

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 9th May 2021



LORD'S DAY SERVICES – CHURCH ATTENDANCE

We are thankful to gather in the Church this Lord's Day, 9th May 2021, for the public worship of God. We meet at 12.00noon and the Service will be conducted in English.

A Capacity Limit

The Scottish Government introduced a capacity limit, while still observing the 2-metre physical distancing rules, instead of the previous cap of 50 people, as part of the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions in Protection Level 3 on 26th April 2021. This will enable larger buildings, with greater floor area and seating capacity, to accommodate more while still maintaining the 2-metre physical distancing. The numbers permitted to attend funerals and wedding services is also to be increased to a maximum of 50 from 26th April.

Ongoing Registration

The introduction of a capacity limit instead of the cap of 50 people attending Church services is unlikely to affect the maximum number we can accommodate in the Church until such time as the upstairs is opened for use. Seats will, therefore, continue to be allocated according to household groups on a first come first served basis until such time as we reach the limit of fifty. 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](#).

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.

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

The **live stream of the 12.00noon English service** this Lord's Day, 9th May 2021, will be available 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.

The **pre-recorded video of the Gaelic Service** will also be available on our **YouTube Channel at 10.30am on Sunday 9th May 2021**. This is the first Sunday of a trial period of making a video of the Gaelic service available in this way and its continuance will be based on demand.

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 – 9th MAY 2021

The Minister returned from compassionate leave in the middle of the week and will take the service this Lord's Day.

Sunday Services

This Lord's Day we commence a 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 first sermon in the series is from Micah 7:18-20 under the title *The Incomparable God*.

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 an audio-only version of Gaelic service 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 or by going to the Congregational Website.

The pre-recorded 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 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 9th May, at 11.00am, and will continue in the meantime using the Zoom audio-visual technology. The arrangement for the Sunday School will be reviewed by the Kirk Session in due course and any changes will be announced as soon as they have been agreed.

WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will continue this Wednesday, 12th May 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 11, *The Emotional Life of Christ*, based on John 11:33.

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 or any member of the group.

DEACONS COURT

The Deacons Court will meet on Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 8.00pm using the Zoom audio-visual platform. Papers and Zoom connection details will be sent out separately to the Office-bearers.

PASTORAL VISITATION

The announcement of the Scottish Government that the whole of Scotland will move into Protection Level 3 of COVID-19 restrictions on 26th April 2021, and the relaxing of some of the restrictions on socialising outdoors, states that the rules on indoor socialising will not change on that date. This means that pastoral visitation in homes is still not permissible. 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

THE RECORD

The May edition of *The Record* is available in PDF format on the Congregational Website [here](#). Please note that the previous online versions of *The Record* from April 2020 onwards can now be downloaded from our website: <https://freechurch.org/resources/magazines>

From the June 2021 issue of *The Record* onwards, we will be returning to normal deliveries of the Record to all congregations, now that Churches are able to open again. This means that all Congregations will begin receiving the same quantities of magazines that they received before deliveries stopped due to Covid.

The Record will then no longer be available for free in PDF form as it has been over the past year. If you would like to continue receiving digital copies of The Record, subscriptions can be set up online via Issuu at <https://issuu.com/freechurch>.

PRESBYTERY YOUTH WORKER UPDATE

The Presbytery Youth Committee has issued an update on youth work within the Presbytery and focussing on the work undertaken by Mr Gordon Macleod, the Presbytery Youth and Discipleship Support Worker. The update also includes an invitation to partner with the Presbytery and give financial support to the important ministry to our young people. The Update with all the information can be read on the Congregational Website [here](#).

PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 10th May 2021 have been chosen by Rev. Hugh Ferrier, Minister of the High Free Church in Stornoway. The **Scripture Reading** is **Haggai Chapter 1**.

In these verses we find the LORD's people returning to their homeland following their exile in Babylon. However, they're too traumatised to go about the LORD's work of rebuilding His temple (2) and instead spend their energies on rebuilding their own homes (4). The LORD, through Haggai, calls on them consider their priorities (7) and to engage in His work (8-11). The people respond to the LORD's word and

engage in His work (12). At the same time, they engage in this work assured by the LORD's Promise that He's with them (13) and stirred by His Spirit (14).

As we find ourselves slowly coming out of Lockdown are we making it our priority to be about Christ's Kingdom work?

Prayer Points:

1. Please remember your ministers in prayer. Some of them may be discouraged and wondering if they can keep on going in the pastoral ministry. Others may be tiring in the work and on the verge of burnout and while not seeing it their minds and bodies may feel it. Others may be running on empty from a year of ministering in such challenging circumstances and feel that they have little to give.
2. Please remember the elders and deacons of our congregations in prayer. We pray that that they would have wisdom in knowing what they should be doing and what they might have to hold back from doing as congregations. Some of these decisions may be difficult and so please pray for unity.
3. Please remember those who have cooled off and begun to drift from the life of the Church over the past year. We pray that their hearts would once more be warmed to the Gospel of Grace and that they'd once again have the desire for fellowship with the Lord and His People.
4. Finally please pray for the evangelistic witness of each congregation in this season. The restricted numbers at our services mean that it's hard to invite people to a Church Service or event. At the same time people may be reluctant to even sign up for a Church Service if given the opportunity. Please be praying that the Lord's people would be "stirred up" to seek to make Him known to those whom they come into contact with and that they would find opened and receptive hearts.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

9th May 2021

Gairloch, Kinlochewe & Torridon

Minister: Rev. Colin L. Macleod

We are a congregation located in rural Wester Ross who, as the body of Christ, want to be salt and light, relational, incarnational and missional in our lives.

Prayer Points:

1. Please pray that as restrictions ease and have begun to return to in person services, connections made with people through on-line services and daily podcasts will come to fruition. We need to know how much of an on-line presence we should maintain. Please pray for wisdom for this.
2. Please pray that a growing together for Christ relationship with the local Church of Scotland congregation will continue to be a witness to the community and a blessing to both churches.

Christ Church Glasgow

Minister: Rev. Jonathan de Groot

Christ Church Glasgow is a church plant in North West Glasgow. Through our mission statement: 'Loving God - Loving each other - Loving Glasgow', we seek to establish a church in this urban context where people can hear the gospel, see it lived out, and come to believe it for themselves. We launched in September 2019 with a team of 40 people. We now have over 60 people joining us for worship on Sundays.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for a renewed focus on evangelism now that we have reopened. Over the past year it has been easy to slip into a maintenance mode to keep everything going, so please pray for a greater emphasis on mission in our church and in our lives and for creative ways to reach out and share the good news of Jesus.
2. Pray for wisdom in developing children and youth ministries. As the church has grown, we now have more families with more babies and young people. Pray that, as a church, we would be able to begin an effective ministry to teach our young people the faith, enable them to grow as disciples of Jesus and prepare them to live for Christ in the world.

East Kilbride

Minister: Vacant

Interim Moderator: Rev. Douglas Cranston

East Kilbride is a New Town on the outskirts of Glasgow. The congregation is small and is predominantly elderly, with a few young families with a mix of people from highland and lowland origins.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the congregation, Presbytery, Presbytery Strategy Committee, and the Mission Board as they find a way forward for the ministry in East Kilbride, which is now vacant.
2. Pray that the congregation would be a witness to their surrounding community.