

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 6th June 2021



ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY SERVICES

We are thankful to gather in the Church this Lord's Day for the public worship of God. We meet at 12.00noon and the Service will be conducted in English. We encourage all our people to join with us in the worship of God each Lord's Day.

Coronavirus Protection Level 0

We are thankful to the Lord that in the Western Isles we move into **Level 0** of Scottish Government COVID-19 restrictions **on Saturday 5th June 2021**. The relaxation in restrictions at Level 0 means that you can meet socially, indoors, in groups of up to 8 people from 4 households, in your home or theirs, and can stay overnight if you wish; you can meet socially, outdoors, in groups of up to 15 people from 15 households; and the maximum attendance at weddings and funerals will be 200 instead of 100 at Level 1. More details on what it means to be in Level 0 can be found on the Scottish Government Website [here](#).

There is no change at this time to arrangements for public worship and Church gatherings apart from the freedom to resume congregational singing, effective from 31st May 2021. The capacity limit, determined by the size of the building and the observance of the 2-metre physical distancing rules, still applies regarding attendance at Church services. We are now able to use the balcony in the Church and the capacity of the building has increased accordingly.

Ongoing Registration

Registration for attendance at services in the Church on the Lord's Day is necessary under Scottish Government COVID-19 guidelines. 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 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 Sunday service.

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 on 710328 or dan.macphail@icloud.com. Alternatively, you may contact the Minister on 710216 or cmacleod@freechurch.org. If you are unable to use the online registration process, please contact Mr MacPhail or the Minister to register your intention to attend the service.

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) is available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of the Website. 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. The May edition of *The Record* is available in PDF format on the Website [here](#).

LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 6th JUNE 2021

This Lord's Day we continue with our study of *The Christian's Experience of Grace* as a follow up on our study of *How we become Christians in the Gospel of John* earlier in the year. The study for this Lord's Day is from Romans 8:2-4 and focussing on *The Freedom of the Spirit*.

Availability of Services

The English service in the Church at 12.00noon will be live streamed and will be available on the Shawbost Free Church of Scotland **YouTube Channel** by clicking [here](#). An audio-only recording of the English service will be available on Sermon Audio at 2.00pm and can be accessed on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

The pre-recorded video of the Gaelic Service will be available on our YouTube Channel at 10.30am on Sunday 6th June 2021.

The audio-only recording of the Gaelic service will be available at 12.00noon on Sunday 6th June 2021 on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

The audio-only recording of the Gaelic Service will also be available as usual on the Twilio service, which can be **accessed from landline / home telephone** by dialling the number **0131 510 2471**. Please continue to 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

The Sunday School will meet this Lord's Day, Sunday 6th June, at 11.00am, and will continue in the meantime using the Zoom audio-visual technology.

WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will continue this Wednesday, 9th June 2021, at 7.00pm using Zoom audio-visual technology. We will continue our study of the book entitled '*Gentle and Lowly – The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*' by Dane Ortlund by looking at Chapter 13, *Why the Spirit*, based on John 14:16.

The Zoom Meeting ID is - 811 1884 3263. The ongoing Meeting Password is issued separately by contacting the Minister or any member of the group.

KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session will meet this Tuesday, 8th June, at 7.00pm. Mr Gordon Macleod, Presbytery Youth and Discipleship Support Worker, will join the meeting to discuss the Vision for Discipleship document approved by the Presbytery and recommended to Kirk Sessions as a basis of their own vision for discipleship within their congregations. The meeting will be held in-person in the Church/Church Hall so that all members of the Kirk Session can attend.

PASTORAL VISITATION

The movement in the Western Isles into Protection Level 0 of the Scottish Government's COVID-19 restrictions has brought about welcome changes in the rules regarding socialising and mixing with family and friends.

Pastoral visitation in homes is now possible. Pastoral visits will be carried out by the Minister and the Elders at their own discretion and subject to family and household arrangements as required. 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

FOUNDATIONS MATTER

Representatives of Foundations Matter, the Scottish arm of Cornerstone UK, a Christian Charity and the only evangelical Adoption and Fostering Service in the UK, will be available in the Barvas and Brue Community Centre on Tuesday 8th June. Anyone interested in the work of Foundations Matter can meet the representatives at the Centre between 7.00pm to 9.00pm. More details of the Charity and of the meeting on Tuesday 8th June are available on the Congregational Website [here](#).

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

6th June 2021

South Uist & Benbecula

Minister: Rev. Thomas Penman

South Uist and Benbecula Free Church was planted twenty years ago and we are still the only gospel church in South Uist. The church is small and is being generously supported in revitalisation work by the Western Isles Presbytery and the Mission Board. We have an excellent relationship with the North Uist Free Church. South Uist and Benbecula is beautiful, but the population is spread out over a large geographical area. There are strong family ties in the local community but there are also problems of alcoholism, substance abuse and poverty. We long to reach SU&B with the good news of Jesus Christ and see God's name glorified here.

1. Prayer Points:
2. Please pray for the strengthening of our church community and an increased zeal for the work of God. We pray against the passivity which lockdown can produce and hope that hospitality and discipleship will increasingly be done in person and that all will feel able to gather on a Sunday.
3. Pray for our outreach in South Uist and Benbecula. We pray that God will go ahead of us to prepare the hearts of those within our area, and that we may recognise and make use of the opportunities for evangelism that He provides.

Dowanvale

Minister: Rev. Kenny Macleod

Dowanvale is based in the Partick area of Glasgow. Set in close proximity to the University of Glasgow and surrounded by tenement flats, the congregation serves a hugely diverse community. The area is home to students of all nationalities, young professionals, manual workers, families, single parents and retired people. With this diversity comes a range of social issues including unemployment, substance abuse, family breakdown and poverty. We have around 120 communicant members and a further significant group of regular attendees.

1. Prayer Points:
2. Since returning to in-person services, we have welcomed a number of new people to our congregation from different backgrounds and cultures. Please pray that they would feel welcome and that they would receive the gospel message with gladness.
3. In partnership with Friends International we welcome international students to our city through an International Café. This has been maintained online during lockdown and we are now training volunteers in preparation for a return to physical meetings. Please pray that we would identify people with a passion for this outreach work and that we would be equipped to show hospitality and the love of Christ to all in our actions and conversations.

Rogart

Minister: Vacant

Interim Moderator: Rev. Duncan Macleod

The congregation is small and has been vacant for a long time but there has always been a good sense of fellowship among them, and they regularly hold outreach services in the community usually in conjunction with the Faith Mission.

1. Prayer Points:
2. Pray for Sandy the only locally based elder who is currently experiencing some serious health problems and who has been so faithful over many years in seeking to look after the congregation in seeking to share the gospel with young and old alike.
3. Pray for the Presbytery and the congregation to make wise decisions regarding the way forward as a new Interim moderator and assessor elders are expected to be appointed very soon.