

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 16th May 2021



ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY SERVICES

We are thankful to gather in the Church this Lord's Day, 16th May 2021, for the public worship of God. We meet at 12.00noon and the Service will be conducted in English. We encourage all our people to join with us in the worship of God each Lord's Day.

Coronavirus Protection Level I

We are thankful to the Lord that in the Western Isles we move into Level I of Scottish Government COVID-19 restrictions from Monday 17th May 2021. The restrictions for attendance at church services remains as per the changes introduced on 26th April with the movement towards a building capacity limit while observing the 2-metre physical distancing rules. The move into Level I also means that there is a capacity limit of 100 for funerals and weddings provided the venue's capacity allows for 2 metre physical distancing.

Ongoing Registration

The introduction of a capacity limit instead of the cap of 50 people attending Church services is unlikely to affect the maximum number we can accommodate in the Church until such time as the upstairs is opened for use. Seats will, therefore, continue to be allocated according to household groups on a first come first served basis until such time as we reach the limit of fifty. 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](#).

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 on 710328 or dan.macphail@icloud.com. Alternatively, you may contact the Minister on 710216 or cmacleod@freechurch.org. If you are unable to use the online registration process, please contact Mr MacPhail or the Minister to register your intention to attend 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.

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) is available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of the Website. 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. The May edition of *The Record* is available in PDF format on the Website [here](#).

LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 16th MAY 2021

This Lord's Day we continue with our study of *The Christian's Experience of Grace* as a follow up on our study of *How we become Christians in the Gospel of John* earlier in the year by looking at Luke 7:36-50 and *The Irresistible Christ*.

Availability of Services

The English service in the Church at 12.00noon will be live streamed and will be available on the Shawbost Free Church of Scotland **YouTube Channel** by clicking [here](#). An audio-only recording of the English service will be available on Sermon Audio at 2.00pm and can be accessed on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

The pre-recorded video of the Gaelic Service will be available on our YouTube Channel at 10.30am on Sunday 16th May 2021. This is the second Sunday of a trial period of making a video of the Gaelic service available in this way and the initial uptake is encouraging.

The audio-only recording of the Gaelic service will be available at 12.00noon on Sunday 16th May 2021 on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

The audio-only recording of the Gaelic Service will also be available as usual on the Twilio service, which can be **accessed from landline / home telephone** by dialling the number **0131 510 2471**. Please continue to note that there is a delay of approximately 35 seconds from the time at which the call is answered until the service commences.

Sunday Services – 23rd May 2021

The Minister will take a week's holiday from the close of the General Assembly on Wednesday afternoon. In the Minister's absence on Sunday 23rd May, the service at 12.00noon will be taken by Mr Iain A. Macdonald, Elder at Greyfriars Free Church. The service will be live streamed in the usual way. There will be no pre-recorded Gaelic sermon available online on Sermon Audio on Sunday 23rd May. The normal arrangements for Sunday services as set out above will resume on Sunday 30th May 2021.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet this Lord's Day, Sunday 16th May, at 11.00am, and will continue in the meantime using the Zoom audio-visual technology. The arrangement for the Sunday School will be reviewed by the Kirk Session in due course and any changes will be announced as soon as they have been agreed.

WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will continue this Wednesday, 19th May 2021, at 7.00pm using Zoom. The Minister is busy with General Assembly duties this week and the PBS Group will be led by one of the Office-bearers. The PBS Group is an open group and please be encouraged to join with us for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. The Zoom Meeting ID is - 811 1884 3263. The ongoing Meeting Password is issued separately by contacting the Minister or any member of the group.

PASTORAL VISITATION

The announcement of the Scottish Government that the Western Isles will move into Protection Level 1 of COVID-19 restrictions on Monday 17th May 2021 brings about welcome changes in the rules regarding socialising and mixing with family and friends. We can meet socially in groups of up to 6 people from 3 households in your home or theirs.

This means that limited pastoral visitation in homes is now possible. Pastoral visits will be carried out by the Minister and the Elders at their own discretion and subject to family and household arrangements as required. 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

BEREAVEMENT

It was with a great sense of sadness and loss that we learned of the passing of Peigi MacAulay, 17 New Shawbost, early on Tuesday 11th May 2021. We continue to remember Cailean and the boys, Kenny John with Alison and their son Ross, Calum, and Colin Murdo in our prayers as they mourn the loss of one so devoted to them. We also remember Alex John, and Isabella and Annie with their families, as they mourn the loss of their much-loved sister.

2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2021 General Assembly will meet on Monday 17th May 2021 at 6.00pm. The new Moderator will be appointed at the first Session on Monday evening and the Assembly will meet for a further four Sessions, with two Sessions per day on Tuesday and Wednesday. More information on the General Assembly and access to General Assembly reports can be found on the Free Church Website [here](#).

This is an important event in the Church's annual calendar as we reflect on what the Church has been doing and plans to do in the future in the providence of God. We pray for the retiring Moderator, Rev. Donnie G. Macdonald, and for the Moderator-Designate, Rev. Neil MacMillan, as they prepare to take the chair during the week of the Assembly. We pray for the Assembly Clerks as they bear the administrative and practical burden and organising and running the Assembly business. We also pray for all General Assembly Commissioners for grace, wisdom and strength as they familiarise themselves with the Reports and prepare to take part in Assembly discussions and debate.

The Sessions of the General Assembly will be available to view online from 6.00pm on Monday at <https://freechurch.org/online-services/live>.

WfM ANNUAL MEETING 2021

The WfM Annual Meeting 2021 will take place online on Saturday 22nd May at 2.00pm. The meeting will include updates from the recipients of recent projects (Operación San Andrés and Scripture Union), a tribute to the late Elisabeth Graham, singing and praise, and the launch of the new Project for 2021-2022.

The deadline for donations for the 2020/21 Project (*Embracing the World with the Touch of the Gospel*) is the end of June. Donations and information can be found at womenformission.org/donate.

The Meeting will be live streamed on YouTube and can be found by searching for Women for Mission. It may also be viewed on WfM website at womenformission.org.

We are sincerely grateful for all donations received thus far and for your prayers for the areas we have been supporting in what has been a very difficult year.

PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 17th May 2021 have been chosen by Rev. David Macleod, Minister of the North Harris congregation. The **Bible Passage** is **Philippians 2:1-18** and the following are the prayer points.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for encouragement for those who are 'in Christ', especially those who have not been able to attend church for a long period
2. Pray that many of the people we know who are outside of Christ, some who attend church, others who do not, may be drawn by the Holy Spirit so that they become 'in Christ'
3. Pray that those who are 'in Christ' may have the unity, love and humility that reflects the mind and attitude of Jesus
4. Pray that that attitude of Jesus may be evident at the General Assembly this week and that the discussions and decisions taken bring glory to Christ

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

16th May 2021

Garrabost

Minister: Rev. Iain Thomson

Garrabost is a Free Church congregation covering the district of Point on the East Coast of the island of Lewis. Rev. Iain Thomson was inducted to the congregation in January.

Prayer Points:

1. Please pray that the restrictions would open up soon to allow the newly inducted minister to get out to meet his congregation and members of the community.
2. Pray that the gospel preached would build up God's people, so that they would reach out by their life and witness to those in the community who are yet to be brought into the kingdom.

Ferintosh & Resolis (Urquhart & Resolis)

Minister: Rev. Calum Iain Macleod

Ferintosh & Resolis Free Church serves the rural district of the North Black Isle, with members drawn from a wider area touching the communities of Resolis, Culbokie, Ferintosh and Conon Bridge. Over the last few years many of our young folk have grown up and now contribute to the work of the Church across Scotland. Our Sunday School, although smaller than it was, and our YF (drawing members from various FC in the area) continue to flourish as we pray for more families to join us. Online services have increased our reach with the gospel and almost doubled our midweek prayer meeting attendance.

Prayer Points:

1. More families to be drawn into the congregation and for blessing on the online Sunday School and Calum Iain's good relations with the local schools.
2. For the congregation as it seeks to be more outward looking, concerned to reach people with the Good News and as we look for ways to help us learn together, pray together and look after each other well.