

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.

14th January 2024



SUNDAY SERVICES

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

At the **12.00noon service** the Scripture reading will be John Chapter 1 and from verse 19 to the end of the chapter. The sermon will consider the section from verse 43 to the end of the chapter and is entitled *Jesus Finds Philip and Nathaniel*.

At the **6.00pm service** the Scripture reading will be from Mark Chapter 1 and from verse 21 to the end. The sermon will focus on verse 35 of the chapter and is entitled *Jesus in Prayer*.

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	Ps 65v1-5	Sing Psalms	Ps 145(i) v13-19	Psalter
2	Ps 105v1-7	Psalter	Ps 31v1-7	Sing Psalms
3	Ps 15	Sing Psalms	Ps 138v3-end	Psalter
4	Ps 103v19-end	Psalter	Ps 61v1-5	Sing Psalms

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be at the usual time today. The children will go to their classes in the hall during the second item of praise.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Rev Calum Murdo Smith (12.00 noon) and Mr Calum Maclean, Back (6pm).

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The weekly prayer meeting and Bible study on **Wednesday 17th January at 7pm** will take place in Bragar. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be a **meeting of the Deacons' Court** immediately following the prayer meeting.

VACANCY: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 24TH JANUARY 2024

There will be a congregational meeting at **7pm in the Church Hall on Wednesday 24th January 2024, DV**. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the congregational schedule and vacancy committee which will be forwarded to Presbytery prior to onward transmission to the Board of Ministry. Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to attend the meeting.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

The next scheduled online training sessions are **16th January and 22nd February**. Participants require to register online seven days in advance of the chosen date. Register at <https://freechurch.org/safeguarding-training/>

PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRAYER MEETING

All are warmly invited to a prayer meeting at Providence Christian School on Monday 15th January at 7.30pm. There will be a time of fellowship afterwards over a cup of tea. For those unable to join in person, a Teams option is available through office@providencechristian.school.

PRAYER POINTS 15TH JANUARY - 21ST JANUARY 2024

Monday 15th January - London City Presbyterian

Give thanks for the recent addition in November of 5 new members in the congregation. Please pray the Lord would bless these individuals as they serve and grow in their love for the Lord.

Tuesday 16th January - Osamu and Mairi, Japan

1st of January cities and towns in Noto peninsula suffered a devastating earthquake, magnitude 7.6. At the time of writing this note (9:pm 8th Jan.), it is reported, 168 people were confirmed dead and 323 unaccounted for. 28,160 people are in evacuation centers. One church suffered severe structural destructions and some others partial damages. Pray for the well-organized relief efforts by the government and comfort on those who were bereaved by the loss of family members.

Wednesday 17th January - Lochbroom and Coigach

Pray that God will lead the congregation in 2024 in gospel work throughout Lochbroom and Coigach. Pray that God will bless and further this for His Glory

Thursday 18th January - Public Engagement Group

Pray for the upcoming consultations that PEG are set to be draft responses for. As discussions continue nationally about Conversion Practices, pray that as the consultation is opened in Scotland that PEG will be able to respond succinctly to the issues addressed, especially looking at the language used and how it will impact parents and the ordinary work of churches seeking to care for those struggling with LGBT issues.

Friday 19th January - London City Presbyterian

Please pray that the Lord would maintain the unity of the Spirit as the church continues to witness in the community. Pray this witness would bear fruit.

Saturday 20th January - Osamu and Mairi, Japan

Christian churches in Japan formed 'Nationwide Disaster Network' in 2019 and this network has started doing the relief work in the area from 4th. Stephen, our son who has been doing this relief work since the Tsunami of 2011 is there in Noto with this network. He will be there for a month to start with. Pray that many Christians like Stephen will give impact on those victims of this earthquake. Not many churches exist in this part of Ishikawa-ken.

Sunday 21st January - Lochbroom and Coigach

Pray that as the congregation gathers to worship, they will be renewed by the word of God. Pray that they will live by the instruction and guidance of the word, and that they will be encouraged by it.

CH SPURGEON DEVOTIONAL READING 14TH JANUARY

"Beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me." **Matthew 14:30**

"Sinking times are praying times with the Lord's servants. Peter neglected prayer at starting upon his venturesome journey, but when he began to sink his danger made him a suppliant, and his cry though late was not too late. In our hours of bodily pain and mental anguish, we find ourselves as naturally driven to prayer as the wreck is driven upon the shore by the waves. The fox hies to its hole for protection; the bird flies to the wood for shelter; and even so the tried believer hastens to the mercy seat for safety. Heaven's great harbour of refuge is All-prayer; thousands of weather-beaten vessels have found a haven there, and the moment a storm comes on, it is wise for us to make for it with all sail.

Short prayers are long enough. There were but three words in the petition which Peter gasped out, but they were sufficient for his purpose. Not length but strength is desirable. A sense of need is a mighty teacher of brevity. If our prayers had less of the tail feathers of pride and more wing, they would be all the better. Verbiage is to devotion as chaff to the wheat. Precious things lie in small compass, and all that is real prayer in many a long address might have been uttered in a petition as short as that of Peter.

Our extremities are the Lord's opportunities. Immediately a keen sense of danger forces an anxious cry from us the ear of Jesus hears, and with him ear and heart go together, and the hand does not long linger. At the last moment we appeal to our Master, but his swift hand makes up for our delays by instant and effectual action. Are we nearly engulfed by the boisterous waters of affliction? Let us then lift up our souls unto our Saviour, and we may rest assured that he will not suffer us to perish. When we can do nothing, Jesus can do all things; let us enlist his powerful aid upon our side, and all will be well."