

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 7th March 2021



LORD'S DAY SERVICES – CHURCH CLOSED

There is no change regarding Scottish Government's COVID-19 restrictions for Western Isles. This means we are still in Level 4 and there is a legal requirement for places of worship located within an area having Level 4 restrictions to close for communal worship and individual prayer. This, of course, means that we will not be able to meet for public worship in the Church until there is a relaxation in the COVID-19 restrictions.

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

We are delighted to announce the launching of our new congregational website this weekend. You will find it at shawbostfreechurch.org. We are thankful to all who worked hard and contributed over recent months to make this possible. We trust and pray that the website will improve our communication and connectivity with the local community and beyond as we seek to serve the Lord in the Gospel.

The **Weekly Bulletin** will be available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of the website. Updates and news items of local interest will be added to the News section from time to time as required. There is a **Minister's Blog** also available under the News item and this will also be regularly updated.

We welcome feedback and comments to improve the functionality and the connectivity of the website as well as suggestions for the addition of resources and information not yet available to the end user.

LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 7th MARCH 2021

Sunday Services

This Lord's Day we will continue our study of *The Titles of Christ in the Epistle to the Hebrews* by looking at Hebrews 6:13-20 and *Jesus – The Forerunner*.

Availability of Services

The Sunday Service in Gaelic and English conducted by the Minister will be available on the [Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio](#) page as from 12.00noon on Sunday. Simply click or tap on Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio underlined above from your phone, tablet, laptop, etc., to take you directly to the site where you can access the services. The services can also be accessed by clicking on '**Listen to the Latest Sermon**' button on the **Congregational Website**.

The **Sunday Service in Gaelic** can also 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

The Sunday School will meet today, Sunday 7th March 2021, at 11.00am using the Zoom audio-visual technology. The Sunday School will continue to meet in this way until the current COVID-19 restrictions on children attending School have been lifted.

WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will resume this Wednesday, 10th March 2021, at 7.00pm using Zoom audio-visual technology. We will study Chapter 5 of the book entitled '*Gentle and Lowly – The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*' by Dane Ortlund this week. The Chapter is based on Hebrews Chapter 5:2.

The PBS Group is an open group and those who wish to join the group using Zoom can do so from mobile phone, tablet or computer using 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

Pastoral visitation in homes is not permissible under the Level 4 COVID-19 restrictions in the Western Isles announced by the Scottish Government First Minister on Friday 29th January 2021. 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 prayerfully mindful at this time of those who are in

Care Homes and in Hospital along with their families during times of highly restricted visiting. Those who are going through a period of serious illness at this time are also close to our hearts in prayer.

CONTRIBUTORS & FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

We are thankful to all for their financial support of the Church in what continues to be a difficult time due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The Church Hall will be open on the third Saturday of each month during COVID-19 restrictions from 10.00am to 12.00noon to give contributors and donors an opportunity to hand in their weekly offerings' envelopes. The next opportunity for donors and contributors to hand in their envelopes will be Saturday 20th March 2021.

CARLOWAY FREE CHURCH – EASTER FRIDAY ONLINE HOLIDAY CLUB

The Carloway Free Church congregation are running an Easter Friday Online Holiday Club for **pre-school and primary school children**. This will run on Friday 2nd April at 10.30am. An invitation is extended to all young people in our congregation who are in the above age groups. To sign up, please email Isabel Macleod at isabeljmac@hotmail.com by Monday 15th March 2021.

SUDANESE REFORMED CHURCH

The 2020 Annual Report of the Sudanese Reformed Church (SRC) is available on the Congregational Website under News for your information. We remember Rev. Patrick Jok and the SRC as they face the challenges of carrying out gospel ministry in the context of civil war and poverty and with the additional challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic.

PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 8th March 2021 have been chosen by the Minister, Rev. Callum Macleod. The Bible Passage is **Psalm 80:14-19** with the theme of **Prayer for Restoration in a Time of Suffering and Spiritual Decline**.

Prayer Points

1. From the opening plea of Psalm 80:14 – “turn us again,” pray for encouragement by meditating on the power of our great God demonstrated in times of revival in the past.
2. From the words of Psalm 80:14-16, pray that God would look in mercy on us in the midst of the widespread desolation caused by the current coronavirus pandemic and lift his hand of judgment from upon us.
3. From the words of Psalm 80:17, pray that God would pour out his redeeming love into our broken world through our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. From the words of Psalm 80:18, pray that God would give us individually and nationally a true spirit of repentance and a turning to the Lord in our time of great need.
5. From the words of Psalm 80:19, pray that God would come with restoring and reforming power to make us a community and a nation that lives in the enjoyment of the favour of God.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

7th March 2021

Abbeygreen, Lesmahagow

Minister: Rev. David Carmichael

Abbeygreen is a new congregation to the Free Church of Scotland. It has exercised biblical ministry in the village of Lesmahagow, 23 miles south of Glasgow, since 1843. Early in 2020 it left the Church of Scotland, on matters of biblical principle and after having bought its land, church and manse, and returned to its theological roots by re-joining its mother denomination.

Prayer Points:

1. Lesmahagow like the rest of our nation is godless, secular and opposed to the gospel. Join with us in our prayer that the Lord, when he brings his present just judgement of the world to an end, and this in line with the precise outworking of his wise providence and perfect timing, will by his mighty power bring good out of bad. We are praying for such a moving of his Spirit that will see the true church in our nation, in all of its reformed and evangelical manifestations, shining like a light in the darkness to the catching of the attention of the lost. And this that it might also, with a voice determined to be heard in the wilderness of modern

paganism, sound forth, cry out, with spiritual courage and theological conviction the great gospel truth that in Christ there is by the grace of God forgiveness for sin and the promise of adoption into his family, for all who come and bow their knee in repentance and faith before his Son. Our Lord Jesus Christ the only Saviour available to man. Our nation has been gripped by the fear of death. Join with us in our prayer that many sinners will come to know Christ and to discover that in him they need never fear death again.

2. We are thankful to the Lord for his goodness, his care and his providence even in the mysteries of its outworking. We glory in the wonderful reality that he is Sovereign God. We would appreciate your prayers in ensuring that, along with every other bible believing, Christ exalting congregation, our eyes ever remain fixed on our Heavenly Father, and that our faith and trust will grow stronger as we know his word feeding our souls and his Spirit leading us in the way he would have us go.

Glenelg & Arnisdale, Lochalsh & Glenshiel

Minister: Ken MacDonald (Non-Ordained Worker)

Interim Moderator: Rev. Duncan Murchison

The congregation is around 50 from across the age range with a number of Sunday school and youth group aged kids. We have no useable building and meet in a village hall and C of S building when we are not in lockdown.

Prayer Points:

1. Please pray that we would grow in our love and desire for the Lord's glory in His church and in our neighbourhoods. Please pray for our increased realisation and appreciation of Jesus Christ and His gospel.
2. Please pray for those who are young in the faith to grow strong through their current trials, and for more clear conversions and commitments to the Lord. Pray too for several recently bereaved folk, as well as those caring for elderly loved ones.

Cumbernauld

Minister: Rev. Andy Longwe

Cumbernauld is a town north east of Glasgow. Our church situated in the heart of Carbrain. We have 63 members and 41 adherents. We have a good mix of ages and people from a wide variety of backgrounds. We have a prayer meeting each Wednesday (Zoom), Sunday morning service (on YouTube) and our Sunday evening service (on Zoom).

Prayer Points:

1. Please pray that the Lord would use our ongoing online activity to build up His people in the faith and to reach the unconverted. Please pray for our young people that they would stay connected with our church family and that we would be able to disciple them well as they seek to live out their faith.
2. Please pray for our elder and deacon training. Once a month, Professor John Angus MacLeod is delivering online training course for present and potential elders and deacons. Please pray for the group of men and Professor MacLeod.