

CHURCH BULLETIN

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

10th December 2023



SUNDAY SERVICES

Both services today will be taken by Rev Calum MacDonald. Our services are livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12.00noon service** the Scripture reading will be taken from James 1 and the sermon will focus on verse 22.

At the **6.00pm service** the Scripture reading will be Romans 10 and the sermon will focus on verse 9.

The praise will be led by our precentor(s) and the Psalms for this Lord's Day are as follows:

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalms 103:1-11	Sing Psalms	Psalms 63:1-8	Psalter
2	Psalms 1	Psalter	Psalms 84:1-6	Psalter
3	Psalms 37:1-7	Psalter	Psalms 106:7-12	Psalter
4	Psalms 19:7-10	Psalter	Psalms 68:18-20	Sing Psalms

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be at the usual time and children will go to their classes during the second item of praise.

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Tonight's congregational fellowship has been cancelled and will be rearranged for another date.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Rev Donald A MacDonald.

WEEKLY PRAYERMEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The weekly prayer meeting and Bible study on **Wednesday 13th December at 7pm** will take place in the Church Hall. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend.

SUDANSE REFORMED CHURCH - RETIRING COLLECTION

The Deacons' Court had previously agreed making a regular donation to the Sudanese Reformed Church following the visit of Pastor Patrick Jok. There will therefore be a collection taken at both Lord's Day services **today** (10th December 2023).

BEREAVEMENT

We note with sadness the passing of Rhoda Macleod (South Shawbost). We remember the family in prayer, in particular husband Neil and daughter Fiona. In connection with this, there will be a service this evening commencing at **9pm in the Church**. The funeral will take place on **Monday 11th December** with the service commencing at **11.30am**.

VACANCY - HOSPITALITY ROTA

It has been agreed to compile a rota for providing hospitality for visiting preachers during the vacancy period. Anyone in the congregation who would like their name to be added to the rota should contact Morris Macleod or Dan MacPhail.

DEACONS' COURT

There will be a meeting of the Deacons' Court on **Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 8pm in the Church Hall**.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2023

The Westside War Memorial committee would like to thank all who attended the Remembrance Service on the 12th of November. They would also like to thank the Rev Donald A MacDonald for conducting the service, Christopher Macleod for providing the sound system, and all those who laid wreaths. A grand total of £540 was collected towards the upkeep of the war memorial. Thank you all very much for your donations.

Gaelic 'SHARE A STORY BIBLE'

The Scottish Bible Society has published & printed 1500 copies of a Gaelic translation of its 'Share a story' Bible. Thanks go to the Church of Scotland Gaelic committee for funding these copies, to be distributed FREE OF CHARGE to all who request them. These were primarily produced to encourage families to read to their children at home but they can also be used in churches, Sunday clubs & schools. An audiobook has also been produced to help non-Gaelic speaking families to sit & read-along with their child - a QR code inside the book will lead you to the page on our website where you can stream or download the tracks. To claim a copy, just contact the Gaelic Hub based at Uig Parish Church on the Isle of Lewis by emailing GaidhligUig@outlook.com. We are also hoping to have a few copies available at the Stornoway Christian Bookshop soon.

BINDING BROKENNESS: A SMALL GROUP FOR BIBLE-BASED TRAUMA HEALING

Our small group will help you to deal with hurt, loss, grief and trauma, and begin the journey towards healing. We use the time-tested model of the Trauma Healing Institute, which is endorsed by the Scottish Bible Society. The introductory lesson takes place on **Tuesday 12th December 2023, 7.00-9.00pm** in a Stornoway venue. The course continues in 2024 - **weekly on Tuesdays, 7.00-9.00pm from 9th January to 13th February 2024**. Booking is essential. To book or find out more contact the group facilitators Mairianne Campbell: 07876202073 or Joanna George: bindingbrokenness@proton.me or simply fill in your details online: <https://forms.office.com/r/fDrmMuM4Zx>

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER (11th December – 17th December 2023)

Monday 11th December - St. Columba's

Please pray for the congregation during this time of transition - for unity, vision and energy. Give thanks for their commitment, growth in grace, and hard work.

Tuesday 12th December - Turkey

Once again, a number of foreign Christians serving various ministries in Turkey have been expelled from the country and permanently banned from returning. Pray for them and their families, as well as for the ministries they have left behind.

Wednesday 13th December - Richard and Barbara, a European City

We have less contact with some of the young people we have known over the years. We have shared much with them in the past and they have some understanding of the word of God. Pray that they would remember what they have heard and turn to the Lord.

Thursday 14th December - Turkey

At this time of year shop windows in Turkey are filled with decorations of Santa Claus, tinsel, snowflakes, etc. Many Turks do not know the difference between Christmas and the New Year celebrations. Pray for Christians there, as they try to communicate the real story of Christ's coming into the world.

Friday 15th December - St. Columba's

Pray for Cory Brock, the assistant minister, who will bear the burden of ministry during the vacancy and, Lord willing, beyond that time.

Saturday 16th December - Richard and Barbara, a European City

At this time of year, we try to visit island friends whom we are unable to visit regularly. We leave them with a Bible calendar. Pray that the verses would be read and that our visits would remind them of what they have heard in the past.

Sunday 17th December - St. Columba's

Pray for the Derek and Catriona Lamont, who finish in St Columba's in Jan 2024 to take up a church re-plant in Leith.

You may as soon find a living man who does not breathe, as a living Christian who does not pray.

Matthew Henry