



A central graphic with a light blue background. In the top left is a small version of the leaf logo. To its right is a map of Scotland in a light green color, with several small leaf icons scattered across it. Below the map, the text "THE VISION OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IS" is written in a small, dark blue, sans-serif font. Below this, the main vision statement is written in a larger, bold, dark blue, sans-serif font: "A Healthy Gospel Church for Every Community in Scotland". At the bottom of the graphic is a stylized landscape illustration. On the left, there is a silhouette of a church with a tall spire. In the center, a suspension bridge spans across a body of water. On the right, there are rolling hills in shades of purple and blue, with a location pin icon. Below the hills, there are more rolling hills in shades of green and teal, with a small green plant with two leaves growing from the top of one of the hills.

CHURCH BULLETIN

SUNDAY 19th February 2023

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 services today will be taken by Mr Alex MacRitchie (Back). For the **12.00noon service**, the readings are from Galatians 2:15-3:14 and Hebrews 11. The sermon title is *Without Faith It Is Impossible to Please God* and will focus on Hebrews 11:6.

At the **6.00pm service**, the reading will be from 1 Corinthians 15 with a focus on verse 58. The sermon title is *God's Work is Never Useless*.

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 16:1-7	Sing Psalms	Psalm 45(a): 1-6	Sing Psalms
2	Psalm 18:1-6	Psalter	Psalm 85: 6-13	Psalter
3	Psalm 26: 1-7	Psalter	Psalm 115:9-18	Sing Psalms
4	Psalm 118: 1-9	Sing Psalms	Psalm 110:1-5	Psalter

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](#).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There is no Sunday School today due to the school mid-term break.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed in the congregation next Lord's Day, 26th February 2023. The programme of services will be as follows:

Day	Service	Location	Time
Friday Evening	English Service	Church	7.00pm
	Gaelic Service	Bragar	7.00pm
Saturday Morning	English Service	Church	12.00noon
Saturday Evening	Prayer Meeting	Church Hall	6.00pm
Lord's Day Morning	English Service	Church	12.00noon
Lord's Day Evening	English Service	Church	6.00pm
	Fellowship	Church Hall	7.15pm

Guest Preachers

The English services will be taken by Rev. Andrew Macleod, Assistant Minister at Tain and Fearn. The Gaelic service in Bragar on Friday evening will be taken by Rev. Paul Murray, Kinloch.

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session will meet in the Church after the evening service on Friday 24th February. The Session will be pleased to meet with anyone wishing to profess their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and sit at the Lord's Table for the first time. There will be an opportunity for intending new communicants to meet with the Session after the evening service on Friday or after the services on Saturday. Applicants should contact the Minister or the Elders if they wish further information on the application process.

Please pray for the guest preachers and for the congregation and community at this time of gospel privileges and opportunities.

Sunday School

The children will go their classes as normal but will join with the congregation prior to the sacrament being dispensed.

BEREAVEMENT

We note with sadness the passing of John Macleod (Iain a Bhiob), 30 North Shawbost. Our prayerful sympathies are extended to the family and especially Allan, Anne, Donald Allan and Annetta. There will be family worship at the family home (41 North Shawbost) commencing at 8.30pm and a service of worship on Monday evening commencing at 9pm in the Church. Other service and funeral arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

The Prayer and Bible Study Meeting will take place on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 7.00pm in Bragar Meeting House.

SATURDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study in Bragar Meeting Hall every second Saturday has resumed. The group is currently studying the gospel of John. The next meeting is 4th March 2023 at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

TURKEY AND SYRIA

Please see [this link](#) on the Free Church website about how we as a denomination are supporting those affected by the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, through finances and prayer support.

The Mission Board want to encourage churches in Scotland to continue to pray for these countries in desperate need, and to ask for God's protection and comfort to be known by believers across the global church. Please pray for those who are affected, whether injured, traumatised or grieving. Please pray that these organisations would be guided continually by the Lord throughout these appeals and their relief efforts, and that their work would ultimately bring glory to God's name across the nations.

Accordingly, the Deacons' Court agreed that a door collection be arranged for **this Lord's Day (Sunday 19th February)** with all donations going towards the Free Church of Scotland Disaster and Relief Fund.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING: LAUNCH OF THE GAELIC AUDIO NEW TESTAMENT

A Gaelic service of thanksgiving has been arranged to take place on Friday 24th February 2023 at 7.30pm, at Stornoway Free Church, Kenneth Street, to mark the launch of the Gaelic Audio New Testament, recorded during July and August 2022.

Following the service, light refreshments will be served in the MAMM Hall. Representatives from the Scottish Bible Society will speak briefly about the project and footage from the filming of the project will be shown, featuring interviews with folk at Kenneth Street last summer. Some clips from the recordings will also be played. A warm invitation is extended to all.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Monday 20th February Merkinch

Following on from the launch of Merkinch Free Church last week, please thank the Lord for his grace that a church has been planted in the scheme of Inverness as Merkinch and South Kessock.

Tuesday 21st February**Turkey**

Pray for all those affected by the recent devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria: for those who have lost loved ones; for traumatised survivors; for those who are now homeless; for those involved in the relief efforts; for the members and leaders of churches in the region.

Wednesday 22nd February**Maryburgh and Killearnan**

Pray for the drop in Café, that many from the community will come along to the church, and that believers will be able to be a witness to many.

Thursday 23rd February**IMJP**

PARIS: Aurel Vidal continues to reach out to Vilner, a Jewish man who is becoming increasingly open to believing in Jesus. Please pray for Vilner's salvation as Aurel encourages him to look to the Lord.

Friday 24th February**Merkinch**

Pray for those attending who do not yet know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Pray that they will fully trust in Him.

Saturday 25th February**Turkey**

In all the destruction caused by the earthquake in Turkey, pray the Lord would give grace and wisdom to believers in Christ in the months to come, and make them a source of hope to those around them. Give thanks also for the support which has been shown by so many from around the world.

Sunday 26th February**Dornoch**

Pray for more help and support for Sunday School and for God's strength for all mature and new believers as we seek to be disciples of His Word

SPURGEON DAILY READING 19th FEBRUARY

"Thus saith the Lord God; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them."
Ezekiel 36:37

Prayer is the forerunner of mercy. Turn to sacred history, and you will find that scarcely ever did a great mercy come to this world unheralded by supplication. You have found this true in your own personal experience. God has given you many an unsolicited favour, but still great prayer has always been the prelude of great mercy with you. When you first found peace through the blood of the cross, you had been praying much, and earnestly interceding with God that he would remove your doubts, and deliver you from your distresses. Your assurance was the result of prayer. When at any time you have had high and rapturous joys, you have been obliged to look upon them as answers to your prayers. When you have had great deliverances out of sore troubles, and mighty helps in great dangers, you have been able to say, "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." Prayer is always the preface to blessing. It goes before the blessing as the blessing's shadow. When the sunlight of God's mercies rises upon our necessities, it casts the shadow of prayer far down upon the plain. Or, to use another illustration, when God piles up a hill of mercies, he himself shines behind them, and he casts on our spirits the shadow of prayer, so that we may rest certain, if we are much in prayer, our pleadings are the shadows of mercy. Prayer is thus connected with the blessing to show us the value of it. If we had the blessings without asking for them, we should think them common things; but prayer makes our mercies more precious than diamonds. The things we ask for are precious, but we do not realize their preciousness until we have sought for them earnestly.

"Prayer makes the darken'd cloud withdraw;

Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw;

Gives exercise to faith and love;

Brings every blessing from above."