

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.

Sunday 19th December 2021



SUNDAY SERVICES

We gather for public worship this Lord's Day at 12.00noon and at 6.00pm. Both the services will be conducted in English and taken by the Minister. Our [Church Bulletin](#) is available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of our [Website](#).

Services this Sunday

At both services this Lord's Day we will focus on the account of *The Birth Narratives* in the Gospel of Luke. At the 12.00noon service we will look at Luke 1:46-55 and the subject of 'Mary's Song of Praise – Divine Love Bears Fruit.' At the 6.00pm service we will look at Luke 2:8-14 and the subject of 'The Angel's Song of Praise – Good News for Everyone.'

Psalm Singing

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	Psalm 99:1-7	Psalter (361)	Psalm 72:1-8	Psalter (312)
2	Psalm 118:15-19	Psalter (398)	Psalm 128:1-6	Psalter (420)
3	Psalm 69:29-32	Psalter (308)		

English Services

The English services in the Church at 12.00noon and 6.00pm 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 services will be available on Sermon Audio at 2.00pm for the 12.00noon service and at 8.00pm for the 6.00pm service. The services can be accessed on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

Gaelic Service

A pre-recorded video service conducted in Gaelic from the same passage as the 12.00noon English service will be available on our YouTube Channel at 10.30am on Sunday. The audio-only recording of the Gaelic service will be available at 12.00noon on Sunday on the Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio Page. The audio-only recording of the Gaelic Service will also be available on the Twilio service, accessed by dialling 0131 510 2471.

COVID RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

The Scottish Government COVID-19 Restrictions Guidance for Places of Worship was updated on 9th December 2021 with no substantial changes but with general advice for good practice. The following is an extract from the updated Guidance – 'Places of worship may wish to continue to collect visitor details for the purposes of supporting NHS Scotland's Test and Protect system. The law no longer mandates physical distancing. However, we continue to advise the public that especially indoors – it is advisable to keep a reasonable distance from people from other households. Places of worship may wish to continue the practice of physical distancing as an additional protective measure for their congregations. They may also wish to encourage COVID testing before attending services or gatherings.'

A further update was issued on 16th December 2021 highlighting that 'those responsible for a place of worship must take such measures as are reasonably practicable, to minimise the risk of the incidence and spread of coronavirus on the premises. This includes measures to reduce crowding and encourage distancing such as changing the layout of furniture; appropriate use of signage; controlling the use of entrances, smaller spaces, and shared facilities.'

We continue to observe the one-metre physical distancing in our services in line with the advice from the Scottish Government and to help allay people's anxieties in public gatherings in the light of the ongoing presence of the COVID-19. We will also continue the practice of taking a register of all those attending our services.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet this Lord's Day as usual with young people joining the Service as usual at 12.00noon and moving to the Church Hall for the Sunday School at 12.15pm.

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study meeting will take place in Church at 7.00pm this Wednesday, 15th December 2021. We will continue our study of the *Letter of James*. We will observe the same one-metre physical distancing and take a register of those attending the meeting in line with our practice for Sunday services.

KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session will meet immediately after the Prayer Meeting this Wednesday evening, 22nd December 2021.

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE

The Deacons Court requests that all contributors and donors to congregational funds should submit envelopes and donations for 2021 to the Church on Sunday 26th December 2021 at the latest. This is to enable all monies to be counted and banked before the end of the financial year.

The Deacons Court request that all those who have received a copy of The Record in 2021 should hand in their payment for the magazine at the Church door also by Sunday 26th December 2021 at the latest. The cost of the magazine is £2.00 per issue with the months of June and July combined in one issue. The total cost for the year is £22 but because of COVID-19 restrictions, and difficulties in distributing the magazine, you may not have received all eleven issues. Please submit your subscription according to the number of issues received.

SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

The latest edition of the Slavic Gospel Association (SGA) is available at the Church door today. Please pick up a leaflet for your information on the ongoing work of SGA and be aware of the key prayer points. More information on SGA and their different areas of ministry is available on their website [here](#).

FREE CHURCH YOUTH CAMPS 2022

The new Free Church Youth Camps' Coordinator, Mairi Beaton, is pleased to announce that registration for the Free Church Youth Camps 2022 is now OPEN. The programme offers eleven camps in four different locations across the country. The camps are a great opportunity to make new friends, take part in various activities, games and challenges, as well as learning more about the Bible and its relevance to our lives. The registration deadline is Monday 31st January 2022. More information on the FCYC Programme and how to register is available on the Free Church Youth Camps website [here](#).

TAIN & FEARN FREE CHURCH

Tain and Fearn Free Church has released a book with a twist on the classic recipe format to help raise funds for their [new building](#). "Taste and See" by Fin Macrae, is a collection of favourite recipes by members and an insight into their personal stories of faith. Tain and Fearn Assistant minister Rev. Andrew Macleod said, "The recipes inside are good, the stories of each individual are really good, but most importantly each of them encourages the reader to come taste and see that our God is good." More information is available on the Free Church website [here](#). To place an order contact Mairi Macaulay 01862 892156 or email mairi.macaulay@yahoo.com

STEADFAST GLOBAL

Steadfast Global is a Scotland based evangelical Christian mission committed to raising awareness of incidents of persecution and the curtailment of religious freedom of Christians around the world. Their mission statement is simple: '**Steadfastly serving God; Steadfastly serving persecuted Christians**'. More information about their work can be found on - www.steadfastglobal.org

Steadfast Global has launched a petition calling on the Home Secretary to grant settlement in Scotland to Sawan Masih & his family who are currently living at an undisclosed location in Pakistan following his acquittal from blasphemy charges in October 2020. Sawan spent seven years in prison as a result of this false allegation and immediately following his release he became the target of death threats. For more information about Sawan and to sign the petition please use the following link - <https://www.change.org/stand-for-Sawan>

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

19th December 2021

Stirling

Minister: Rev. Iain MacAskill

A recently planted congregation, with the vision to make Jesus Christ known in this university city in the heart of Scotland, we are a welcoming group of people drawn from many different backgrounds. Many students from the UK and from overseas join with us, and we have been blessed seeing several come to faith here, before returning to their own very different circumstances in their own countries.

Prayer Points:

1. The Stirling Free Church court case against the Robertson Trust is due to resume on 1st December for three days. Please pray that we can settle out of court and that justice will be done. The Robertson Trust terminated the contract the church had to worship in the Barracks in Stirling.
2. We are still searching for a permanent home for the congregation since our contract at the Barracks was terminated by the Robertson Trust. We have to leave our current base at the Highland Hotel for the month of December. Please also give thanks for the provision of Lecropt Church of Scotland's Church Hall in Bridge of Allan and the Kirk Session's decision not to charge us rent.

Scalpay – Harris

Minister: Rev. Andrew Coghill

Located about 7 miles east of Tarbert, Scalpay is connected to "mainland" Harris by a bridge. Since the second Lockdown we have been gradually "opening up" again, with "in-person" services both ends (from late March), midweek Prayer Meetings (since June), monthly Bible Studies (from July), and a localised Communion weekend in September. The Covid threat is still a major worry for some of our older folk but most are glad to be back in Church.

Prayer Points:

1. Give thanks that the Lord has continued to provide for the congregation's needs and commitments during the year.
2. Pray for strength and courage to deepen our commitment to the Lord and our sense of mission in our community and island. Pray especially for the children who often show great consistency of commitment and sometimes courage too.