

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

15th June 2025



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES TODAY

Today's services will be taken by Rev James Maciver. Our 11.00am service is livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the 11.00am service, the Scripture readings will be from Hebrews 11 v 1-16 and the sermon is entitled *Homeward Bound*.

At the 6.00pm service the Scripture readings will be from Luke 5 v 1-11 and John 21 v 1-14. The sermon is entitled *The Stranger on the Shore*.

	11.00am Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Ps 93	Sing Psalms	Ps 98:1-6	Sing Psalms
2	Ps 25 (ii):1-7	Scottish Psalter	Ps 119:97-194	Sing Psalms
3	Ps 107:1-9	Scottish Psalter	Ps 113:5-8	Scottish Psalter
4	Ps 73:23-26	Scottish Psalter	Ps 71:14-17	Scottish Psalter

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be on at the usual time during the service 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 will be taken by Rev Angus MacRae (Free North, Inverness).

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

The prayer meeting and Bible study will take place on Wednesday 18th June at 7pm in the Bragar. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend.

DEACONS' COURT

There will be a meeting of the Deacons' Court immediately following the prayer meeting in Bragar on 18th June.

LADIES GROUP - COFFEE MORNING

The Ladies fellowship group would like to express a huge 'thank you' to all who came along, donated and helped in relation to yesterday's coffee morning at the Church Hall. A very impressive sum of £746 was raised in aid of Bethesda.

LADIES GROUP – SUPPER EVENING

The Ladies Group are having a Supper Evening of Pot Luck in the Church Hall on **Thursday 26th June at 7pm**. All ladies very welcome.

ANNUAL RALLY – LDOS

The Lewis Branch of the Lord's Day Observance Society (DayOne) will hold its annual Rally in the **Stornoway Town Hall on Friday 20th June at 7.30pm**. The speaker will be Rev William Macleod, formerly minister of Knightwood Free Church (Continuing), and the title for his lecture is *Works of Necessity and Mercy*. All are encouraged to attend and to continue to support the work of promoting the Lord's Day in our islands.

Here is encouragement to persevere. Jesus, our head, is already in heaven; and if the head be above water the body cannot drown.
John Flavel

WESTERN ISLES TEACHER MEET-UP

To all Christian Teachers and School Workers in the Western Isles, you're warmly invited to join Christian Values in Education Scotland Chair, Megan Patterson, for an informal evening of fellowship and encouragement on **Tuesday, 24 June 2025, at 7:30 pm**, MA Memorial Upper Hall, Kenneth Street, Stornoway. As you approach the well-deserved summer holidays, let's celebrate this milestone together with some light refreshments and uplifting conversation. CVE Scotland Trustee (and local Primary HT) Kirsteen Maclean will also be present, eager to connect at this event during the last week of the school term. This is a chance to unwind, reflect on the school year, and find encouragement as you live out our faith in education. Whether you're a teacher, support staff, or school worker, come and be refreshed in a supportive community. We would also love to hear from you about how CVE Scotland can better support Christian school workers. Tickets are FREE! You can book here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/85640>

JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF! - (J. C. Ryle, "The Real Presence")

There is a real "spiritual presence" of Christ, wherever His believing people meet together in His name. This is the plain meaning of His famous saying, "Wherever two or three are gathered together in My name—there I am in the midst of them!" (Matthew 18:20). The smallest gathering of true Christians for the purposes of prayer or praise, or holy conference, or reading God's Word—is sanctified by the best of company! The great or rich or noble may not be there—but the King of kings Himself is present—and angels look on with reverence!

The grandest buildings which men have reared for religious uses, are often no better than whitened sepulchres—destitute of any holy influence—because they are given up to superstitious ceremonies, and filled to no purpose with crowds of formal worshipers, who come unfeeling, and go unfeeling away. No worship is of any use to souls—at which Christ is not present! Incense, banners, pictures, flowers, crucifixes, and long processions of richly dressed ecclesiastics—are a poor substitute for the great High Priest Himself!

The poorest room where a few penitent believers assemble in the name of Jesus—is a consecrated and most holy place in the sight of God! Those who worship God in spirit and truth—never draw near to Him in vain. Often they go home from such meetings warmed, cheered, established, strengthened, comforted and refreshed. And what is the secret of their feelings? They have had with them the great Master of assemblies, Jesus Christ Himself!

A CUP OF COLD WATER – CH SPURGEON

"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward!" Matthew 10:42

Well, I can do as much as that. I can do a kind act toward the Lord's servant. The Lord knows I love them all, and would count it an honour to wash their feet. For the sake of their Master — I love the disciples. How gracious of the Lord to mention so insignificant an action — even a cup of cold water! This I can do, however poor; this I may do, however lowly; this I will do cheerfully. This, which seems so little, the Lord notices — notices when done to the least of His followers. Evidently it is not the cost, nor the skill, nor the quantity, that He looks at — but the motive. That which we do to His disciple, because he is His disciple — the Lord observes, and recompenses. He does not reward us for the merit of what we do — but according to the riches of His grace. I give a cup of cold water — and He makes me to drink of living water. I give to one of His little ones — and He treats me as one of them. Jesus finds an apology for His liberality, in that which His grace has led me to do, and He says, "He will certainly not lose his reward!"

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine — you did for Me!" Matthew 25:40