

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.

17th December 2023



SUNDAY SERVICES

Both services today will be taken by Rev Donald A MacDonald. Our services are livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12.00noon service** the Scripture reading will be taken from Genesis 3:1-19 and the sermon will focus on verses 14-15. The sermon is entitled *Mercy Triumphs Over Judgement*.

At the **6.00pm service** the Scripture reading will be Mark 8:11-30 and the sermon will focus on verse 22. The sermon is entitled *Expectations Greatly Exceeded*.

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	Psalm 58:1-7	Sing Psalms Pg 75	Psalm 146:5-8	Psalter Pg 446
2	Psalm 89:1-4	Psalter Pg 344	Psalm 119:17-22	Psalter Pg 401
3	Psalm 89:24-29	Psalter Pg 346	Psalm 145:1-7	Sing Psalms Pg 189
4	Psalm 98:1-3	Sing Psalms Pg 129	Psalm 103:1-7	Sing Psalms Pg 135

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be at the usual time and children will go to their classes during the second item of praise.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Mr Donald MacAulay (Carloway).

WEEKLY PRAYERMEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The weekly prayer meeting and Bible study on **Wednesday 20th December at 7pm** will take place in Bragar. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend,

VACANCY - HOSPITALITY ROTA

It has been agreed to compile a rota for providing hospitality for visiting preachers during the vacancy period. Anyone in the congregation who would like their name to be added to the rota should contact Morris Macleod or Dan MacPhail.

FREE CHURCH YOUTH CAMPS

Free Church Youth Camps are week-long activity camps for young people in P5-S6. There are a variety of exciting activities (often including things like go-karting and water sports) but the main event is the gospel-centred teaching. Campers will have the opportunity to learn more about Jesus and explore the Christian faith for themselves in a safe and relaxed environment. FCYC are a week of fun and friendship, and the chance to learn more about Jesus and His love for you. For full details and to register visit: <https://www.freechurchyouthcamps.org/>

Registration for next summer's [Free Church Youth Camps](#) has opened. Eleven camps are planned for summer 2024 catering for those in P5-S6 – including a new addition of [Renfrew Seniors](#). It would be appreciated if you could take time to look through the camps we have on offer and encourage families in your congregation to register their children for FCYC 2024. God has richly blessed the evangelistic efforts of the camps over the last 63 years and we pray this would continue.

GAELIC 'SHARE A STORY BIBLE'

The Scottish Bible Society has published & printed 1500 copies of a Gaelic translation of its 'Share a story' Bible. Thanks go to the Church of Scotland Gaelic committee for funding these copies, to be distributed FREE OF CHARGE to all who request them. These were primarily produced to encourage families to read to their children at home but they can also be used in churches, Sunday clubs & schools. An audiobook has also been produced to help non-Gaelic speaking families to sit & read-along with their child - a QR code inside the book will lead you to the page on our website where you can stream or download the tracks. To claim a copy, just contact the Gaelic Hub based at Uig Parish Church on the Isle of Lewis by emailing GaidhligUig@outlook.com. We are also hoping to have a few copies available at the Stornoway Christian Bookshop soon.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER (18th December – 24th December 2023)

Monday 18th December - Poolewe and Aultbea

As a congregation, we are filled with gratitude for the year of blessings we have experienced. We thank God for the growth in our prayer meetings and for the new faces that have joined us on Sundays. However, we are aware that there are still many in our community who have yet to know the Lord, and we ask that us in prayer for the ongoing conversations that we have throughout the week, that more people may come to experience His love.

Tuesday 19th December - Dunblane

Please pray for new families to come to our congregation to be part of God's work and give thanks for the new people who have already come along. Pray that they would stay with us.

Wednesday 20th December - Scalpay

Scalpay has continued its work and witness with small numbers but occasional encouragements. We were recently joined by another couple from the island who had previously worshipped elsewhere, and we are thankful for the faithfulness of our dedicated core people. Give thanks for those who have joined this year both by profession of faith and from other churches. Give thanks for the success and blessing of the monthly Gaelic Psalm Singing Event which draws in people from various congregations and some who don't attend anywhere.

Thursday 21st December - Poolewe and Aultbea

We are excited to have embarked on a renovation project for our church building in Poolewe. The estimated cost of this project is £65,000, and we are trusting in God to provide for this need. We believe that this building can be a powerful tool for reaching out to the community of Poolewe, and we ask for your continued prayers that the renovation will be successful and that the building will be used to its fullest potential in the coming years.

Friday 22nd December - Scalpay

Looking to the year ahead, pray about the Pastoral Oversight Visit which is due in the opening months of 2024: POV 's can be both encouraging and challenging, so please pray for good preparation and an encouraging visit.

Saturday 23rd December - Dunblane

Please pray for our finances to be a little stronger so that we, God willing, can apply for a 5 Year Renewable Appointment for the ministry in Dunblane.

Sunday 24th December - Christmas Services Global and Local

Pray for congregations locally and globally who will meet this Sunday. While the world is busy preparing for Christmas Day, pray that many will be invited and encouraged to come along to church services to hear the good news of a Saviour being born to the world. Pray that those who wonder about what Christmas is all about, will attend a church and be challenged to look beyond what the world says, and see the message of Christmas from the bible.

You may as soon find a living man who does not breathe, as a living Christian who does not pray.

Matthew Henry