cmacleod@freechurch.org. If you are unable to return the Data Collection Form electronically provision is made for you to deposit it at the Church door as you enter for the Service.

The deadline for submission of the names of those who wish to attend the service will be 12.00noon on Friday. Seats will be reserved on a weekly basis and you should, therefore, follow the same procedure for every Lord's Day service.

LIVE STREAMING OF SERVICES

We are pleased to announce that the installation and testing of the live streaming equipment in the Church has now been completed and that we are ready to 'go live' with our services. The live stream will be available for the 12.00noon service this Lord's Day, 4th April 2021, on the Shawbost Free Church of Scotland YouTube channel by clicking [here](#). We will continue to use the Sermon Audio site for audio recordings and, once the live stream equipment setup is fully functional, we will use the Sermon Audio Webcast function to live stream the services to both platforms. We are thankful to Horshader Community Development for the support in the form of a substantial grant towards the cost of the audio-visual equipment.

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) is available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of the website. Updates and news items of local interest, missionary news, etc., will be added to the News section from time to time as required. The [Minister's Blog](#) will be updated on a monthly basis. The Lord's Day services are available on the [Listen to the Latest Sermon](#) and the [Watch the Latest Sermon](#) buttons on the Home Page.

LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 4th APRIL 2021

Sunday Services

This Lord's Day we will conclude our study of *The Titles of Christ in the Epistle to the Hebrews* by looking at Hebrews 13:20-21 and *Jesus – The Great Shepherd of the Sheep*.

Availability of Services

An audio recording of the English service in the Church will be available on Sermon Audio at 2.00pm. The service in Gaelic has been pre-recorded and will be available on Sermon Audio at 12.00noon. Services are accessed on the [Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio](#) by simply clicking or tapping on Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio underlined above from your phone, tablet, laptop, etc., to take you directly to the site.

The pre-recorded Gaelic Service will also be available on the Twilio service, which we have been using since March 2020, and which can be **accessed from landline / home telephone** by dialling the number **0131 510 2471**. Please note that there is **a delay of approximately 35 seconds** from the time at which the call is answered until the service commences.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School this Lord's Day due to the School Holidays. The Sunday School will resume on Sunday 18th April 2021.

WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will continue this Wednesday, 7th April 2021, at 7.00pm using Zoom audio-visual technology. This week we will resume our study of the book entitled '*Gentle and Lowly – The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*' by Dane Ortlund by looking at Chapter 8, *To the Uttermost*, based on Hebrews 7:25.

The PBS Group is an open group and please be encouraged to join with us for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. You can join the group on Zoom using a mobile phone, tablet or computer and the meeting details below. The Zoom Meeting ID is - 811 1884 3263. The ongoing Meeting Password is issued separately by contacting the Minister.

PASTORAL VISITATION

The First Minister announced on 23rd March 2021 that the Western Isles would move into Level 3 COVID-19 restrictions as from Wednesday 24th March 2021. We are thankful for this development. However, pastoral visitation in homes is still not permissible but we hope and pray that the restrictions will allow this in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, please keep the Minister, and the Elders, informed of new situations where pastoral support is required. The Minister can be contacted on 710216 or via email at cmacleod@freechurch.org

We are mindful at this time of those who are in Care Homes and in Hospital who are isolated from their families during the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions on visiting. We pray for them and for their families. We also continue to pray for all who are going through serious illness at this time and also for those who have suffered the loss of loved ones in recent weeks.

WOMEN FOR MISSION

The Women for Mission (WfM) was established over 100 years ago to promote the growth of the Christian faith by encouraging interest in mission as well as giving practical support to the Church's mission work in Scotland and around the globe. WfM seeks to do this in three ways: (1) by raising funds for mission projects which seek to offer help in areas of health, education, poverty and disaster around the world; (2) by encouraging women of all ages in the Free Church of Scotland to use their gifts to support mission; (3) by facilitating prayer and support for home and international mission.

Every year, WfM organises a fundraising project that everyone in the Church can get involved in. Through the funds raised, we are able to provide direct support to a wide range of mission work both at home and abroad. The theme for 2020/2021 is *Embracing the World with the Touch of the Gospel*. The focus of the fundraising this year is on The Leprosy Mission in India, Scripture Union Scotland, Moldova Support Group, and WfM Disaster and Relief Fund.

Many churches and individuals have already done a fantastic and very creative job in raising money towards the WfM projects in the midst of these challenging circumstances. However, at present our funds are lower than they would normally be in previous years. Information on the 2020/2021 Project and ways of donating to the work of WfM are available on their website - <https://womenformission.org>

PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 5th April 2021 have been chosen by the **Rev. James Maciver**, Minister at Stornoway. The Bible Passage is **Genesis 45:25-46:4** and the following are the prayer points.

Prayer points:

1. That, as Jacob's spirit revived when he realised that Joseph was still alive, so our spirits may be revived as we think of Christ's resurrection from the dead.
2. That, like Jacob here, we as God's people would be given a fresh view of God, especially as the covenant Overlord of his people who directs all events for their benefit.
3. That God would reveal himself powerfully to those who lead us as a nation and direct them to give due recognition to his lordship and to his word.
4. That we will hold to the conviction that God can create blessing in a context of darkness and fear, as he assured Jacob would be the case with him in Egypt.
5. That, as in the testing circumstance of being surrounded by pagan idolatry God would multiply his believing people, pray that he would also do this for his Church under the Covid pandemic.

6. That God would relieve the fear and apprehension many people have over our gradual emergence from lockdown conditions.
7. That God would give his people further assurance of his presence with them going into, during and coming out of times of testing.
8. That we may be increasingly thankful to God for his continuing goodness to us.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

4th April 2021

Golspie

Minister: Rev. Eric Paterson

Golspie is a rural church on the east coast of Sutherland. Last year they were able to go from a 'Part Time' ministry to one which is now Full Time. Over the past year they have used Zoom to broadcast their live services and also run 'Christianity Explored' courses.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the Christianity Explored courses we are running.
2. Give thanks to God that he has helped and blessed us throughout this uncertain time. He is faithful.

Bon Accord

Minister: Vacant

Interim Moderator: Rev. Iver Martin

Bon Accord Free Church is a vibrant city centre congregation drawing people from a wide geographical area; with over 200 people; families, young couples, students, young workers, senior citizens, teenagers and children. The congregation draws worshippers from across the UK and beyond contributing to a rich mixture of ages, nationalities and personalities reflecting the oneness of the Body of Christ.

Prayer Points:

1. Within a couple of months of entering a vacancy the congregation was plunged into the first Covid 19 lockdown; challenging when you have a minister let alone when the congregation is vacant. We are thankful to God for our Interim Moderator and would ask prayer for him and for the congregation as we seek to fill the vacancy as God will direct us.
2. More than most, the elderly and those living alone have been adversely affected by the lockdown, but we would also value your prayers for our young folks as their education and social interfacing has been significantly impacted, having potential unforeseen consequences well into the future. We would ask that you uphold our student contingent as we look forward to a time when they are able to return to normal studies.