

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 14th March 2021



LORD'S DAY SERVICES – CHURCH CLOSED

There is currently no change regarding Scottish Government's COVID-19 restrictions for Western Isles. We are in Level 4 with the legal requirement for places of worship located to close for communal worship and individual prayer while the current restrictions remain in place.

We are thankful for the announcement made by the First Minister on Tuesday 9th March 2021 that 'should progress suppressing the virus continue, the Scottish Government intends to reopen places of worship from Friday 26th March with attendance limits increased from 20 to 50 where there is space for social distancing.'

There is no absolute certainty in the announcement in that it depends on progress suppressing the virus continuing until then. The Kirk Session will consider this announcement and we will inform you of a date for return to Church and of the arrangements for attending.

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The congregational website was launched last week as announced on the Bulletin for 7th March 2021. We are delighted with the interest and look forward to feedback from users as we seek to ensure that the website meets your requirements and fulfils the function of improving our communication and connectivity with the local community and beyond as we seek to serve the Lord in the Gospel. The website is available at shawbostfreechurch.org.

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) will be 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.

LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 14th MARCH 2021

Sunday Services

This Lord's Day we will continue our study of *The Titles of Christ in the Epistle to the Hebrews* by looking at Hebrews 7:15-25 and *Jesus – The Guarantor*.

Availability of Services

The Sunday Service in Gaelic and English conducted by the Minister will be available on the [Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio](#) page as from 12.00noon on Sunday. Simply click or tap on Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio underlined above from your phone, tablet, laptop, etc., to take you directly to the site where you can access the services. The services can also be accessed by clicking on 'Listen to the Latest Sermon' button on the [Congregational Website](#).

The *Sunday Service in Gaelic* can also 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 today, Sunday 14th March 2021, at 11.00am using the Zoom audio-visual technology. The Sunday School will continue to meet in this way until the current COVID-19 restrictions on children attending School have been lifted.

WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will continue this Wednesday, 17th March 2021, at 7.00pm using Zoom audio-visual technology. We will study Chapter 6 of the book entitled '*Gentle and Lowly – The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*' by Dane Ortlund this week. The Chapter title is 'I Will Never Cast Out' and is based on John 6:37.

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.

KIRK SESSION & DEACONS COURT

The Kirk Session will meet on Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 7.00pm using the Zoom AV technology platform. This will be followed by a meeting of the Deacons Court at 8.00pm.

PASTORAL VISITATION

Pastoral visitation in homes is not permissible under the Level 4 COVID-19 restrictions in the Western Isles announced by the Scottish Government First Minister on Friday 29th January 2021. 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. We are prayerfully mindful at this time of those who are in Care Homes and in Hospital along with their families during times of highly restricted visiting. Those who are going through a period of serious illness at this time are also close to our hearts in prayer.

CONTRIBUTORS & FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

We are thankful to all for their financial support of the Church in what continues to be a difficult time due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Following the practice at the end of 2020, the Church Hall will be open on the third Saturday of each month during COVID-19 restrictions from 10.00am to 12.00noon to give contributors and donors an opportunity to hand in their weekly offerings' envelopes. The next opportunity for donors and contributors to hand in their envelopes will be Saturday 20th March 2021.

THE RECORD

The March 2021 of the Free Church magazine *The Record* is now available. As has been the case throughout the current coronavirus situation, and the disruptions with distributing the magazine, this month's issue is available to the public online and free of charge. You can read the March 2021 issue on the News section of our congregational website [here](#).

CARLOWAY FREE CHURCH – EASTER FRIDAY ONLINE HOLIDAY CLUB

The Carloway Free Church congregation are running an Easter Friday Online Holiday Club for **pre-school and primary school children**. This will run on Friday 2nd April at 10.30am. An invitation is extended to all young people in our congregation who are in the above age groups. To sign up, please email Isabel Macleod at isabeljmac@hotmail.com by Monday 15th March 2021.

ELISABETH GRAHAM – A TRIBUTE

The Free Church mission community were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Elizabeth Graham on Saturday 27th February 2021. Elizabeth served alongside her husband Rev. Billy Graham, in a number of situations: Kirkcaldy, Buccleuch (Edinburgh), and South Africa. The Grahams returned from South Africa in 1996, having ministered there since 1976. In each situation, Elisabeth served with grace and kindness, latterly as a key part of the revitalised St Columba's (Edinburgh). We express our deep sympathy to Mr Graham, Anne and Ruth and to their families. A short [Tribute](#) is available on the Free Church website.

PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 8th March 2021 have been chosen by the **Rev. Roddy J. Campbell**, Minister at North Tolsta. The Bible Passage is **Psalm 115** and the following are the prayer points.

Prayer Points

1. Pray giving thanks for the sovereignty of God and his faithfulness to us. That he is living and reigning from the beginning.
2. Pray for those affected by COVID that they may find relief and recovery.
3. Pray for those affected by the recent outbreak of COVID which affected transport links throughout Lewis and Harris. That the outbreak may be contained and that those affected may be made well.
4. Pray for those who need ongoing medical treatment who must wait at this time.
5. Pray for the elderly giving thanks for the technology that connects so that isolation does not need to mean loneliness.
6. Pray for our NHS, healthcare workers and home carers as they continue to carry out their work and for the success of the vaccination programme.
7. Pray for a true spirit of repentance in our nation.
8. Pray that the Lord would send his Spirit to revive his Church and bring days of awakening among our people.
9. Pray for our Government leaders to be given wisdom and to be converted.

10. Pray for the Queen and the Royal Household that they may look to the one who is sovereign over all things. Pray for Prince Philip that he may recover from his illness.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

14th March 2021

High Free Stornoway

Minister: Rev. Hugh A. Ferrier

The High Free Church are a relatively new congregation which began meeting as a fellowship in April 2014 and entered the Free Church in October 2014. The congregation is blessed with a good mix of ages and until the COVID-19 Pandemic met for worship in the local Stornoway Primary School. Since March 2020 we have live-streamed our services on Sermon Audio and met for prayer meetings and times of fellowship via Zoom.

Prayer Points:

1. Please pray for unity, direction and strength as the congregation goes about the process of seeking to construct a building from where we might worship the Lord and reach out to our community.
2. As we find ourselves in a building project please pray that we wouldn't lose sight of our great calling to be involved in Christ's work of building His Church. We would ask that the wider Church pray that even as we wait for the day when we will have a building of our own that we would persevere in the work of evangelism and ongoing discipleship.

Assynt & Eddrachillis

Minister: Vacant

Interim Moderator: Rev. Ian Allan

This small congregation is located in the south-west of Sutherland.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the ongoing gospel witness across the north west coast. Pray that the small congregations across this region would be built up and enabled to reach out to the communities around us.
2. Pray for those who are feeling isolated and that the church community would be equipped to help them.