

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021**



### LORD'S DAY SERVICES – CHURCH RE-OPENING

We are thankful to gather in the Church this Lord's Day, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021, for the public worship of God. We meet at 12.00noon and the Service will be conducted in English.

We welcome the announcement of the Scottish Government that the whole of Scotland will move into Protection Level 3 of COVID-19 restrictions. The cap of 50 people attending a Church service is to be removed and replaced by a capacity limit. The capacity limit will be determined for each individual building, based on the 2-metre physical distancing rules and other current restrictions and controls. This will enable larger buildings, with greater floor area and seating capacity, to accommodate more while still maintaining the 2-metre physical distancing. The numbers permitted to attend funerals and wedding services is also to be increased to a maximum of 50 from 26<sup>th</sup> April.

#### Church Attendance

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. 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.

#### Ongoing Registration

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](#). The following option for registering your intention to attend the services is available to those who do not have access to internet services - please contact Mr Donald MacPhail or the Minister as follows – Donald MacPhail on 710328 or [dan.macphail@icloud.com](mailto:dan.macphail@icloud.com) or the Minister on 710216 or [cmacleod@freechurch.org](mailto:cmacleod@freechurch.org). If you are unable to return the Data Collection Form electronically, provision is made for you to deposit it at the Church door as you enter for 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.

### LIVE STREAMING OF SERVICES

The live stream of the 12.00noon service this Lord's Day, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021, will be available on the Shawbost Free Church of Scotland YouTube channel by clicking [here](#). We will continue to use the Sermon Audio site for audio recordings and, once the live stream equipment setup is fully functional, we will use the Sermon Audio Webcast function to live stream the services to both platforms.

### CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) is 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. 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.

### LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

#### Sunday Services

This Lord's Day we look at the second key aspect of the Christian's participation in the resurrection of Christ based on 1 Corinthians 15:42-49 and *The Christian & The Final Resurrection*.

#### Availability of Services

An audio recording of the English service in the Church will be available on Sermon Audio at 2.00pm. The service in Gaelic has been pre-recorded and will be available on Sermon Audio at 12.00noon. Services are accessed on the [Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio](#) by simply clicking or tapping on Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio underlined above from your phone, tablet, laptop, etc., to take you directly to the site.

The pre-recorded Gaelic Service will also be available on the Twilio service, which we have been using since March 2020, and which can 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 resume this Lord's Day, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April, at 11.00am, and will continue in the meantime using the Zoom audio-visual technology. The arrangement for the Sunday School will now come under review in the light of changes to attendance at places of worship, capacity in the Church Hall, and all children being back at School.

## **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

The Youth Fellowship will meet on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm using the Zoom audio-visual platform. The group will look at the story of Ruth in the Old Testament and '*Being Loyal*'. We encourage our young people to note the meeting and to ensure that they have the details. Further information is available from Lynn Hebditch on Mobile 07557 123808.

## **MINISTER ON LEAVE**

The Minister will be on leave for two weeks commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The Sunday service will be covered as follows during his absence: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Rev. Paul Murray, Kinloch; Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Rev. Donald A. Macdonald, retired. The current arrangements for the Sunday service will continue to apply for both dates. We are thankful to Mr Murray and Mr Macdonald for their willingness to help. Rev. Calum Macdonald, Callanish, has kindly agreed to cover any pastoral emergencies for week commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

## **WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY**

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will continue this Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021, at 7.00pm using Zoom audio-visual technology. The meeting will be led by one of the Office-bearers in the Minister's absence.

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.

## **PASTORAL VISITATION**

The announcement of the Scottish Government that the whole of Scotland will move into Protection Level 3 of COVID-19 restrictions on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021, and the relaxing of some of the restrictions on socialising outdoors, states that the rules on indoor socialising will not change on that date. This means that pastoral visitation in homes is still not permissible. In the meantime, 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](mailto:cmacleod@freechurch.org)

## **THE RECORD**

The latest edition of *The Record* is available in PDF format on the Congregational Website [here](#). Please note that the previous online versions of *The Record* from April 2020 onwards can now be downloaded from our website: <https://freechurch.org/resources/magazines>

## **STIRLING FREE CHURCH**

The congregation of Stirling Free Church is bringing a legal action for religious discrimination against multimillion pound organisation, The Robertson Trust. The Congregation had an agreement with The Robertson Trust for the use of its premises in The Barracks Conference Centre for Sunday services. The Trust's former CEO, Mr Kenneth Ferguson, an Elder of Stirling Free Church, was sacked when the Chairwoman, Shonaig Macpherson, heard that Stirling Free Church was renting Trust premises for its Sunday services. The Congregation had its contract terminated and was ordered to leave the Conference Centre, with the Trust claiming it had a policy of not renting for activities promoting religion.

Mr Ferguson brought his own case against the Trust and was heard in the Glasgow Employment Tribunal from Monday 14 to Thursday 17 December. The hearing did not conclude and will resume on 10 May. The case brought by Stirling Free Church will be heard on 19, 20 and 23 April 2021. We pray for the Congregation, and particularly for the Minister, Rev. Iain MacAskill, and Mr Ferguson, who have been called as witnesses.

## **PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME**

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 have been chosen by the **Rev. Iain MacRitchie**, Minister at Pairc (Gravir). The Bible Passage is **John Chapter 3** and the following are the prayer points.

**Prayer Points:**

1. Give thanks to God for the unmatched hope that we find in the words of John 3:16. Pray that during these days many more in our communities would come to know the wonderful implications of believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. As God's Word is preached through a variety of platforms, pray that this Word may be powerfully accompanied by the Holy Spirit, applying it in a life changing way to the hearts of men, women, boys and girls.
3. Pray for God's people, the Church, at this time. Pray that we might strive daily to see afresh the wonder of the sacrificial act of love that was carried out on our behalf and consequently be compelled to share this good news with others.
4. Give thanks for the privilege of now being able to physically meet together and worship God. Give thanks for the sense of community that belongs to God's people and pray that this will be strengthened and nurtured in the days ahead.
5. Pray for those who are unable to join together in this way, that the Lord would draw close to them and strengthen them to overcome any fears or anxieties they may have.
6. Pray congregations who are unable to re-open, that practical solutions would be found in due course.
7. Give thanks for the easing of COVID restrictions. Pray that as we ease out of lockdown, the virus will remain suppressed and that we will not see another outbreak. Give thanks to God for the gifts that He has equipped men and women with in producing vaccines.
8. Continue to pray for the Royal Family and in particular Her Majesty the Queen, as they continue to mourn the death of Prince Philip. Pray that they would be strengthened and that they would find grace to help in time of need from the promises of God's Word.

**PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER**

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Duirinish**

**Minister: Rev. David D. Miller**

**Interim Moderator: Rev. Donnie G. MacDonald**

Duirinish Free Church is situated on the North West of the Isle of Skye. Geographically we are a large area covering the communities of Waternish, Dunvegan and Glendale. We have a mix of population from those born and brought up in the area to those who have moved in and become very much part of the community. Economically more families are in some way dependant on tourism. At the moment our Minister is off work due to illness, with Rev. Donnie G. MacDonald overseeing us.

Prayer Points:

1. Please pray for Rev. David Miller and Rev. Donnie G. Macdonald as they oversee the congregation at this time.
2. Pray that the congregation would be given opportunities to witness to the wider community.

**Christ Church, Edinburgh**

**Minister: Rev. David Court**

We are a church of around 70-80 people who meet in the area of Craigentenny, on the east side of Edinburgh.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the congregation as they return to in-person worship.
2. Pray that many in the Craigentenny area would come to faith in the Lord Jesus.