

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 11th April 2021



LORD'S DAY SERVICES – CHURCH RE-OPENING

We are thankful that we are again able to gather in the Church this Lord's Day, 11th 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.

Ongoing Registration

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 thankful for the successful launching of the live streaming of our Church services last Sunday. The live stream of the 12.00noon service this Lord's Day, 11th April 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.

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 – 11th APRIL 2021

Sunday Services

This Lord's Day and next we will look at the two key aspects of the Christian's participation in the resurrection of Christ. This week we will look at Ephesians 2:4-7 and *The Christian & A First Resurrection*.

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, 14th 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 9, *An Advocate*, based on 1 John 2:1.

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

CONTRIBUTORS & FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

We continue to give thanks to the Lord for the faithfulness and commitment of our people in their financial support of the Church in what continues to be a difficult time due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Following the recent practice during COVID-19 restrictions, the Church Hall will be open on Saturday 17th April from 10.00am to 12.00noon to give contributors and donors an opportunity to hand in their weekly offerings' envelopes. Thanks for your support.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The whole nation is reflecting on the life of the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, since Her Majesty The Queen announced his passing away peacefully at Windsor Castle on the morning of Friday 9th April 2021 at the age of ninety-nine years, just two months short of his 100th birthday. Prince Philip married the then Princess Elisabeth on 20th November 1947 and was her devoted husband for over seventy-three years. He was a loyal and faithful consort of Queen Elisabeth since her accession to the throne on 6th February 1952. The Duke was well respected in the UK and in the Commonwealth. The initiative perhaps for which he is best known locally is the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme of which he was Founder and Patron. Many of our young people benefitted from the Scheme under the leadership of Kenny Smith, Catherine Ann Campbell, and others. We remember the Queen and the Royal Family in our prayers at this time of grief and sorrow.

FCYC CONNECT

The Free Church Youth Camps (FCYC) group has launched an FCYC event for the Summer – FCYC Connect. Information on the Event as available on the following link - <https://www.freechurchyouthcamps.org/connect/>

FCYC Connect will take place on Zoom for around one hour each evening from Monday 12th to Friday 16th July 2021. There will be three separate events each evening – Connect Kids for P5-P7, Connect Juniors for S1-S3 and Connect Seniors for S4-S6. Young people will have the opportunity to catch up with others from all over the country (and beyond!), and there'll also be Bible teaching and discussion relevant to each age group, challenges and activities, and plenty of laughs along the way!

A further explanation of the Event also available on following link – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjNW-dtTO9U>

HONG KONG READY

The Church's Mission Board has forged links with the Hong Kong Ready initiative. There is great political turmoil in Hong Kong as the Chinese communist party turn their attention to integrating the British Colony of Hong Kong into mainland China. This has resulted in great unrest and will lead to mass migration. This year the Home Office estimates that 130,000 will migrate from Hong Kong to the UK following the introduction of a new visa which will make it easy for Hong Kong residents to come to the UK.

The UKHK initiative is a movement in the UK Church which aims to equip local churches to be Hong Kong Ready – to be ready to show hospitality to those who are coming into the UK from Hong Kong. A letter with more details about the initiative is available on the News Section of the Congregational Website here.

Last week, the Mission Board's Generation podcast hosted Dr Krish Kandiah as part of the Free Church Mission Board's involvement in the *Hong Kong Ready* initiative. The podcast and the associated video are available on the following links - **Podcast:** [Dr Krish Kandiah - Hong Kong Ready \(podbean.com\)](https://podbean.com/?u=1045444); **YouTube:** [Krish Kandiah - "Hong Kong Ready" \(UKHK.org\) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1HhK1HhK1H)

PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 12th April 2021 have been chosen by the **Rev. Thomas Penman**, Minister at South Uist and Benbecula. The Bible Passage is **Isaiah 40** and the following are the prayer points.

Prayer Points:

1. Praise God for His perfect sovereignty, wisdom and might.
2. Praise God that he both 'comes with might' against his enemies and tenderly cares for 'his flock like a shepherd'.
3. Give thanks that the Lord knows we are weak and that He gives strength to the weary.
4. Pray for the spread of the gospel in the Western Isles and across Scotland so that many more would be ready for the Lord's return and His name would be glorified.
5. Pray against the evils of alcoholism and drug use which lockdown has exacerbated.
6. Pray the virus would continue to decrease and that we would not return to lockdown in the future.
7. Pray for our young people and their teachers as schools return to full time hours.
8. Pray that our political leaders would have wisdom as they lead the nation, beginning with a right fear of God.
9. Pray for peace in Northern Ireland and an end to the rioting there. Pray for the spread of the gospel in all parts of Ireland.
10. Pray for the Queen and the Royal Family as they grieve the loss of Prince Philip.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

11th April 2021

Elgin & Forres

Minister: Rev. Colin Morison

Located in Elgin we are a small congregation, most of whom travel in from surrounding communities. We have an attractive, accessible building. Prior to lockdown our contact with the local community was through our weekly café, a parent and toddler group and a well-established schools' outreach.

Prayer Points:

1. Please pray with us for new leaders and potential leaders to join our number.
2. As we open up after lockdown, pray that we would have wisdom to re-start what would be beneficial for the mission of the congregation, and that we would see and take opportunities to share the good news.

Cross

Minister: Rev. Ewen Matheson

Cross Free Church is a congregation in the Ness district (pop. 1200) of the Isle of Lewis. Before the pandemic, we had an attendance of around one hundred at each of our two services on the Lord's Day. Now we join the services as they are live streamed by the Minister from the Church, with technical support. The mid-week prayer meeting and a Sunday evening book study fellowship Sunday are also online. The WfM and our Sunday School continue online, and one of members has set up an online contact page with suitable Bible items for parents to share with pre-school children.

Prayer Points:

1. That the live-streamed services and online fellowships: (a) would be used to draw more of our people to follow Jesus, and (b) would help us all to keep our focus on Christ as we await the return to worship together in the church.
2. That our children and young people would be given a grounding in the Christian faith so that they may grow in knowledge and discernment to enable them to make right choices throughout their lives and entrust their eternal souls to Christ.