



**THE VISION OF THE
FREE CHURCH OF
SCOTLAND IS**

**A Healthy
Gospel Church
for Every Community
in Scotland**

The graphic consists of several elements: a small leaf icon in the top left; a map of Scotland in the top right with small leaf icons scattered across it; a central text block; a silhouette of a church spire, a bridge, and location pins in the middle; and rolling hills with a small plant growing on a hill at the bottom.

CHURCH BULLETIN

SUNDAY 18th December 2022

INTRODUCTION

We are a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland. We gather for public worship on the Lord's Day at 12.00noon and at 6.00pm. We use the ESV version of the Bible in the public worship of God. We use both the Scottish Psalter and Sing Psalms versions of the Psalms for the praise items in our public worship. More details on the Congregation and our ministry are available on our website [here](#).

SUNDAY SERVICES

The service today will be taken by the Minister. This Lord's Day we will continue a series of sermons on some of the promises of the coming of the Son of God into the world and how these promises unfold in the New Testament. At the 12.00noon services we will focus on some Old Testament promises and at the 6.00pm services we will look at how these promises are fulfilled in the birth, life and work of the Lord Jesus in the New Testament. The title of the series is *The Unfolding of God's Promises in the Life of Jesus*.

At the **12.00noon service today** we will study Isaiah 9:6 and the birth, character, and mission of Jesus. The sermon title is *The Birth of the Son & The Mission of God*.

At the **6.00pm service today** we will study Galatians 4:4-7 and look at the timely intervention of God in sending His Son to secure our participation in the life of God's kingdom. The title of the sermon is *The Birth of the Son & The People of God*.

The praise will be led by our precentor and the Psalms for this Lord's Day are as follows:

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalms 24:1-10	Sing Psalms (28)	Psalms 118:1-8	Psalter (397)
2	Psalms 33:10-14	Psalter (245)	Psalms 25:12-22	Sing Psalms (30)
3	Psalms 68:3-6	Psalter (301)	Psalms 16:5-8	Sing Psalms (17)
4	Psalms 23:1-6	Psalter (229)	-----	-----

English Services

The English services in the Church at 12.00noon and 6.00pm will be live streamed on our **YouTube Channel** [here](#). An audio recording of both services will be available on Sermon Audio as soon as possible after the services end. The services can be accessed on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

Services next Lord's Day

The services next Lord's Day, 25th December, will be taken as follows: 12.00noon Service – taken by the Minister; 6.00pm Service taken by Rev. Thomas Davis, Carloway. The Minister will take the 6.00pm service in Carloway.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet as usual this Lord's Day. We pray the Lord's blessing on our parents and children under the ministry and teaching of God's Word.

Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies

Tea and mince pies will be served in the Church Hall at the close of the service and the Sunday School. A small gift will also be available for the children. Parents and children are encouraged to join us for a time of informal chat as we approach the end of the year and as the Sunday School goes on holiday until January 2023. The congregation is also encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity for informal fellowship and to meet with the parents and children.

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

The Prayer and Bible Study Meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st December 2022 at 7.00pm in the Church Hall.

DEACONS COURT

The Deacons Court will meet immediately after the Prayer Meeting on Wednesday evening, 21st December 2022.

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE

Envelopes & Magazine Subscriptions

In order to finalise the financial accounts for the end of the year, contributors are requested to hand in all 2022 Envelopes and Magazine Subscription this Lord's Day if at all possible, or next Lord's Day at the latest. The subscription for The Record is £2.00 per issue. The Record moved on to bi-monthly editions from June onwards with the bi-monthly as the same price of £2.00. The total subscription for 2022 comes to £18.00. Please hand in your subscription for The Record in an envelope clearly marked 'The Record' and with your FWO envelope number.

Free Will Offering Envelopes

The Deacons Court has agreed a new system for contributors' envelopes. In the past we have issued new envelopes to contributors at the end of March for use from the beginning of April (the beginning of the tax year). In the new system, we will issue envelopes by the end of December for use from the beginning of January (the beginning of the calendar year and the accounting year). Contributors are instructed to discard the envelopes they currently hold on 31st December 2022 and to start using the new envelopes from 1st January 2023. Thanks in advance for helping the Deacons Court through this transition.

New Contributors

If there is anyone who is not on the list of contributors, and who wishes to make regular donations to the ongoing work of the gospel and of the Church, should contact the Congregational Treasurer, Mr Neil Macleod. Neil will help set up a means of donating regularly that suits your personal requirements and preferences.

MINISTER'S DIARY

The Minister's Diary for the coming weeks includes the following meetings:

Date		Event	Location
Tue	20 th Dec	Ordinary Meeting of Presbytery	In person
Wed	21 st Dec	Shawbost School Assembly	In person

FREE CHURCH YOUTH CAMPS 2023

Registration for [Free Church Youth Camps 2023](#) opened on Friday 9th December 2022. God willing, there will be 9 camps in Summer 2023 and all the information about them (including Team Leaders & Costs) is now available online. The information on the Camps Programme is available by following the link above.

The Free Church Youth Camps are a brilliant week of fun and games, activities, and challenges, and lots of tasty food. But most importantly they are a week of discipleship for young Christians in our congregations, and an opportunity for young people that aren't yet Christians to learn more about Jesus and His relevance to their lives. It is amazing to see and hear of the impact the Free Church Youth Camps have had over the last 62 years. Please pray with us for that to continue for many years to come.

OPEN LETTER TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

The Free Church of Scotland's Public Engagement Group has joined with other groups in writing to the Scottish Government calling for positive legislative change to tackle commercial sexual exploitation in Scotland. The Free Church is one of a number of signatories, including Restore Glasgow, Evangelical Alliance Scotland, Bethany Christian Trust and CARE for Scotland to sign the open letter to Elena Whitham MSP, Minister for Community Safety.

Stephen Allison, Public Engagement Coordinator for the Free Church of Scotland, said: "Proverbs 31:8-9 tells us to "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. In Scotland today we are deeply concerned that so many women continue to be exploited, trafficked and objectified. In 2020 we welcomed the Scottish Government's proposals to help women exit prostitution and to combat commercial sexual exploitation (Equally Safe Consultation Response). However, to date no action has been taken to bring forward legislation to help these women and so we have joined with other Christian groups to sign this open letter calling on the Scottish Government to take urgent action."

Click [here](#) to read the News on the Free Church website and to read the open letter.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

The following are prayer points issued by the Mission Board under the Praying For One Another Scheme (PFOA) in the past week.

Monday - Desable (PEI Western Charge)

As we invite those in our communities to our Christmas services, please pray the Lord would use them to draw people into the church.

Tuesday - Grace Church Leith

Pray following the Carol Service and Nativity play that those who came would be impacted by the gospel message shared.

Wednesday - Dumisani

Continue to pray for more students to register this month for the programmes of study at Dumisani Theological Institute for Term One which begins near month end. May the Lord send those who will be blessed in such studies and also in turn bless churches and other ministries with good teaching in the Eastern Cape

Thursday - Desable (PEI Western Charge)

Please pray for the weekly ministry of the Word that the church would be revived and sinners saved.

Friday – IMJP AUSTRALIA

Jewish non-believer Michael kept postponing Mark Landrum's invitations to meet with him. Please give thanks that Michael is now studying the Bible with Mark, and please pray that he will turn to Jesus in repentance and faith.

Saturday - Grace Church Leith

Pray for the conversation cafe and all those who attend. It is an opportunity for international students to get to know others and practise their English skills with native English speakers. Pray that it will be an opportunity to build good relationships and that those involved will be a witness to the gospel.

Sunday - Osamu and Mairi, Japan

On 18th Dec. Shichigahama Lighthouse Church plans to have Christmas service. May those who are invited to come, come and be touched by the message and turn to Christ for salvation. Osamu and Mairi will be celebrating Christmas with 7 grandchildren and family members together 1st time this year.