

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 March 2024



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY

Today's services will be taken by Rev Roddy John Campbell (Retired). Our services are livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12:00 noon service** the Scripture readings will be from Genesis 22 and the sermon will focus on verses 1-3. At the **6.00pm service**, the Scripture reading will be from Hebrews 11 and the sermon will focus on Genesis 22:4-8.

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalm 34:1-9	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 8	Scottish Psalter
2	Psalm 28:6-9	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 116:1-8	Scottish Psalter
3	Psalm 26:1-7	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 130	Scottish Psalter
4	Psalm 65:4-5	Scottish Psalter	-	-

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children will go to their classes in the Church Hall 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 PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

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

SAFEGUARDING

Further dates for Free Church Safeguarding Training have recently been intimated: Monday 25 March; Tuesday 23 April; Wednesday 22 May (Youth work and Camps); Thursday 20 June (Safeguarding Coordinators). All sessions are at 7.30pm. Sign-up is at <https://freechurch.org/safeguarding-training/> and, as before, this will become unavailable 7 days before each event. Anyone who is due to take part in the three yearly refresher course is encouraged to do so.

CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE VIDEO PLEA FOR WESTERN ISLES TO RESPOND TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CONVERSION PRACTICES

The link below is to a video where Nigel Kenny, Scotland Officer for The Christian Institute is making a heartfelt plea for us, individually and collectively, in the Western Isles to respond to the Scottish Government's Public Consultation on a Conversion Practices ban. The closing date for responses is **2nd April 2024**. Please share and raise awareness of this as far and wide as possible - as you will see and hear in the video, we are facing the greatest threat to gospel freedom in our times.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owFe6wPgVmc>

SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION - REQUEST

We warmly invite **all young people in their teens and twenties** to join us for a **Get Together on Zoom on Sunday 17th March at 3pm**. We look forward to hearing from our guests, **David & Pavel (Kazakhstan)**, who attended SGA's Residential Conference and autumn meetings last year. They will share with us from **God's Word**, and about their **work in Central Asia** during recent months. Go to our website to sign up as an individual or as a youth group (<https://sga.org.uk/youth-at-sga/>), or contact our Youth Coordinator Annina Lee if you have any questions (office@sga.org.uk). It would be great to see many young people there, to be encouraged in their walk with the Lord and challenged to serve Him with their lives.

COMMUNION SCHEDULE - 21st to 24th March 2024

Back Free Church

Thursday 21st March	7.00 pm	Gaelic	Rev Kenneth Ferguson
Friday 22nd March	7.30 pm	English	Rev Hugh Ferrier
There will be a Fellowship in the Manse after the Evening Service			
Saturday 23rd March	7.30 pm	English	Rev John Johnstone -Kirkcaldy
Lord's Day 24th March	11.00 am	English	Rev John Johnstone -Kirkcaldy
	6.00 pm	English	Rev John Johnstone -Kirkcaldy
There will be a Fellowship in the Hall after the Evening Service.			

Lochs Free Church

Thursday 21st March	7.00 pm	Gaelic	Rev D A Macdonald (rtd)
Friday 22nd March	7.00 pm	English	Rev Donald M Macleod- N Tolsta
Saturday 23rd March	7.00 pm	English	Rev Donald M Macleod- N Tolsta
Lord's Day 24th March	11.00 am	English	Rev Donald M Macleod- N Tolsta
	6.00 pm	English	Rev Donald M Macleod- N Tolsta

CH SPURGEON DEVOTIONAL READING 17TH MARCH

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."
[Matthew 5:9](#)

This is the seventh of the beatitudes: and seven was the number of perfection among the Hebrews. It may be that the Saviour placed the peacemaker the seventh upon the list because he most nearly approaches the perfect man in Christ Jesus. He who would have perfect blessedness, so far as it can be enjoyed on earth, must attain to this seventh benediction, and become a peacemaker. There is a significance also in the position of the text. The verse which precedes it speaks of the blessedness of "the pure in heart: for they shall see God." It is well to understand that we are to be "first pure, then peaceable." Our peaceableness is never to be a compact with sin, or toleration of evil. We must set our faces like flints against everything which is contrary to God and his holiness: purity being in our souls a settled matter, we can go on to peaceableness. Not less does the verse that follows seem to have been put there on purpose. However peaceable we may be in this world, yet we shall be misrepresented and misunderstood: and no marvel, for even the Prince of Peace, by his very peacefulness, brought fire upon the earth. He himself, though he loved mankind, and did no ill, was "despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." Lest, therefore, the peaceable in heart should be surprised when they meet with enemies, it is added in the following verse, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Thus, the peacemakers are not only pronounced to be blessed, but they are compassed about with blessings. Lord, give us grace to climb to this seventh beatitude! Purify our minds that we may be "first pure, then peaceable," and fortify our souls, that our peaceableness may not lead us into cowardice and despair, when for thy sake we are persecuted.