

## 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.

12<sup>th</sup> January 2025



### WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES TODAY

Today's services will be taken by Rev George MacAskill (11.00am) and Mr Tam MacLennan (6.00pm). Our 11.00am service is livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **11.00am service**, the Scripture reading will be from Isaiah 64 and Jeremiah 18:1-11. The sermon will focus on Isaiah 64:6-8.

At the **6.00pm service in the Church Hall**, the Scripture reading will be from Leviticus 8:1-13 and Matthew 3. The sermon will focus on Matthew 3:15 and is entitled *Christ Declared a Priest*.

	11.00am Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Ps 31:1-6	Sing Psalms	Ps 98:1-4	Sing Psalms
2	Ps 31:14-19	Sing Psalms	Ps 110:1-5	Scottish Psalter
3	Ps 31:21-24	Scottish Psalter	Ps 45(ii)6-11	Scottish Psalter
4	-	-	Ps 51:7-12	Scottish Psalter

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will resume following the school holiday and the children will go to their classes during the second item of praise. Please remember the Sunday School in prayer.

### SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The Services next Lord's Day (19<sup>th</sup> January 2025) will be taken by Rev Hugh Ferrier,

### PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The prayer meeting and Bible study will take place on **Wednesday 15th January at 7pm in the Church Hall**. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend.

### KIRK SESSION

There will be a meeting of the Kirk Session on **Wednesday, 15th January**, immediately following the Prayer Meeting.

### LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group will meet on **Thursday (16<sup>th</sup> January) at 7pm** at the manse. The group will watch and consider the Corrie Ten Boom video, *Forgiveness*. All ladies welcome.

### CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

The Kirk Session has agreed to run a Christianity Explored course starting in the **second week of February**. To book a place or for more information, please speak to one of the Elders. The course is suitable **for anyone** looking to explore the Christian faith, who Jesus is and why he matters. To find out more about the course visit this link [Christianity Explored](#). Please remember this item in prayer.

### LORD'S DAY OBSERVANCE SOCIETY – ANNUAL PRAYER MEETING

The annual LDOS prayer meeting is due to take place at **8.30pm on Lord's Day 19th January 2025** in the APC building on Keith Street. All are encouraged to attend.

### PRAYER POINTS 13TH JANUARY - 19TH OF JANUARY 2025

#### Monday 13th January - Arran

Please remember the congregation in Arran in prayer as they meet monthly for worship. Please pray that the Lord would bless them, and uphold them.

#### Tuesday 14th January - Tearfund, Middle East

Please pray for peace in times of increased violence, and for humanitarian aid to reach the many thousands of displaced people. Please pray as Tearfund partners seek to provide food, and clean water to those in need.

#### Wednesday 15th January - Tain and Fearn

Give thanks for the ministry of Rev Andrew Macleod who has served as assistant minister. Please pray the Lord would bless him and his family as they prepare to minister to New City Church, Dunfermline, and pray that He would be able to reflect, study and rest during his sabbatical.

#### Thursday 16th January - Arran

Pray that the Lord would strength believers on Arran, that He would draw near to them and that they would be strengthened to continue faithfully witnessing the gospel.

#### Friday 17th January - Tearfund, Ukraine

Please pray for the people of Ukraine as they endure many years of displacement and hardship caused by the ongoing war. Pray that the Lord would draw near to them and be their source of comfort and hope.

#### Saturday 18th January - Tain and Fearn

Pray for the lunch clubs which take place weekly in Tain and Hilton, that many from the community would be welcomed in. Pray that believers would build relationships with those in the community.

#### Sunday 19th January - Tearfund, Nepal

Please pray for workers who are working to address gender-based violence and human trafficking.

### THE LARGER CATECHISM

#### Q. 26. How is original sin conveyed from our first parents unto their posterity?

A. Original sin is conveyed from our first parents unto their posterity by natural generation, so as all that proceed from them in that way are conceived and born in sin.

[Ps. 51:5](#); [Job 14:4](#); [Job 15:14](#); [John 3:6](#).

### NOTHING IS LEFT TO 'CHANCE' - (JAMES SMITH)

"My times are in Your hand!" Psalm 31:15

Every event is under Divine control. Nothing is left to 'chance'. The hand of God is in all that occurs: directing, overruling, and sanctifying everything to our good and His glory. He appointed all that concerns us and appointed all in infinite wisdom and love. Therefore, we should not judge rashly-or conclude hastily. We know not what may occur today-but we know that the purpose of God cannot be frustrated, nor can His purpose fail. He works all things after the counsel of His own will.

He says, "My purpose shall stand-and I will do all My pleasure." But this is our comfort, that He takes pleasure in His people, and in the prosperity of His redeemed ones.

Let us consider, then, that everything that happens to us . . .

passes under our Father's eye;

is overruled by our Savior's power;

is directed by the Holy Spirit to do us good.

It shall not be as our enemies wish, or as our hearts fear; but as our God and Father pleases and has ordained.

Therefore, do not be anxious, troubled, or cast down! The Lord God omnipotent reigns - and He is your Father and your God! He shall preserve you from all evil - He shall preserve your soul. "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,<sup>[a]</sup> for those who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Spurgeon: When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the soft pillow upon which you lay your head. There is no attribute of God more comforting to His children than the doctrine of Divine Sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe troubles, they believe . . .

that Sovereignty has ordained their afflictions,

that Sovereignty overrules them, and

that Sovereignty will sanctify them all.